Winter keeps rearing its ugly head here in Shelby County! My policy for weather related cancellation is to always error on the side of caution. We use our email system via 4-H Online and Facebook to notify 4-H’ers and families if there is a cancellation. (I’m not a Twitter user….yet) If you want those emails to go to another/different email. Please log into 4-H online and add/change your email.

Please remember that the cost to be a Shelby County 4-H’er (4-12) has increased to $15 and Clover Kids (K-3) are now being charged $5. Invoices were mailed out to club leaders last week. Please make payment to your club leader upon their request. Any questions, please contact me.

Mary Taggs
CHILD DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

4-H’ers (grades 4-12) are invited to join Mary on Saturday, March 3rd from 9-3 for a Child Development workshop. The day will be filled with developmentally appropriate activities for young children and hands-on fun! Participants will be able to choose to make one or more child friendly project: quiet books, sensory bottles, felt boards, nutritious snacks and more. Kara Rueschenberg will join us in the afternoon. Kara is a state 4-H award winner in Child Development. Kara will share some of her exhibits and talk about preparing an exhibit for county fair. Come ready to have fun! Space is limited, RSVP to Mary. Bring $5 to offset the cost of lunch and supplies.

EQUINE EXTRAVAGANZA

Equine Extravaganza is March 23-25 in Iowa Falls. We are planning to take a group of 3-5 4-H’ers to observe, learn more and possibly sponsor a horse judging event here in Shelby County. Anyone interested, please contact Paulette at pmadson@iastate.edu.

RABBIT WORKSHOPS: THIRD TIME IS A CHARM....

4-H’ers planning to show rabbits at the 2018 Shelby County Fair are required to attend one of two rabbit workshops. Workshop dates have been rescheduled for: Tues. March 13th and Tues. April 10th, both workshops will be from 7-8PM at the Extension office.

On March 13th, Dr. Doyle Slavik will be our guest speaker. He will be answering questions on rabbit health as well as working on showmanship. We ask that you NOT bring your rabbits to this workshop due to time restraints. Dr. Slavik will bring some of his own rabbits for demonstrations. On April 10th we will hold the second workshop to view the video of Dr. Slavik’s presentation. Please do not bring your rabbits. If you are unable to attend either of these workshops, please contact Paulette at the Extension office pmadson@iastate.edu prior to the April 10th workshop.

If you have any health related rabbit questions for Dr. Slavik, please email them to Jennifer Obrecht at jlynnobrecht@gmail.com.

Rabbit exhibitors are encouraged to attend rabbit workouts throughout the spring. April/May dates are: Tues. April 24th at the Extension office, Wed. May 9th & Wed. May 23rd at Obrecht’s farm, 916 Redbud Road from 7-8PM. Please bring your rabbits to these workshops. June and July workout dates will be determined at a later date.
**FSQA/YQCA**

YQCA is here! Some things you need to know (UPDATED)

1. Your current FSQA testing will remain effective until the expiration date.

2. 4-H’ers grades 7-12 are eligible to test out of FSQA for the 2018 year. Those wishing to test out via FSQA, please contact Paulette to set up a time to test.

3. There will be no face-to-face trainings offered in Shelby County for YQCA or FSQA.

4. All YQCA trainings are available online, for a cost of $12 per 4-H’er.

5. We have received a grant to help offset the $12 fee. Coupons are available from the Extension office. The grant will cover 40 4-H’ers, the first 40 to make a request will receive a coupon. Contact Paulette to receive your coupon code.

6. Clover Kids do NOT need to take YQCA/FSQA, all other 4-H’ers grades 4-12 that intend to exhibit: swine, beef, goats, sheep, poultry and rabbits at the 2018 Shelby County Fair, Iowa State Fair, Clay County Fair, Ak-Sar-Ben and/or 4-County Fair are required to take YQCA or FSQA.

7. 4-H’ers will have until June 15, 2018 to take YQCA/FSQA to be eligible to show at the Shelby County Fair. Training must be complete before fair entries will be accepted.

8. YQCA help sheet is available on this website: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4hfiles/agriculture/YQCA/YQCAWebBasedMemberInstructions.pdf

Please keep in mind that this is a new process for all of us; we will learn together! If you have any questions, please contact the Extension office.
SEWING SATURDAY

4-H’ers that would like to work on a sewing exhibit for the county fair are invited to join me on Saturday, March 17th from 9AM-12PM at the Extension office. 4-H’ers will need to bring their own fabric, pattern, thread and other notions. I will provide the sewing machines and guidance. 4-H’ers must RSVP to Mary by Wed. March 14th in order to attend.

BOTTLE/BUCKET CALVES

Thank you to the Kirkman Dairy for supplying 10 bottle/bucket calves for Shelby County 4-H’ers! There is one calf that has not yet been spoken for; if you are interested, please contact Paulette ASAP.

On Saturday, April 28th there will be a workshop open to all 4-H’ers, K-12 interested in learning more about the bottle/bucket calf project area. More details in the April newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 2nd

Plans are underway for an Intermediate/Senior 4-H trip to Omaha. More details to come.

SWINE WORKSHOP

Eric Potter and Amanda Chipman, ISU Extension & Outreach Swine Specialists, will conduct a swine workshop on Saturday, April 21st from 9-11AM at the Extension office. Eric and Amanda will cover nutrition, welfare and biosecurity. Please RSVP to Paulette to reserve your spot. There will be a second workshop in May/June on grooming and showmanship.

Shelby County Extension & Outreach Staff

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