

IOWA COUNTY NEW 4-H FAMILY NEWS

Issue 1

Winter Issue



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.

What is 4-H?

4-H began in the early 1900s. The first groups were called Boys and Girls Clubs. Then in 1914, Congress passed an act that established Cooperative Extension and 4-H. 4-H is available to families in Iowa County because of an agreement between Cooperative Extension of the University of Wisconsin-Extension, the National Institute of Food & Agriculture, and the Iowa County Board of Supervisors. The local sponsor of the 4-H program is the Iowa County 4-H Leaders Association.

4-H is an educational youth organization that belongs to the members, their families, and other interested adults who serve as volunteer leaders. Professional leadership is provided by faculty and staff of the University of Wisconsin-Extension. The Youth Development Educator is hired by the University of Wisconsin to work with 4-H.

The Clover Connection

Approximately every other month each 4-H family receives a copy of the 4-H newsletter - **The Clover Connection**. This newsletter includes information about county events and activities, reminders of deadlines and entry information, project tips, and many other items of interest to 4-Hers and their families. It is important that families read this newsletter and make notes of dates and events they might be interested in. The newsletter is also posted on the Iowa County UWEX webpage at <http://iowa.uwex.edu/>

Check the **Clover Connection** for more information about:

- 4-H Day in the Arts
- Auction Education Requirements
- Area Animal Science Days
- Project Learning Day

What are 4-H Projects?

Each member signs up for one or more projects, or educational areas. A project is the topic the member wants to learn about during the 4-H year. In addition to club meetings, members might attend small group meetings with project leaders who help with a specific project. Through project work, 4-H members learn responsibility and new skills in their projects. Popular projects in Iowa County include dairy, photography, woodworking, foods and nutrition, clothing, nature space, and drawing and painting.

What is the Parent's Role in 4-H?

4-H is really a **family program**. Parents and family are important in 4-H. 4-H members are also helped by volunteer leaders who teach the youth, organize the club, and help officers at meetings.

4-H parents are a very important part of the 4-H member's experience. Parents are encouraged to attend club meetings, project meetings, and county events with their children. Parents are also encouraged to volunteer to help with club project meetings or club activities whenever possible. Children need their parents to support their commitment to 4-H, the decisions they make, and the goals they set.

Encourage your child to take an active role in the club. Help him or her set priorities about activities and events by scheduling time wisely. Encourage him or her to follow through with commitments by attending meetings and completing tasks.

Support the 4-H Youth Development Educator's efforts to emphasize and promote the educational value of 4-H events and activities.



Help your child learn that "doing your best" is more important than "being the best". Whenever possible, volunteer your time and talents to lead or assist with meetings or other club or county activities. Work with other 4-H parents and adults to make sure 4-H policies and procedures are reflecting what's best for the youth.

Let 4-H Volunteers know that you appreciate their time and effort to assist 4-H youth.

Introducing the Extension Office Staff

4-H Coordinator	Sarah Weier
Family Living Agent	Ruth Schriefer
Agriculture Agent	Gene Schriefer
Nutrition Education Coordinator	Donna Peterson
CRD Agent	Barry Hottmann
Natural Resource Agent	Joe Bonnell
Department Assistant	Tom Harman
Area 17 Director	Currently Vacant

What Your Child Can Expect From Being a 4-H Member:

4-H clubs guarantee youth opportunities to...

- develop positive relationships with peers and adults
- be actively involved in their own learning
- contribute as active citizens through service and leadership
- develop skills that will help them succeed
- recognize, understand, and appreciate others
- have fun!

Your Next Issue:

- Cloverbud Activities
- Iowa County 4-H Activities
- State 4-H Activities

Code of Conduct Statement – “4-H Member in Good Standing”

To participate in the Iowa County Fair, receive a 4-H Graduation Scholarship, participate in a 4-H trip, or represent Iowa County or Wisconsin on a 4-H Judging Team or at a 4-H speaking contest, Iowa County members must be “4-H Members in Good Standing”. To be a 4-H member in good standing, a member must attend at least four (4) 4-H Club Events (club meetings, fund raisers, or community service activities) by August 1st of each year.

Check out Iowa County University Extension on the Web at: <http://iowa.uwex.edu>