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Message from Dorothy

Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

This month, hundreds of 4-H’ers from around the state will participate in one of our five 4-H Building Leadership and Understanding (BLU) youth leadership conferences.

The annual regional youth conferences are planned and facilitated by our Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors. The ambassadors use a youth-teaching-youth approach to teach their peers about leadership and engage participants in hands-on activities, games, small group discussions, and a dance during each event. This year’s topic is called, "Find Your Element." The focus will help youth explore how they can live out the passions in their lives. The 4-H BLU conferences are one important way that we provide youth with hands-on opportunities to learn and practice leadership skills.

If you aren’t familiar with 4-H BLU, or the statewide 4-H Youth Exploring Leadership and Learning Outloud! (YELLO!) youth conference in June, I encourage you to explore these wonderful leadership opportunities for youth (and adult volunteers!)

Go to our web site at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/blu/index.html and www.4-H.umn.edu/events/yello/index.html.
Sincerely,

Dorothy M. Freeman  
Associate dean and state 4-H director

2016 Project Bowls

Check out the 4-H Project Bowl website at: www.4-h.umn.edu/events/project-bowl/ for rules, resources, and more information. Volunteers are still needed for Judge and Moderator positions. If you would like to be considered, please contact Cheryl Stephenson at cheryls@umn.edu.

Regional Bowl dates and locations are:

March 5: Foley  
March 12: Hastings  
March 19: Bemidji  
March 19: Redwood Falls  
April 2: Snow Date  
April 16: State Bowl (Sauk Rapids)

Exploring Agriculture Career Day, February 15

On Monday, February 15 (President’s Day), 4-H youth in grades 8 and up are invited to attend an exciting day at the University of Minnesota! It’s time to discover the opportunities awaiting you in the world of agriculture! From finance, advertising, teaching to engineering...these jobs and many more are waiting for future employees just like you! Come discover your interests, hear from panelists working in agriculture positions, take a short tour, enjoy a mini career fair, and learn what you should do to prepare yourself for college. There will be a college financial planning presentation at 1:30 p.m. in the North Star Ballroom. The cost for the day is $15 per participant and includes lunch. Parents are welcome to attend as well with the cost of $5 for lunch.

Check-in: 8:45 – 9 a.m.  
Location: University of Minnesota – St. Paul

Campus, North Star Ballroom - Student Center  
2017 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108

Find your inspiration, register today! See the Registration form for all details!  
Registration Deadline: Monday, February 8

We already have a Carver County 4-H volunteer who is willing to help with carpooling to campus! If you are willing to help with carpooling or would like to have your 4-H’er join a carpool, please contact Allie.

Carver County Horse Tack Swap

Join the Carver County Horse Project for their annual Tack Swap fundraiser. The Tack Swap will feature new and used horse equipment, along with other horse related items such as clothing, English and Western boots, saddles, gifts and more!

When: Saturday, February 6, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Where: Carver County Public Works Building, 11360 Highway 212 W, Cologne

Sellers and Vendors: 
We invite and welcome you to be a 4-H Tack Swap Vendor!  
Check In:  
Saturday, February 6, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.  
Check Out:  
Saturday, February 6, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Consignment fee of 15% charged to seller.

Please contact the Carver County Extension Office at 952-466-5300 or Rita Yetzer, ryetzer@co.carver.mn.us, for more information and to receive a vendor number.

The majority of sale items are expected to be horse related. Due to space constraints, non-horse related items may not be given a sale space.
Ambassadors

The February Ambassador meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 9** from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Carver County Extension Office.

2016 Market Beef and Dairy Steer Animal ID Information

For the third year, Minnesota 4-H is using its online enrollment system, 4HOnline, to record all animal identifications. 4HOnline has the capability to track animal ownership and identification data and has been used successfully in other states. Online animal identification reduces inaccuracies and inefficiencies that were a part of our past paper system. More information and a 4HOnline user guide can be found at [http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/4honline/docs/4HOnline-animal-data-entry-family-detailed.pdf](http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/4honline/docs/4HOnline-animal-data-entry-family-detailed.pdf)

The process that will be followed in 2016 is as follows:

1. 4-H Family picks up MN 4-H ear tags and tag applicator from the County Extension Office.
2. 4-H Family puts tag in animal’s ear by February 15 and completes the **Market Beef ID Worksheet** or the **Dairy Steer ID Worksheet**.
3. 4-H Family self-enters information into 4HOnline and prints entry report for personal record

**NOTE**: Data entry must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on February 16*. You will **not** be able to complete identification after that point.

If your family cannot self-enter the animal identification data, please bring completed worksheet, including signature(s) to the County Extension Office by February 16*. This worksheet will be kept on file in the Extension Office. Within one week, support staff or a designated volunteer will enter the information into your family’s 4HOnline account. After that, you may view the information in 4HOnline to check for accuracy.

**Users guides** for viewing ID’d animals in 4HOnline are available. The County Extension Office must be notified of any discrepancies by February 23.

*All market beef and dairy steers need to be identified February 15. Since Monday, February 15 is President’s Day, forms must be postmarked or submitted to the Carver County Extension Office by Tuesday, February 16.

4-H New Family Night

New to 4-H and wondering, what’s next? Join us for an informational meeting about 4-H, upcoming events and opportunities! This meeting will allow you to learn, ask questions and make connections with other new families in the Carver County 4-H Program. This meeting is geared toward parents looking to learn more about what 4-H has to offer in Carver County.

**Join us on Monday, February 22 from 7 – 8:30 p.m. at the Carver County Extension Office, Conference Room 1.**

Food Stand Committee Meeting

The Food Stand Committee is scheduled to meet on **Tuesday, February 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Carver County Extension Office**. We will be talking about 2016 bid letters, finalizing the menu and preparing information to be sent to clubs about food stand selection and expectations. This is a great way to get involved in a county-wide fundraiser and help make decisions that impact the entire county program.
Apply to be a Camp Patterson Camp Counselor!

You should be a Camp Counselor!!!

Summer will be here before you know it and it is time to think about being a 4-H Camp Counselor at Camp Patterson! If you are in ninth grade or older and want to develop your leadership skills, help campers have a great experience, make new friends from other counties, and have a whole lot of fun, then you should consider becoming a camp counselor.

People who have been camp counselors say it has been one of the best leadership experiences of their lives! The deadline to apply is February 26. Sign up today!!!

Applications can easily be submitted online this year! Apply HERE!

Camp Information:

Youth Camp: Grades 3 – 6
Session 1 – June 6 – 8: Blue Earth, Brown, Le Sueur, and Nicollet
Session 2 – June 8 – 10: Freeborn, Mower, Rice, Steele, and Waseca
Session 3 – June 13 – 15: Carver, Scott, McLeod, Sibley, and Faribault

Teen camp: Grades 6 – 8
June 15 – 17: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Nicollet, McLeod, Sibley, Carver, Scott, Freeborn, Mower, Rice, Steele, and Waseca

Federation and Advisory Board Meeting Dates

The Federation meetings serve as a way to communicate and make decisions about countywide programs that impact individual members. Meeting agendas vary month to month depending on happenings in the county and state 4-H programs. Federation meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the Extension Office every other month, unless otherwise noted in the Clover Update.

The Federation Advisory Board serves the Federation and all of its members. These are elected positions that are held by both youth and adults. The Advisory Board meets every other month at 7 p.m. at the Extension Office, when the Federation isn’t meeting.

Plan ahead! The Federation and Advisory Board meetings for the 2015-2016 year are as follows:

Federation Advisory: February 29
Federation: March 28
Federation Advisory: April 25
Federation: May 23
Federation: July 25, Carver County Fairgrounds

Clubs in attendance for January’s Federation Meeting: Busy Beavers, Gotha Go Getters and Pleasant Valley

Share the Fun: Save the Date

Share the Fun is an opportunity for club members to dance, perform a play or musical or other act. Themes are traditionally 4-H centered. Performances do not need to feature every member of a club - it could be anywhere from one member of your club to your entire club. All are welcome to perform! This is a State Fair trip earning project area!

Share the Fun will be held at the Norwood Young America High School Auditorium again this year. We encourage all participants to invite other club members, friends and families to the performance night! The dates and times for Share the Fun practice and performance on the NYA stage are as follows:

Practice: March 31 from 4 p.m. to ? (Whenever is convenient for your club)
Performance: April 1 from 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Registration forms are being distributed to Club Leaders. If this is something that interests you, please be sure to ask your club leader!
Performing Arts: Save the Date – June 4

The 2016 Performing Arts Contest is scheduled for Saturday, June 4, at the Norwood Young America High School Auditorium. Information about performing arts as well as how to register will follow.

Demonstrations and Livestock Demonstrations: Save the Date – July 18

The 2016 Demonstrations and Livestock Demonstrations are scheduled to be presented in the afternoon and evening of Monday, July 18, at the Carver County Extension Office. Information about demonstrations as well as how to register will follow.

2016 Shooting Sports & Wildlife Spring Leader Certification Training: Two Sites!

The Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports and Wildlife Program Development Committee invites you to attend the 4-H Shooting Sports and Wildlife Leader Certification! The committee recommends that leaders attend the entire certification weekend every five years. Now is your chance to attend!

The training is designed for adults and youth (9th grade and older) that lead or would like to lead training in shooting sports or wildlife. Classes will be offered in the disciplines of coordinator, archery, rifle/pistol, shotgun, muzzleloading, and wildlife. This training meets the 4-H project leaders’ requirements for certification and recertification. Although there is range time allocated in the schedule, the majority of the training is classroom work to become an effective instructor, not to practice your own shooting skills.

April 23 – 24
St. Mary’s Church and Kanabec County Gun Club, Mora.

April 23 – 24
Worthington Regional Office, Worthington

Registration materials can be found at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-certification/. Deadline to register is April 8. Disciplines fill quickly, so make sure registration forms are sent in early!

Are You Looking for Work Experience in the Youth Development Field?

This year, we are offering 54 county-based 4-H summer intern positions throughout the state of Minnesota. Internships will provide an excellent opportunity to learn more about University of Minnesota Extension and explore job opportunities in 4-H Youth Development. Most positions will be for ten or eleven weeks, with flexible starting dates.

Candidates must have a high school diploma, and at least two years of undergraduate study is preferred. Candidates must apply on-line through the University of Minnesota job site. The application materials will include a standard application, resume, cover letter, list of three references and a college transcript. The summer intern positions are posted at www.extension.umn.edu/about/employment/. The application deadline is February 15.

For more information, please contact Michele VanDyke at mvandyke@umn.edu.
M4-HAVA 2016 Annual Conference

Please consider attending the 31st annual Minnesota 4-H Adult Volunteer Association Conference being held **March 17-19** at the Bigwood Event Center/Best Western Inn in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. This year’s theme is Keen, Green, and Lean in 2016.

The M4-HAVA Conference is a great place for volunteers to learn about what is happening throughout the state and new trends going on in 4-H. You will meet other volunteers who are really excited about 4-H, leave with an arsenal of new activities and ideas from the 32 workshops offered to take back and share with your clubs and counties, and recognize outstanding volunteers and clubs during the annual banquet.

For more information on registration for the 2016 M4-HAVA Conference, Blue Ribbon Awards, and Membership visit [www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/m4-hava/](http://www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/m4-hava/).

Judging 4-H Exhibits at Minnesota County Fairs

Minnesota 4-H depends on the skills, talents and dedication of hundreds of adults who judge 4-H projects at county fairs across Minnesota. In support of 4-H judges, Minnesota 4-H offers online training, toolkit resources and more. To learn more, or if interested in becoming a 4-H judge, visit [www.4-H.umn.edu/county-fair/judges/](http://www.4-H.umn.edu/county-fair/judges/).

2016 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge: Crush and Recycle a Can!

The 2016 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge is to create a machine that will crush an empty aluminum soft drink can and put it into a recycling container!

The third annual challenge asks teams of youth to design overly complex contraptions that accomplish this year’s designated task using everyday items that interact in a series of chain-reactions. Teams compete in contests at their county fair, and then will be eligible to compete at the Minnesota State Fair.

Teams are encouraged to register by **May 15** and get started on their machines!

To learn more about the 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge and how to register, go to: [www.4-h.umn.edu/events/engineering-design-challenge/index.html](http://www.4-h.umn.edu/events/engineering-design-challenge/index.html).

**NOTE:** No paper registration this year. Team leaders, members and youth coaches will sign up through 4HOnline accounts. Adult volunteer leaders must register before their team members can register.

What Do Minnesota 4-H First-Year Member Parents Have to Say?

In October 2015, the first-year member parent survey was administered to parents of new members in the 2014-2015 program year. We do this survey annually to learn more about the experiences of our families new to the 4-H program. This survey asks parents to give feedback on items such as how welcoming their experience was, if their child had opportunities for learning, and if policies were challenging.

What did we learn this year?

- Overall parents and youth feel welcomed into the program.
- A quarter of parents felt that enrollment and membership policies were challenging.
- 94% of parents said the topics their child worked on were of interest to them.
• 80% of parents agreed that their child became really good at something they worked on.
• We have a large number of youth who are experiencing 4-H for the first time in their family. Over 45% of our survey respondents had never had exposure to the 4-H program in their family history.

Currently teams of educators are looking at this information and thinking about how we can improve the 4-H program to help all our members.

Thank you first year member parents for responding to this survey!

2016 Livestock Documents Updated and Posted Online

The 4-H AnSci Updates for 2016 are available online, along with species information sheets, ID worksheets, lease forms, and show requirements. For more information, visit [http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/animal-ID/](http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/animal-ID/). Please make sure your members and volunteers look at these pages for important information. Each species has a tab (Beef, Dairy, Dog, Dairy Goat, Meat Goat, Horse, Lama, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep, and Swine.)

Lama Compost Available for Purchase

Carlson Lloveable Llama farm has, through the help of a Carver County grant, created a self-serve compost station sourced from lama manure!

The top reasons to use Llama compost for your fertilizing needs are:
• High nutrient value (1.7% Nitrogen, .69% Phosphorus, .66% Potassium)
• Low odor
• Does not burn plants. You can plant directly into it.
• You can spread the compost over the whole garden area or fertilize directly onto the plants.
• Inexpensive
• Supports the 4-H Llama Project Fundraiser. 4-H'ers are monitoring pens and pastures for the manure collection.

The self-serve area is located at Carlson’s Lloveable Llama Farm, 8380 County Road 10, Waconia, MN 55387. The compost area is located west of the home site on Nelson’s Cartway.

Procedure:
• 5-gallon buckets are provided, or you may bring your own.
• Use the provided shovel to fill the pail. Re-use pail for future compost needs.
• Deposit money (cash) into the money box provided. Cost is $5 per 5-gallon pail or $1 per estimated gallon amount.
• This is a Llama manure compost pile only.

4-H Camps: Save the Dates

The following are the 4-H camp offerings and their scheduled dates. Mark your calendars now; registrations to follow.

Youth: Grades 3 – 6, June 13 – 15
Resident Camp at Camp Patterson
Teen: Grades 6 – 8, June 15 – 17
Resident Camp at Camp Patterson
Minnewashta Day Camp: June 21 – 23
Minnewashta Lumber Jack & Jill Camp: June 24
Baylor Day Camp: June 28 – 30
Baylor Lumber Jack & Jill Camp: July 1

Calendar

FEBRUARY

1 Project Bowl Registration Forms Due
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Helping Hands Grant Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Registration Materials Available Online for 4-H Shooting Sports &amp; Wildlife Certification Training</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Carver County Horse Tack Swap, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Carver County Public Works Building</td>
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<td>6-7</td>
<td>BLU at St. Cloud Holiday Inn and Suites</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Exploring Agriculture Career Day Registration Due</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Ambassador Meeting, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Carver County Extension Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Northern Minnesota 5th Annual 4-H Project Bowl Invitational</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Exploring Agriculture Career Day on Campus, 8:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Application Deadline for 4-H Summer Intern Positions</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Youth Application Deadline for State 4-H Beef Committee</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Market Beef and Dairy Steer Animal ID Deadline</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Registration Materials Available Online for Summer 2016 Citizenship Washington Focus</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>4-H New Family Night, 7 – 8:30 p.m., Carver County Extension Office, Conference Room 1</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Food Stand Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Carver County Extension Office</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Application Deadline to Apply for Camp Patterson Counselor Positions</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Federation Advisory Meeting, 7 p.m., Carver County Extension Office,</td>
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<td>MARCH</td>
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<td>Regional Project Bowl, Foley</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Regional Project Bowl, Hastings</td>
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<td>17-19</td>
<td>M4-HAVA 2016 Annual Conference, Fergus Falls</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Regional Project Bowl, Bemidji</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Regional Project Bowl, Redwood Falls</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Federation Meeting, 7 p.m., Carver County Extension Office,</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>2016 Youth Day at the Capitol</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Share the Fun Practice Session, 4 p.m., Norwood Young America High School Auditorium</td>
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<td>APRIL</td>
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<td>Share the Fun Performance, 7 – 8:30 p.m., Norwood Young America High School Auditorium</td>
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<td>Regional Project Bowl, Snow date</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Livestock PDC Training Webinar</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Deadline to Register for Shooting Sports &amp; Wildlife Leader Certification Training</td>
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<td>9-14</td>
<td>National 4-H Conference, Washington, D.C.</td>
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<td>State Project Bowl, Sauk Rapids</td>
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<td>4-H Shooting Sports &amp; Wildlife Leader Certification Training, Mora and Worthington</td>
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<td>Federation Advisory Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Carver County Extension Office</td>
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<td>Dairy Animal ID Deadline</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>2016 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge Registration Due</td>
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<td>Federation Meeting, 7 p.m., Carver County Extension Office,</td>
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<td><strong>JUNE</strong></td>
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<td>2016 Performing Arts Contest, Norwood Young America High School</td>
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<td>Auditorium</td>
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<td>13-15</td>
<td>Youth Camp, Grades 3 – 6, Resident Camp, Camp Patterson</td>
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<td>15-17</td>
<td>Teen Camp, Grades 6 – 8, Resident Camp, Camp Patterson</td>
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<td>21-23</td>
<td>Minnewashta Day Camp</td>
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<td>Minnewashta Lumber Jack &amp; Jill Camp</td>
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<td>28-30</td>
<td>Baylor Day Camp</td>
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<td><strong>JULY</strong></td>
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<td>Baylor Lumber Jack &amp; Jill Camp</td>
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<td>Citizenship Washington Focus</td>
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<td>Extension Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Federation Meeting, Carver County Fair Grounds</td>
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