

Wapello County 4-H News

FEBRUARY 2025

4-H FAMILY UPDATE & NEWS

2024-2025

Wapello County
4-H Enrollment is **STILL**
open!



Log in today to
enroll or re-enroll for the new
2024-2025 4-H Year!
Membership Fee for 4th—
12th grade club members is



BE MY BETTER CALF?



Can you believe we are less than 6 months away from the

Wapello County Expo? Now is the perfect time to start planning those 4-H exhibits and checking in on your goals! Goal setting is a huge part of 4-H, and February is the perfect time to set **SMART goals** – Specific, Measurable, Action-oriented, Realistic, and Timely. Are you on track to meet your 4-H goals? Speaking of staying on track, we are also approaching the mid-year point of the 4-H year! Now's a great time to ask yourself, *"Am I meeting the attendance requirements?"* As a reminder, 4-H members must attend a minimum of 6 meetings / experiential learning opportunities from October 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025, complete a community service project, attend a club tour or achievement show, and do a club presentation to be eligible to show at the 2025 Wapello County Expo. Club leaders will turn in attendance records on July 1st, so if you need to catch up, now is the time to make it a priority!

February is also a month of love, gratitude, and compassion. Think about something you can do for someone else this month—a small random act of kindness can make a big difference! Whether it's helping a parent, sibling, friend, grandparent, or neighbor, take a moment to pledge your heart to greater loyalty and spread kindness in your community.

Keep working on your goals, stay engaged in your meetings, and take time to show kindness this month.

Let's make this 4-H year a success!



Cindy Emery
County Youth Coordinator
cemery@iastate.edu



Lisa Duff
Clover Kids Coordinator
lrduff@iastate.edu

**ISU Extension and Outreach
Wapello County**

13011 120th Ave
Ottumwa, IA 52501
641-682-5491

f @ISU4HWapello



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

County Council Meeting

Friday
February 21
1:00 PM



Wednesday,
March 12, 2025
5:30 PM

4-H Foundation Meeting

Expo Board Meeting

Thursday,
February 20
6:30 PM



Monday
February 24
6:30 PM

Extension Council Meeting



FEBRUARY



BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following 4-H members and volunteers for the month of February!

4-H Members:

Trey Voellinger—2/2

Amelia Grunig—2/2

Joshua Ferrel—2/2

Ethan Mall—2/6

Roy Adams—2/6

Micah Ades—2/8

Pranamy Dixit—2/9

Ellie Mall—2/9

Aubriella Jimenez—2/10

Allison Creamer - 2/10

Charlette Warren—2/10

Kayleigh Raber—2/12

Carter Wilkins—2/13

Caleb Junis—2/14

Carolyn Fielder—2/14

Ashton Fowler—2/16

Brooks Baum—2/16

Aria Creamer—2/16

Leah Nicholson—2/18

Wyatt Teach—2/20

Luke Nicholson—2/18

Hannah Heckart—2/23

Eloise Millikin—2/23

Natalie Gard—2/23

Allison Swallow—2/24

Kelsie Swallow—2/24

Josie Teninty—2/25

Hannah Meinders—2/27

Michael Maximus Montijo Majin—2/27

Andrew O'Dell—2/28

Kellen Lindberg—2/28

Hermione Rupe—2/28

Reed Frank—2/28

Volunteers:

Pieter Appel—2/2

Kayla Larkin—2/27

New Volunteer Training - Required for New Volunteers within their 1st year

When: Offered Multiple Times Each Year - Check the website throughout the year for added dates:

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/volunteertraining> Register Here for May 6th, 6:00-9:00pm

Club Fundraisers If your club is doing a fundraiser, it is important that a fundraiser request form is submitted to the Extension Office. This includes ALL fundraisers, even those that don't require additional insurance and/or vendor insurance. A Fundraiser request form is very important and must be turned in for proper coverage, should something happen.



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach



SAVE THE DATES—2025!

Wapello County 4-H Expo—July 12 to 19

Iowa State Fair—August 7 to 17

SAVE THE DATES—2025 Animal Weigh-Ins!

Swine Weigh-In—Saturday, March 29, 9:00 to 11:00 am

Sheep / Goat Weigh-In—Saturday, April 26, 8:00 to 10:00 am

Barnyard Palooza / YQCA Testing—Saturday, April 26, 1:00pm



When referring to 4-H in writing form, please remember that 4-H must always have the hyphen in between the 4 and the H. Also, another great tip is 4-H must be on the same line, not the 4- on one line and the H on another. 4-H is © copyright and it must be used in this manner.

Pop Tabs for Jacy

Jacy McAlexander was a State 4-H Council member with a big heart who was passionate about helping others. He lost his battle with cancer, but you can help others during their fight. Pull your tabs and help the 2022-23 State 4-H Council collect as many tabs as they can. The tabs will help the Ronald McDonald House serve families in need. If you have pop tabs, please bring them to the Wapello County Extension Office - Let's help make a difference!

4-H/Casey's Pizza New Partnership

October is National Pizza Month, and Casey's is partnering with 4-H to raise funds for clubs nationwide! From October 2 through November 5, for every whole pizza purchased, Casey's will donate \$1 (up to \$100K) to support 4-H programs in Casey's Communities. Customers will also have the option to donate to 4-H with online orders during this timeframe. Questions? Contact Sydney Peterson.

Camera Corps - Check out the Iowa 4-H Camera Corps Website for technical tips, examples, and submission information. February theme will be coming out soon! Questions? Contact Clark Colby ccolby3@iastate.edu



Junior Science Technology fair of Iowa

Registration Closes January 15

Join Us!!

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

Iowa 4-H Junior Science Fair!

Don't miss this incredible opportunity for students in 3rd-5th grade to explore science, share their creativity, and have tons of fun!

Event Dates & Locations:

February 5, 2025 – [Science Center of Iowa](#), Des Moines

February 17, 2025 – [The Iowa Children's Museum](#), Coralville

February 19, 2025 – [National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium](#), Dubuque

February 20, 2025 – [Sanford Museum & Planetarium](#), Cherokee

Inspire curiosity. Fuel discovery. Register today and let's spark a love for science together!



Register now: <https://judge-sstfi-4h.extension.iastate.edu/>

Ace Graphics & Printing Company, LLC has opened an online store for your shopping convenience!

Looking for stylish and meaningful clothing to show off your 4-H spirit? Check out these awesome T-shirts and sweatshirts – perfect for everyone in the family!

Why You'll Love Them: https://acegraphicsandprintingco.net/clover_kids/shop/

- ◆ Affordable prices that fit every budget.
- ◆ Unique designs that highlight what 4-H is all about: experiences, giving back, and making the best better!
- ◆ Available in comfy t-shirts, cozy sweatshirts, and a trendy quarter-zip—or a cool bag!
- ◆ Can be customized for Clover Kids!



Don't wait—grab yours now and wear your 4-H pride loud and proud!



2025 4-H & FFA Handbook can be found on our webpage!

<https://go.iastate.edu/M7YYBO>



**Just a quick note that the Family & Consumer Science / Science & Engineering section is still under review by Iowa State. These are not final rules—they are yet subject to change. I will announce when the final rules have been entered.

Thank You!

Iowa 4-H Youth Conference 2025

Get ready to embark on an unforgettable journey! 🤠⭐ We're thrilled to unveil the theme for the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference 2025: **"Lasso Your**

Legacy!" 🍀

Save the dates – June 24-26, 2025 – as we invite you to join us at Iowa State University for an adventure like no other.

Registration opens April 1, 2025, through 4-H Online. This is a chance to develop new skills and create a lasting legacy. Whether you're roping in leadership skills, discovering new passions, or building pathways to success, this conference is your stage to build a lasting legacy!

Stay tuned for more details, exciting updates, and the chance to be part of this incredible youth experience. We can't wait to see you in June!

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/iowa4hyouthconference>





Dog Training Project Orientation

Sunday, February 23rd at 5:30PM
Extension & Outreach Building
Gathering area outside of the gym

Students who are planning to participate or want to learn more about this year's dog training project should plan to attend this meeting. **Please do not bring your dog.** Let the office know if you are unable to attend but still want to be kept informed about practices. **Reminder:** Clover Kids must be in third grade to exhibit in the 4-H Dog Obedience & Agility program. Clover Kids that exhibited in the dog obedience & agility project prior to the 2023-2024 season will be allowed to participate. Parents/Guardians of all Clover Kids will need to stay for this meeting and for practices.

2025 Judging Participants

No practices currently scheduled

Please contact Mrs. Moseby at Davis County FFA 319-330-7717 or Mrs. Appel at Agri Power FFA at 641-680-6731 with any questions about Beef Expo.

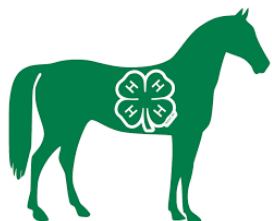


Silent Auction Items For 2025 Wapello County Expo



Wapello County 4-H Foundation is asking clubs to donate items for the silent auction to be held during the Wapello County Expo. Proceeds from the auction help to support our senior members with scholarships. Please let Cindy know if your club is able to help support.

4-H Horse Project



To show at Expo and/or State Fair 4-H members need to attend 3 horse meetings (1 must be a Project meeting and 1 must be a clinic).

Dates and times to be announced soon!



Animal Identification, Weighing, and Exhibiting Requirements for County, State Shows

Animal Identification, Weighing, and Exhibiting Requirements for County, State and Interstate Shows If you are planning to exhibit livestock at the county and/or Iowa State Fair, please take the time to read the updated 4H202 Iowa 4-H - Animal Identification, Weighing, and Exhibiting Requirements for County, State and Interstate Shows. The link is <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/194> This document summarizes regulations relating to exhibiting animals at 4-H shows.



CLOVER BY 4-H CLOVER by 4-H has online interactive activities for youth ages 5-18. CLOVER creates impactful learning experiences in partnership with 100+ top tier universities. Explore CLOVER today by visiting the following link:

<https://4-h.org/clover/about/>

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. For more information, check out the webpage: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/recognition-opportunities>

Iowa 4-H Foundation Scholarship Applications

[Iowa 4-H Foundation Scholarship](#) applications will open on December 1. Applications are due on midnight of March 1, 2025. Check out the Iowa 4-H Foundation scholarship page for a road map to success with instructions and the helpful hints page. The various scholarship awards range in amounts from \$250 to \$4,000. Scholarships are available to students pursuing degrees in art, agriculture, food and nutrition, ag business, animal science, journalism, and STEM-related studies. Others are open to any field of study. Graduating high school seniors or 4-H alum currently attending college are eligible applicants. Consider challenging your neighboring county to see which county can submit the most applications. [Mary Clancy](#) is available to assist with trainings or Q & A sessions for staff and 4-H'ers via Zoom.

STATE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FAIR OF IOWA

Save the date for the 2025 Iowa 4-H Youth Development's State Science & Technology Fair of Iowa, March 27th and 28th, 2025. This opportunity is open to 6th-12th grade youth. Student researchers have the chance to meet with professional researchers and communicate their findings and understanding of the research project. New for 2025 the Junior State Science and Technology Fair of Iowa. This opportunity is available for 3rd-5th graders. For more information visit: <https://sstfi.org/>

Al Duea Memorial Beef Clinic

Join us on Saturday, February 22, from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM for the Al Duea Memorial Beef Clinic. This clinic is open for any 4-H member interested in the beef project area. The clinic will cover showmanship, fitting, animal nutrition, and the meat industry. Lunch will be included and sponsored by the Cerro Gordo County Cattlemen. This clinic will be held at the North Iowa Events Center and cost \$10. Register via this [form](#). For more information, please contact [Maya Rowe](#).

Hey 4-H friends! Whether you've raised champion livestock, mastered the art of sewing, nailed that perfect science project, or made lifelong friends at camp, **we want to hear YOUR 4-H story!**

Share a memory ... Tell us how 4-H has made an impact on your life.

It's easy to share: **Scan the QR code** to tell us your story, or comment below with your favorite 4-H moments!

Your story might inspire someone to start their own 4-H adventure. Let's celebrate the amazing community and experiences that 4-H brings into our lives.



Calling All 4-H Alumni!

We'd love to see your 4-H memories! Whether it's a photo from your first fair, a project you were proud of, or a snapshot of you in your green and white, we want to celebrate your 4-H journey at Expo 2025. Please send us your favorite 4-H alumni photos! You can email them to Cindy at cemery@iastate.edu or feel free to drop off at the office or mail to Cindy's attention at Wapello County Extension, 13011 120th Ave, Ottumwa, IA 52501. Let's take a trip down memory lane together and showcase the impact of 4-H through the years! 📷

Senior Scholarships

The Wapello County 4-H Seniors Scholarship applications are due to Cindy at the Extension office before Friday, March 7th.

Please contact Cindy for further information.

Iowa 4-H: Wapello County

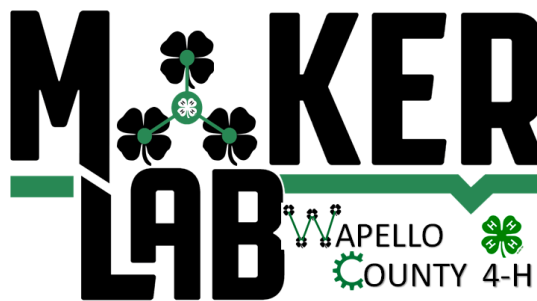
Watch our Facebook page for great information!

<https://www.facebook.com/ISU4HWapello>

Just a reminder that our MAKERLAB is open!

Watch our Facebook page and emails for upcoming workshops and fun things to do!

If you want to learn or do something specific contact Wyatt directly at wbarwick@iastate.edu to set up a time to learn!



Have a project you want to work on? Trying to get an early start on stuff for Expo?

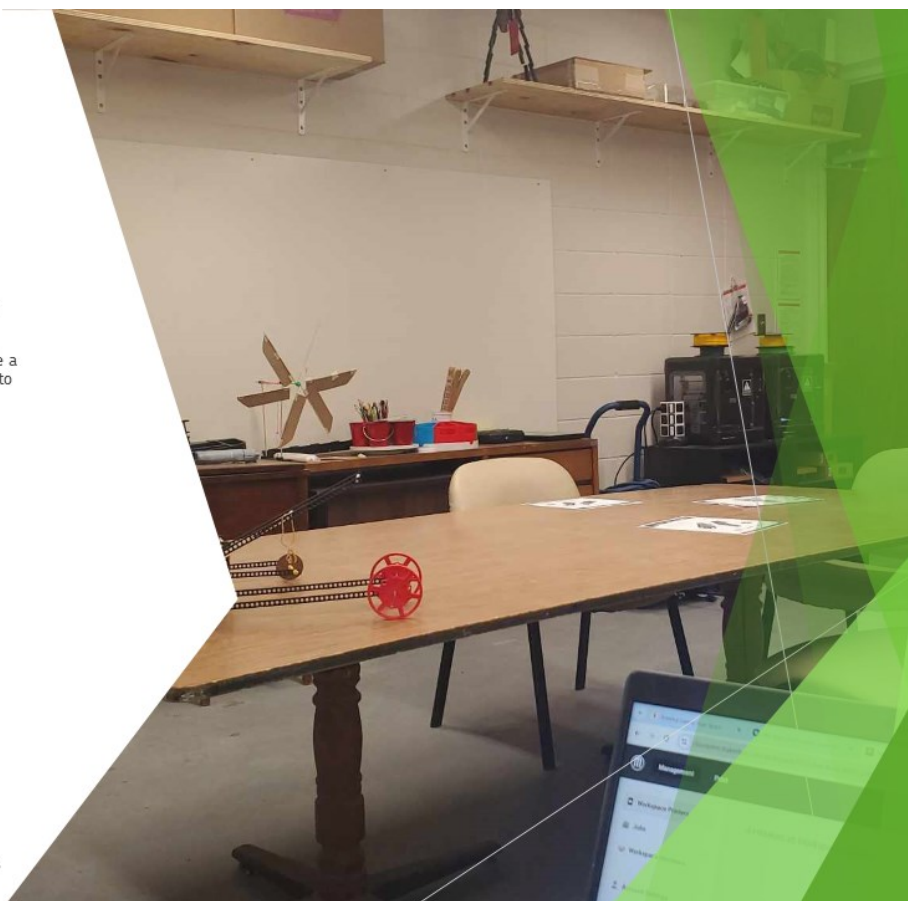
The Maker-Space is available at your convenience! Schedule a time to explore and discover the variety of things we have to offer.

Things we offer include.

- ▶ 3D Printing
- ▶ Laser Engraving
- ▶ Sewing
- ▶ Creations with Cricut
- ▶ Woodworking
- ▶ Access to our tool cabinets
- ▶ Access to our wide range of STEM kits
- ▶ Stem project consulting
- ▶ And so much more

Open to all ages! To schedule a time, send an email to wbarwick@iastate.edu

Time slots: Mondays 4:00PM-6:00PM, Tuesdays 1:00-3:00PM.



4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training

The next Iowa 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training will be on April 5, 2025, in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Archery, Coordinator, Muzzleloader, Rifle, Shotgun, and Wildlife Instructor certification will be offered. Early bird registration through 4-H Online will be open on February 1 and closes on March 16. For more details about the training, go to the Shooting Sports Activities and Events webpage, <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/shootingsports-activities-and-events>

Wapello County is in search of volunteers interested in helping with the shooting sports program! We will pay your registration fee for this training. Please contact Cindy at cemery@iastate.edu or call 641-682-5491 if you are interested.

Do All the Good You Can Challenge



We are excited to announce the State 4-H Council newest service initiative, Do All the Good You Can. Sign up with the link below to receive bi-monthly service challenges to give back to your community! Your club or group will log hours or things donated. The counties with the most hours by Youth Conference in June will be recognized at the conference. We look forward to hearing all of the good you are able to do this year! Registration Link: <https://form.jotform.com/isu4h/do-all-the-good-you-can-challenge>

SPRING BREAK DAY CAMPS

ExpoVentures
READY SET SHOW
GRADE K-3
\$30/YOUTH
MARCH 18
9:00 AM-3:30 PM

4-H Soccer
DAY CAMP
GRADE K-2
\$15/YOUTH
MARCH 19
9:00 AM-3:30 PM

Creative Craze
CRAFTING & CREATION
GRADE 3-6
\$30/YOUTH
MARCH 20
9:00 AM-3:30 PM

For more information & to register:
www.extension.iastate.edu/wapello/youth-programs



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

Not an Ottumwa Schools Sponsored Program

Spring Break Daycamps—
NOW OPEN!

Register and Pay now to
reserve your spots. Spots
are limited!



READ
across **IOWA**

Explore how fruits and veggies grow with
your PreK-5th grade students by engaging
them in books about these nutritious
agriculture products.



Learn more at:
<https://www.iowaagliteracy.org/Tools-Resources/Other/Read-Across-Iowa/>

*** DONATIONS NEEDED ***

We are looking for old “4-H Club” t-shirts to make wall quilts for the gym. If you have any old—but good quality t-shirts you would like to donate please let us know. Each quilt requires nine t-shirts! If you have any questions, please reach out to Heather Burgess or Cindy Emery.



****We are looking for clubs and volunteers to help out with this event!
Please let Cindy know if you are able to help!**

Join us for a
BIRTHDAY PARTY!!



What: Dr. Seuss's Birthday

**Where: Wapello Co. Extension Office
13011 120th Ave. Ottumwa**

**When: Friday February 28th
6:00 to 8:00 pm**



***FREE Crafts and activities for kids.**

***FREE Fun for the whole family!!**



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



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Extension and Outreach

Wapello County 4-H Senior Spotlight

Parents: Stephen and Rebecca Livingston

Club: Lucky Clovers 4-H Club

Years In 4-H: 7

High School: Ottumwa Homeschool Group



Draven Livingston

We asked Draven the following questions:

What does 4-H mean to you?

4-H is a chance to gain new interests, hobbies, and learn new skills. It is also a great way to meet new people and help out in the community.

What have you learned from 4-H that you will use in the future?

4-H has helped me with my confidence in being more of a leader. It has also taught me how to be responsible through taking care of my rabbits.



Draven is planning to continue his computer software development classes at Indian Hills. He is planning to pursue a career in computers in which he can create programs for everyday use.

Wapello County 4-H Senior Spotlight

Parents: Clint and Nikki Witt

Club: Pleasant U&I Sodbusters Club

Years In 4-H: 9

High School: Ottumwa High School



Landon Witt

We asked Landon the following questions:

What does 4-H mean to you?

4-H means opportunities to try new things including building my leadership skills, challenging myself and getting outside of my comfort zone. It also provides the support of many people who end up being like another family.

What have you learned from 4-H that you will use in the future?

I have learned many valuable skills, such as public speaking, time management, and having to take constructive criticism.



Landon's future plans are to attend Northwest Missouri State University majoring in Ag Business with a goal of becoming an Ag Loan Officer.

Wapello County 4-H Clover Corner



Hello Clover
Kids!

February Clover Kids

This month our
lesson is
Mistakes to
Masterpiece.
We learned that
mistakes are a
part of the
creative
process!



Be a part of Wapello County Chick Hatching... We are looking for fertilized eggs. Please let Mrs. Duff know if you are able to donate 7 eggs for an incubator for 1 of our 22 Kindergarten classrooms.

Clover Kids will show their static projects at Expo on Monday, July 14. Please let Mrs. Duff know March 1–May 1 if your child would like to show at Expo. IF you have any questions PLEASE let me know. 1st 100 Clover Kids get a FREE 4-H shirt.

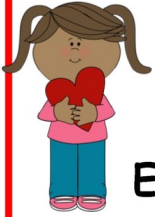
Thank you so much for sharing your child with Clover Kids... I hope they love Clover Kids as much as I do! I would highly encourage all Clover Kids to show even 1 project at Expo! THEY CAN DO IT AND I WOULD NEVER EVER ASK THEM TO DO IT IF THEY COULDN'T!! I HAVE 2 SHORT VIDEOS 1 ON SHOWING CHICKENS AND 1 IS WHAT Clover Kids can show at Expo. Let me know if you would like to see these!



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Clover Corner Continued...

February & March Clover Kids



Cardinal 1 2/4 & 3/4

Cardinal 2 2/5 & 3/5

Eisenhower Group 1 2/12 & 3/12

Eisenhower Group 2 2/13 & 3/12

Eisenhower Group 3 2/17 & 3/24

Douma 1 2/10 & 3/10

Douma 2 2/11 & 3/11

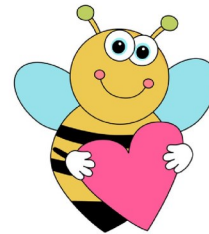
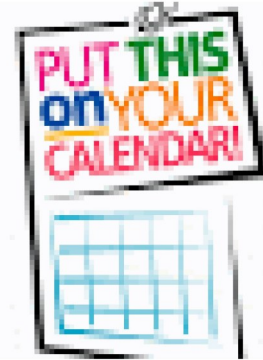
Horace Mann Group 1 2/18 & 3/25

Horace Mann Group 2 2/19 & 3/26

Seton 2/3 & 3/3

Pickwick 2/6 & 3/6

Fahrney 2/25 & 3/31



Please practice
the 4-H Pledge
with your Clover
Kid, or maybe
they already
know it??

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.



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**Chick Hatching
Chicks will be
given to Clover Kids
& 4-H Members!!!
Please let Mrs. Duff
know if your child
would like 3-5
chicks. Chicks
coming April
and May.
THANK YOU TO
SOUTH OTTUMWA
SAVINGS BANK
FOR SPONSORING
CHICK HATCHING!!**

SPRING BREAK DAY CAMPS

**EXPOVENTURES—READY SET
SHOW—MARCH 18 9-330
GRADES K-3 \$30**

IF YOUR CHILD HAS EVER THOUGHT
ABOUT EXPO, THIS IS THE CAMP FOR
THEM! WE WILL MAKE ITEMS TO TAKE
TO EXPO, TALK TO A JUDGE AND EVEN
GET OUR PAPERWORK READY!

**SOCCER FUN DAY CAMP
MARCH 19 9-330
GRADES K-2**

FUN DAY OF SOCCER, LEARN ABOUT
HAVING A HEALTHY BODY AND FEED-
ING OUR BODY TOO.

**CREATIVE CRAZE
MARCH 20 9-330
GRADES 3-6**

**Did you know... As a Clover Kid your child
can participate in MANY events during our
4-H Expo in July!!**

Projects they can show:



Static projects (arts & crafts, photography, baking, wood working),
Communications projects (Share the Fun, where they perform in front of a
judge. Dance, magic tricks, play an instrument or read their favorite children's
book),

Educational Presentation (they teach the judge something)

Animal showing (rabbits, chickens, dog, pet and cat show, bucket bottle goats ,
sheep or calf.

Participate in the Royalty contest, Talent show, and Lip Sync Battle.

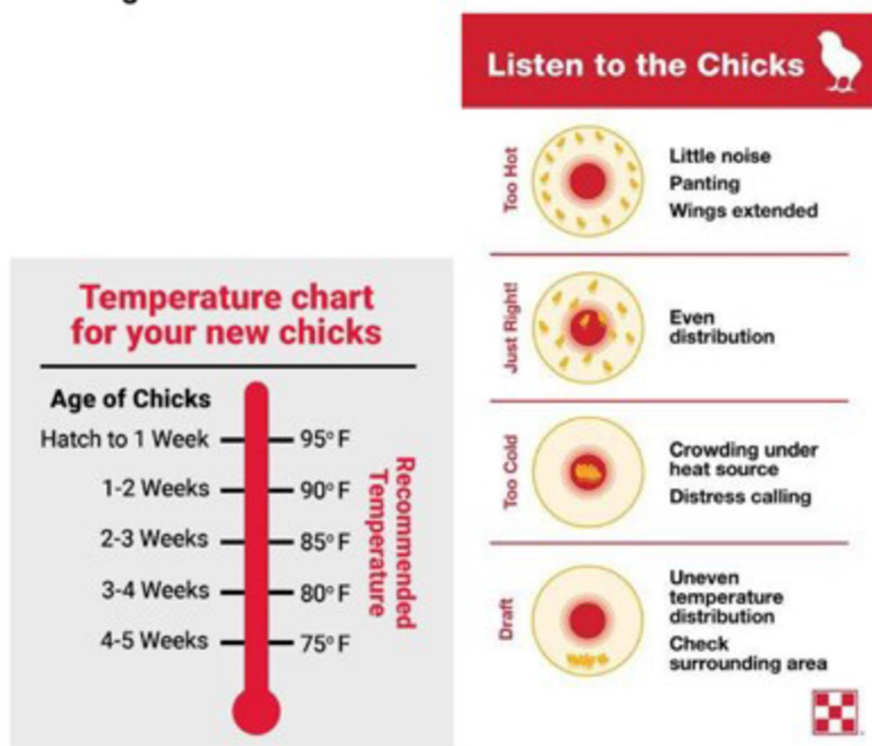
**If your child is interested in being a part of
Expo please let me know, I would be happy to chat with you about my favorite
week of the summer!!**



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GENERAL CHICKEN CARE BASICS

Brooding Chicks



Before baby chicks arrive: Set up the brooder

Set up your brooder about 24 hours before your chicks arrive. This allows time for bedding and equipment to dry and the temperature to set.

Brooder: The brooder is the first home of new chicks. Be sure it is comfortable, warm and draft-free.



Heat lamp: Make sure to securely fasten your heat lamp so it can not fall or be knocked down; they can cause fires if not properly secured. Brooder plates are a safer alternative, but are more expensive. Assemble a heat lamp in the center of the brooder for bird warmth. Hang the heat lamp about 20 inches above the litter, with 2.5 to 3 feet between the lamp and the guard walls. The temperature under the heat lamp, or comfort zone, should be 95 degrees Fahrenheit and adequate room in the brooder should be available for the chicks to get out from under the heater if they get too hot. After week one, gradually reduce heat by 5 degrees Fahrenheit each week



until reaching a minimum of 55 degrees. Heat lamps can be put on a thermostat so they shut off in hot weather, or you can manually do this.

Bedding: Add an absorbant pine flake bedding to the floor of the brooder. Place bedding 2 to 3 inches deep to keep the area dry and odor free. Remove wet bedding daily, especially around waterers. Change out bedding as needed; if it becomes smelly or too wet. Do not use cedar shavings or other types of shavings that have a strong odor because the odor could affect the long term health of the bird.

Feeders: Keep clean, and raise to the level of the smallest birds back as they grow.

Waterers: For every 25 chicks, fill two 1-quart waterers. Provide clean water daily and keep waters full. Raise to the level of the smallest birds back as they grow if possible.

Switching to Layer Feed: At 16 weeks old your chickens will be ready to switch to a 16-22% layer feed. Begin mixing some of the layer feed into the chick feed and slow increase the amount of layer feed over a weeks time. At this time you do not have to have feeders full all day. You can fill feeders once or twice a day and let feeders run out of feed before the next feeding.

HOUSING CHICKENS

Preparing a Coop 101:

Good Ventilation: Coops need to have good ventilation to prevent the build-up of gas from chicken droppings, respiration and to regulate temperature. Vents should be placed at the peak of the coop to prevent drafts. Be sure to cover vents with hardware cloth (not chicken wire) to help keep predators out.

Draft Free: You want to make sure there are no drafts blowing across the birds during the winter months. So close windows and have ventilation holes at the peak of the roof.

Enough space: You'll want to give your birds enough space to move freely in their coop, and have room for a roost/perching area, nesting boxes, light, food, and water. Approximately 2 square feet per bird in the coop of birds will have access to a outdoor space.

Roost: The roosting area is an elevated space (2 to 3 feet) where your chickens will perch and sleep at night. Give your chickens about 6-10 inches each on the perch, although they will usually huddle together. A good roost board is a 2"X4" board turned so the widest side is up. You can also add a poop board (a solid board a couple inches below the roost board) underneath the roost to catch the majority of the poop. Poop boards allow you to easily clean out most of the poop without having to change the bedding in the whole coop.

Nesting boxes: Your hens will lay their eggs in nesting boxes. You need one nest box for every 3 to 4 hens. Nest boxes should be 12"X12" and have soft bedding in them to help prevent eggs from breaking.

Bedding: Clean, dry pine shavings.

Roaming area/Run: A fenced run can help protect your birds from predators. Chickens need at least 4-5 feet per chicken, but keep in mind, the more space they have the happier they will be. I



find that it takes a 5' high fence to discourage your birds from trying to jump the fence if you don't build a covered run.

Secure from predators: Chickens predators include snakes, foxes, raccoons , possums, mink, weasel, coyotes, stray dogs and cats, owls, and hawks to name a few. Determine what kind of predators are likely to be an issue in your area and put up defenses against them. These might include buried hardware mesh around or on the floor of your run, covering the run with chicken wire or tarp, removing any overgrowth to eliminate hiding places, checking for holes, and keeping ventilation high up and covered. Remember chicken wire will keep chickens in but won't keep predators out. I have found that in high predator locations you can use an electric fence wire at 5" and on the top of the run fence to deter digging and climbing predators during the daytime. **Lastly, make sure to lock up the coop at night!**

Free Range: Some prefer to allow their birds to roam freely during the day. This is a personal preference but can leave your flock exposed to predators, so know your local predators. And yes even raccoons will visit you during the day if they are hungry. **Make sure to lock the flock in the coop at night!**

Coop examples:

Small raised coop with clean out door



Small walk in shed style



Coop pen in part of a barn or shed



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