

POLK COUNTY 4-H CLOVER POWER

1625 Adventureland Drive, Suite A • Altoona, Iowa 50009 • 515-957-5760 • December 2022 Issue

IN THIS ISSUE

Focus: Deadlines and announcements.

Spotlight: Club features, highlights, and events. This month features the Freedom Riders 4-H Club!

Animal & Livestock News: Updates for livestock and animal exhibitors.

Attention Leaders: Information on leader meetings, trainings, and other related topics.

Events: Upcoming events within Polk County 4-H and across the state.

Calendar & Contact: Listing of events, meetings, workshops, and deadlines, and how to reach us.

December at a Glance

- You still have time to send in your ideas for the 2023 Polk County Fair Theme!
- YQCA training information is available for 2023. See Animal & Livestock New for details.
- Over 90 scholarship opportunities are available through the Iowa 4-H Foundation—see the Focus section for more.

Do All the Good You Can

We are excited to announce the State 4-H Council newest service initiative, **Do All the Good You Can**.

Sign up with the link below to receive bi-monthly service challenges to give back to your community! Your club or group will log hours or things donated.

The counties with the most hours by Youth Conference in June will receive an award. We look forward to hearing all of the good you are able to do this year!

If you have any questions, please contact Bridget Johnson: (515) 505-2142

[Sign up here!](#)



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FOCUS

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

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 Vinsand.

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 at vinsand@iastate.edu by 5pm on December 19th, 2022. The Fair Board will begin reviewing themes at their December meeting.

Polk County Fair | July 15-21, 2023
Iowa State Fair | August 10-20, 2023

Enrollment 2.0 is OPEN!

4-H Online enrollment is live for the 2022-2023 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 \$40 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. Questions can be directed to Virginia Atwell.



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SPOTLIGHT

Take a peek at what our local clubs are doing! Submit your clubs spotlight moments [here](#).

Urbandale 4-H Club



The Urbandale 4-H Club toured the WestComm Dispatch Center during their November meeting!

Members learned about the important role that Emergency Dispatchers play in keeping community members' safe.

Clover Power Submissions

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 AND Virginia.

For December's newsletter, submit by 11/29



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ANIMAL & LIVESTOCK

Stay connected with Polk County 4-H Animal and Livestock news, deadlines, and requirements.

Youth For The Quality Care Of Animals (YQCA)

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) formally FSQA.

EVERYONES 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 2023 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/>
 - 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 hr 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/> .
 - March 9, 2023 | YQCA Training 6:00 – 8:00 pm
 - March 17, 2023 | YQCA Training 1:00 – 3:00 pm



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Weigh-in and Tagging Dates

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

Beef – Saturday, December 17, 2022 from 8:00 am-11:00 am at the Iowa State Fair Grounds Cattle Barn

Swine tagging – Saturday, April 15, 2023 from 8:00 am-11:00 am at the Iowa State Fair Grounds Sheep Barn

Sheep and Goat – Saturday, April 29, 2023 from 8:00 am-11:00 am at the Iowa State Fair Grounds Sheep Barn

Beef, sheep, and goat 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, vinsand@iastate.edu or 957.9770.**

Swine for the Polk County Fair **MUST** be tagged in on our date due to varying county processes.



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ATTENTION LEADERS

All information pertaining to leader meetings, events, and expectations.

4-H Club Enrollment Incentive

We are offering an incentive to re-enrolling clubs that have 90% or more of their club “Active” by December 15.

1. **What does “active” mean?** An **active** 4-H member has enrolled in 4-H Online and paid their \$40 fee.
2. **How are percentages determined?** 4-H Online tells us who is active, inactive, and pending as well as a total for each club (inactive numbers and the totals are based upon 4-H enrollment from the 2020-2021 4-H year). We then divide the number of active members by the total.

Example: Club A | Active 10, Pending 8, Inactive 5, Total 23.

- 43.4% of the club has been enrolled
- The math: $10/23 = .434 = 43.4\%$
- Club A does not meet the incentive. If Club A's leader knows that members are not returning, the leader needs to email Megan with their names.

What is the incentive? This year the incentive is \$40 added to their club account.

Leader Turnover and New Volunteers

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 is knowledge of 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 complete annual volunteer training on 4-H Online. Contact **Megan** or **Marci** with questions.



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EVENTS

Check out upcoming events to be held within Polk County and across the state.

- **Beef Weigh-In on December 17th from 8:00-11:00am**
- **Fair Themes due to Marci by 5:00pm on December 19th**
- **Sign-Up is open for Do All The Good You Can**
- **Dates have been announced for YQCA training options**
- **Applications are open for scholarships through the Iowa 4-H Foundation**

CALENDAR

December

7 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
17 Beef Weigh-in 8:00-11:00 am
21 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm
23-26 Office Closed, Happy Holidays!

January

4 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
16 Office Closed
18 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm

February

1 State Award Applications Due
1 Scholarship Applications Due
1 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
15 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm
23 Annual Volunteer Training 1:00–3:00 pm or 6:30–8:30 pm
24 4-H Legacy Awards, Iowa 4-H Foundation

March

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

April

5 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
15 Swine tagging 8:00-11:00 am
19 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm

April (Continued)

27 Pre-Fair Meeting 1:00–3:00 pm or 6:30–8:30 pm
29 Sheep Weigh-In 8:00-11:00 am

May

2 Virtual Pre-Fair Meeting 6:30 pm
3 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
15 Livestock ID's Due in 4-H Online
15 Last Day to Enroll in 4-H
15 Polk County Fair King and Queen Applications Due
15 Clover Dash 5K Scholarship Applications Due
17 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm
30 Office Closed, Memorial Day

June

7 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
17 King and Queen Candidate Interviews
21 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm

July

1 Polk County & Iowa State Fair Entries Due to Extension Office
4 Office Closed
5 County Council Meeting 7:00 pm
8 Clothing Event
12 Fair Board Meeting 7:30 pm
15-21 Polk County Fair

August

10-20 Iowa State Fair



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CONTACT

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

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Marci Vinsand

County Youth
Coordinator

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Virginia Atwell

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Educator

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ABOUT US

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.



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