

POLK COUNTY 4-H CLOVER POWER

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

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Focus: Deadlines and announcements.

Spotlight: Club features, highlights, and events.

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

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

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.

January at a Glance

- Don't forget to sign up for the State 4-H Council's new initiative to get bi-monthly service challenges for your club! See [Focus](#) for the sign-up link.
- YQCA training information is available for 2023. See [Animal & Livestock News](#) for details.
- This is the month to apply for opportunities as a part of 4-H State Recognition! Check out details below:

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.**

This year the state is offering Recognition Preparation Statewide Workshops:

- [Writing a Recognition Day Cover Letter](#) January 4, 5:30-6:30PM
- [Writing a Recognition Day Resume Webinar](#) January 10, 5:30-6:30PM
- [Recognition Day Interview Preparation Webinar](#) March 1, 5:30-6:30PM

Please contact Marci if you have questions!



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FOCUS

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

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!](#)



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.

Enrollment 2.0 is OPEN!

4-H Online enrollment is live for the 2022-2023 program year! Visit [4-H Online 2.0](#), and use the same email and password as last year. You can find a [help sheet](#) located on the Iowa 4-H page to assist you with the registration process.

Youth in 4-H (4th-12th grade) are \$40 and youth in Clover Kids (K-3rd grade) are \$5. Financial assistance is available through the [Iowa 4-H Foundation](#).

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](#).

Altoona Adventurers

The Altoona Adventurers were in the holiday spirit in December!

Through the local school district, they were paired with family in need this Christmas season. Club members received a list of needed items, set a budget, and selected gifts for family members. Following the shopping experience, they enjoyed their annual Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell ringing, despite the cold temperature! During the December meeting they wrapped the gifts and enjoyed some holiday games together.



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Urbandale 4-H

The Urbandale 4-H Club continued their annual tradition of decorating and delivering Holiday Treats to Urbandale Fire Fighters and WestComm Dispatchers.



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 February's newsletter, submit by 1/30.



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ATTENTION LEADERS

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

Leader Turnover and New Volunteers

If your club is changing leaders or welcoming new leaders, please be sure to follow the **required** onboarding process. Clubs that do not will be placed in provisional status. Contact Megan about 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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ANIMAL & LIVESTOCK

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

Youth For the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

Everyone's certification will expire before the 2023 fair! This is a required certification for all youth who exhibit the following animals at the county or state fair. **Certification must be completed by July 1.**

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

Training Options for 2023 Fair Season:

[Online YQCA class option for all age levels](#)
(Certification is good for 1 year)

- The online option costs \$12 per youth—*payable online only!* Via <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
- Youth must pass 3 quizzes with a score of 80% or above. If youth do not pass, they must wait 1 hour before retaking the quiz (without additional fees). This can be done as many times as necessary.

Face to Face class options (Certification is good for 1 year):

- The cost is \$3 per 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

Weigh-in and Tagging Dates

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

- **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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CALENDAR

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
- 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

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

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Virginia Atwell

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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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