

POLK COUNTY 4-H CLOVER POWER

1625 Adventureland Drive, Suite A • Altoona, Iowa 50009 • 515-957-5760 • September 2023 Issue

IN THIS ISSUE

Focus: Deadlines and announcements

Spotlight: Highlights from clubs around the county

Events & Opportunities:
Upcoming events and opportunities in Polk County and across the state

Attention! Leaders: Leader training, meetings, and other volunteer-related information

Calendar & Contacts:
Listing of events, meetings, workshops, and deadlines, and how to reach your County Youth Coordinators

September at a Glance

- Enrollment is open for the 2023-2024 program year! See the end of [Focus](#) for details.
- Don't forget to apply for [Annual County Awards](#)—applications are due by 12pm on October 2nd!
- Meet the Polk County 4-H Endowment Committee in the [Spotlight](#) section and learn about their goals for the upcoming year!

Save the Date

October 3-4, 2023

Noon-Noon

24 Hour Fundraiser for
Polk County 4-H

IOWA 4-H
GIVING
Day

Bookmark the Polk County page:

www.iowa4hgivingday.org/organizations/polk-county-extension



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

POLK COUNTY 4-H CLOVER POWER

1625 Adventureland Drive, Suite A • Altoona, Iowa 50009 • 515-957-5760 • September 2023 Issue

FOCUS

Keep up with the most important deadlines and announcements related to Polk County 4-H

County Council Applications

4-H members in grades 9-12 are eligible to apply for County Council. This is the group of youth who host officer training, help with awards, organize county wide service events, and organize various events at the Polk County Fair each year. If you are interested in applying, applications are available on the [Awards webpage](#). Please note that there are new applications this year—one for New Members and one for Returning Members.

Applications are due by 5 pm on September 6, 2023. Applicants will be required to participate in an interview, which will take place the second week of September. Contact Megan with questions.

Annual County Awards

The applications and descriptions for the 2023 Awards are available [here](#), toward the bottom of the page. Youth will also interview with a judge as part of the application process.

All applications/nominations are due to Megan Freel by **12pm on Oct. 2nd.**

Award interviews will be held in October, with dates to be announced later. (Accommodations for interviews are available.) Awards will be announced and celebrated on **Sunday, November 12, in the afternoon. Location is TBD.**

Polk County Fair and Polk County 4-H 2022-2023 End of Year Survey

Polk County 4-H staff is looking for your input and opinions from the last year related to programming, communication, and the Polk County Fair.

Please take a few minutes to complete this [survey](#). Information collected will be taken into account as we plan the 2023-2024 year!



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

POLK COUNTY 4-H CLOVER POWER

1625 Adventureland Drive, Suite A • Altoona, Iowa 50009 • 515-957-5760 • September 2023 Issue

Polk County 4-H and FFA Fair Association Meeting

The Polk County 4-H and FFA Fair Association will hold their Annual Meeting on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 7:00 PM, at the Polk County Extension Office.

Directors for each of the four districts of the county and at-large members will be elected for 3-year terms in accordance with the bylaws. Any registered voter in Polk County is eligible to vote for Fair Board members.

If you are interested in holding a position on the Fairboard, please contact Nominating Committee Chair, Brian Wilkinson at 515-202-5317.

Enrollment 2.0 is OPEN!

4-H Online enrollment is live for the 2023-2024 program year!

To access the website, visit [4-H Online 2.0](#), and use the same email and password as last year. Youth in 4-H (4th-12th grade) are \$50 and youth in Clover Kids (K-3rd grade) are \$5. Financial assistance is available to anyone who may need it through the [Iowa 4-H Foundation](#).

You can also find a [help sheet](#) located on the Iowa 4-H page to assist you with the registration process. Remember, 4-H members must be enrolled to participate in Polk County 4-H programs.

While the deadline is May 15, youth are not covered under our insurance until they are enrolled, and approved, in 4-H Online.



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

POLK COUNTY 4-H CLOVER POWER

1625 Adventureland Drive, Suite A • Altoona, Iowa 50009 • 515-957-5760 • September 2023 Issue

SPOTLIGHT

Check out these highlights from clubs across the county

Iowa State Fair Results

Congratulations to the following Polk County 4-H members for their special achievements at the 2023 Iowa State Fair 4-H Shows! 106 exhibitors exhibited in 244 classes, and collectively, Polk County exhibitors received 32 purple, 151 blue, 39 red, and 8 white ribbons. Other achievements include 8 Seals of Excellence, 6 Seals of Merit, 3 participation and 2 Top 5 of Class. Great job, everyone!

Special Achievements:

Claire Mooreman | College of Human Sciences Scholarship
Noah Yeager | College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Scholarship
Seal of Merit in Extemporaneous Speaking
Atticus Palmer | International Harvester Collector's Club Award
Ella Rivas | Judge's Choice in Visual Arts
Rees Goering | Outstanding Food and Nutrition Award
Karter Meurer | Outstanding Food and Nutrition Award
Colin Giles | Outstanding Sewing and Clothing Award
Seal of Merit in Extemporaneous Speaking
Isaiah Seymour | PPI Gallery Award
Makayla Allen | PPI Gallery Considered
Emerson Hilbert | PPI Gallery Considered
Seal of Excellence in Communication Poster
Seal of Merit in Working Exhibit
Seal of Excellence in Educational Presentation
Jeffery Becker | Seal of Merit in Communication Poster
Hunter Markla | Seal of Merit in Working Exhibit
Nora Cornell | Seal of Merit in Working Exhibit
Cornell | Seal of Merit in Working Exhibit
Sadie Goering | Seal of Merit in Working Exhibit
Rylie Campbell | Seal of Merit in Working Exhibit
Iola Reginnitter | Seal of Excellence in Working Exhibit
Charlie Baitinger | Seal of Excellence in Educational Presentation
Simon Giles | Seal of Excellence in Educational Presentation
Camryn Bruce | Seal of Excellence in Educational Presentation
Mara Henn | Seal of Excellence in Educational Presentation
Hannah Haselhuhn | Seal of Excellence in Educational Presentation
Jenna Freese | Seal of Excellence in Educational Presentation
Racheal Takle | Top 5 Fashion Revue
Isabelle Edge | Top 5 Clothing Selection
Kaya Byers | Horse Showmanship Reserve Champion Grade 12
Aylah Fix | Ranch Horse Western Pleasure Reserve Champion Grades 7-8
Ranch Rail Pleasure Junior Champion
Reserve High Scoring Beginners Novice A



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

POLK COUNTY 4-H CLOVER POWER

1625 Adventureland Drive, Suite A • Altoona, Iowa 50009 • 515-957-5760 • September 2023 Issue

Brooke Myers | Horse Showmanship Champion Grade 9
Hunt Seat Equitation Champion Grade 9-10
Hunt Seat Equitation Senior Champion
Ranch Horse Walk/Trot Reserve Champion Grade 9-10
Ranch Horse Western Pleasure Reserve Champion Grade 9-10
Ranch Rail Pleasure Senior Champion
Western Horsemanship Champion Grade 9-10
Peyton Podmolik | Western Horsemanship Reserve Champion Grade 12
Western Walk/Trot Reserve Champion Grade 12
Mia Reichart | Ranch Horse Walk/Trot Senior Reserve Champion
Kelsi Wilkinson | 11th Place Sheep Carcass
Rylie Campbell | 15th Place Sheep Carcass
Ella Maki | High Scoring Preferred Novice A
Kayden McDaniel | Nubian Senior Champion
Nubian Grand Champion
Best Doe of Show
Chesney Steenhoek | Champion Lim-Flex Breeding Beef
Sawyer Minor | Reserve Champion Simmental Market Beef
Izi Juhl | Senior Premier Breeder (Gr. 9-12)

Purple Ribbons (Various Divisions):

Brooke Myers x 4
Mia Reichart x 2
Kaya Byers
Cora Volp x 2
Izi Juhl x 2
Rowdy Campfield x 6
Aylah Fix
Brody Bourke x 2

Chesney Steenhoek
Ella Maki x 2
Gage McDaniel
Jeriah Flege
Kayden McDaniel
Kinser Gallagher
Sawyer Minor
Wyatt Pastour

Don't forget—you can submit your 4-H successes to be featured in Clover Power newsletters! See the information below:

Clover Power Submission Deadlines

In addition to email you can now submit your Spotlight and other club submissions through this [Spotlight submission form!](#)

Email submissions for *Clover Power* to Megan AND Marci

For October, submit by 9/25
For November, submit by 10/26
For December, submit by 11/27



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

POLK COUNTY 4-H CLOVER POWER

1625 Adventureland Drive, Suite A • Altoona, Iowa 50009 • 515-957-5760 • September 2023 Issue

Introducing... the Polk County 4-H Endowment Committee!

Many counties in Iowa have endowment funds that are used specifically to support 4-H'ers in their respective counties, and those funds are overseen and managed by Endowment Committees. We are excited to announce that Polk County now has an endowment fund and a newly established committee as well! We wanted to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and answer some questions you may have.

What is the mission of the committee?

"The Polk County 4-H Endowment Committee exists to raise and manage funds for the sustainability of the Polk County 4-H Endowment with the goal of enriching the lives of current and future 4-H'ers".

Who is on the committee?

Brenda Gill, Angie Hilbert, Barb Lykins, Jeff Murphy, Adam Obrecht, Emma Runde, & Jennifer Weaver. Bridget Johnson is our County Council representative, and Megan Freel and Paul Gibbins are our county representatives.

How long has the committee been in existence?

The committee was formed in January 2023. The members of the committee will serve 1-3 year terms, and we will fill roles as committee members complete their terms.

For what type of initiatives will the funds raised by this committee be used?

The committee has a lot of ideas, but some are: Covering most (if not all) of the yearly enrollment fees; Provide scholarships to enable clubbers to attend state and national 4-H councils; Provide college scholarships; Provide resources to County 4-H staff to recruit and serve current and future 4-H'ers. This is not an exhaustive list!

Does the money stay in Polk County?

YES! Many other counties have their own endowment funds to help grow and serve their local 4-H clubs, and we are excited to do the same! The committee has already provided funds to purchase new signs to designate the Polk County livestock areas at the Iowa State Fair this year, and we look forward to funding more things like this for Polk County 4-H.

Where does the money come from?

We have some starter funds from gifts, but we need to grow the endowment and need your help! You can help by:



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

POLK COUNTY 4-H CLOVER POWER

1625 Adventureland Drive, Suite A • Altoona, Iowa 50009 • 515-957-5760 • September 2023 Issue

- Participating in fundraising activities at the Polk County Fair and throughout the year.
- Directing your funds to the Polk County Endowment fund when you give through the Iowa 4-H Foundation. Many of you have given money to the state foundation, and you now have the opportunity for those funds to stay right here in Polk County. The Day of Giving is coming up October 3-4, so please keep this in mind as you make your donation!
- Some of you know that we had a quilt raffle at the Polk County fair—unfortunately, the technology did not work as we had anticipated. We will be reaching out to those who donated to discuss options since we are not able to offer the quilt. However, we WILL be doing a silent auction for the quilt in the near future, so please stay tuned as we work through the details.
- If you donate funds to 4-H through your employer, check with them to see if there are matching funds for monetary donations or funds for volunteering.
- Talk to others about donating!

Who can I talk to if I have questions or want more information?

You can talk with any of the Polk County 4-H Endowment Committee members—just call the extension office and they can get you in touch with the member you would like to talk to.

The committee is excited as we enter this new chapter in Polk County 4-H, and we look forward to partnering with you to keep making the best better!

**Save
the
Date**

October 3-4, 2023
Noon-Noon
24 Hour Fundraiser for
Polk County 4-H

IOWA 4-H
**GIVING
Day**

Bookmark the Polk County page:
www.iowa4hgivingday.org/organizations/polk-county-extension



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

POLK COUNTY 4-H CLOVER POWER

1625 Adventureland Drive, Suite A • Altoona, Iowa 50009 • 515-957-5760 • September 2023 Issue

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

See what events and opportunities are happening in the 4-H world

THRIVE Youth-Adult Retreat

September 22-24, 2023

Location: Des Moines YMCA Camp, Boone, IA

Cost: \$60/person *There is financial assistance available for youth registration fees.

Research shows that mindfulness benefits overall well-being, such as better focus and concentration, improved self-awareness, increased empathy, decreased stress and anxiety, improved sleep, and better performance in school, work, sports, and other activities.

THRIVE is a unique opportunity for any 7th-12th grade youth and their parent or other caring adult to step away from the busyness and stressors of life to explore healthy, fun ways to recharge their mind, heart, and body!

THRIVE participants get to take time for themselves, connect with each other and new friends, and discover the benefits of mindfulness and other positive, healthy skills through workshops, nature, the arts, and movement to support their mental health and overall well-being. They also get to enjoy camp activities like zip-lining, climbing wall, canoeing, horseback riding, and night photography.

[Learn more and register here.](#)



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

POLK COUNTY 4-H CLOVER POWER

1625 Adventureland Drive, Suite A • Altoona, Iowa 50009 • 515-957-5760 • September 2023 Issue

ATTENTION! LEADERS

Important information for leaders and volunteers

Sign Up for Fall One-on-One Meetings

Leaders, it's time to sign up for your one-on-ones with Polk County 4-H staff. These meetings are for two-way feedback, ensuring chartering standards are met, and discussing ways to ensure success for the upcoming program year.

This year, the meetings will take place on a few different days throughout September and October. All club leaders should attend the meeting together. At the meeting you will receive the premium checks for your club members.

Use this [link](#) to sign up. For questions, contact Megan.

Leader Turnover and Volunteer Training

If your club is experiencing leader turnover or welcoming new leaders to assist the club, please be sure to follow the **required** onboarding process. Clubs that fail to follow the process below will be placed in provisional status. Contact Megan as soon as there are new and/or additional leaders.

New volunteers must:

- Complete and successfully pass background check
- Meet with Megan for a volunteer interview
- Watch volunteer training videos in 4-H online
- Attend new volunteer training.

Returning leaders and volunteers must still complete volunteer training on 4-H Online. 4-H Online will open for the new program year on September 15th.



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

POLK COUNTY 4-H CLOVER POWER

1625 Adventureland Drive, Suite A • Altoona, Iowa 50009 • 515-957-5760 • September 2023 Issue

2023 CALENDAR

CALENDAR

August

10-20 Iowa State Fair

September

4 Office Closed
6 County Council Applications Due
12-13 County Council Interviews
13 Fair Board Annual Meeting 7:00 pm
15 Enrollment begins for 2023-2024
20 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm

October

1-7 National 4-H Week
2 County Award Applications Due
2 Lifeskills Award Applications Due
17 County Award Interviews 5:00-9:00 pm
18 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm
19 County Award Interviews 5:00-9:00 pm
22 County Council Retreat 12:00 pm

November

1 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
12 County Awards Ceremony 2:00 pm
15 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm.
16 Club Officer Training 6:30 pm
23-24 Office Closed, Happy Thanksgiving!

**Stay tuned for a link to the
updated 2023-2024 4-H Program
Year Calendar!**

CONTACT

If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Polk County 4-H staff!

Megan Freel

County Youth Coordinator

meganmae@iastate.edu

515-957-5763

Marci Vinsand

County Youth Coordinator

vinsand@iastate.edu

515-957-5770

ABOUT US



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach does not discriminate on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, pregnancy, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or status as a U.S. veteran, or other protected classes. Direct inquiries to the Diversity Advisor, 515-294-1482, extdiversity@iastate.edu.

ISU Extension and Outreach, Polk County offers research-based youth development programs aimed at preparing young people for the future. Polk County 4-H and its programs empower youth to reach their full potential through caring youth-adult partnerships, hands-on skill-building projects, and meaningful leadership opportunities. Visit the [Polk County 4-H website](#) to learn more.