As we continue our journey through 4-H, we often need to remind ourselves what the importance of 4-H is. To some, 4-H is just showing livestock at the county fair. Others see 4-H as an opportunity to grow life skills, make memories, meet new people and, most importantly, have fun! 4-H is also a time for family involvement. There are multiple ways for families to be involved in 4-H. They can help at club meetings, assist with a workshop, and even help at county fair. Families are very important to the 4-H experience, and we can always use your help. So, take a moment and ask yourself, what is 4-H to me and how can I get the most out of the 4-H program in my county?

Happy New Year!

Abby

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**Market Beef Weigh-In January 7**

The 2011 Audubon County 4-H/FFA Beef weigh-in will be held on Saturday, January 7, 9 AM - 11 AM at AMVC in Audubon. ALL calves will be weighed and tagged. Cost is $2/head. Iowa State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben calves will be verified at this time also. State Fair calves will have both eyes retinal imaged in accordance with Iowa State Fair rules. Cost is $5/calf for State Fair verification. Ak-Sar-Ben calves will have DNA pulled in accordance with Ak-Sar-Ben rules. Cost is $5/calf for verification. 4-H verification forms must be completed with 4-Her and parent signatures.
New Member Orientation

New Member Orientation Highlights

On Tuesday, December 13, nine new 4-H members and their families gathered at the Extension Office for fun, fellowship and learning. Activities included games, making mini pizzas and learning about what 4-H is, project areas, and the 4-H pledge.

IOWA 4-H NEWS

State Recognition Opportunities Available

Recognition in 4-H is an acknowledgment and affirmation of the personal growth in an individual. It can be public or private. It can be within the individual or provided by others. Recognition in 4-H includes encouragement and support for learning and comes as a result of participation in educational experiences. There are several state recognition opportunities available to high school age 4-Hers.

*National 4-H Conference
*National 4-H Congress
*State 4-H Council
*State Project Awards

For more information and more opportunities contact the office or go to www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/teens/awards.htm

4-H DAY AT ISU WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Are you ready for a basketball game?

The Iowa 4-H Foundation is hosting a 4-H Day at the Iowa State Cyclones Women’s basketball game versus Texas A&M on Saturday, January 14th, 2012 at Hilton Coliseum in Ames. Tip-off is at 7:00pm. This event is open to anyone and everyone, even if you’re not a 4-H’er! Ticket Package Includes: Admission ticket to game, pre-game tailgate dinner (food & drink) at the Iowa State Center Scheman Building (first floor), an exclusive Cyclone 4-H T-shirt, and the opportunity to attend the 4-H Leads to Careers tour hosted by the ISU College of Human Sciences (limited to the first 300 who register; designed for middle school and high school youth) Ticket packages are $20. Go to www.iowa4hfoundation.org to order tickets and for more information.

MISSION STATEMENT

4-H EMPOWERS YOUTH TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL WORKING AND LEARNING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CARING ADULTS
## Club Meetings / Calendar

### DECEMBER CLUB MEETINGS

**Audubon Peppy Pals**
- January 14, ISU Women’s Basketball Game

**Bunkhouse Gang**
- January 29, 6:30 PM, Extension Office

**C.D. Starlighters**
- January 9, 6:30 PM, Extension Office

**Exira Explorers**
- January 8, 4:00 PM, Zach Home

**Leroy Leaders**
- January 8, 6:00 PM, Memorial Building for Family Potluck and awards banquet

**Lincoln Producers**
- January 7, 2:00 PM, Friendship Home Bingo

**Lucky Lincolns**
- January 8 at 3:30 PM at Becky’s

**Tip Top**
- January 10 at 5:00 PM at Bauer’s House

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### IMPORTANT DATES

**January 2** – Extension Office Closed, Happy New Year

**January 7** – Beef Weigh In, 9-11 am, AMVC, all market beef animals for county and state fair and Ak-Sar-Ben must be weighed in and be verified

**January 14** - 4-H day at ISU Women’s Basketball

**January 16** - Clover Commissions Meeting, 7 PM

**February 1** - Applications for State Opportunities DUE to the State 4-H Office

**February 10-11** - State Volunteer Retreat

**March 1** - 4-H Scholarships due to the state 4-H Foundation

**March 9** - 4-H Camp Financial Aid applications due

**March 24** - State Recognition Interview day

**April 14** - Swine Weigh-In, Fairgrounds 8 AM - 10 AM

**May 5** - Sheep Weigh-In, Fairgrounds 8 AM - 10 AM

**May 15** - Animal ID Forms due

**July 16** - County Fair Entries due

**July 25-30** - Audubon County Fair

**August 9-19** - Iowa State Fair

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### Attention Graduating Seniors

Scholarship information has been sent and should have arrived in your mailbox. Please take your time to look at all of the scholarship opportunities available to you. Scholarship applications must be filled out and sent to the state 4-H office no later than March 1st.

#### Club Reporters

Don’t forget to submit your club news and pictures to the Extension Office for the 4-H newsletter and also to local area papers for printing. Other clubs and the community are always interested in what 4-H members are up to! Also, reading about 4-H news in the local papers helps encourage community support of the 4-H program and of the County Fair! Contact Abby if you need help or guidance in submitting news. abbyvan@iastate.edu

If you would like to receive your monthly newsletter by e-mail, please let Abby know. Thanks!