Welcome!!
We are excited to have you as a new member of Washington County 4-H. We hope you enjoy your years as a 4-H'er. 4-H offers so many opportunities. We look forward to seeing you soon in the upcoming year.
Have fun!
Contact us anytime with questions.

Mission of 4-H
4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential through youth-adult partnerships and research-based experiences.

Dear Clover: I’ve been to the county fair before and watched my friend show animals, but I don’t live on a farm, what else can I do in 4-H?

4-H has endless possibilities if you wish to be a part of the county fair as a showcase of your learning and involvement throughout the year. Exhibits you can bring to the county fair can range from showing livestock to taking a picture. Let me list just a few of the most common non-livestock projects areas: photography, gardening, woodworking, food & nutrition, sewing, visual arts, technology, agriculture & natural resources, science, mechanics & engineering, personal development, or family history.

Besides ALL of those non-livestock areas there are communication projects you can do as well. You can give an educational presentation, a working exhibit (teach, show & help someone do something) or share-the fun (show your talents to others like a talent show). Then as you mentioned there are livestock projects those consist of: cattle, swine, sheep, horse, rabbit, poultry, goats, dog and pet. Families who live in town can always participate in the pet, dog or rabbit project areas too.

4-H offers many other opportunities besides fair. With your club, you will complete a community service project, such as planting flowers, cleaning a trail, painting a community park, etc. At a club meeting you will give a presentation. There are several countywide activities throughout the year such as a skating party, dodge ball tournament, new member FIRE UP meeting, family fun awards night and your club will do fun activities throughout the year as well!

If you have a project area or exhibit you’d like to do but are unsure if it will work, ask your leader and if he/she doesn’t know – that’s what the staff at the Extension Office are for. Contact them and they will be able to help you. You can reach them at 319/653-4811.

Things to keep in mind as the 4-H year continues:
• Have you set your goals? (What do you want to do this year?)
• Check the dates you need to own your livestock or be born by.
• Talk to your leader about your club presentation.
• Attend meetings-no more than 3 unexcused absences to show at the fair.
• Work on your record book as you go throughout the year.
• Parents-attend meetings, so you know what is happening.
• Keep in good contact with your leader as they are a wealth of knowledge.
• Have fun, make friends, learn & grow.

NEW MEMBERS, Get Fired Up for 4-H!
SAVE THE DATE!!
When: March 13, 2022
Time: 1:30 p.m.— 4:00 p.m.
Where: Extension Office

What: This is a meeting open to all 4-H families, but targets new members. It is meant for new families to learn more about 4-H beyond the club setting, county fair, trips, and more! Come learn more, meet new friends and have fun! Parents ENcouraged to attend! Participants receive a New Member Binder!

4-H Pledge
I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to a larger service, my health to a better living, for my club, my community, my country and my world.
Who’s Who at the Extension Office & with 4-H

Katharinna Bain: Regional Extension Education Director- kbain@iastate.edu. Responsible for all Extension programming, policy, budget. Serves Johnson, Iowa, Keokuk, and Washington Counties.

Andy Miller: County Extension Director-andrewm4@iastate.edu. Responsible for planning and carrying out adult Extension programming and office management.

Amy Green: 4-H/Youth Coordinator- amygreen@iastate.edu. Responsible for implementing the 4-H Youth Development program events and other youth events including in-school, afterschool, and summer camps. Supports 4-H families & volunteers. Recruits partners.

Brandi Dawson: Office Assistant- bldawson@iastate.edu. Carries out office duties and assists 4-H enrollments and volunteer management.

Washington County Extension Council: Legal entity responsible for Extension programming. These 9 elected officials are responsible for Extension budget and programs. This includes 4-H.

4-H & Youth Committee: This committee is made up of 16 local adult volunteers. They study youth issues within the county, develop action plans, ensure members comply with state and county regulations, develop rules, expectations and regulations.

Washington 4-H County Council (teens): This council is made up of 22 local 10th-12th graders in Washington County. They are seen as a leadership group for Washington County 4-H. County Council assist with planning and carrying out many county-wide 4-H events.

4-H ELITE Project Team (teens): This council is made up of 4 local 10th-12th graders in Washington County. They are a leadership planning group for Washington County 4-H who works to host events/support for members and community.

Club Leader: Provides overall leadership to your club, oversees the structure and operation of club meetings.

County Fair Superintendent: Volunteer responsible for overseeing project department rules & regulations for the county fair. Many departments include a committee of volunteers.

Check out our website: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/washington/
Click “4-H & Youth” tab for forms, news, results, pictures, and 4-H information
Let’s get fired up about 4-H!
You Are Invited to 4-H Fire Up!

4-H Fire Up is new member event for 4-H members and parents/guardians. This meeting is designed to provide information and hands-on activities about 4-H, various projects, 4-H opportunities, upcoming events, and much more. You will talk with 4-Hers, see examples, practice forms, hear from a parent panel with advice and best practice tips!

WHO SHOULD COME

It is open to all 4-H’ers but will be most beneficial to those who have been in 4-H three years or less. There will be learning for members and parents. This is an excellent time for youth and parents to learn more about 4-H and grow together!

WHY COME


REGISTER NOW

Register by March 7 to guarantee a 4-H Handbook you will use for years! Register online at https://tinyurl.com/4HFireUp22

We hope to see you soon all FIRED UP for 4-H!

4-H Fire Up!
March 13
1:30 pm—4 pm
Dallmeyer Hall

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To: Junior 4-H Members

The 4-H year is well underway!! Have you been thinking about 4-H project areas? What are you interested in? Talented in? Doing in your free time? What makes you smile? What do you want to learn more about? Those are all great starting places for your 4-H adventures and potential county fair exhibits.

During online enrollment in 4hOnline, you were asked about some project areas of interest. You are not committed to any of them, and you can always try something different. We encourage families to mark a few project areas as a starting point when they are enrolling. Now is the time to be exploring those areas.

The 4-H Project Area Guides are a great place to do this. These are meant to help you get ideas on how to learn about this project area, exhibit ideas, citizenship & leadership ideas and additional resources to help you learn about that topic. For any of our 4-H project areas you may wish to do a volunteer project, club presentation or a project to help your family/neighborhood. We have included one sample project guide here. You can find all of them at [https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/15266](https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/15266)

These Project Area Guides are only ideas and are not all inclusive. You may have other ideas that can be turned into projects as well. It’s time to LET THE FUN BEGIN. We also LOVE to brainstorm at the Extension Office. For example = if you are interested in the Environment but aren’t sure of possible projects – call us and we’d be happy to brainstorm with you. We also have a huge variety of manuals in all project areas for purchase ($.50-$4.50) with more ideas as well.

If there is anything we can do to help you throughout the year explore project areas or learn more about 4-H opportunities, please contact us at 319/653-4811 or amygreen@iastate.edu.

Amy Green
4-H/Youth Coordinator
**Ideas for Project Area Learning**

- Master the elements and principles of design to make your house a home.
- Plan home living spaces in keeping with the needs of family members.
- Develop your skill in caring for home furnishings and accessories.
- Explore opportunities for environmentally friendly choices in your home.
- Learn the language of home improvement design elements and principles.
- Plan and design your own space with new techniques.
- Discover and compare costs to design and accessorize your space.
- Practice choosing wall treatments, window coverings, and floors.
- Discover how paint, wall treatments, flooring, and window coverings create different effects in a home.
- Get the 411 on furniture styles.
- Plan your space using needs, wants, and timelines to make choices.
- Create design drawings to visualize living spaces.
- Learn helpful strategies for developing a shopping list.
- Coordinate fabrics and patterns.
- Effectively reduce clutter and stash your stuff.
- Take care of your furniture possessions.
- Experiment with the arrangement of photos on a wall for different effects.
- Select fun accessories for the finishing touch.
- Install bright lighting fixtures.
- Examine environmentally friendly practices such as reduce, reuse, recycle, and rethink.
- Investigate energy wasters in the home.

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**APPLY WHAT YOU’VE LEARNED**

**Communication**

- Share with friends how to select a color scheme for their bedroom.
- Develop a step-by-step checklist showing how to cover a headboard using padding and fabric.
- Create a video showing how to be energy efficient in the home.

**Civic Engagement**

- Assist an older person with painting their living room.
- Share with family and friends how to keep living spaces safe.
- Show local museum staff how to arrange, protect, and display historical items correctly.

**Leadership**

- Show siblings how shared space can be divided using furniture placement.
- Teach adults the proper disposal methods of refinishing materials.
- Work with a non-profit in creating a functional meeting space.

**Entrepreneurship**

- Repurpose old furniture pieces into new items and resell.
- Refinish or reupholster items for people to go with their current décor.
- Create murals for nurseries, youth organizations, or personal homes.
**Goal Setting and Record Keeping**

Goal setting is an ongoing process that guides your project area learning. Having goals is like having a road map to show you how to get you to where you want to go. Record keeping is also an ongoing process and another important life skill. In 4-H, you are encouraged to select from a variety of record keeping formats to meet your own personal needs and your preferred learning style. Keeping records of your learning experiences helps you determine how well you met your goals. Goal setting and record keeping improve your skills in organization, communication, planning, and evaluating.

**Iowa 4-H Event Opportunities**

- Participate in county and state fair exhibit classes.
- Check with your local county 4-H youth development staff to see if there are special events or workshops in your county that you want to attend to learn more about your project areas.
- Iowa 4-H members in grades 9–12 can apply for State Project Area Awards at State Recognition Day. Applications are open December through January.
- Meet young people from around the state who have completed grades 8–12, and share your interests at the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference held at Iowa State University in late June.
- Participate in Design Camp, put on each summer by Iowa State University College of Design in Partnership with Iowa 4-H.

**Share Your Learning With an Exhibit**

- Take photos of home decoration that demonstrates the use of design elements and principles.
- Compare the pros and cons of sponging, rag rolling, stenciling, and stamping walls.
- Refinish a family antique chair, table, stand, or dresser.
- Illustrate how various wall coverings and flooring have different effects on livings spaces.
- Create a poster that provides examples of elements of different furniture styles.
- Develop a design board showing how an existing floor plan can be made to be more functional.
- Compare the effectiveness of different products in removing stains from hard and soft home furnishings.

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**CAREER CONNECTIONS**

- **Interior designers** help their clients creatively and artistically decorate and furnish spaces.
- **Home remodelers** creatively design and construct the interior and exterior of houses.
- **Contractors** work to oversee construction jobs by hiring workers, providing materials, and scheduling inspections.
- **Architects** work to build, restore, and conserve buildings through innovative new ways.
- **Home appraisers** help people prepare and inspect homes while collecting data to find the worth of a home.

**EDUCATION CONNECTIONS**

- Study **architecture** if you are interested in creating blueprints, managing development, and ensuring the safety of workers.
- Students in **interior design** artistically create, design, and furnish the interior of buildings.
- If you enjoy drawing, building, or designing, you may be interested in **structural engineering**.
- If you enjoy working with people, designing rooms, and studying scripts, you may be interested in studying **set design**.

Written Iowa 4-H Youth Development 2013. Revised in 2019 by the Iowa 4-H Communication and the Arts Program Priority Team, Bonnie Dalager, 4-H Product Development Specialist, and Payton Sash, 4-H Student Office Assistant, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.
Get your hands dirty in agronomy! Find out how soils, bugs, beetles, and more affect your crops. Whether it’s corn, soybeans, wheat, hay, or silage, 4-H agronomy helps you learn what makes plants grow.

**Ideas for Project Area Learning**
- Learn how soil, seeds, weather, pests, and fertilizer affect field crops.
- Learn the value and uses of field crops.
- Learn how new technology can change the way field crops are grown.
- Keep records of crop production.
- Plant something and watch it grow.
- Find differences when you plant seeds in different soils.
- Use different fertilizers and control weeds and pests.
- Identify what helps plants grow and what’s harmful to them.
- Take a soil sample.
- Calculate growing degree days.
- Scout fields for growing conditions.
- Discover products that are made from field crops.
- Learn how to protect your plants from pests.
- Decide what varieties of crops to plant and at what time.
- Learn soil and nutrient requirements.
- Manage your crops based on integrated crop management principles.
- Explore career opportunities related to crop production.
- Calculate harvest losses and their causes.
- Calculate expenses and incomes to determine the profitability of field crops.
- Identify how new technology impacts crop production.

**APPLY WHAT YOU’VE LEARNED**

**Communication**
- Show your group the difference between a healthy plant and a sick one.
- Do a presentation on sampling soil.
- Develop a journal with the details of the fields you scout.

**Civic Engagement**
- Help teach others about farm safety.
- Join and participate in a farm commodity association.
- Organize and lead an appreciation event for farmers during harvest.

**Leadership**
- Create farm safety rules for your family and share with others.
- Plan a tour of a seed corn plant for your group.
- Develop a harvest loss frame and use it to help other farmers calculate their harvest losses.

**Entrepreneurship**
- Start a niche online gift shop for farmers and their families.
- Grow herbs, sweet corn, or vegetables to sell at a local farmer’s market.
- Create planting or harvest care packages people can buy for their farming friends or neighbors.
Goal Setting and Record Keeping

Goal setting is an ongoing process that guides your project area learning. Having goals is like having a road map to show you how to get you to where you want to go. Record keeping is also an ongoing process and another important life skill. In 4-H, you are encouraged to select from a variety of record keeping formats to meet your own personal needs and your preferred learning style. Keeping records of your learning experiences helps you determine how well you met your goals. Goal setting and record keeping improve your skills in organization, communication, planning, and evaluating.

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- Meet young people from around the state who have completed grades 8–12, and share your interests at the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference held at Iowa State University in late June.
- Each March, hundreds of student researchers in grades 6–12 meet with professionals to discuss their findings and compete for scholarships during the State Science and Technology Fair of Iowa.
- Iowa 4-H partners with Iowa State University Integrated Pest Management to host an annual Crop Scouting Competition for youth in grades 8–12.

Share Your Learning With an Exhibit

- Create a booklet of all the uses of corn and soybeans.
- Make a poster with a diagram of cut-off corn stalks and show the growing point.
- Keep a journal of your plans, recording rainfall and other weather data.
- Produce a video about the role of legumes in fixing nitrogen in the soil.
- Create a display showing potential safety hazards on a farm. Educate others on ways to prevent them.
- Design a poster to teach others about the information provided on seed labels.
- Develop a field map showing the locations you checked for stand counts.

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Exhibit resources, related events, and record keeping forms are available on our website.

www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/cropproduction

CAREER CONNECTIONS

- Farmers make decisions about how to get the most yield with the fewest inputs.
- Agronomists, extension specialists and crop consultants are professionals who help farmers make decisions about how to best manage their crops.
- Plant breeders create new types of crops using both traditional and modern technology.
- Seed companies need employees to make, promote, and sell seed to farmers. Jobs might include marketing, sales, seed quality testing, and growing seed.

EDUCATION CONNECTIONS

- Agronomy is the major at most colleges that focuses on crop production and crop science. This is a good major if you are interested in a career in science, production agriculture, or consulting with farmers.
- If you are interested in doing scientific research that improves crop production, study entomology (insect pests), plant pathology (plant diseases), soil science, or genetics.
- Students in agricultural business learn about marketing agricultural commodities, managing a farm, and selling agricultural products.

Written Iowa 4-H Youth Development 2013. Revised in 2019 by Maya Hayslett, 4-H Crops Specialist, Bonnie Dalager, 4-H Product Development Specialist, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.