Catch-Up with Katrina

Hello 4-H Families!

Spring is in the air! And I don’t know about you, but for me, that also means that life is about to get b-u-s-y!

Did you know there are things you can do right now to prepare for spring & summer 4-H activities?

- You can enter animal ID/nomination information in 4hOnline for most animals like horses, breeding beef, & dairy goats. Learn more here.
- You can begin working on write-ups and static exhibits to show at the fair. Write-Up Tip Sheet
- You can join a competitive, team event like AgOvation, Livestock Judging, Meat Judging, or Crop Scouting. Contact Katrina to join a team or to learn more.
- Or you can set a few goals for things that you would like to accomplish throughout the summer!

As always, please reach out with any questions!

Katrina Bostwick
County Awards

Congratulations to our 2022 County Award recipients!

Jr. Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Animals: Kaylin Paul
Jr. Communication & the Arts: Embur Rudolph
Int. Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Animals: Max Brendel
Int. Communication & the Arts: Leo Regennitter
Sr. Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Animals: Jackson Brendel
Sr. Communication & the Arts: Jacob Imhoff
Sr. Leadership & Civic Engagement: Anna Marine
Sr. STEM: Silas Hoffman
Outstanding 4-H’er: Anna Marine

CONGRATULATIONS!

Muscatine 4-H Small Animal Workshop

Are you interested in showing an animal at the Muscatine County Fair this summer, but don’t have an animal or aren’t sure how? Come to the Muscatine 4-H Small Animal Workshop on Tuesday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Muscatine County Extension & Outreach office. We will discuss how you can get from no animal to showing an animal in the poultry, rabbit, pet, and dog shows at the Muscatine County Fair. In particular, we will discuss the Broiler Derby poultry project. Register to attend the workshop here.

Sheep/Meat Goat Weigh-In

Save the date! The Muscatine County 4-H/FFA Sheep/Meat Goat Weigh-in will be Saturday, April 30 from 7:30-9:30 a.m. at the Muscatine County Fairgrounds.

Sheep: All Muscatine County Fair sheep (both breeding & market) must attend weigh-in to be weighed & tagged. All Iowa State Fair sheep (both breeding & market) must attend weigh-in to be weighed, tagged, and have a retinal image scan taken. Exception: Production Lambs showing ONLY in the Fiber Class must have a 4-H/FFA USDA tag, but do not need to attend weigh-in. Tags can be picked up from the Muscatine County Extension Office.

Meat Goats: Muscatine County Fair-only meat goats may attend weigh-in, but it is not required. Market meat goats & bucks MUST have a 4-H/FFA USDA tag. Breeding meat goat does must have a 4-H/FFA USDA tag, scrapies tag or official tattoo (LE– Individual animal; RE– Herd prefix). USDA tags can be picked up from the Muscatine County Extension office. All Iowa State Fair meat goats (both market & breeding) MUST attend weigh-in to be weighed & have a retinal scan taken.

All 4-H/FFA USDA tags are $3. Meat goat tags have been sponsored by Deahr Family Farms, so there is no tag cost to meat goat exhibitors. Each State Fair animal with a retinal image will be charged $5. Please bring exact cash or check to the weigh-in.
Swine Ear Tag Pick Up Ready

All 4-H swine (both county and state fair pigs) need a USDA tag which can be picked up from the Muscatine County Extension & Outreach office. State fair swine need both a USDA tag and a DNA tag. All swine need to have ear notches as well. DNA tags are $10/tag and USDA tags are $3/tag.

Stop by the Muscatine County Extension & Outreach office or contact Katrina to pick up tags and a tagger.

All swine must be tagged and have ID information entered into 4hOnline by May 15.

Club Service Project: Literacy & Math Challenge

As a result of the pandemic, many Iowa PK-3rd grade youth are behind in their development of literacy and math skills. Iowa 4-H members and clubs are challenged to identify a group of PK-3 youth that they can support, select either a literacy or math focus, and implement a strategy that will impact our community. Financial support from ISU Extension & Outreach is available to support your club’s strategy.

Ideas for service projects could include: build a Little Free Library, host a math afternoon/night event, take part in Read Across Iowa, host a Storywalk, and read with children and/or play math games.

Contact Katrina for assistance in completing in any of these ideas or an idea that you come up with!

Pop Tabs for Jacy

Iowa 4-H is hosting “Pop Tabs for Jacy” again this year! This memorial pop tab collection will take place February 14-June 28, 2022. The State Council has a goal to collect 1,000 lbs. OR 10 pounds from each of the 100 Extension offices. The top 5 counties to collect the MOST poundage of tabs by June 28th will be recognized with plaques at the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference.

Jacy McAlexander was a State 4-H Council member with a big heart who was passionate about helping others through the Ronald McDonald House. He lost his courageous battle with cancer during his 2017-18 term on Council. Each year since then, the State Council has chosen to continue Jacy’s collection efforts in honor of his passion for serving others and giving back. All pop tabs will be donated to a Ronald McDonald House in Iowa.

Pop tabs can dropped off at the Muscatine County Extension Office anytime before June 28th.

Poultry Clinic

The Eastern Iowa Poultry Association is hosting a 4-H/FFA Youth Poultry Clinic on March 26th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Muscatine Ag Learning Center. The clinic will include discussion sessions, Q&A with judges and breeders, and giveaways! RSVP to attend by emailing brittonshowbirds@gmail.com.
**COUNTY NEWS**

**Iowa 4-H Foundation Scholarship Open**

The Iowa 4-H Foundation Scholarship is open! The scholarship program offers 129 scholarships worth more than $100,000 all under ONE application! More information and application can be found here. **Applications are due March 1.**

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**4-H’ers for 4-H**

Count Your Clovers and help support 4-H’ers across Iowa! 4-H clubs across the state are encouraged to donate $3.00 per member to the Iowa 4-H Foundation. Your donations support 4-H’ers like you—through financial assistance and event scholarships. Clubs that donate are then eligible to apply for mini-grants. 4-H’ers for 4-H Campaign is a collective effort, an opportunity for 4-H’ers to be a part of something larger than their club or county. **Learn more here.**

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**Muscatine County Fair Fun Passes On Sale**

Fun Passes & tickets for the 2022 Muscatine County Fair are now on sale! Tickets and fun passes can be purchased online or at the Muscatine County Fair office. 4-H & FFA members, 4-H leaders, and fair superintendents can purchase tickets for a discounted price. **Order your tickets and find more information here.** Contact the Muscatine County Fair office at 319-627-2414 with questions.

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**YQCA Training**

Don’t worry if you missed one of the in-person YQCA trainings last month! You can still take the training online. Go to https://yqca.learngrow.io/Account/Login, login with your 4hOnline account information, and pay online. Instructions on how to register are here. All 4-H members who plan to show beef, bucket calves, swine, sheep, meat goats, dairy goats, poultry, or rabbits at the Muscatine County Fair and/or the Iowa State Fair must be YQCA certified by July 1.

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**Scholarships**

Check out scholarships available to high school seniors on the Muscatine County website!

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**4-H Leader Lunch & Learn Series**

Iowa 4-H Youth Development is offering a Leader Lunch & Learn series January through April 2022! The lunch & learn series consists of four brief 15-20 minute Zoom sessions that will dive into topics that you can apply into your role as a 4-H leader with your clubs and programs. March’s session’s topic is Accommodations 101—Information & Tips on Making 4-H Accessible for All. To join via Zoom on March 4th at Noon go to http://go.iastate.edu/R0BG6A
**Equine Extravaganza**

Equine Extravaganza is a fun event for youth to share their knowledge of the equine industry through a variety of horse-related competitions like a quiz bowl, hippology, public speaking, horse judging, and more! Equine Extravaganza is **March 25-27 at Ellsworth Community College in Iowa Falls, IA**. Register through 4hOnline by March 1. [Find more information here.](#)

**AgOvation**

Calling all future entrepreneurs! Join the Muscatine 4-H AgOvation team for 4-H’s twist on “Shark Tank.” AgOvation is a competition where youth in grades 7-11 work in teams of 2 to 5 to find solutions to agricultural problems. The team will develop a project and create a presentation to share their results, findings, and/or created solution/product. Teams will present their ideas at the Iowa State Fair and the top three teams will win scholarships for post-secondary education. [Learn more here.](#) Contact Katrina at the Extension office to learn more and join the team by March 31!

**Animal Science Round Up**

Registration for Animal Science Round Up is now open! Registration is first come, first serve, so register soon!

Animal Science Round Up is open to 8th-12th grade 4-H members and is held at Iowa State University’s campus in Ames, IA, from **June 28-30, 2022**. Participants choose to learn about either beef, dairy cattle, dog, horse, poultry, sheep, or swine from Iowa State University professors and researchers. [Applications are due March 15.](#)

For more information [visit this webpage](#) or contact Katrina at the Muscatine County Extension office.

**“Hit Me with Your Best Shot” Multi-State 4-H Photography Contest**

Minnesota 4-H Photography is excited to offer a multi-state photo contest to youth in grades K-13. In the "Hit Me with Your Best Shot" 4-H photo contest, youth are encouraged to select their best photo and tell the committee why it’s special to them. Submit one (1) image (with no or minimal editing) with up to three sentences on why it’s important to you by **11:59 p.m. on March 31, 2022**. [Find more information & register to participate here.](#)
4-H Connect Retreat

The 4-H Connect Retreat will be April 29-May 1 at the Y-Camp in Boone, IA. Youth in grades 8-11 are invited to attend for a weekend of cultural celebration of heritage, leadership experiences, and fun! Registration is $20/youth and closes on April 1. Register through 4hOnline. Learn more about the retreat here.

4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl & Skillathon Competitions

The 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl and Skillathon contests will be held together on Saturday, April 9 at Iowa State University in Ames, IA.

Livestock quiz bowl is a team event for 4th-12th graders to test their knowledge of beef, sheep, swine, and meat goats. Students use a buzzer to answer questions. The Skillathon contest is made up of a written quiz and learning stations such as breed identification, quality assurance, selection, meat evaluation and other livestock skills related to beef, sheep, swine, and meat goats. The winning team of both competitions will then compete on the national level.

Contact Katrina at the Extension office by March 31 to join the Muscatine 4-H team!

Dairy Goat Share-A-Kid Opportunity

Are you looking for a new and exciting way to expand your 4-H experience? Interested in showing an animal, but don’t know if you can afford one of show quality?

The Iowa Dairy Goat Association offers a statewide contest open to youth in 4th-12th grades to win a goat! Apply to the contest by submitting an essay about why you would like to have a dairy goat. Learn more and apply here. Entries must be postmarked by March 15, 2022.

Open Youth Rabbit Show

The Mississippi Valley Rabbit’s Breeder Association is hosting an Open Youth All Breed Rabbit Show on Sunday, March 6th starting at 9 a.m. in Maquoketa, IA, at the Jackson County Fairgrounds. Deadline to enter the show is March 1. Learn more here.
**Dairy Goat Showing & Fitting Clinic**

On May 7th from 9am-3pm at Ma’s Acres in Bondurant, IA, the Iowa Dairy Goat Association is hosting a FREE dairy goat showing and fitting clinic. This is a hands-on clinic where ring procedures and goat care will be covered. Goats will be available at the clinic to practice with.

RSVP by texting Judi Nayeri at 515-250-4836 by April 30. Any questions can be directed to Judi or Wendy Peffers, IDGA’s Youth Coordinator at 641-780-8600.

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**Become a Host Family for Japanese Exchange**

The States’ 4-H Exchange international program is seeking Iowa families to host one Japanese youth and one Japanese adult chaperone for 3.5 weeks this summer. This program is designed to focus on daily life in Iowa households. Families who would like to host a youth should have a child in the home between the ages of 11-17. They are paired with a Japanese child of the same gender and of an age within 3+ years. For more information, please visit the States’ 4-H Exchange webpage. Deadline to apply is May 1, 2022. Apply here.

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**Hoard’s Dairyman Cow Judging Contest**

Hoard’s Dairyman is hosting their annual Dairy Cow Judging Contest. This is an entirely online picture judging contest and can be completed by individuals, families, or 4-H clubs. Cash prizes and framed certificates awarded to winning individuals and groups. The entry deadline is March 24. Learn more and enter the contest here.

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**Fitting & Showing Cattle Clinic**

Garman Show Supply is sponsoring a Cattle Fitting & Showing Clinic at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Washington, IA, from June 4-5, 2022. The clinic is $150/family and is limited to 20 families, so register soon! More information here.

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**Teen Leaders Needed for Ag Innovators Experience**

Iowa 4-H is looking for youth in grades 9-12 who have an interest in agriculture to facilitate the Ag Innovators Experience Unlock Ag Innovation Challenge with younger youth. The challenge is a fun escape-room-type challenge where youth look for clues to discover advances in agriculture. This program provides teens with opportunities to develop leadership skills, increase their knowledge about agriculture, and increase ag literacy engagement in their communities. To apply, complete this form by March 4.

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**Tipton FFA Cattle Show**

Tipton FFA & Alumni are hosting a March Madness Cattle Show on March 12 & 13 at the Cedar County Fairgrounds in Tipton. Learn more here.
PROJECT AREA HIGHLIGHTS

Each month, different project areas within 4-H will be highlighted. Each highlight will include things like county events, state events, things to know, resources to learn more, local organizations, and Iowa 4-H resources related to the project area. To see all of the 4-H project areas visit: www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects-list.

MEAT GOAT

County Events: Sheep/Goat Weigh-In; April 30

State Events: Livestock Quiz Bowl/Skillathon; April
Livestock Judging, August

Things to Know: 4-H Show Requirements

Organizations: Junior Iowa Meat Goat Association
Jr. American Boer Goat Association
American Goat Federation

Resources to learn more: Meat Goat Curriculum
Judging Videos
Goat Care & Handling Video

Iowa 4-H Resources: Project Webpage
Project Area Guide

PHOTOGRAPHY

State Events: Camera Corps

Things to Know: Exhibit Tip Sheet
Elements & Principles of Design
Photography Record Keeping
Worksheet

Organizations: Muscatine Art Center
Professional Photographers of Iowa
North Central Camera Club Council
Iowa City Camera Club

Resources to learn more: Photography Curriculum
National 4-H Photography
Explore Photography
Shutterbug Video
Classes

Iowa 4-H Resources: Project Webpage
Project Area Guide

HORTICULTURE

County Events: Muscatine Area Farmers Market
West Liberty Farmers Market

Things to Know: Preparing Vegetables for the Fair
Preparing Cut Flowers & Houseplants for Exhibits
Vegetable Garden Project Worksheet

Resources to learn more: Gardening to Give
Extension Publications
Horticulture Curriculum

Iowa 4-H Resources: Project Webpage
Project Area Guide
**4-H ENDOWMENT**

Muscatine County 4-H Endowment provides enhanced experiences for Muscatine County 4-H Members by way of educational trips, conferences, camp experiences and service learning. We also offer many other forms of member and volunteer recognition.

The next funding cycle for the Muscatine County 4-H Endowment is due on May 22.

Applications are due to the Extension office on the following dates:
- February 22
- August 22
- May 22
- November 22

Questions about the endowment can be directed to the Extension Office or any board member listed below.

**Muscatine County 4-H Endowment Board Members**
- Jodi McConnaha
- Chris Wulf
- Katie Davis
- Coralie Voss
- Nichole Sorgenfrey
- Lori Honts
- Kelsey Morris
- Kelsey Luebbe
- Jacob Imhoff

If you would like to give to the Muscatine County 4-H Endowment you can call the Extension Office for a form to fill out or you can visit [https://www.iowa4hfoundation.org/index.cfm?nodeID=95897&audienceID=1](https://www.iowa4hfoundation.org/index.cfm?nodeID=95897&audienceID=1)

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**SERVICE PROJECTS**

Put your hands to larger service! Check out some service projects happening in Muscatine County.

- Flickenger Learning Center is need of new or like new clothes for both boys and girls sizes 6 to 14/16, socks, and shoe sizes from child 11 to adult 8.
- **Virtual Reading Buddy with the United Way.**
- Literacy & Math Challenge: See above in Clover Express
- Pop Tabs for Jacy: See above in Clover Express

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**EXTENSION NEWS**

**Now Hiring:**

*K-12 Outreach Coordinator*

Iowa State University Extension & Outreach of Muscatine County is seeking qualified candidates for a joint Educator – K-12 Outreach and Coordinator – Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC) position. Position details, qualifications, and application instructions can be found here.
Calendar

March
March 1: Iowa 4-H Foundation Scholarship Due
March 4: 4-H Leader Lunch & Learn Series
March 4: Ag Innovator Experience Teen Leaders Deadline
March 5: 4-H Welding Workshop
March 6: Open Youth Rabbit Show
March 12-13: Tipton FFA Cattle Show
March 15: Animal Science Roundup Applications Due
March 15: Share-A-Kid Applications Due
March 24: Hoard’s Dairyman Cow Judging Contest Entry Deadline
March 25-27: Equine Extravaganza
March 26: Senior County Awards Trip
March 26: Poultry Clinic
March 31: Deadline to join AgOvation Team
March 31: Deadline to join Livestock Quizbow/ Skillathon Teams
March 31: “Hit Me with Your Best Shot” Photography Contest Entry Deadline

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AND OUTREACH MUSCATINE COUNTY

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https://www.extension.iastate.edu/muscatine/content/muscatine-4-h-home

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