February 2018

The Clover Post

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Greetings from Allen!

Howdy Ada County 4-Hers,

Greetings from Texas and thank you for the warm welcome into the world of Idaho 4-H! I’m very excited to be here and am looking forward to learning from you about the needs of youth in Ada County and how I can help in supporting your clubs.

I have loved 4-H ever since I was first introduced to it by a friend in college. I was fascinated by the “learn by doing” model and by how engaged all the kids were in their activities. As I continued to be involved with 4-H as a volunteer and eventually as an employee, I have been amazed at how many kids get excited to do activities they never had the opportunity to do before. I believe that 4-H provides unique developmental experiences for kids in a way that no other youth organization has the ability to do.

I’ve heard from 4-H youth that’s it’s sometimes hard to truly describe what 4-H is, or what they do in 4-H. There’s really nothing else like it to compare it to! Whenever I find myself in this situation, I share what I love most about 4-H: that you can do almost anything! From food science to robotics and archery to fashion design, there is really a 4-H activity for everyone. The experiences that youth have in 4-H activities are safe, fun, and transformative. Anyone who likes making friends, building new skills, and making their best better belong in 4-H.

More specifically, here are things that youth in Ada County 4-H can do:

- **Animals**: From stock shows to dogs and guinea pigs, you can learn responsibility with animals.
- **Science**: Explore the world through science – bugs, plants, astronomy, and more.
- **Engineering**: Learn how to build robots and rockets using math and science.
- **Leadership**: Practice your public speaking skills, help your community, and become a better leader!
- **Healthy Living**: Learn to be a star in the kitchen or a smart shopper, be a leader in healthy living skills.
- **Outdoor Education**: Love being outside? Learn about wildlife, camping, and having safe outdoor adventures.
- **Recreation**: Be active by learning more about fishing, gardening, and shooting sports.
- **Creative Arts**: Get in touch with your creative side by learning about fashion design, culture, and more.

If you know of anyone interested in these activities, let us know! There is so much that our program offers and our Ada County UI Extension office is here to help you do it. With such a rich history of 4-H in Ada County, I am really looking forward to helping you in your current activities and reaching more families in providing the amazing experiences that 4-H has to offer. I am actively looking for strategies and ways to reach new folks and am really excited to showcase what our county extension office has to offer with engaging, educational, and transformative experiences. I look forward to helping Ada County youth make their best better.

Best Wishes,

Allen Taggart
4-H Extension Educator
To Make the Best Better

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**BEef FIELD DAY FOR YOUTH**
- Date: March 10, 2018  
  *(Saturday)*
- Time: 12:30-4:00 p.m.
- Place: Marsing High School
- Cost: $2.00 per person
- **RSVP by March 7.**

Station Topics:
- Bulls and Breeding Soundness Exams
- Cow Reproductive Anatomy & Artificial Insemination—how to git-r-done
- Handling the Bull’s Contribution to Getting Cows Pregnant
- Understanding and Assisting in the Calving Process

**STATE 4-H HORSE CONTEST**
- **Save the Date:** tentative plans are in place to host the 2018 Idaho 4-H Youth Horse Contests on **July 6 & 7** at College of Southern Idaho (CSI) facilities in Twin Falls. More details along with the contest guide by early April.

**IDAHo STATE ANGUS ASSOCIATION SHOW & SALE**
- CSI would like to invite your 4-H club judging teams to participate in the judging. There is no judging fee so bring as many teams as you want.
- **Date:** February 10th
- Time: 8:00am Registration/ 9:00am Judging Contest
- Place: College of Southern Idaho Exposition Center.

Please contact Jim Knight at (208) 732-6414 with questions or to register.

**STATE 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS CONTESTS**
- **Dates:** June 8 & 9
- **Place:** Jerome/Twin Falls area
  *(based on available facilities).*

Contest Opportunities:
- Air rifle
- Archery *(compound & recurve)*
- Hunting, Rifle *(air & smallbore)*
- Shotgun

Registration materials will be available in early April, through 4-H FOCUS or the Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports website.

**2018 WESTERN REGIONAL LEADER FORUM (WRLF)**
- WRLF will be held **March 1-4,** 2018 in San Diego, CA and there is still time to register—the fee will increase on February 14. This year’s event will be action packed. Please visit the website for details.

**SHOOTING SPORTS CERTIFICATION**
- If you would like to teach shooting sports you can become certified in up to two disciplines!
  - March 2-4
  - Caldwell/Emmett
  - Archery, pistol, rifle, and shotgun
  - $60 for one or $85 for two disciplines
  - **Registration deadline February 16**

All 4-H leaders must be 4-H certified to teach shooting sports. The Ada County Leader’s Association offers scholarships to leaders for this training.

If you can’t make this training there is another offered in Moscow.
- March 31
- Moscow
- Archery and rifle
- $75
- **Registration deadline March 16**
Youth planning to attend the 2018 Ambassador Summit will be required to meet the guidelines below. These guidelines were developed by the Idaho 4-H Ambassador Steering Committee and was shared with youth and adults who attended the 2017 Ambassador Summit in November (and can be found in the Idaho 4-H Ambassador Steering Committee Handbook).

It is recommended that participants attend a district retreat and complete a 4-H leadership project the year that participants attend the summit. The guidelines for youth to attend district retreats for additional years will be enforced starting in 2019 since 2018 is the first year that four district retreats have been offered across Idaho.

**Guidelines for youth attending their first district retreat:**
- Must be at least 13 (4-H age) or completed the 6th grade
- Must be currently enrolled in 4-H and be members in good standing

**Guidelines for youth attending district retreats for additional years:**
- Must be currently enrolled in 4-H and be members in good standing
- Completed at least two out of three of the following types of activities. These completed activities will be listed on the registration form for approval at the county level
  - Work with a mentor to assist in at least one 4-H promotional activity
  - Work with a mentor to assist in at least one 4-H service project
  - Work with a mentor to assist in at least one 4-H educational activity
- Encouraged to complete the Idaho 4-H Leadership Project

**Guidelines for youth attending their first state summit:**
- Must be at least 14 (4-H age)
- Must have attended a District Ambassador Retreat at least one year
- Must be currently enrolled in 4-H and be members in good standing
- Must have completed the Idaho 4-H Leadership Project the year attending

**Guidelines for youth attending state summit for additional years.**
Must complete the following activities. These completed activities will be listed on the registration form for approval at the county level:
- Plan and conduct at least one county/district educational event (either with a team or individually)
- Plan and conduct two (one written and one oral) 4-H promotional activities (either with a team or individually) such as National 4-H Week, newspaper article, social media, civic organization presentation, radio spot, elementary school presentation
- Teen opportunities presentation
- Plan and conduct two county/district service projects (either with a team or individually)
- Complete the Idaho 4-H Leadership Project the year attending
The National 4-H Council had formed a new partnership with JOANN Fabric and Crafts. Anyone can join 4-H and JOANN in bringing impactful 4-H experiences to more kids in their local community. Here’s how:

1. Sign up for the new 4-H Reward Card. Customers can save money while “shopping with purpose” with the free 4-H Reward Card. This new 4-H Reward Card gives JOANN shoppers 15% off their total in-store and online purchases every day, and gives a minimum of 2.5% of every eligible transaction as a donation to 4-H. Click here for the link to get signed up: http://www.joann.com/4-h/

2. Support the JOANN Paper Clover Campaign.
   - Visit a local JOANN store between February 1 – February 28, 2018 and purchase a $1 or $4 Valentine’s edition of the popular Paper Clover.
   - With the $4 Paper Clover, customers will also receive a coupon for $4 off their next purchase.
   - Each Paper Clover will include instructions for a special 4-H/JOANN Valentine’s Day craft idea that customers can create to share with someone special.
   - All funds collected go directly back to the 4-H program. 30% of those funds stay with National 4-H Council, 70% go to the state 4-H program.
   - Funds from this program are unrestricted and may be used on anything to benefit the 4-H program. Fund distribution and use is at the discretion of the state.
   - Different from other paper clover campaigns the paper cloves will not be displayed.

4-H Valentine Craft Day!
Date: February 3 (this Saturday!) from 11am-2pm
Place: Your local Joann’s Fabric & Crafts store

Make Valentines for those that need their day brightened!

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2017 Herdsman Award winners!
- Trenton Flansburg – Swine
- Annah Detwiler – Cat
- Harrison Jansen van Beek – Beef
- Makayla Greany – Chicken
- Abby Butler – Rabbit
- Jude Smith – Cavy
- Heath Mays – Dairy Goat
- Tori Lebsack – Cavy
- Saydee Henning – Sheep
- Mackenzie Sawin – Pygmy Goat

Volunteer Opportunity!
The annual Mountain Home Country Music Festival is looking for volunteers July 27-30. If you or your 4-H Club are looking for volunteer activities consider partnering with Elmore County 4-H.

As a volunteer, you will receive FREE General Admission tickets to the festival, FREE camping, and FREE parking (a $400 value).

If you would like more information on how to get involved, please contact Bobbi Law, CMF Team Leader at thecrazypiglady73@gmail.com or (208) 590-1454.
The Importance of Reading Project Requirements

Kristi Mire, 4-H Program Coordinator

Every year we stress the importance of reading the project requirements, yet every year we get phone calls a week before fair wondering if projects are done correctly. The project requirements are there to guide you through completing the project. Read them completely before starting a project so you have a clear understanding of the project expectations. This will help you set goals and create a schedule to help you reach those goals.

Keep in mind that the project requirements are set by the state—counties can make stricter rules, but are not allowed to have more lenient requirements. In Ada County, our additional requirement is that each youth 4-H member completes an interview evaluation.

Once you have completed everything on the project requirements page and you’ve done your interview evaluation, your project is complete and you can enjoy displaying your project at fair! Please note: for market animal projects and breeding market animal projects the animal science lessons checklist has been modified to line up closely with the lessons. Review the skills checklist and the requirements for how to document lesson completion.

Each youth member is required to complete 5 lessons, one of which is a quality assurance lesson, and document the lessons in their activity log in their project record book. They are also required to include the skills checklist and 5 new skills they completed this year. The skills should be found in the lessons they completed (There may be more than one skill in each lesson. You can document more, but need a minimum of 5—one being quality assurance).
To Make the Best Better

4-H AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Missouri 4-H has produced a great video that shows how 4-H clubs can take an inclusive approach to working with youth who have special needs, with no set-aside or separate programs or activities. You can view the video at 4-H and Youth with Special Needs.

RESOURCES FOR KIDS’ HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- Kids and Depression https://www.usa.gov/features/kids-and-depression

2018 ADA COUNTY WEIGH-IN DATES

Beef: March 3, 2018
Treasure Valley Livestock Auction

Swine: May 10, 2018
Expo Idaho

Sheep: May 17, 2018
Expo Idaho

Goat: May 17, 2018
Expo Idaho

4-H LEADER REQUIREMENTS!

Just a reminder...all chaperones, fair supervisors, and leaders are required to watch the “Minor Protection” video annually. This video does not count as a training and is REQUIRED by the university.

BEEKEEPING ESSAY

The 2018 essay topic is "What's So Super About the Super Organism in the Honey Bee?" The honey bee continues to be on everyone’s mind. From beekeepers to scientists to the public, the honey bee is a great super organism. What does this mean to you, to your community and to the world?

Entries must be submitted via email to fourh@uidaho.edu by Feb. 15, 2018. Essays will be judged on scope of research, accuracy, creativity, conciseness and logical development of the topic.

See Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees for essay requirements and further information.

CONGRATULATIONS & CHANGE!

DIANNE HOBBS, 4-H Admin Assistant for 10 years has moved to a new position in the Ada County Extension Office. She is now the Office Coordinator and will be attending to the smooth operation of the office. The front staff will be able to answer basic questions and KRISTI MIRE will be the new go-to person for your other 4-H questions and concerns.
4-H CALENDAR

FEBRUARY
1 Leader’s meeting, 7 pm, Ada County Extension
2 Application due for Idaho Horsemanship award
3 4-H Craft Day @JOANN’S Fabrics and Craft stores
2-4 Southern District Ambassador Retreat, McCall
8 Endowment Board meeting, 7 pm
10 Livestock judging contest, Twin Falls
14 Deadline for WRLF registration w/o late fee
16 Registration deadline shooting sports trainings, Caldwell
17-19 Know Your Government (KYG), Boise
19 Office closed
20-23 Written test Idaho Horsemanship award
24 Counselor training

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! IMPORTANT 2018 DATES!

4-H Adventure Camp:
   June Kids Camp: June 21 to 24
   Teen Camp: July 9 to 13
   August Camp: August 3 to 6

Western Idaho Fair: August 17 to 26
   Fair Orientation: July 19
   Interview Evaluations: August 13 and 14
   Market Sale: August 21

Endowment Board Scholarships:
Due 30 days before the event unless otherwise noted. The scholarship forms are available at:
http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/county/ada.

OTHER EXTENSION CLASSES AND PROGRAMS

February 7 Cooking Ancient Grains Class (off-site)
February 12 Your Small Farm webinar 7-class FREE series begins (online)
February 13 Foods for a Happy, Healthy Gut (off-site)
March 30 Registration deadline for MFSA program
April 10 Master Food Safety Advisor (MFSA) Program begins
April 12 Cheesemaking Class

For information on how to register for the above classes, call 208-287-5900.