**P.A. Power Pages**

The 4-H Emblem is protected under Title 18 U.S.C. 707.

**Dates to Remember**

**DECEMBER**
- Dec. 24: Office will close at noon for holiday
- Dec. 25-26: Christmas Holiday – Office Closed
- Dec. 31: PACGDC grant apps must be postmarked

**Enrollment forms, medical/release forms, Code of Ethics forms, & membership fees due to office – re-enrollment can be done online – see instructions included in this newsletter**

**JANUARY**
- Jan. 1: New Year’s Holiday Observed, Office Closed
- Jan. 3: Beef Weigh-In – 1:00-3:00 PM @ fairgrounds – retinal imaging – TBD – must let us know by Jan. 2
- Jan. 3: Youth Beef Team Orientation Session – 6:00-8:00 PM @ Pocahontas Expo Center
- Jan. 4: Jr. Clippers 4-H Club Mtg. – 1:00-3:00 PM @ office
- Jan. 5: 4-H Shooting Sports Club Mtg. – 6:30 PM @ office
- Jan. 6: Clover Kids after school – Ruthven group – 3:30-5:00
- Jan. 7: Independence Boosters 4-H Club Mtg. – 7:30 PM @ Cylinder Heritage Center
- Jan. 8: Clover Kids after school – Emmetsburg group – 3:30-5:00 PM
- Jan. 10-25: National Western Stock Show, Denver, CO
- Jan. 14: Clover Kids after school – West Bend group – 1:30-3:30 PM
- Jan. 16: Deadline to register for the 2015 NW Iowa Beef
- Jan. 16: 4-H Lock-In – 10:00 PM – 6:00 AM @ Smith Wellness Center
- Jan. 18: Cantering 4-Hers Club Mtg. – 3:30-5:00 PM @ office
- Jan. 18: New Member Pizza Party – 5:30-7:00 PM @ office – 4-H County Council Mtg. to follow
- Jan. 20: 4-H Leaders’ Mtg. – Annual 4-H Volunteer Training – 7:00 PM @ office
- Jan. 24: Northwest Iowa Beef Bonanza – 10:00AM-4:00PM @ ILCC, Emmetsburg Campus – see enclosed flyer
- Jan. 25: 4-H Ice Skating Party @ Grotto Pond in West Bend – 6:00-8:00 PM
- Jan. 27-31: Sioux Empire Farm Show, Sioux Falls
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 28</td>
<td>Clover Kids after school – West Bend group – 1:30-3:30 PM</td>
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<td>Jan. 31</td>
<td><strong>Quad County Intermediate Trip to Des Moines</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY</td>
<td><strong>Applications for State Opportunities due in State 4-H Office</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td><strong>4-H Scholarship Applications due in State 4-H Office</strong> (seniors in high school)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>Jr. Clippers 4-H Club Mtg. - 1:00-3:00 PM @ office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 3</td>
<td>Clover Kids after school – Ruthven group – 1:30-3:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 5</td>
<td>Clover Kids after school – Graetinger group – 4:00-5:30 PM</td>
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<td>Feb. 7</td>
<td><strong>Babysitting Clinic – 1st class – 9:00-4:00 @ office</strong></td>
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<td>Feb. 8-15</td>
<td>Iowa Beef Expo, Des Moines</td>
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<td>Feb. 9</td>
<td>4-H Shooting Sports Club Mtg. – 6:30 PM @ office</td>
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<td>Feb. 11</td>
<td>Clover Kids after school – West Bend group – 1:30-3:30 PM</td>
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<td>Feb. 11</td>
<td>Independence Boosters 4-H Club Mtg. – 7:30 PM @ Cylinder Heritage Center</td>
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<td>Feb. 12</td>
<td>Clover Kids after school – Emmetsburg group – 3:30-5:00 PM</td>
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<td>Feb. 15</td>
<td>4-H County Council Mtg. – 6:30 PM @ office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 21</td>
<td><strong>Babysitting Clinic – 2nd class – 9:00-4:00 @ office</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 25</td>
<td>Clover Kids after school – West Bend group – 1:30-3:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 28</td>
<td>6th Annual Iowa 4-H Foundation Gala, The Marriott, Cedar Rapids, IA</td>
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<td>MARCH</td>
<td><strong>FSQA Training – 7:00-8:30 PM @ office</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 1</td>
<td>Jr. Clippers 4-H Club Mtg. - 1:00-3:00 PM @ office</td>
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<td>Clover Kids after school – Emmetsburg group – 3:30-5:00 PM</td>
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* Watch for additional opportunities, updates, etc. in the Weekly Clover Connect sent to your family email.

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**Re-Enroll in 4HOnline ASAP!!!**

Remember that re-enrollments in 4-H are due **Dec. 31st**. Below are step-by-step directions to complete this process.

- Open a web browser and type in **https://ia.4honline.com**.
- Choose “Family” from the “Role” drop-down box.
- “Members logging in for the first time (or if you have forgotten your password) mark “I forgot my Password”.
- “Click “Send my Password”. Do not close the internet window.
- “Go to your own email account and find the email sent to you from 4HOnline. It will have your temporary password.
- Return to 4H online. Click “I have a profile”. (This is where you will begin if you already have your password.)
- Paste or type your password exactly as sent by 4H online. It is CASE SENSITIVE.
- The email box should still have your family email in it. You should still have “Family” chosen as your “Role”. Click “Log In”.
- “Re-enter current password as sent by 4H Online. Even though the screen looks like it’s been entered, you have to type it into the “Current Password” box.
- “Enter (twice) a new family password. Click “Continue”. Your passwords must be a minimum of 8 characters, and must contain 2 of the 3: letters, numbers, symbols. You will be able to skip these steps if you know/ memorize your password for re-entry into the program. This will take you to the Member List which includes all family members enrolled in 4-H.
- Click “Edit” to the right of the “Inactive” member listed. On the Personal Information screen, scroll to the bottom of the page and click “Enroll for 2014-2015”. Now you will have an editable Personal Information screen. Update all your information on each page and hit “Continue” at the bottom of each page until you have selected all of your projects. Click “Submit Enrollment”.
- Your enrollment status will show as “Pending” on your family member list. Your enrollment will be marked “Active” upon the Extension office receiving your $20 membership fee.
- You may return to this page by logging in, at any time during the year, to view or edit your information.

* REMINDER: This year we are only doing re-enrollments online. New members will need to fill out the
paper copies which are available at the Extension Office. New members have until May 1st to enroll in a 4-H club and be eligible to show at the 2015 Palo Alto County Fair.

If there is anyone who feels the payment is too much of a financial burden, please contact the Extension Office. The 4-H Foundation has set aside funds to help families with this.

Clover Kids from last year can also re-enroll using the same steps as a 4-Her. Their membership fee is $15.

If you have any problems with this process and would like some help please call the Extension Office at 712-852-2865 or email Julie at jnaig@iastate.edu. This is a learning process for everyone and I appreciate the patience and understanding that has been shown thus far.

Below is a list of members who are currently “pending”. Most have completed the online part but have not turned in the $20 membership fee ($15 for a Clover Kid).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alicia Mogler</th>
<th>Brighton Egland</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cole Rouse</td>
<td>Connor Egland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elyssa Flannegan</td>
<td>Levi Mogler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monica Hellyer</td>
<td>Patricia Fay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brennan Fay</td>
<td>Ashlyn Bollig</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRAYDEN FORSYTHE</td>
<td>J.C. Moen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jayden Bollig</td>
<td>Kinnick Peton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owen Rouse</td>
<td>Trista Guinn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Below is the “inactive” list. They are members who have not re-enrolled online (a few have already paid, though.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nathan Adams</th>
<th>Annika Akridge</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Levi Aldous</td>
<td>Dominic Allen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tanner Bachman</td>
<td>Jack Banwart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Bonnstetter</td>
<td>Rebecca Bonnstetter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michaela Bruellman</td>
<td>Dalton Bunda</td>
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<td>Phoenix Campbell</td>
<td>Reese Conlon</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATTIE JO DOOLEY</td>
<td>Breanna Drahota</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Drahota</td>
<td>Cloey Elbert</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMILIA FARK</td>
<td>Anabelle Fank</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monika Fehr</td>
<td>Jacob Frields</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wyatt Haffner</td>
<td>Jade Hawks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kylie Hoch</td>
<td>Lucas Hoffman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mackenzie Hoffman</td>
<td>Tyler Hoffman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madison Hough</td>
<td>Max Hough</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tate Joyce</td>
<td>Matt Kibbie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brody Krieg</td>
<td>Noah Link</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olin Link</td>
<td>Joe Mader</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jenna Mart</td>
<td>Alex Meyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Meyer</td>
<td>Jack Henry Meyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>OWEN MONTAG</td>
<td>Kaitlyn Moran</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelsey Moran</td>
<td>Kiley Moran</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brynn Ness</td>
<td>Jaxon Pomeroy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cortlyn Schupbach</td>
<td>Tyra Schupbach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Billie Steffens</td>
<td>Caleb Sweden</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natalie Sweden</th>
<th>Hannah Tindall</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brett Triggs</td>
<td>Macy VanWyhe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethany Willrett</td>
<td>John Winger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethan Zaugg</td>
<td>Zane Zeller</td>
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</tbody>
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**Weather-Related Announcements**

Iowa’s winter weather can cause havoc with 4-H activities. If there is a need to cancel or postpone an event, meeting, or activity, we will have KICD (107.7) and KLGA (92.7) announce the information. We will also use email as a way to communicate cancellations—be sure to check your email before heading out if weather is questionable.

**Beef Weigh-In – Jan. 3rd**

All 4-H & FFA members must weigh in their market steers, market heifers, and feeder pens for their animals to be eligible to show at county and district fairs. In order to show at the Iowa State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben calves must also go through a state verification process (have retinal images taken).

Weigh-in will be held on Saturday, January 3rd from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Calves being shown only at the county or district fairs will just need to be weighed. Those calves are to be tagged at home prior to the weigh-in. Tags may be purchased at the Palo Alto County Extension Office at a cost of $1.50 per tag. Anyone with a scheduling conflict for the 3rd will need to contact the Extension office at least one week prior to the 3rd so other arrangements can be made. No identifications for market beef will be allowed after the date of weigh-in.

To be eligible to show at the Iowa State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben: 4-H & FFA members thinking they may want to show their beef animals at the Iowa State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben need to make sure their animals go through the state verification process (have retinal images taken). This year we will be doing this process on a different day – which we will work out with the families. These animals do need to come to weigh-in to be weighed, though.

* Anyone planning to state verify calves should contact the Extension Office by Jan. 2nd and let us know an exhibitor name, a contact phone number, and the number of calves to be verified. This is so we can make arrangements with the families to get this done. We will have to borrow the retinal image machine from another county so we will need to schedule them preferably on the same day.

If you have any questions regarding the weigh-in process, please contact the Extension Office at 712-852-2865 or call the beef superintendents, Brian Rouse at 712-260-7731 or Pat Vonnahme at 515-351-8983.
IMPORTANT REMINDER: Since everyone will be verifying weigh-in information in 4HOnline, all 4-H beef exhibitors must have an “active” status (be enrolled in 4-H) at the time of weigh-in.

Ak-Sar-Ben Livestock Exposition Information

The Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Stock Show is a 4-H only Stock Show that is held each year in Omaha, Nebraska the last week of September. 4-H members from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Wyoming have the opportunity to make entries and exhibit at this show that will be in its 88th year in 2015. While many of you are familiar with the Stock Show this message is to make you aware of an opportunity for all 4-H members. The Stock Show has a growing scholarship program that distributed nearly $125,000 in scholarship benefits last year to 4-H members in a ten state area to help further their education. In addition to seven livestock shows the schedule also includes several non-livestock competitions including a Quiz Bowl competition, Livestock Judging contests with divisions for 4-H, Junior College and Senior College teams and a Fitting Challenge competition.

If you would like more information or need DNA supplies to nominate market animals for the 2015 Stock Show please contact me and I will answer questions and provide the information and materials you will need to enter and participate in this excellent 4-H Youth Show. There are a couple of important deadlines that must be followed which I can provide for interested 4-H members.

COOL and 4-H Livestock

What 4-Hers Need to Do:
The Iowa COOL Coalition has come up with a simple affidavit that can work for all species of livestock (beef, sheep, swine, poultry, goat). This affidavit is located at:
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Agriculture/documents/cool.doc
Page 1 explains the steps needed to be taken as well as example documents that can be used for an audit trail. Page 2 is the actual affidavit.

4-Hers who raise their own livestock for their projects need to fill this affidavit out and keep it on file for a minimum of two years. In the case of an audit, 4-H’ers can provide authorities with this affidavit along with other documents listed at the bottom of page 1 of the affidavit document (birth records (calving report, PigChamp, PigTales, etc.), purchase/sales receipts, etc.)

4-Hers who purchase their livestock from others MUST have the producer fill out the affidavit, give it to the 4-H’er, and the 4-H’er should keep the affidavit on file for a minimum of two years. For example, a 4-H’er goes to buy his steer from a producer. The 4-H’er needs the producer (seller) to fill out and sign the affidavit.

2015 4-H Food Safety and Quality Assurance Rules

Here are the county guidelines for the Iowa 4-H Food Safety and Quality Assurance (FSQA) Program for this year:

- All 4-H/FFA swine exhibitors must be certified in FSQA.
- All 4-H/FFA beef exhibitors (market including feeder pens, breeding, and bucket/bottle calf) must be certified in FSQA.
- All 4-H/FFA sheep (market and breeding) exhibitors must be certified in FSQA.
- All 4-H/FFA dairy (cattle and goats) exhibitors must be certified in FSQA.
- All 4-H/FFA meat goats (market and breeding) exhibitors must be certified in FSQA.
- All other 4-H food animals (rabbits, poultry, etc.) must be certified in FSQA.
- Youth in grades 4-6 must recertify in FSQA annually by attending a training.
- Youth in grades 7-9 can recertify annually or can test out. If youth pass the test, certification will be good until they enter the 10th grade.
- Youth in grades 10-12 can recertify annually or can test out. If youth pass the test, certification will be good until the fall after graduation.
- Youth can be certified in FSQA by attending an Extension sponsored FSQA training. Youth are able to attend training in any county; however, youth need to contact the host county to pre-register.

FSQA Training Dates:
- March 11, 2015  7:00-8:30 PM at the Palo Alto County Extension Office
- May 13, 2015  7:00-8:30 PM at the Palo Alto County Extension Office

Testing:
Anytime during office hours – please call ahead to set up an appointment – 712-852-2865.

Remember to check out the project “hot sheets” that are available to all our 4-Hers and their families at http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects. Lots of great ideas and online resources. Fair will be here before you know it!
2015 Palo Alto County Fair Dates

Tentative dates have been set for the 2015 Palo Alto County Fair so mark your calendars now! Plans are to run the fair from Thursday, July 23rd through Sunday, July 26th with the pre-fair judging day for all exhibits in the Exhibits Building to be judged on Tuesday, July 21st. Horticulture will again be judged on the first day of the fair. Clothing Event judging will be held on Tuesday, July 14th. Fair clean-up will be Saturday, July 18th. Livestock entries will be due on Wednesday, July 1st.

Annual 4-H Volunteer Training – “The Heart of Belonging!”

Join 4-H leaders from Palo Alto County in an interactive, hands-on training that will help volunteers create a fun, safe, inclusive environment for all youth. “Belonging” is identified as a basic 4-H youth need and supportive, caring adults guide youth in creating an environment that is welcoming and engaging for all.

During this training, 4-H leaders will learn how to guide youth in developing a list of club or group expectations that accommodates all members, learn how to support youth with special needs, and discover resources to help them in their role as caring adults. In addition, volunteers will learn new activities to take back their clubs and groups to foster positive behavior and belonging.

This training is part of the statewide leader training and will be held at the Palo Alto County Extension Office on Tuesday, January 20th.

2015 State Volunteer Retreat
Feb. 6-7, 2015, Iowa State University, Ames

Register now to get your choice of workshops! Online registration and workshop descriptions are now posted at http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/page/state-volunteer-retreat

The annual State Volunteer Retreat brings together 4-H volunteers, staff, parents, and intermediate and senior 4-H members to network and learn about innovative programs that will help bring fresh perspectives and activities to Iowa 4-H programs. Friday evening, February 6, features hands on activities and ideas.

Saturday, February 7, is filled with a variety of workshops and networking opportunities. Workshops are presented by ISU faculty and staff and volunteers. The wide variety of workshop sessions will meet the needs of both new and experienced volunteers, staff, and 4-H members. Registration is FREE this year and limited to the first 100 people who register. Registration is filling up fast so don’t delay!

Check out the workshop descriptions http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/page/state-volunteer-retreat
*Registration deadline is January 23.

Iowa 4-H Foundation Announces Scholarships For 2015

The Iowa 4-H Foundation has announced applications are now available for its 4-H scholarship program. Approximately 80 scholarship opportunities valued at over $73,000 will be awarded.

The various scholarship awards range in amounts from $500 to $3,500. Some of the scholarships are open to students pursuing any field of study, while others are open to students pursuing degrees in agriculture, food and nutrition, ag business, animal science, and journalism. Former and current 4-H members graduating from high school or currently attending college are eligible applicants.

While a majority of the 4-H scholarship opportunities are available for students attending Iowa State University, scholarships are available to students planning to attend an Iowa Regent university, Iowa private college, Iowa community college, or any land-grant university.

Iowa 4-H members are eligible to apply for 4-H scholarships if they meet individual scholarship requirements, as determined by the scholarship donors. Applicants must enroll as a full-time student to receive scholarship awards.

Information and applications for the 4-H Scholarships are now available online through the Iowa 4-H Foundation at www.iowa4hfoundation.org/scholarships. Applications must be submitted online no later than 11:59 PM, February 1, 2015 for consideration. Only one application form is needed for all Iowa 4-H scholarships. Eligible students may apply for more than one scholarship, however, only one scholarship per individual will be awarded per academic year.

“Iowa 4-H scholarships acknowledge the hard work and dedication of young people who have used their 4-H skills and experiences to ‘make the best better’ for others,” says Albert Grunenwald, Executive Director of the Iowa 4-H Foundation. “We also are thankful for the many scholarship donors who fund these important opportunities for Iowa 4-Hers.”
Since 1949, donors to the Iowa 4-H Foundation have provided financial resources to fund quality 4-H experiences and recognition opportunities for Iowa youth.

To further explore establishing a scholarship with the Iowa 4-H Foundation, please contact Taci Lilienthal, Iowa 4-H Foundation Scholarship Coordinator at taci@iastate.edu or 563-343-1144.

4-H Lock-In at the Wellness Center

The annual 4-H Lock-In for all Palo Alto County 4-Hers will be held **Friday, January 16th from 10:00 PM Friday night to 6:00 AM Saturday morning** at the Arthur & Audrey Smith Wellness Center in Emmetsburg. Chaperones will be needed. Everyone will be responsible for his/her own transportation to and from the center. This event is only for 4-H members. See the registration form included with this newsletter. Deadline to register will be January 14th. A letter with more details will be given to all paid participants. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend this fun event!

2015 Northwest Iowa Beef Bonanza

4-H families – mark your calendars for the second Northwest Iowa Beef Bonanza! The event is scheduled for **Saturday, January 24th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM** at ILCC campus, Emmetsburg. Cost is $5.00 per participant – accompanying adult’s welcome with $5 lunch fee. Attendance will fulfill your FSQA certification requirement for one year (opportunity to test out will also be given at 4:00 PM for all those interested and eligible (grades 7-12). The event will offer hands-on learning about beef production in Iowa, how to get the best product for your effort, and ways to increase the quality of your cattle for fair exhibits. See the registration form included with this newsletter. Deadline to register is January 16th.

Youth Beef Team Orientation

4-H and the Iowa Cattlemen are partnering to offer a required orientation session for youth interested in the beef project to participate in “Youth Beef Team”. The orientation session will be held January 3rd at the Pocahontas Expo Center from 6:00-8:00 PM. Please RSVP to Pocahontas Extension ASAP by calling 712-335-3103. This is open to all youth, ages 12-18, who are interested in promoting the beef industry. For a copy of the flyer, contact the Palo Alto County Extension office.

New Member Pizza Party

We would like to welcome all new members and their parents to the 4-H program. To help us do this we will be having a New Member Pizza Party at the Extension Office in Emmetsburg on Sunday, **January 18th**, beginning at 5:30 p.m. All new members will receive an invitation with more details. The purpose of this party is to inform the new member and their parents about all the aspects of 4-H and to have FUN! Mark your calendar and make plans now to attend!

If you have any questions about the 4-H program, please feel free to call the office (712-852-2865). Sometimes we forget that not everyone knows the “system”.

Remember: Being a 4-Her is not just a title that gives you the right to exhibit at the county fair. It means being an active member of an organization where learning, helping others, and building life skills is most important. Are you getting the most out of your 4-H experience???

4-H Ice Skating Party

**WHO:** All Palo Alto County 4-Hers, families, & friends

**WHAT:** 4-H Ice Skating Party

**WHERE:** The pond next to the Grotto in West Bend

**WHEN:** Sunday, Jan. 25th, 2015 --- 6:00-8:00 PM

**Details:**
- Admission – to be paid upon arrival on the 25th
- Skate Rental: prices vary depending on size
- If you question whether the event is going to be held just call 515.887.rink on the 25th and listen to the message on the answering machine.
- Transportation will not be provided. Carpooling is encouraged.
- There is Permission Agreement, Release & Waiver of Liability form that parents will need to sign before their child is allowed to participate. This form is included in this newsletter and also available on our website at [http://www.extension.iastate.edu/paloalto/4h](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/paloalto/4h). Just fill out the form and bring with you to the event!
Winter Sports Waiver—Risk Management

Snow means it’s the season for 4-H club sledding and skiing trips. There are two things clubs need to remember for proper insurance and risk management coverage:

1. The club must take out Special Activities coverage through American Income Life. The regular $1/yr./member coverage that the Extension Office takes out does not include downhill winter activities, but coverage is provided through the Special Activities program. (http://www.americanincomelife.com/who-we-serve/4-h-insurance). January 1, 2012, AIL rolled out a new plan coverage with levels for Special Activity Coverage. In case of accident, the new plan will provide benefits at the coverage level chosen. (Option A, B, or C at 20, 25, or 30 cents/day/person respectively). Given the minor cost difference between Option A and Option C, and considering that when accidents happen during sledding or skiing they can be rather serious, it would seem prudent to insure at the highest level.

2. Participation in Downhill Winter Sports (downhill skiing, tobogganing, bobsledding, snow tubing, and ice skating) requires the use of an additional waiver. You can obtain the Winter Sports Waiver at http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4hfiles/RMIowa4HWinterSportsPermissionAgreementJan2010.pdf. (The Jan10 date is the most current version.)

2015 Quad County Intermediate Trip to Des Moines

4-Hers in grades 6-8 are encouraged to attend the 2015 Quad County Intermediate Trip to Des Moines on Saturday, January 31st. Plans are to take a charter bus to Des Moines where participants will pack meals for Meals from the Heartland, watch an Iowa Wild hockey game, and have some more fun at Fort Frenzy in Fort Dodge on the way home. Space is limited – first come, first served with paid registration. Cost is $75 and includes the bus fee, all admission fees, and an allowance for supper at Fort Frenzy. See registration form included with this newsletter. Deadline to register is January 16th.

Babysitting Clinics

Palo Alto County Extension will again be sponsoring two Babysitting Clinics for all youth ages 10 and up.

The 1st program will be held on Saturday, February 7th from 9:00-4:00 p.m. at the Palo Alto County Extension meeting room. The 2nd program will be Saturday, February 21st, same time and place. Cost to participate is $25.00 to cover materials and a handbook. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Sessions will include Basic First Aid, Babysitting Responsibilities, Basic Care, and Safe Play. Sessions will include hands-on activities and take home materials. Click here to sign up online or see registration form included with this newsletter – pre-registration is required.

Iowa 4-H Youth Conference 2015: “Dare to Discover”

It’s never too early to begin talking about the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference. The 2015 theme has been decided: Dare to Discover. The conference will be held on the ISU campus and is open to all Iowa youth who have completed 8th grade. Mark your calendars now for June 30-July 2, 2015 on the Iowa State University campus for this youth event. Watch for more details coming soon.

*2015 Roundup Update

Some really big changes are happening for this year’s Animal Science Roundup held in conjunction with the annual State 4-H Conference on June 30 – July 2. This year, each Roundup species (beef, dairy cattle, horse, sheep, swine) will be limited to the first 20 applicants for each species. Applications for youth will be posted by January and due around March 1. Those youth not selected for Roundup will still be encouraged to attend the regular State 4-H Conference delegation as there are some ag-related workshops for that as well. Stay tuned for more details, application forms, etc. coming soon!

4-Hers: Learn how to apply for State Recognition Opportunities!

Get more involved in 4-H and expand your horizons! If you are a ninth through twelfth grader, there are many opportunities available to you for recognition awards or to represent Iowa in upcoming conferences on the state and national levels.

The 2015 4-H recognition materials and applications are available on the Recognition Opportunities public webpage.

New for 2015 is 1) the 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador. Applicants must be currently enrolled and have at least 3 years enrollment in 4-H Shooting Sports; and 2) by filling out a JotForm Cover Sheet a unique link will be sent to the applicant so they may access the application connected with that link as many times as needed until ready to submit. There
will be a different cover sheet and link for each opportunity. PLEASE read directions on the webpage and download/print Organizing and Designing your Material for additional directions.

2015 online applications are to be submitted for consideration no later than 11:59 PM, February 1, 2015 for the opportunities of 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador, State 4-H Project Awards, National 4-H Congress, National 4-H Conference, and State 4-H Council. See information for all opportunities at http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/page/recognition-opportunities.

The 2015 4-H Recognition Day will be held Saturday, March 28 on the Iowa State University Campus. For more information on recognition opportunities and awards, please contact 4-H Recognition Day coordinator, Cayla Taylor- cayla@iastate.edu, 515-294-1877.

**FSA Youth Loans**

FSA makes loans to individual youths to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, FFA and similar organizations. Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work designed to provide practical business and educational experience. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser and produce sufficient income to repay the loan.

A Youth loan is available to young persons between the ages 10 and 20 years. The maximum loan amount is $5,000. Loan funds may be used to:
- Buy livestock, seed, equipment and supplies
- Buy, rent or repair needed tools and equipment
- Pay operating expenses for the project

We encourage you to contact your local office or USDA Service Center to learn more about our programs and the information you will need for a complete application. To locate your local FSA office, click here or find a listing in the telephone directory in the section set aside for governmental/public organizations under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency. Our local FSA offices will be happy to provide you with further information and a loan application.
- **FSA Kids Page**
- **Youth Loan Application Form**

**Youth in Action Awards Overview**

The Youth in Action award recognizes an outstanding 4-Her who epitomizes 4-H youth empowerment. We are looking to acknowledge and honor a confident, accomplished 4-Her who has gained critical life skills through their 4-H program and has utilized those skills to overcome a challenge, or challenges, they have faced. The award winner will also demonstrate how they positively impact the community through their 4-H experience.

The winner of the Youth in Action Award will receive a $10,000 scholarship for higher education and an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, DC to receive their award. The Youth in Action award is given at National 4-H Council’s annual Legacy Awards on Thursday, April 23, 2015, a special evening of celebration that honors the accomplishments of both 4-H youth and the adults who make life-changing experiences possible for millions of 4-H young people.

Applicants should be a 4-H member or recent alumni, ages 16-21, that represent the diversity and passions of 4-H youth nationwide, demonstrate outstanding leadership, showcase the essence of 4-H positivity and possess a proven ability to engage others. For more information, guidelines, and the application, please visit the following link: [http://www.4-h.org/get-involved/sponsor/4-h-legacy-awards-gala/youth-in-action/?utm_campaign=EMAIL&utm_source=PRO&utm_medium=112514&utm_term=YIAAWARDS](http://www.4-h.org/get-involved/sponsor/4-h-legacy-awards-gala/youth-in-action/?utm_campaign=EMAIL&utm_source=PRO&utm_medium=112514&utm_term=YIAAWARDS)

**2015 Equine Extravaganza**

The 2015 4-H Youth Equine Extravaganza is a newly combined event of the Youth Horse Jamboree (typically held in late March) and the State Horse Judging Contest (typically held in November) that will be held at the Equine Center at Ellsworth Community College in Iowa Falls. We hope that this will increase participation for all of the variety of equine events that youth can participate in. Look for more information on entry deadlines and processes coming soon. There are a couple of blocks set up at the AmericInn and Super 8 in Iowa Falls, under the 4-H Horse name for team coaches to reserve.

**SESS Instructor Training Iowa 4-H Center**

Online registration is now available for the State 4-H Shooting Sports Certification Workshop! It will be held at the Iowa 4-H Center on May 1-3, 2015. All volunteers MUST have successfully completed the background screening process through their county extension office before participating in the training. Early Bird Registration ends March 31, 2015 and will cost $250. Late Registration will take place from April 1-10, 2015, and will cost $275. Archery, Coordinator, Muzzleloader, Rifle, Shotgun, and Wildlife will be offered if minimum registration numbers are met. Visit the website
Summer Staff Positions at the Iowa 4-H Center

Summer staff positions to support educational programs at the Iowa 4-H Center this coming summer are now open. Positions include lifeguards, health aides, and programming specialists working with adventure/challenge programs, creativity and the arts programs, nature and science programs, outdoor skills, and shooting sports. Applicants need to be at least 18 years of age; at least one year of college or other relevant post-high school experience is preferred. People interested in applying can view the position descriptions and access the link to the online application at [http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/content/now-hiring-summer-camp-program-staff](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/content/now-hiring-summer-camp-program-staff). We will be conducting a “rolling” application process—positions will be filled as applications are received. For more information, contact Bill Beckley, Youth Program Specialist, Camping ([wbeckley@iastate.edu](mailto:wbeckley@iastate.edu)).

We acknowledge also, with great appreciation, the many adult volunteers who were recognized for giving willingly of their time and energy so that the 4-H program can have an impact on the lives of young people. Leaders who reached milestones this year were Kari Sorenson and Jennifer Hough – 5 years; Lisa Riesenber – 10 years; Roberta Hersom – 15 years; Denise Flaherty – 20 years; and Angie Beem – 40 years. Receiving an Honorary Award was Vinnie Lammers and receiving Alumni Awards were Glen & Diane Smith.

If you would like a complete listing of all the awards presented at the banquet please email [jnaig@iastate.edu](mailto:jnaig@iastate.edu) or stop by the office and we will get you one. We would like to thank everyone who attended the awards banquet for helping us honor those recognized. We had an attendance of 154 people at this annual event.

4-H Sewing Workshop Held in November

A 4-H Sewing Workshop was held at the Palo Alto County Extension Office on Saturday, November 15th. Eight 4-H members enjoyed a day of sewing, pizza, and fellowship. Participants learned some basic sewing skills while completing walker caddies for residents in our local nursing homes. Because of a grant from the Palo Alto County Gaming and Development Corporation, all the fabric, notions, and new sewing machines were provided for the group.

4-Hers attending the workshop included Olivia Lace, Savannah Faulkner, Tricia and Brennan Fay, Claire Kassel, Rebecca Licht, Andrew Hohensee, and Mackenzie Berkland. We would like to extend a special thanks to the adults that helped during the day – Rose Smith, Debbie Kassel, Kim Hohensee, Tracy Licht, and Lisa Berkland.

Award Winners Announced at Banquet

We salute the 4-Hers who were recognized during our 2014 Leaders’ Appreciation & Awards Banquet on Sunday, November 2nd for their outstanding achievements during the 4-H year. Special congratulations go to Alicia Mogler for being selected for the Galen Smith Memorial Award, Kirk Kenyon for being selected for the R.W. Ashby Outstanding 4-H Award, and Emily Riesenberg for the Jeanette Anthe Outstanding 4-H Award. Other special award winners included: Ak-Sar-Ben – Rachel Hoffman, and “I Dare You” – Kyle Kassel and Cassy Olesen.
4-H Christmas Candy Workshop Held in December

A 4-H Candy Making Workshop was held at the Palo Alto County Extension Office on Saturday, December 6th. Twenty-one 4-H members enjoyed a day of candy making, pizza, and more. Participants learned to make six different candy recipes. Each participant then got to take home containers full of samples for their families and a copy of all the recipes they made that day.


We would like to extend a special thanks to the adults that helped with the workshop – Devona Perkins, Jody Leuer, Becky Lenz, Marilee Lace, Kara Kruetner, and Tracy Licht.

4-Hers Deliver Walker Caddies to Nursing Home Residents

On Wednesday, December 17th Palo Alto County 4-Hers delivered walker caddies to nursing home residents in Emmetsburg. They presented 12 caddies, four each, to residents at PARC Hall, Lakeside Lutheran, and Emmetsburg Care Center. The youth sewed the caddies themselves during our 4-H sewing workshop in November. Participants taking part in the delivery were Rebecca Licht, Olivia Lace, and Mackenzie Berkland. Another workshop is being planned to make more for the nursing homes in Ruthven and West Bend. This was a great experience for our 4-Hers to give something back to their community!

Co. Council Christmas Party

The Palo Alto 4-H County Council held their annual Christmas Party at the Extension Office on Saturday, Dec. 13th. Members enjoyed an evening of pizza, Christmas goodies, and a game of Apples to Apples. Included in the fun was a gingerbread house contest. They divided into 3 teams and worked together to make a house using graham crackers. It was decided to let Palo Alto 4-H families vote on the winner.

Go to http://doodle.com/e2u9m6vg24prbwh6 and cast your vote!

Birthdays

Join us in wishing the following 4-Hers and Clover Kids Happy Birthday!

January
Billie Steffens
Bryce Rosacker
Jillian Joyce
Jaymes Vanderhoff
Tatyana Sheilch

February
Mackenzie Berkland
Madison Norris
Liberty Corderman
Mackenzie Hoffman
Ava Salas
Palo Alto County Extension Website – Check it Out!

Check out our county web page at http://www.extension.iastate.edu/paloalto/! On the 4-H & Youth page I will be posting the 4-H newsletters, forms and documents, registration forms, fairbook, and links to other 4-H info. You just might find what you are looking for!!!

Palo Alto County 4-H on Facebook

Check out the photos on the Palo Alto County 4-H Facebook page! Many pictures have been posted from our 4-H county events. Feel free to download and use in your 4-H Record Book. Just do a search for “Palo Alto County 4-H” and click “like” to continue to get updates.

Newsletter prepared by Julie Naig, County Youth Coordinator. Email at jnaig@iastate.edu.