This week I spent some time going over our upcoming 4-H programming for the 2015 year. I occurred to me that though the topics I have planned for workshops may be interesting and relevant to me, but what do our 4-H’ers want, what do they need? I took a look at the top 10 project areas for which our 4-H’ers are enrolled. Here’s what I found: #1 photography, #2 food and nutrition, #3 home improvement, #4 visual arts, #5 woodworking, #6 self-determined, #7 citizenship, #8 clothing and fashion, #9 sewing and needle arts, #10 beef. With such a wide variety of topics and activities that can be done in each of these project areas, we need to have ideas of what YOU the 4-H’er would like to do, what types of county wide workshops would you like to see? Please let us know your ideas are; send suggestions to: mtaggs@iastate.edu.
OFFICER TRAINING

Club officer training will be held on Saturday Jan. 10th at the Harlan Community High School media center from 9:30 -11:30am. All club officers should plan to attend. New officer book requirements will be discussed.

FSQA: What is it and who has to take it?

Dates have been set for upcoming FSQA certifications:

- Monday December 29th 10am
- Tuesday February 10th 6:30pm
- Thursday June 4th 10am

All certifications will take place at the Extension office meeting room. Please call ahead for testing times.

Who needs to certify? ALL 4-H’ and FFA members exhibiting beef, swine, sheep and dairy (both dairy cattle and dairy goat), meat goat, rabbit and poultry at the Shelby County Fair, Iowa State Fair and AK-SAR-BEN must be certified. All other food animal exhibitors are encouraged to attend to learn more about their responsibility to produce safe food.

- Youth in grades 4-6 must attend a 2-hour certification program every year to be FSQA certified.
- Youth in grades 7-9 will have the option of attending a training every year, or completing a test which will certify them until they reach the 10th grade.
- Youth in grades 10-12 will have the option of attending a training every year, or completing a test which will certify them until they turn 20.

IOWA 4-H YOUTH CONFERENCE 2014: DARE TO DISCOVER

The date and theme for the 2015 Iowa 4-H Youth Conference have been set. The dates for his year’s event are June 30-July 2, 2015. The conference will be held on the ISU campus and is open to all Iowa youth who have completed 8th grade. More information will be coming!

MISSION STATEMENT

4-H EMPOWERS YOUTH TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL WORKING AND LEARNING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CARING ADULTS
PLEDGE

I PLEDGE MY HEAD TO CLEARER THINKING, MY HEART TO GREATER LOYALTY, MY HANDS TO LARGER SERVICE, AND MY HEALTH TO BETTER LIVING, FOR MY CLUB, MY COMMUNITY, MY COUNTRY, AND MY WORLD.

YOUTH IN ACTION AWARDS

The Youth in Action award recognizes an outstanding 4-H’er who epitomizes 4-H youth empowerment. The National 4-H council is looking to acknowledge and honor a confident, accomplished 4-H’er who has gained critical life skills through their 4-H program and has utilized those skills to overcome a challenge, or challenges, they have faced. The award winner will also demonstrate how they positively impact the community through their 4-H experience.

The winner will receive a $10,000 scholarship for higher education and an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, DC to receive their award.

Applicants should be a 4-H member or recent alumni, ages 16-21, that represent the diversity and passions of 4-H youth nationwide, demonstrate outstanding leadership, showcase the essence of 4-H positivity and possess a proven ability to engage others. Please contact Mary at the Extension office for more details.

OUT OF COUNTY LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Are you interested in learning more about state and national leadership opportunities through 4-H? Visit: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/page/recognition-opportunities or give Mary or Amanda a call at the Extension office.

YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANTS

Shelby County Extension & Outreach is once again offering youth community service grants to all Shelby County youth organizations. Applications are due to the Extension office by January 9th, 2015. Please visit www.extension.iastate.edu/shelby/page/projects for an online application and tips for completing the application.

Please contact the Extension office for details.

PINTEREST WORKSHOPS

After several requests we have decided to offer Pinterest workshops for both Junior and Senior 4-H’ers. Junior 4-H’ers will meet after school on Wed. Jan. 28th at the United Congregational Church at 19th And Durant. This is an early out for the Harlan Community Schools. Senior 4-H’ers will meet on Friday Feb. 6th at 5:30 at the Extension office. Cost to attend is $10 for Juniors and $15 for Seniors. (Juniors will have a snack, but no meal) See flyer for more details.
4-H SCHOLARSHIPS

The Iowa 4-H Foundation has announced applications are now available for its 4-H scholarship program. Approximately 80 scholarship opportunities valued at over $73,000 will be awarded. Information and applications for the 4-H Scholarships are now available online through the Iowa 4-H Foundation at www.iowa4hfoundation.org/scholarships.

STATE RECOGNITION

9th-12th grade County project area award winners! Please consider applying for state recognition for your outstanding project area work!

2015 Materials and Application links should be posted on the ISU Extension & Outreach website by the first week in December. All applications and materials must be submitted via electronic submission by midnight on February 1, 2015. Interviews will be in Ames on Saturday March 28, 2015.

Visit: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/page/recognition-opportunities or

Contact Mary or Amanda at the Extension office for more details.

BEEF WORKSHOP

The Shelby County 4-H Youth Committee made it mandatory for each 4-H beef exhibitor to attend one beef workshop to be eligible to show at the 2015 Shelby County Fair. The first workshop will be held on Monday February 16th. Time and location yet to be determined.

REMINDER: please verify beef weigh-ins before Jan. 15th! If there is an error, contact Amanda immediately!

4-H PLEDGE

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Junior Pinter- est Party