

Polk County 4-H CLOVER POWER

(515) 957-5760 www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/4h

1625 Adventureland Drive, Suite A • Altoona, Iowa 50009



November 2023 ISSUE

FOCUS

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

State Recognition Event

State 4-H Recognition is the process in which senior 4-H members in grades 9-12 can apply to be selected for special statewide opportunities such as awards and trips.

Applications are currently available at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/recognition-opportunities>

Applications are due by February 1, at 11:59 pm. Please contact Marci if you have questions!

The state office is hosting webinars for the recognition process. You can sign up for these webinars by logging in to 4-H Online and registering under “events.”

- December 27, 7:00-8:00 PM - Opportunities Through Senior Recognition Day
- January 3, 7:00-8:00 PM – Writing a Recognition Day Cover Letter
- January 10, 7:00-8:00 PM – Writing a Recognition Day Resume
- January 29, 7:00-8:00 PM – Open Office Hours
- February 29, 7:00-8:00 PM – Preparing for Recognition Day Interviews

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 in order 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.

Fair Themes Needed

Help the fair board pick the fair theme. They are currently looking for theme submissions from clubs or individuals. The Board is asking for a logo (computer or hand-drawn) and theme. Send submissions to Marci by January 16, 2024, 5:00 pm. The fair board will then select the theme at their January Meeting.

Fair Dates

Polk County Fair | July 13-19, 2024

Iowa 4-H Foundation College Scholarships

The Iowa 4-H Foundation has announced applications are available for the 4-H scholarship program with over 90 scholarship opportunities to be awarded valued at over \$100,000. A complete list of scholarships, eligibility, helpful hints, instructions, and [applications are available online](#). Online deadline is 11:59 PM, March 1. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Marci.

CWF: Citizenship Washington Focus

For 7 days, teens from around the nation will gather to have meaningful discussions, hear from prominent speakers, influential leaders, and engaging young people who have created an impact. They will connect with 500 other teens and learn the skills they need to lead their local communities and become change agents to build a brighter future.

Mark your calendars for June 15-22, 2024, to be part of this exciting trip! Registration cost is \$3000 for teens, \$1500 for adult chaperones. The cost covers lodging, travel, and many meals. Registrations are requested by January 22, 2024. To learn more, visit the [Iowa 4-H CWF webpage](#). Make plans today to strengthen your communication, leadership, and civic engagement skills while exploring our nation's capital city.

Pop Tabs for Jacey Collection in Motion

The State 4-H Council is carrying Jacy McAlexander's legacy through their 7th annual "Pop Tabs for Jacy" initiative. The top 5 counties to collect the most poundage by State 4-H Conference will be recognized at the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference. You are able to drop tabs off at the extension office or with one of our state council members.

Pioneer Seed Grants

Have a club project idea needing financial assistance? \$50 - \$500 is available to 4-H clubs for their community improvement projects through our Pioneer Seed Money grants. Applications are due to the county offices by January 16 and must be passed along to the state office by January 30, 2024. For application materials, tips, and more info, check out the [website](#). For questions, contact [Madeleine Bretey-Smith](#).

Iowa Farm Bureau Scholarships

The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF) and many of its 100 county Farm Bureaus offer a variety of scholarships at the state and local level to high school seniors accepted into an accredited institution of higher education (i.e. Technical College, Junior College, Community College, College or University).

To apply for these scholarships, you only need to submit one application, which will enter you for a chance to receive the state and local Farm Bureau scholarships available to you. Eligibility for all Farm Bureau scholarships is reserved for current IFBF members (and their children) who are in good standing with the organization. To become a member, it is a \$35 membership fee. To be considered, a graduating high school senior must have a minimum 2.5 grade point average (GPA), be involved in extra-curricular activities, and be accepted into an accredited higher education institution (including community colleges and technical schools).

Wednesday, January 31, 2024 is the deadline to apply for Farm Bureau scholarships. Applications are available online at <https://www.iowafarmbureau.com/Member-Benefits/Iowa-Farm-Bureau-Scholarships>

Present at the 2024 Iowa 4-H Legacy Awards Gala

Calling all 4-H presenters! The Foundation is seeking 4-H'ers to **present an educational display** at the 2024 Iowa 4-H Legacy Awards Gala on Friday, February 23, at Prairie Meadows in Altoona. Selected 4-H'ers (and a parent) are invited to showcase during the reception and then attend the remainder of the event. Deadline to apply is Monday, January 15. Contact **Teresa Lettow** with questions.

States' 4-H Exchange Seeking Host Families for Japanese Youth

The **States' 4-H Exchange international program** seeks Iowa families to host a Japanese exchange student or adult chaperone for 3.5 weeks this summer. This program is designed to focus on daily life in Iowa households. Families do not need to be involved in the Iowa 4-H program to host. 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 within 3+ years of age. The deadline to apply is April 15, 2024. Japanese youth delegates will be assigned to a host family by June 1, 2024. Contact **Madeleine Bretey-Smith** with questions.

SPOTLIGHT

Check out these highlights from clubs across the county.

Ankeny Trailblazers December Meeting

Ankeny Trailblazers had 8 families with a total of 17 people volunteer over 2 nights at Gingerbread Lane in Ankeny December 19-20th. We helped raise \$1332.15 in cash donations & food plus more on Venmo. We had a wonderful time giving out candy canes and dog treats donated by Bark Avenue. Highlights were playing music, seeing lots of happy families and dogs, the holiday trolleys & the Mills Pond bus, & Kyle's Bikes Bikeathon - so many decorated bikes lit up! Thanks to the Geest family for sharing their street and organizing our chance to be a part of this Ankeny Tradition!



Johnston Forevergreens December Meeting

The December meeting of Johnston Forevergreens was jam-packed. Cookie & gift exchanges, presentations, a New Member welcome



December Christmas Caroling at Rock Creek Senior Living Center in Ankeny

Ankeny 4-H Club visited the Rock Creek Senior Living



Valley Pacers December Meeting

During the December meeting of the Valley Pacers the club members worked together to make snowman ornaments to be distributed at a local retirement

ceremony, and even a visit from Santa!

Center for a brief business meeting and white elephant gift exchange and then visited two dining rooms where we sang Christmas songs to residents. Many sang along with us and shared their love for 4-H and remembered their days in 4-H as a child.

community. The group ended the evening with a Secret Santa gift exchange and shared holiday treats.

Urbandale 4-H Club December Meeting

Urbandale 4-H Club had a busy December. We started with our holiday party and gift exchange. The highlight was watching Colin wish everyone a "Merry Christmas" while eating 10x marshmallows. We delivered treats to the Urbandale Fire Stations and WestComm Dispatchers and packaged meals at Meals From the Heartland.



Ankeny 4-H Club November Officer Installation

We completed a puzzle symbolizing the fact that club officers and members have similarities to puzzles in that until the last piece is put into place, the puzzle is incomplete and every piece is needed. Likewise, every member of this club is essential. If one person fails to attend a meeting or function, a piece of this club is missing, making it incomplete. A 4-H officer cannot accomplish very much alone, but when all the pieces are put together, their club can become something wonderful.

Left to Right Back Row: Jenna Freeseman (President), Ryan Schumacher (Recreational Committee), Lauren Schumacher (Treasurer), Lucy Feldman (Vice President), Lilly Bresson (Secretary)

Left to Right Front Row: Clara Rhoades (Historian/Photographer), Kaylee Haselhuhn (Recreational Committee), Hannah Haselhuhn (Recreational Committee)

Clover Power Submission Deadlines

Email submissions for Clover Power to **Megan AND Marci**.

- For February, Submit by 1/29
- For March, Submit by 2/26



ANIMAL & LIVESTOCK NEWS

See what events are happening in the livestock world.

Weigh-in and Tagging Dates

Please mark your calendars with the following weigh-in date:

- Swine tagging – Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 8:00 am-11:00 am at the Iowa State Fair Grounds Sheep Barn
- Sheep and Goat – Saturday, April 27, 2024 from 8:00 am-12:00 am at the Iowa State Fair Grounds Sheep Barn

Beef, and sheep may be weighed-in in any county as the processes are very similar. If you choose to attend another county's weigh-in, please coordinate this in advance with **Marci** or 515-957-9770. Swine for the Polk County Fair **MUST** be tagged in on our date due to varying county processes. Goats must also be ID at the Polk County Fair weigh-in date.

Youth For The Quality Care Of Animals (YQCA)

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) formally FSQA. **EVERYONE'S** certification will expire before fair!

This is a required certification for all youth who exhibit the following animals at the county or state fair. Certification needs to be completed by July 1.

- Cattle- Breeding, Market & Dairy
- Swine- Breeding & Market
- Sheep- Breeding & Market
- Goats- Breeding, Market & Dairy
- Poultry
- Rabbits

Below are the options for training for the 2024 fair Season.

- Online YQCA class option for all age levels (Certification is good for 1 year)
 - Please note that the online option will cost you \$12/youth- Payable online only

<https://yqcaprogram.org/login/index.php>

- Youth will have 3 quizzes that they will need to pass with an 80% above. If youth do not pass a quiz they will be locked out for 1 hour and then have an opportunity to pass again without paying additional fees. This can be done as many times as necessary.
- Face to Face class options: (Certification is good for 1 year)
 - Please note that the Face to Face option will cost you \$3/youth- Payable online only
 - Pre-registration is required via <https://yqcaprogram.org/login/index.php>
 - There is a pre-test and a post test that youth will need to complete to get their certificate
 - March 7, 2024 | YQCA Training 6:00 – 8:00 pm
 - March 15, 2024 | YQCA Training 1:00 – 3:00 pm

ATTENTION: LEADERS!

Important information for leaders and volunteers.

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.

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 February, submit by 1/29
- For March, Submit by 2/26
- For April, submit by 3/25
- For May, submit by 4/25
- For June, submit by 5/27
- For July, submit by 6/24
- For August, submit by 7/29

CALENDAR

Important information for leaders and volunteers.

January

1 Office Closed, Happy New Years!
3 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
15 Office Closed
17 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm

February

1 State Award Applications Due
1 Scholarship Applications Due
7 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
21 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm
22 Annual Volunteer Training 1:00–3:00 pm
or 6:30–8:30 pm
23 4-H Legacy Awards, Iowa 4-H Foundation

[2023-2024 Program Calendar](#)

CONTACT

Marci Vinsand

County Youth Coordinator
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vinsand@iastate.edu

Megan Freel

County Youth Coordinator
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Connect with us!



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