



GROWS HERE

TAMA COUNTY

4-H FAMILY NEWSLETTER

December 2023

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Due to the holidays, vacations, programming and the potential of winter weather, please contact the Tama County Extension Office before you visit to make sure that we are open or the person you want to talk to is in the office. Thank you!



ISU EXTENSION & OUTREACH TAMA COUNTY

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OFFICE HOURS:

M-F 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/tama>

Is this your last newsletter??

If you are not enrolled and paid (\$40 for 4-12th graders) in 4honline by December 31, 2023...then this is the last newsletter that you will receive from the Tama County Extension Office and that would make us sad!

If you are enrolled and paid—you will keep receiving important fair letters/emails, workshop notices, newsletters and more! We are very excited that you have joined Tama County 4-H.

If you are a FFA member—talk to your FFA advisor for information about upcoming weigh-ins and fair information.

At this time, there are 141 4-12th grade members, 79 Clover Kids, and 25 volunteers enrolled in 4honline!

Give the Gift of an Experience!

Parent and grandparents—do you need a gift for a family member? How about giving them the gift of a 4-H experience! See our website for all the upcoming events/workshops that we are holding. You can purchase a gift certificate that we will box up for pick-up or mailed to their house. If for some reason the youth is not able to attend the event, we will refund the money if cancels prior to the deadline. Check out our “Give the Gift of an Experience”!

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/tama/youth-programs>

Jenny Hulme

TAMA COUNTY EXTENSION

County Youth Coordinator

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Find us on Facebook!

[ISU Extension and Outreach/4-H Tama County](#)



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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

Livestock News

Market Beef Weigh-in—Save the Date

December 22, 2023 (2:00-6:00 pm) Snow date Dec 23 (8:30 am to noon)

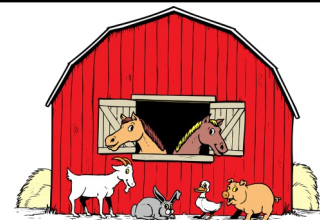
Tama Livestock Auction



**A letter will be mailed on December 1 to all members who are enrolled in 4honline, have paid their enrollment fee AND have entered the beef project in 4honline. If you did not receive the letter, contact the Extension Office. This letter will have all the important information for your weigh-in.

YQCA

All 4-H and FFA (no Clover Kids) livestock exhibitors are required to be YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) certified for county and State Fair exhibition for the following:



* Beef * Dairy Cattle/Dairy Goat * Meat Goat * Poultry * Rabbit * Sheep * Swine

****THIS MUST BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 15, 2024 in order to exhibit at the Tama County Fair.**

* **Online Training** can be completed online (cost \$12) <https://yqcaprogram.org/>

* **In person training** can be completed at an in person training (cost \$3). Must pre-register online <https://yqcaprogram.org/>. Coupon code for the in person training available by contacting the Extension Office. There are NO coupons for the online training. **There is a pre-test and post-test that must be completed.

Coupon codes are only available for 4-H members that are exhibiting 4-H animals at the Tama County Fair. FFA members are welcome to attend these in-person trainings.

Mark your calendars for these in person trainings: Thurs. Dec 28th at 5 pm (Gladbrook); Tues. Feb 20th at 6:30 pm (Traer Library); Sat. March 2 at 9 am (Extension Office)

Swine Grant

The Tama County Pork Producers are looking for 4-H and FFA members (grades 4-12th) to apply for the 2024 Swine Grant.

This grant is for members who have never shown swine before. The grant will purchase 6 feeder pigs, feed and education/support.

Application process includes: An application, essay questions and a letter of reference from your 4-H/FFA leader. All applicants will have an interview with the swine grant committee.

Those selected will attend field trips/meetings, the annual Pork Producer banquet, exhibit at the 2024 Tama County Fair and submit their record book.

More information, a list of guidelines and the application are available at the Extension Office or found on the website under County Fair. **Applications must be postmarked by December 15, 2023 or sooner.**

Upcoming Events

December workshops

Mindfulness Workshop

December 17 4-5:30 pm

Extension Office Grades 9-12

Stress is part our lives. Create helpful techniques and hands on items to help calm that stress. RSVP by Dec 13

This is also a county council meeting.

Everybody Kneads Bread

December 28 9 am to 3 pm

Peace Church, Gladbrook Grades 4-8

A STEM day camp examining the science behind baking bread. Join us for a day filled with delicious learning activities and fun-filled game! Plus bread!

RSVP by December 18

January workshops

Computer Science Day Camp

January 6 9 am to 1 pm

Peace Church, Gladbrook Grades K-4

Activities: Code a cupcake, Snow Buddy Robot, Bee-Bot Winter Camp, Cracking the Winter Code

Fee: \$5 for 4-H members

\$10 for non-members



Cricut Workshop

January 20 9 am to noon

Tama County Extension Office

Grades 4-12

Come explore how a Cricut works, design and complete 3 different projects—that could be taken to the fair!



Fee: \$10. RSVP by January 12

Ice Camp



January 27th 9 am to noon (Snow Date if needed February 3) Cost: \$5.00

4-12th grade RSVP by January 24

Otter Creek Nature Center

(All activities are dependent on the weather, but ideas that we have are archery, snowshoe, fire building, shelter building, campfire food!

ANNUAL Leader's Training

The state required leader's training will take place on **Thursday, January 25 at 6-8 pm at the Tama County Extension Office.**

Please mark your calendars now! This is a required state training. In addition we will cover county information.



Save the dates for the 4-8th grade Lock-In

February 23-24, 2024 at the Marshalltown YMCA-YWCA

Open to ALL youth in grades 4-8th grade, so bring a friend along!

Adult Chaperones also needed.

The night includes swimming, icebreakers, service project, snacks, lots of ball game, card/board games, building friendship and maybe a little sleep! More info to come!



4-H Scholarship Applicants Open December 1

Iowa 4-H Foundation Scholarship applications open on December 1. Applications are due at midnight of March 1. Check out the Iowa 4-H Foundation scholarship page for a road map to success with instructions and the helpful hints page. Former and current 4-H members graduating from high school or currently attending college are eligible applicants.

<https://www.iowa4hfoundation.org/what-we-do/funding-for-4-hers/scholarships>

Pioneer Seed Club Grant Application Now Open for 2024

Have a club project idea needing financial assistance? \$50 - \$500 is available to 4-H clubs for their community improvement projects through our Pioneer Seed Money grants. Applications are due to the county offices by January 16 and must be passed along to the state office by January 30, 2024. For application materials, tips, and more info, check out this website <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/pioneergrants>

Teen Leadership Experience for the Protect the Plate Challenge

Youth in grades 9-12 are invited to apply to be teen leaders for the Iowa Protect the Plate Challenge, a new program about the science behind food safety and the role crops play in food safety. Selected teen leaders will attend the state training on Feb 17-18 at ISU to learn about advancements in agriculture that keep our food safe and to develop communication and leadership skills. Teen leaders will experience and learn how to facilitate the challenge with younger youth. The training is free, and meals and lodging are provided. Applications are due January 31—contact the Tama County Extension Office.



State Events



CFW: Citizenship Washington Focus

A 4-H leadership and civic engagement program for high school youth (completed grades 9-12 at the time of the trip).

Trip dates are June 14-22, 2024. The week will be full of workshops with 4-H teens from around the country and sightseeing in the Washington, DC area. Cost for teens will be \$2,500 per person.

Registration deadline is January 22, 2024

Check out this website for more information <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/cwf>

State 4-H Recognition Opportunities

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. The purpose of this event is to provide an avenue for youth recognition and to provide young people with an opportunity to practice and grow leadership, communications, and college and career readiness skills through application and interview activities.

- Applications open in 4HOnline on January 1. Interviews may be done in person or by video teleconference. **The application deadline every year is 11:59 PM on February 1.**
- Interview selection and schedule are announced in the first week of March. On-Campus Interviews in Ames, IA on **March 23, 2024** between 9AM and 3PM. Virtual interviews will be offered on **March 16, 2024** between 9AM and 3PM and **March 19, 2024** between 4PM and 7PM. No additional dates or times will be offered.

Awards are announced every year in mid-April.

Opportunities include: State Project Area Awards, National 4-H Conference, National 4-H Congress, State 4-H Council, State 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador, Iowa 4-H Reporter Program, Iowa 4-H Healthy Living Ambassadors <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/recognition-opportunities>



In 2023 Lauren Keller received a Food and Nutrition Project Award and joined Wyatt Silhanek as State Shooting Sports Ambassador.

STATEWIDE 4-H HOME IMPROVEMENT WORKSHOP

The Home Improvement team is looking forward to offering a trio of statewide, virtual 4-H project workshops in the home improvement project area! 4-H members in 4th-12th grade across the state can view and register for events in their 4-H Online profile. The cost to attend is free, but space is limited as we will be providing each participant with a kit to support their workshop experience. Thank you to the Iowa 4-H Foundation for supporting items that will be included in the kits!

How counties might use this information:

- Share directly with Home Improvement interest members
- Include in newsletters or share social media posts when they go up
- Target recruitment to an age your county is currently missing for workshops... wish you could offer more for 7th & 8th grade members? Share this opportunity specifically with them!

Topics:

- January 18, 5-6 PM: Furniture Design and Creating a Scale Model
- March 28, 5-6 PM: Furniture Finishes and Techniques for Finishing or Refinishing Home Improvement or Woodworking Projects
- May 2, 5-6 PM: Creating Floor Plans and Exploring Accessibility in Floor Plans

More information will be available soon on the Home Improvement Workshop MyExtension Page.

For Fun and to learn about 4-H!

Pop Tabs Jacy Collection

The State 4-H Council is carrying Jacy McAlexander's legacy through their 7th annual "Pop Tabs for Jacy" initiative. The top 5 counties to collect the most poundage by State 4-H Conference will be recognized at the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference. Tama County has been close! Keep pulling off the tabs and help us get to the top!

Tama County 4-H has a bucket at the entrance of our office! Drop the tabs off there. We will collect until June 24th!

Why do we collect these tabs? The small tab on the top of your aluminum beverage or soup/vegetable can might not seem like much, but when brought together in large quantities, they can make a huge difference!

It takes approximately 1,128 tabs to equal one pound. They typically receive between \$0.40 and \$0.50 per pound of tabs. This program brings in an average of \$3,000 each year.

Last year at the Ronald McDonald House in Des Moines, approximately 7.1 million tabs were donated, amounting to \$4,436! These funds help offset the House's expenses such as electricity and water bills.

Reach out to family and friends—save the tabs!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Awards Program



A big thank you to the 9-12th grade County Council for all their help with set up, reading and presenting awards and clean up. This event is possible because of their hard work and leadership!



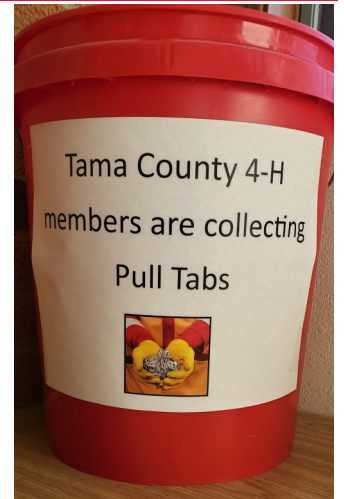
Clover Kids recognized for participation!



Senior Awards



Our amazing 4-H leaders!



What are 4-H Clubs and Clover Kids doing this month?

Many of our clubs and Clover Kid groups are enjoying a break or celebrating the holidays this month! As we prepare for 2024, make sure to take some time to set a personal goal and a goal for one or more of your 4-H projects! AND write it down! You will appreciate that when it comes time to complete the project for the fair!



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Calendar of Events

Mark Your Calendars

Dec 17	Mindfulness Workshop
Dec 22	Market Beef Weigh-in (snow date 12/23)
Dec 28	Everybody Kneads Bread workshop
Dec 28	YQCA training (Gladbrook)
Dec 28	Hockey Game
Jan 2	Computer Code Camp
Jan 20	Cricut workshop
Feb 10	Frosting Workshop
March 16	Terrarium Workshop
March 20	Tour of Kenzie
March 30	Swine Weigh-In
May 4	Goat & Sheep Weigh-In
June 30	Clothing and Communications Event
July 10	Garden Judging
July 13	Fair Clean Up
July 15-21	Tama County Fair
Aug 8-18	Iowa State Fair

Winter Break 4-H night at the Waterloo Black Hawks!!

Mark your calendars for Thurs, December 28th for \$10 discounted ticket night of Black Hawk Hockey.

Puck drops at 7:05 pm.

For discounted ticket information, check out the flier found on our website <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/tama/youth-programs>.

Fair Reminders

Fair 2024 is July 15-21

Theme to be announced later in year.

All 4-H members and Clover Kids must have attended at least three business meetings of their primary 4-H club by June 1, 2024 in order to exhibit at the 2024 Tama County Fair.

ALL animals must be identified in 4honline by May 15, 2024.

Tama County Entries in Fairentry (both livestock and non-livestock) are due June 15, 2024.

YQCA must be completed by June 15, 2024.

Communications—In order to be selected to the Iowa State Fair—you must have given your presentation at your club prior to the fair.

Horse Exhibitors - Are required to attend a pre-fair workshop. Workshop date will be announced.

YQCA

Those 4-12th grade members exhibiting beef, swine, sheep, goats, dairy cattle, rabbit and poultry must be YQCA certified by June 15, 2024 in order to exhibit at the Tama County Fair. Can be completed online or in person training

Dates for Tama County in person training are:

Thurs. December 28th—5:00-6:00 pm Peace Church Gladbrook

Tues. February 20—6:30-7:30 pm Traer Library

Sat. March 2—9:00-10:00 am Extension Office

Thurs. April 25— YQCA bus trip to ISU (6-12th grade)
More info to come

Put the dates on your calendar so you don't miss the deadline and aren't able to exhibit!

Online training (\$12) or registration for in person training (\$3) can be complete here <https://yqcaprogram.org/>. Coupons available for in person training for those exhibiting 4-H animals.



TAMA COUNTY EXTENSION &

OUTREACH OFFICE

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COVID-19 Statement: We are prioritizing the health and safety of Iowans and are following the most current federal, state, local, and university COVID-19 guidelines. Visit <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/vp/open-iowa> to learn our protocols to keep Iowans healthy and safe.

Event cost refund policy: Full refunds will be issued if an event is cancelled. NO refund will be given for participants who cancel less than 48 hours in advance or don't show up. Please see event registration pages for more event-specific restrictions.

Fees Statement: The fees for services will be used to offset direct expenses and to support the 4-H Youth Development County Extension Program.

Justice Statement: This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext.