

IOWA COUNTY NEW 4-H FAMILY NEWS

ISSUE 4

FALL EDITION



Welcome to the Iowa County 4-H program! To help you learn more about 4-H in Iowa County, you will be receiving four issues of this newsletter. This newsletter is designed to tell you more about 4-H and about 4-H activities and events in Iowa County so that you and your family can take advantage of the many 4-H opportunities. Contact the Extension Office by phone at **930-9850**, by mail at **303 W Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533** or by e-mail at sarah.weier@wisc.edu or tom.harman@iowacounty.org for more information. Please feel free to contact the Extension Office with questions.

How Does the 4-H Year End?

After the Iowa County Fair, the 4-H year begins to wind down and plans are made for a new 4-H year. Three things mark the end of the 4-H year: 1) 4-H members complete record books about their year in 4-H, 2) Achievement Day is held in early November to recognize 4-H members for their accomplishments, and 3) 4-H members complete re-enrollment forms for the next year.

What does a 4-H Record Book Include?

A 4-H record book is a place for you to record what you learned and did with your 4-H projects. All 4-H members are encouraged to report on their 4-H year in the 4-H record book.

The project record is a way for you to learn the important life skill of record keeping. A project record has two main parts: the first is the information page, where general 4-H information is recorded, such as offices held, number of meetings attended, committee assignments, etc. The second major section is the project report, which is completed for each project. In this section, you will report what you wanted to learn, what was actually done, and what skills were learned.

Completion of a record book is required for trips, awards, and scholarships.

4-H club leaders collect record books in late September. Record books are evaluated by club leaders and/or parents at the club level. Members may be selected to receive a project award based on their work in their project(s). To receive an award, 4-H members must complete a record book, give a speech or demonstration at a club meeting, and exhibit a project at the Fair. Some members are also selected to receive county awards in some project areas. Books selected for special awards are brought to the Extension Office by October 1st of each year.

Achievement Day is held in November. This event provides an opportunity for 4-H members and leaders to be recognized for project work. A large number of awards are given based on club activities and attendance, the 4-H record book and leader recommendations. The award recipients are listed in the October "*Clover Connection*" newsletter.

National 4-H Week is scheduled during the first week of October. 4-H brings together youth and adults to build a nation of stronger communities, from family farms to urban environments. You can help tell others about your 4-H experiences. Spread the word! Promote 4-H! Tell your neighbors and friends about 4-H!

How do I Re-enroll in 4-H?

You will re-enroll online. Be sure you complete all the information and provide correct addresses and e-mails so your leaders and the Extension office can communicate with your family.

You will sign up for new projects and re-enroll in current projects. You can also indicate if you need project literature. A packet of instructions will be provided to each family and your club leader and the 4-H staff in the Extension Office can also assist you with questions about enrollment.

Be sure to re-enroll in 4-H by December 1st to be eligible for all 4-H activities and events. You can enroll in 4-H at any time, but you have to be a member by certain dates to exhibit at the county fair, to go to camp, to be a club officer, etc.

Choosing 4-H Projects

Remember that in 4-H projects, you will learn more than “subject matter” as you complete your projects. 4-Hers learn many life skills that help prepare them for the future. Things like teamwork, understanding yourself, communication skills, problem solving, decision making, and working with others are some skills learned.

If you are unsure what projects to take, here are some tips from Wisconsin State 4-H specialists on choosing projects:

- Make a list of things you really like to do or want to know about.
- Talk over your list with your parents, leaders, and friends. They may recognize some special things you are good at that you don't even realize you do well.
- Compare your list with the projects offered in your county 4-H program.
- Ask yourself if you have the equipment, money, and time to do the projects that sound interesting.
- With some projects, you'll have a choice of signing up for beginning, intermediate, or

advanced levels. If you've had a lot of experience with the subject matter, you may want to skip the first or beginning level of a project. Some projects also have grade suggestions.

The purpose of 4-H is to provide real-life experiences for youth through a fun and practical, learn-by-doing, educational program.

Thank you for being part of the Iowa County 4-H program! We appreciate your suggestions for changes or improvements.

Did you find this newsletter helpful as a new 4-H family? Do you have suggestions for the newsletter? If so, please mail to the Extension Office or e-mail your comments to sarah.weier@wisc.edu.

Iowa County Extension Office Staff

4-H Coordinator
Family Living Agent
Agriculture Agent
Nutrition Education Coordinator
CRD Agent
Natural Resource Agent
Department Assistant
Area 17 Director

Sarah Weier
Ruth Schriefer
Gene Schriefer
Donna Peterson
Barry Hottmann
Joe Bonnell
Tom Harman
Currently Vacant

