

Polk County 4-H CLOVER POWER

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

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February 2024 ISSUE

FOCUS

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

2024 Polk County Fair Theme



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.”

- 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 Dates

Polk County Fair | July 13-19, 2024
Iowa State Fair | August 8-18, 2024

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.

Bake to Give-Maddie Kruse Youth Award

Encourage youth in grades 7-12 to apply for the \$1,000 Bake to Give-Maddie Kruse Youth Award sponsored by the Home Baking Association. This award recognizes youth bakers who are actively making a difference in their local communities, the award aims to inspire others to do the same. To apply, submit a one-page description of your service to your community by March 31, 2024. More information can be found on the [Home Baking website](#). Questions? Contact [Cayla](#).

4-H Day with the Cardinals

The twenty-first annual 4-H Day with the Cardinals will be May 18, 2024, when the Cardinals take on the Boston Red Sox at 6:15 p.m. at Busch Stadium. Tickets are \$30 each and includes a specially designed t-shirt with the 4-H clover and Cardinals logo. In addition, 4-H members who participate in a raffle will have the chance to throw out the first pitch, and everyone will have the opportunity to participate in a parade around the field prior to the game! [Registration](#) is through Cvent. Ticket orders will be accepted starting February 1 – March 29. Questions? Contact [Rhonda Shafer](#)

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.

Equine Extravaganza Registration Open

Registration is now open for [Equine Extravaganza](#), and 2024 contest rules have been updated. Deadline for registration is March 31. Questions, please contact [Celine Beggs-Shoemaker](#).

Iowa Dairy Goat Association Share-A-Kid Program

Each year, the Iowa Dairy Goat Association coordinates the Share-A-Kid program that engages youth in the dairy goat industry. Youth applicants must submit an essay of 100 words or more telling why they are interested in the dairy goat project area and how they plan to care for the animal. Applications must be postmarked by March 15, 2024, to be considered this year. Learn more about the program and application requirements on the [Iowa Dairy Goat website](#). Questions? Contact [Beth Buscher Konen](#).

SPOTLIGHT



Wildcard Robotics

Dr. Jason Henderson, the Vice President for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, attended a build night for the Wildcard Robotics Club. Wildcard Robotics is a 4-H Club that participates in FIRST Robotics competitions. Every year the group is given a challenge and they build a robot that will complete the challenge. The team has 6 weeks to complete their robot before the start of the competition season.



February Casserole Making for the Salvation Army

The Ankeny 4-H Club gathered at 4 different club members' homes to prepare and bake casseroles for the Salvation Army for their Help Feed the Homeless through the Mobile Breakfast Service initiative. It was a fun and sometimes messy experience had by all!

Valley Pacers February Meeting

The Valley Pacers held their February meeting at Glazed Expressions in Clive. After a short business meeting, the club members spent time painting pottery, having snacks, and enjoying one another's company.

Clover Power Submission Deadlines

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

- For April, submit by 3/25
- For May, submit by 4/25

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
 -

4-H/FFA Rabbit and Cavy Workshop

The 4-H and FFA rabbit and cavy workshop will be held on Saturday, March 9 from 12:30 – 4:00 pm at the Jasper County Fairgrounds in Colfax Iowa. Speakers will discuss rabbit and cavy breeds and health. Youth are encouraged to bring their rabbits and cavies to be evaluated and to show them in a “practice” show. Rabbit tattooing and cavy tagging will be available. Rabbit and cavies will be for sale. Youth can build a carrier for a cost by reserving supplies by calling Bill at 515-556-5123 or emailing Wolferabbit3@mediacombb.net. There is no need to register and no cost to attend (except for those youth who purchase rabbits/cavies and/or build a carrier and /or purchase rabbit and cavy equipment).

Youth will receive free tickets for drawings for rabbit and cavy supplies. Youth from Iowa and other states may attend even if they are not enrolled in 4-H or FFA. This workshop is sponsored by Iowa State and South Central Rabbit Breeders, Iowa State University and Outreach 4-H; and Eldon C Stutsman Inc and Heinold Feeds. Questions can be answered by Bill Wolfe at 515-556-5123 or Lynne Rechterman at 563-260-5295.

Iowa Dairy Goat Association Fitting and Showmanship Clinic

The Iowa Dairy Goat Association will be hosting a Showing and Fitting Clinic for interested youth on May 11, 2024, from 9 AM to 3 PM in Bondurant. The clinic includes sessions on succeeding in the ring through showmanship, fitting tips and tricks, as well as a judging clinic. Goat ownership is not required, and goats will be provided by the clinic hosts. Interested youth should contact [Judi McIvor](#) by May 5 if planning to attend.

2024 Horse Clinics

POLK COUNTY CLINIC SCHEDULE 2024



May 6th: Introduction to Polk County Horse Committee and Lauren Jaschke

May 13th: Madison Krapfl, and Teresa Taylor

May 20th: James Puderbaugh

May 27th: Tristen Wigg

June 3rd: Lauren Jaschke

June 10th: Madison and Josie Stewart

June 17th: Bill Baughman

June 24th: Tristen Wigg

July 1st: "Bring your Clover" and Brooke Hoven

July 8th: Midland Prairie Vet and Polk County Horse Committee



Clinics take place at Prairie Rose Arena located in Elkhart, Iowa. Clinics start at 6pm and the clinicians typically teach until 8pm. The arena is open until 9pm for riding. Attendance will be taken as all Juniors (4th-6th grade) and any first time Polk County horse exhibitors (regardless of age or experience) are REQUIRED to attend 3 clinics to be eligible for fair. Riders on horses who have not previously competed in bareback will be required to do a bareback check. There will be a riding and bareback check opportunity during fair, Sunday July 14th from 10am-11am.



ATTENTION: LEADERS!

Important information for leaders and volunteers.

Annual Leader Training

Please consider joining our [Polk County 4-H Volunteer Facebook page](#). This page is a place to share ideas, ask questions, and connect with other Polk County 4-H 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 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.

March

6 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
7 YQCA Training 6:00 – 8:00 pm
15 YQCA Training 1:00 – 3:00 pm
20 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm

April

3 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
17 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm
20 Swine tagging 8:00-11:00 am
25 Pre-Fair Meeting 1:00–3:00 pm or 6:30–8:30 pm
27 Sheep and Goat Weigh-In 8:00-11:00 am

2023-2024 Program Calendar

CONTACT

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Megan Freel

County Youth Coordinator
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Connect with us!



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