



CLOVER CONNECTION – APRIL 2012



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Spring is HERE... Summer will be here soon!

I can't believe how quickly the month of March flew by! It seems like it was last week I was finishing the March newsletter to send to our green-bleeding 4-H families! The month of March was busy and our spring will continue to get busier for our program and before we know it we'll be preparing for summer!

As the calendar rolls into April, we begin to think more about Spring Fair and County Fair and all of our projects and exhibits and livestock IDs. Let's not forget about those who help make our 4-H program possible – our VOLUNTEERS! National Volunteer Week is April 15th – 21st. Take a minute to individually or as a club thank and recognize parents, volunteers, club leaders, project leaders, 4-H & Youth Committee, Extension Council and our Fair Board. Without all of our WONDERFUL volunteers, our 4-H program would not be as great as it is. Show your appreciation for all that they do, remember National Volunteer Week!

It is not too late to enroll for 1st time members or re-enroll for returning members; we still want you and any new members you know! We have the month of April to get new or returning members enrolled. If you would like help with the re-enrollment process or need internet access, call the office and I'd be happy to set up an appointment with you! Help us reach our goal of 236 members, we are 93% of the way there!

WHAT'S INSIDE:

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- Howard County Fair Challenge Classes
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- Event & Project Updates
- State Fair Volunteers
- County Fair Club Entry Day Judging
- 4-H Building Club Work Schedule
- Leader's Corner
- Broiler Pick-Up
- 4-H Raffle Tickets
- Sheep & Meat Goat Weigh-In
- 4-H County Council
- Inserts: Livestock ID Help Sheet

Kaitlin Hanson



Eleven youth from the Howard County Citizenship Group will traveled to Des Moines to the State Capitol in March.



Members from the Crestwood FFI club participated in a workshop in March.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

4-H
GROWING TOGETHER

Howard County 132 1st Avenue West, Cresco, IA 52136 Ph 563-547-3001 Hours 8-12 Noon 12:30 -4:30
Learn More at www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/howard

Iowa State University Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.

EVENTS CALENDAR



April

- 6 – Office Closed – Good Friday
- 11 – 4-H Citizenship Meeting – CANCELLED
- 11 – Alumni Scholarship Interviews
4:45-6:30 p.m., Extension Office
- 11 – Alumni Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m., Extension Office
- 12 – Spring Fair Entries DUE, Extension Office
- 21 – Sheep & Meat Goat Weigh-In
10:00 a.m.-noon, Fairgrounds
- 22 – County Council Meeting
4:00 p.m., Extension Office
- 23 – New Family/New Member Night
6:30 p.m., Fairgrounds
- 27 – Raffle Sales DUE, Extension Office

May

- 1 – County Council Applications DUE
- 3 – Pick-up Broilers, after 10:30 a.m., Ext. Office
- 5 – Spring Fair, NICC Cresco Center
- 15 – LIVESTOCK ID DUE, 4hOnline, 11:59 p.m.
- 17 – 4-H & Youth Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m., Extension Office
- 23 – FSQA Training
5:30-7:30 p.m., Cresco Bank & Trust
- 28 – Office Closed – Memorial Day

June

- 1 – Fair Entries DUE, 4:30 p.m., Extension Office
- 18 & 19 – Howard Co. Fair Entry Days
- 20-24 – The Mighty Howard County Fair
- 26-28 – State 4-H & Youth Conference, Ames

4-H FOOD & FITNESS TEAMS

Food & Fitness REGION 4 FOOD & FITNESS 4-HERS ATTEND WORKSHOP

Several NE Iowa Food & Fitness 4-H School-Based Teams participated in the "Students Taking Charge" workshop in Ankeny, IA on March 2nd. The workshop focus was healthy school environments with opportunity for youth to attend several different break-out sessions.

Iowa State University Extension & Outreach, 4-H, Team Nutrition, Midwest Dairy, I-Step, SIYAC and the Walmart Foundation made the day possible as workshop partners. Youth from across the state were involved. Youth learned through experiential breakout sessions with topics on school gardens, Food & Fitness Craze, Eat This, Not That, Dig In! Know your Farmer, Your Health and the Law, Partnering with Master Gardeners and got active with pilates.

Participating schools in Region 4 included Cresco, Decorah, Elkader, Maynard, Riceville and Starmont. Representing Cresco High School were Jennifer Huhe, Lydia Baker,

Natalie Balk and Dakota Gooder along with their FoodCorps Resource Contact, Leah Chapman.



Representing Riceville High School were Calvin Christensen, Jordie Bauer, Myranda Bartels along with their FFI 4-H Coach, Darcy Fair and AmeriCorps Resource Contact, Melanie Steward.

Northeast Iowa is a unique place where all residents and guests experience, celebrate and promote healthy locally grown food with abundant opportunities for physical activity and play EVERY DAY. Healthier people make stronger families and vibrant communities. For more information on Northeast Iowa Food & Fitness go to www.iowafoodandfitness.org.

CITIZENSHIP GROUP

NEXT STOP...

Eleven youth traveled with thirty-five Allamakee and Winneshiek county youth to the Iowa State Capitol on March 14, 2012 to tour the Capitol and to meet with Representative Bob Hager and Senator Mary Jo Wilhelm. These eleven youth are well on their way to becoming productive citizens!

Watch your mail for more information on our next meeting in May. We will meet briefly to reflect on our trip to Des Moines and talk about a summer project before our tour either the courthouse or county jail. After our summer project we will begin year two.



Forty-six Howard, Allamakee, and Winneshiek county youth and five adults pictured with Representative Bob Hager on the House of Representatives floor at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines.

MISSION STATEMENT

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



PROJECTS & WORKSHOPS

NEW FAMILY / MEMBER NIGHT

NIGHT 2 COMING SOON!
Make plans to attend our next new member night! We will be hosting night 2 in our series on Monday, April 23rd at the Howard County fairgrounds. We will be covering the following:

- Livestock ID
- Fair Entry
- Static Exhibit Entry Day
- Livestock Entry Day
- Writing project write-ups
- Fairgrounds walk through

Got Questions? Contact the Extension Office! Please RSVP to the office by Thursday, April 19.

DOG

CAN'T MAKE A CLASS?
If you are enrolled and can't make a class, please be sure to let the office or Vicki know ahead of time.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES
Dog Obedience classes have been scheduled for the following Mondays: April 2, April 16, April 23, April 30, May 7, May 14, May 21, June 4, & June 11. No class on April 9 or May 28.

Agility classes on the following Thursdays: May 17, May 24, May 31, & June 7.

LIVESTOCK I.D.

LIVESTOCK I.D.
Livestock ID is still due on **Tuesday, May 15th**! The only difference this year is you have until **11:59 p.m.** and it must be entered in **4hOnline!**

Check out the *orange* help sheet insert included in this month's newsletter. **ID now...don't wait until May 14th or 15th!** If you would like to set up a help appointment or have questions – please contact the office.

HOWARD COUNTY FAIR CHALLENGE CLASSES

COOKIE CHALLENGE RECIPE



Please note: the below challenge recipe has been modified from the first recipe released. To prevent a high and wide search for cookies and crême pudding mix, we've substituted vanilla pudding mix. Kaitlin has made the cookies with the below recipe and it turns out yummy!

Cookies and Cream Cookies

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 2 ¼ cups Flour | 1 tsp baking soda |
| 1 cup butter, softened | ½ cup brown sugar |
| ½ cup white sugar | 2 eggs |
| 1 tsp vanilla | 15 Oreos, chopped |
| 2 cups white chocolate chips | |
| 1 (4.2 oz) package of Vanilla pudding mix | |

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cream butter and sugars, add pudding mix until blended. Stir in the eggs and vanilla. In a separate bowl, combine the flour and baking soda with a whisk then add it to the butter mixture. Stir in the chocolate chips and Oreo cookies. Drop cookies by rounded spoonful onto greased cookie sheet. Bake for 10 minutes in preheated oven until cookies tops barely have a touch of brown.

PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE CLASS!



New for 2012 is the photography challenge class! The class will be much like the current cookie challenge. Full list of requirements will be listed in the new fair book.

Theme: **4-Hers in Action**

AREA 4-H CAMPS & STATE YOUTH CONFERENCE!

AREA 4-H CAMPERS WANTED



Register today for our area 4-H camps at Pinebluff 4-H Camp near Decorah. Plan to **Unravel the 4-H Mystery** while exploring the campgrounds, enjoying fun meeting other 4-Hers! **Junior Camp** for 4th-6th graders (\$65) will be held **June 7-8** or **June 13-14**. **Intermediate camp** for 7th-8th graders (\$70) will be held **June 11-12**. Registrations are due to the county extension office by April 16.

AREA 4-H CAMP COUNSELORS WANTED

High school students interested in serving as camp counselors should check their summer calendars and fill out a camp counselor application. Applications are **due by April 16th**, apply today!

IOWA 4-H YOUTH CONFERENCE!

Registration is now available for the 2012 Iowa 4-H Youth Conference! The conference is scheduled for June 26th-28th and will be held in Ames. Any youth currently in grades 8th-12th are eligible to attend conference. The conference will be filled with workshops, speakers, dances and service opportunities with youth from across the state.



Youth can participate in any of the following conference opportunities:

- State Youth Conference
- Animal Science Roundup
- CSI: Crops
- Wild Outdoors – Shooting Sports (**NEW!)

4-H OPPORTUNITIES



FSQA

FOOD SAFETY QUALITY ASSURANCE TRAINING

All youth in grades 4th, 5th and 6th (junior 4-Hers) planning to exhibit livestock at the 2012 Howard County Fair are required to attend a training to become FSQA certified. Not sure if your FSQA is expired? You can check your record on your 4hOnline record!

The training is also open to youth in grades 7th-12th who choose not to participate in the "test-out" option. Testing appointments will be available after May 1st. The training has been scheduled for **May 23, 2012 at the Cresco Bank & Trust from 5:30-7:30 pm.**

EVENT & PROJECT UPDATES

SPLISH – SPLASH, IT'S A SUMMER SPLASH!



The Howard County 4-H Council is working on planning a summer event for youth in grades 4 – 8. The event will be in July so watch the Clover Connection and your mail for more details!

4-H HORSE PROJECT UPDATES

- Arena Clean-Up – **April 25th, 6:00 PM**
Cresco Saddle Club
Arena, Please bring gloves, buckets and shovels!
- 4-H/FFA Horse Workouts – **Begin May 2nd, 6:00-8:00 PM**
- Letters will be sent mid-April!



STATE FAIR VOLUNTEERS

IOWA STATE FAIR LOOKING FOR LITTLE HANDS ON THE FARM VOLUNTEERS

Is your club looking for an opportunity to volunteer? Emily Brewer, Ag Education coordinator at the Iowa State Fair is looking for clubs and counties to participate in a shift of volunteers at Little Hands on the Farm.

Iowa State Fair Little Hands on the Farm provides children ages 2 to 10 the chance to get involved with agriculture as farmers on this mock farm. If your club is interested in more information on this opportunity, please contact Kaitlin at the Extension Office. Hurry, shifts fill up quickly!

COUNTY FAIR CLUB ENTRY DAY JUDGING & CLUB WORK SCHEDULE

2012 4-H CLUB

ENTRY DAY JUDGING SCHEDULE

Monday, June 18th, 2012

8:30 a.m.	Heritage Homesteaders
8:45 a.m.	Afton Aces & Diligent 4-Hers
9:15 a.m.	CCT Kids
9:30 a.m.	Saratoga 4-H & Hot Rods
10:30 a.m.	Space Age Farmers & Cresco Merrymakers
11:15 a.m.	Millennium Masters
12:00-1:00	Judges Break for Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Flying Hoofs & Timberland Targeting
1:45 p.m.	Howard Center Stars
2:45 p.m.	Shooting Clovers

2012 4-H EXHIBIT CHECK-OUT

Sunday, June 24th, 2012
Exhibits may be checked out between 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Those who check out exhibits early will forfeit premium money!



2012 4-H CLUB WORK SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20

11:00 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.	Diligent 4-Hers
1:30 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.	Afton Aces
4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.	Space Age Farmers
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.	Cresco Merrymakers
8:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.	Millennium Masters

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.	Saratoga 4-H
4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.	Heritage Homesteaders
6:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.	Timberland Targeting

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.	Flying Hoofs
4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.	Shooting Clovers
6:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.	

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.	Howard Center Stars
4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.	CCT Kids
6:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.	

☺ IT ISN'T TOO EARLY TO START ON YOUR FAIR EXHIBITS! ☺



LEADER'S CORNER

FALL MAKE-UP TRAINING

For those volunteers, that were unable to attend the fall leader meeting in September. Make-up training for "Cooking Up a Healthy 4-H Program" is finally available. All volunteers that did not attend the fall meeting and receive the required training need to complete a make-up option.

Contact Kaitlin to pick up the training packet, the evaluation must be filled out and turned into the Extension Office after completion of the online course. If you would like to come into the office to use the computer, please call and make an appointment

Please complete make-up training by **May 15th**.

LIVESTOCK IDS

If you want Kaitlin to come and discuss Livestock IDs at your next meeting, please call the office and make arrangements with Kaitlin.

WHAT'S DUE

- ✓ Club Program Books
 - Heritage Homesteaders
 - Howard Co Hot Rods
 - Millennium Masters
 - Shooting Clovers
- ✓ Treasurer Reports
 - Howard Co. Hot Rods
 - Shooting Clovers
 - Space Age Farmers
- ✓ 4-H ONLINE Enrollment
- ✓ 4-H Raffle Tickets – April 27
- ✓ Area Camp Registration – April 16
- ✓ Online Livestock ID – May 15
- ✓ County 4-H Council applications – May 1
- ✓ 4-H/FFA Fair Entry Forms – June 1

FAIR INFORMATION

- ✿ 4-H Static Entry Day – Monday, June 18th
- ✿ Flower Buckets – Plan ahead so flower buckets are ready for June 18th!
- ✿ Silent Auction items will be collected on June 18th in the 4-H Building.
- ✿ Club Booth Theme – Aiming for Adventure!

REMINDERS!

- ✿ Please turn in driver's names a minimum of 3 weeks prior to scheduled events so paperwork can be sent to those transporting youth. This is to ensure everyone is properly screened.
- ✿ Planning a summer trip for your club? Please make sure to check about special insurance coverage.

4-H HIGHLIGHTS!

BROILERS & 4-H RAFFLE!

MARKET BROILER PICK-UP!
 Mark your calendars to pick up your broilers on **Thursday, May 3rd** after 10:30 a.m. at the Howard County Extension Office.

Please bring an appropriate size box or container to take your chicks home in.

4-H RAFFLE TICKETS

Stop by the Extension Office to pick up your pack **anytime** and sell, sell, sell! Each 4-H member will earn \$.50 credit for each \$1.00 ticket sold to offset workshop fees, 4-H program fees or camp fees. Return money and tickets to the office by **April 27, 2012!**

SHEEP WEIGH-IN



Sheep and meat goat weigh-in is scheduled! Letters have been mailed to 4-Hers enrolled in sheep and

goat. If you did not receive a letter and plan to weigh-in animals, contact Sue at (563)547-3001.

Those interested in ID-ing sheep or meat goats for state fair, retinal imaging will be done at weigh-in.

When: Saturday, April 21st
Time: 10:00 a.m. - Noon
Where: Cresco Fairgrounds

COUNTY COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING:

Our next meeting and will be held **Sunday, April 21st at 4:00 pm.** Attendance is important as we have many events coming up this spring and summer.

We will be meeting at the Extension Office to finalize preparing for Spring Fair and County Fair and summer events! Bring your ideas and be ready to contribute to ideas and planning!

SPRING FAIR COMMITTEE...

Spring Fair committee will set up **May 4th** after school at the NICC Cresco Center. Many hands make light and fast work!

4-H 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.

Enter Livestock IDs Online is EASY as 1-2-3! Here's how!

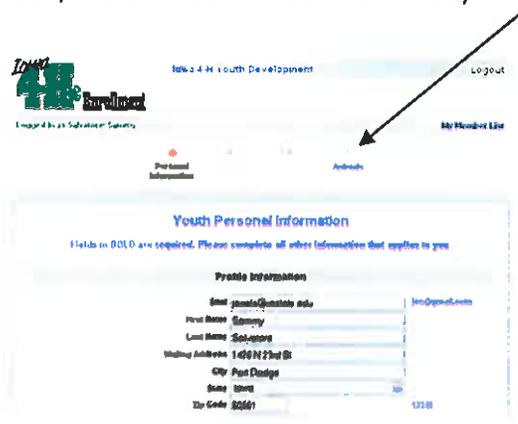
** Please note: If you have problems logging into your 4hOnline family account, please contact the Howard County Extension Office for assistance in logging in.*

Log onto 4hOnline on your web browser at <https://iowa.4honline.com>:

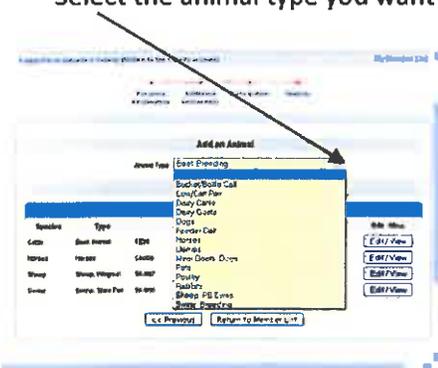
You will now see the Iowa 4-H Youth Development Log In Page.

Enter your family email address and password. This will take you to the **Member List** which includes all of your family members enrolled in 4-H: members, leaders, volunteers.

- Click "Edit" to the right of the member listed. You will then be sent to that member's Personal Information Screen.
- On this screen, there will be a 4th dot that will say Animals. Click on the word Animals to go to your Animal ID screen.



- You will then see a drop down box and any previously entered animals listed in a manner similar to the picture. Select the animal type you want to enter and click the add button (hidden in photo by drop down).



Note: Youth will not be able to enter Market weigh-in animals (beef, sheep, & swine). Please refer to the Livestock Verification Help sheet for more information on this process.

- This will take you to the corresponding entry screen for your animal. Note that in some selections will activate extra entry fields [Example: selecting *Registered* will in some cases show a *Breed* drop down box.] Please fill out all possible information about your animal, the same as you did in the past with the paper form.
- Enter information requested and **click the save button.**

***ALL animal IDs must be submitted no later than May 15th 2012, 11:59 p.m.
Don't wait – ID TODAY!***

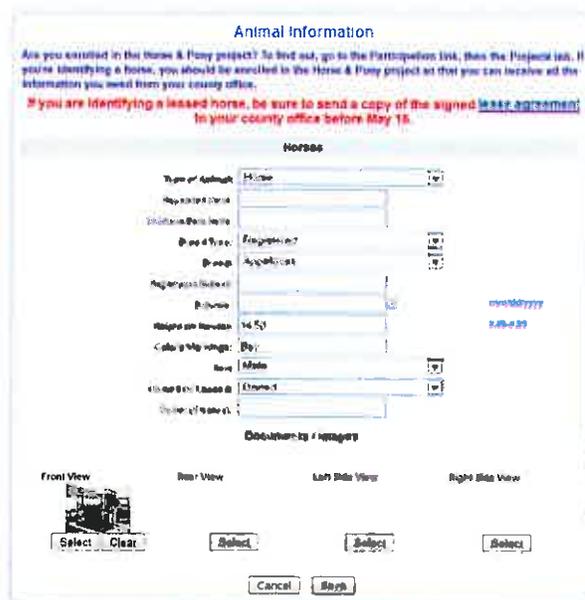
See New Horse ID Photo Feature below!

* Please note: If you have already have entered an ID for your horse, please go back and add photos using the new JPEG upload feature. If you can't do this on your computer or your internet is too slow, please bring electronic or hard copies of your photos to the Extension Office by May 15.

Horses (New JPEG upload feature):

At the bottom of the horse entry screen, you will see four boxes, one for each view of the horse. Clicking on the Select button will allow you to browse for the JPG image that you wish to upload. Locate it (and click Open), the file will upload fairly quickly and you will see a thumbnail at the bottom of the screen. If it is not the correct image, click Clear to remove it.

TRY TO KEEP YOUR IMAGES TO 3MB each.



JPG ~2-

Market Animal Verification:

- You will find your animal tab the same way as you would enter non-weigh-in animals
- Click the edit button to view the information for the appropriate animal
- Review all information that has been entered by Extension Staff. Compare to your hard copy ID Sheet.
- Please contact your Extension office if anything is listed incorrectly.
- If everything looks correct, click on the box next to the statement "I verify the information above is accurate".
- Be very certain you are approving the correct information!
- Click on the "Save" button to submit your approval. Clicking this button confirms to the Extension Office and the State 4-H Office that you verified the data entered by the county office. If you have "verified" your information and hit save, this information can no longer be edited by your county office. Contact them immediately if you have verified wrong information!
- Deadline for completing this process for swine & sheep market animals is May 15th, 11:59PM.

If you have any problems or questions at any point while working on your Livestock ID, please contact the Extension Office and we'd be glad to help. If you would like to use our computers, please call and make an appointment today!

The new online Livestock ID feature is very easy to use, just DON'T WAIT until 10:00 on May 15th to complete! The sooner you complete, the more able we are to help you with any questions that you have!