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Calendar

AUGUST

3  Itasca 4-H Demonstration Event, Fairgrounds Bldg clean-up, & Federation meeting
6  Itasca 4-H Dog Fun Show
13  Itasca County Fair Dog Show
19-23  Itasca County Fair
26-30  State Fair Livestock Encampment
27 - Sept. 7  Minnesota State Fair

SEPTEMBER

2-4  State Fair Lama Encampment
3-5  Itasca’s State Fair General Encampment
11-13  Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational
14  Itasca 4-H Federation Meeting
18-21  Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show
19-20  4-H NE Livestock Show
26-27  Minnesota 4-H State Dog Show

Message from Dorothy

Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

It is fair season again, and I know many of you are preparing to participate in 4-H at your county fairs this summer. I know you, like I, enjoy seeing the wonderful accomplishments of our youth.

For the third year, we will be live-streaming some of our 4-H events at the Minnesota State Fair!

Our goal is to provide a way for 4-H families and friends who are unable to come to the fair to see some of the 4-H fun from home. The livestream is provided on the internet, so you can watch from computers, laptops, smart phones or any mobile device with internet service.

We’re live-streaming three 4-H events at the fair this year: the 4-H Lama Costume Competition, 4-H Dairy and Market Goat Show, and a 4-H State Arts-In performance.

The 2015 4-H at the Minnesota State Fair live-streaming schedule is:

- **Wednesday, Aug. 26, 6-7 p.m.**: 4-H Lama Costume Competition
- **Friday, Aug. 28, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.**: 4-H Dairy and Market Goat Show
- **Monday, Aug. 25, 5-5:30 p.m.**: 4-H State Arts-In performance

Watch the shows live here: [4-H.umn.edu/state-fair/4-h-live-cam/](http://4-H.umn.edu/state-fair/4-h-live-cam/)

A recording will be available on the 4-H State Arts-In, llama, and goat project pages of the Minnesota 4-H web site after the fair.

I hope those of you who can’t join us in person enjoy seeing some of our wonderful 4-H’ers who are sharing their learning and accomplishments at the Minnesota State Fair this year!

Sincerely,

*Dorothy M. Freeman*
*Associate Dean and State 4-H Director*
4-H scholarship opportunities

High school seniors and college students -- check out the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association Scholarship (MLBA) and Minnesota State Fair Scholarship Program (formally known as Hallberg Scholarship) opportunities at www.extension.umn.edu/youth/scholarships/.

We Need your VOTE to approve the NEW Itasca County 4-H Federation Constitution/By-Law Changes!

When: Monday, August 3
Where: 4-H Building, Fairgrounds
Time: 7:00pm

All Minnesota 4-H Organizations are covered under a federal Group Exemption Number (GEN) that was granted to the Regents of the University of Minnesota by the IRS in August 2013. This group exemption status allows Minnesota 4-H federations/councils who have been successfully chartered the authority to use the 4-H name and emblem and to operate as a tax exempt organization which can accept donations and carry out fundraising activities as a non-profit. As a part of the commitment Minnesota 4-H made to secure the GEN, all 4-H Federations/Councils must, by law, adopt and operate under this model constitution/by-laws.

A sub-committee consisting of youth and adult volunteers from Itasca County 4-H worked diligently to make the new changes. All of the changes have met the guidelines laid out by Minnesota 4-H and it is time for the new documents to be presented and voted on for approval by the Federation.

The new Constitution, Bylaws, and Operating Procedures were presented at the July 6 Federation meeting for review. They are also posted on our Itasca County 4-H website: http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/itasca/4-h/downloads/page/1

We are asking all 4-H members of Itasca County 4-H to attend the meeting on Monday, Aug. 3 as they will be presented and voted on at this time.

If you would like to request a printed copy of the proposed information, or have any questions, please contact Robbie Radaich, Itasca, County 4-H Program Coordinator at 327-2801 or radai002@umn.edu

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Date Change for September Federation Meeting:
Meeting is Monday, Sept. 14

Monday, Sept. 14, 7:00 pm, Courthouse

Due to the September 1 Labor Day Holiday, the Itasca County 4-H Federation meeting will be held on Monday, September 14. The Federation meeting will be held at 7:00 pm at the Courthouse.

The meeting will focus on reflecting on this past year so we can make plans to get the new project year off in a fresh direction. The 2015-16 project year begins October 1. Each club should try to have at least one adult and one youth attend the meeting.

There will not be a Project Fun Hour in September.
Interested in LEGO Robotics?
We are Gearing Up NOW!

If you are excited about technology, interested in science, and love working with LEGOs, we have an opportunity for you!

First LEGO League offers an opportunity for teams of youth in grades 4 - 9 to work together building LEGO robots to solve missions, and creating innovative solutions to a themed problem. Teams begin their work in September or October. A tournament is held in early December.

Our 4-H program wants to make LEGO Robotics teams available to interested members who will be in grades 4-9 in the fall of 2015. **Team registrations sell out fast.** To make sure we secure enough team registrations, we need to know your interest now. **Please contact your 4-H office soon if you would like to be a part of a 2015 4-H Robotics Team.** There is a $20 project fee per member to help with increasing costs.

4-H Adult volunteer coaches and teen mentors are needed to guide the teams. Coaches do NOT need any technical experience. In FLL, the youth do the work. **A special 4-H training will be offered on Sept.12 to provide support for our coaches.** It is a fun and rewarding position. Let your 4-H office know if you would consider being a 4-H coach or teen mentor. We have members who need you!

**The 2015 Challenge:** We’re not talking trash – we’re cleaning it up! In the 2015 FIRST® LEGO® League TRASH TREKSM Challenge, we will explore the fascinating world of trash. From collection, to sorting, to smart production and reuse, there is more to your trash than meets the eye. **Join FIRST LEGO League teams on a Trash Trek to discover the hidden (or not so hidden) world of trash!**

See more at:
http://www.firstlegoleague.org/challenge/2015trashTrek#sthash.y2GePPfM.dpuf

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**4-H Pre-Paid Food Booth Cards**

Pre-paid cards can make things easier for families during the Itasca County Fair. These cards can be kept on file at the 4-H Food Booth, or given to family members. Selling for $25 each, customers listed will get their cards punched for the dollar value of their food order.

Cards are available for purchase from the 4-H Food Booth during County Fair.

One need NOT be a 4-H member to purchase a card!

**Thanks for helping at the 4-H Food Booth during Car Show**

Thanks for answering our shout-out for help at our Food Booth during the Car Show week-end. Luann said she had great crews that took the heat with minimal complaint. Appreciate the effort!

If you are able to help during fair, too, that would be great!

**4-H Food Booth Needs YOUR Help During County Fair**

**County Fair: August 19-23**

**Call the 4-H office to sign up: 327-7486 or 327-2801**

Working at the 4-H Food Booth is FUN! And it makes our program possible.

Workshops, supplies, scholarships, and club support are all possible because of the funds we raise by operating our 4-H Food Booth during the Car Show and Itasca County Fair.

All members are expected to work a minimum of 4 hours, 2 for Cloverbuds. Adult help is needed, too!
Remember, a special award is presented to the 4-H Club with the highest % participation. Parents, friends, and relatives are all given credit for working on behalf of your club!

Call the 4-H office and talk to Jen to sign up: 327-2801.

**4-H Horse & Livestock Exhibitors – Take Note!**

All 4-H **horses** and **livestock** animals must be checked in and verified with Jen or Robbie once they are stalled or caged on Wednesday or Thursday of the Fair.

Animals must match the 4-H ID information on file.

**Livestock Skill-a-Thons** will replace interviews this year. Report to the 4-H exhibit building between 3-6pm, Wednesday, Aug. 19, to participate in the activity for each 4-H livestock species you are showing.

**This must be done to receive a blue ribbon in the 4-H show ring classes for beef, goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep, & swine.**

**YOUR Horse & Livestock Posters Needed**

All 4-H youth involved in any of the horse and livestock project areas are strongly encouraged to create posters to be displayed in the various barns during the Itasca County Fair. These posters should focus on education about Animal Agriculture and be of interest to fair-goers. Topics like breed information, meat, healthy & humane livestock practices, etc. would all work.

These posters will help us fulfill the terms of grant monies we are receiving from the Arrowhead Farm Bureau to fund our 4-H Supreme Showmanship event.

Horse posters may be entered in the Horse Related 4-H class, and livestock posters may be entered in the **Exploring Animals** 4-H Class, which is open to all members in the different livestock species project areas. These entries may be eligible for a State Fair Trip. The displays will then be moved to the different barns to be displayed during the fair.

The hope is that all Horse and Livestock Project youth will create these posters which will allow us to comply with the grant. It also fulfills the mission learned in Livestock Quality Assurance & Ethics - that 4-H'ers in Livestock projects are positive Animal Agriculture Ambassadors.

**New Point System to Determine State Horse Show Trips**

Itasca 4-H Horse PDC voted to use the State 4-H recommended point system to determine State Horse Show trips beginning this year. Adoption is mandatory for next year. The new system is similar to our previous one.

Each county is allotted a quota of trips for general horse show classes and a separate quota for the training program. This year Itasca 4-H has 6 general trips and 1 training trip. Participants must have completed grade 6 and up.

Points will be distributed using a 6 point system, only those in the blue group are eligible for points: 1\textsuperscript{st} place – 6 points, 2\textsuperscript{nd} – 5, 3\textsuperscript{rd} – 4, 4\textsuperscript{th} – 3, 5\textsuperscript{th} – 3, 6\textsuperscript{th} – 1.

Points will be totaled per horse/rider combination in two categories: Performance and Games.

• **Classes in the Performance Category:** Showmanship*, Western Pleasure-stock type, Western Pleasure-pleasure type, English Pleasure, English Equitation, Trail.
Classes in the **Games Category**: Showmanship*, Barrels, Poles, Keyhole, Jumping Figure 8.

* Showmanship is a mandatory class so is counted in both categories.

State Horse Show trips will be allocated based on the percentages of participants in each category, including riders in grades 3-13.

If you qualify in both categories, they will be assigned the trip they ranked highest in.

Ties will be broken in this order, moving from step one on if tie persists:

1. Person with most 1st places
2. Person with most 2nd places
3. Person with most 3rd places
4. Draw name from a hat.

Unused Performance or Games trips would be offered to the other category to fill our county quota.

**Minnesota 4-H Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics (LQA&E) Policy**

All youth participating as a NE Livestock Show or State Fair 4-H livestock exhibitor in beef, dairy, sheep, swine, poultry, rabbits, meat and dairy goat and lama must have completed the Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics Workshop. Certification is required prior to the county fair qualifying show and is good for three fair seasons. The level of training required is determined by the grade of the youth at the time the training takes place.

**4-H Supreme Showmanship Contest at County Fair**

The *Nicole Calgaro* 4-H Supreme Showmanship Competition will be held on **Sunday, Aug. 23, 1:00 pm** at the livestock arena.

The showmanship winners in all 3 age groups of horse, beef, dairy, dairy goat, meat goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep, & swine classes will compete in a round robin showmanship event. All participants receive a t-shirt and there are special awards for the age group winners.

A participation chart will be posted on the **beef barn outer door as the species shows are completed**. Eligible youth must confirm their participation with 4-H staff as soon as possible.

### 81st Annual NE 4-H Livestock Show

**September 19 & 20, Brainerd**

**What is the NE 4-H Livestock Show?** An opportunity for 4-H'ers in northeast Minnesota to have another chance to exhibit their livestock project, learn, and have fun with other 4-H'ers with similar interests.

**Who can participate in the NE 4-H Livestock show?** 4-H Youth who earned a blue ribbon with their livestock exhibit at their County Fair to qualify for the NE Show, completed 3rd grade and is current in their LQA&E certification. NOTE: 4-H'er may NOT exhibit the same animal or poultry lot at the State Fair.

**What do we do?**

- Saturday-showmanship for rabbit, poultry, beef, sheep and swine and educational activities for all specie exhibitors. Fun evening group event like swimming; youth stay together in a hotel.
- Sunday-beef, sheep and swine shows; meat goat, poultry and rabbit shows and meat goat showmanship, dinner and awards program.

Project exhibits that are eligible to participate in the show include: beef, sheep, swine, poultry, rabbit, & meat goats.

Registration materials will be available at your county fair from your County Extension staff.
4-H Records Recognition Event

Right after fair is the best time to finish up your 4-H records so you can submit them by the November 3 Federation meeting for our Records Recognition event to be awarded at the Nov. 18 Recognition Banquet.

Record forms can be found online at the www.4-H.umn.edu site or from the 4-H office.

4-H alumni at the Minnesota State Fair

Do you plan on visiting the state fair this summer? The Minnesota 4-H alumni & friends community is looking for alumni who can volunteer a few hours during the fair. Volunteers who fill a 3-hour shift in either the 4-H building or the 4-H livestock areas will receive a complimentary gate ticket and alumni t-shirt (must be 19 years or older). To learn more, visit z.umn.edu/4Halumni. We’d love to see you there!

Get the app! 4-H at the Minnesota State Fair

If you have a smart phone and you’re going to the state fair, you should download our free app! It combines all of our state fair communications into one place:

- Judging results
- Public schedule
- Interactive map
- Livestock shows and general projects announcements in real time – switch on the alerts function, and you won’t even need to open the app!
  - MN4HBeef
  - MN4HDairy
  - NEW: MN4HSheep

- MN4HAnnounce for all other projects

State fair winners and families, volunteers, staff and all fairgoers interested in 4-H will find it useful. Download it from the iTunes or Google Play store.

If you don’t have a smart phone, you can receive these messages on your cell phone by texting “Follow MN4HAnnounce” to 40404. Text “STOP” when you want them to stop. These accounts are active during the state fair.

To join a conversation about 4-H, use the Twitter app and follow MN4H.

General & livestock demonstrations

$30 awards will be given to all 4-Hers who complete a 4-H demonstration during general encampment and livestock encampment. This includes livestock & general encampment, illustrated talks, and Youth in Action presentations.

New in 2015! 4-Hers doing Avian Flu demonstrations at the county fair will receive a $30 cash incentive. This includes 4-Hers who are not yet state fair eligible. There will be an additional $50 award for Avian Flu demonstrations at the state fair!

For the livestock demonstration:

- Each county is allowed one additional state fair livestock trip for a livestock demonstration exhibitor.
- All livestock demonstrations must incorporate a live animal into the demonstration.
- The 4-Her must demonstrate on livestock weekend and can also participate in all other species activities (show, interviews, showmanship).
- Counties may add one additional state fair trip in the species area of the demonstration.
EquiMania

Do you love being around people at the state fair? Want a free ticket and a cool t-shirt? Volunteer for two hours at the award-winning EquiMania! exhibit in the horse barn. Horse knowledge is not required - the exhibit activities are easy and fun for guests. EquiMania is a great opportunity for families, friends, 4-H clubs, small group and individuals to participate at the fair and have a great time doing it! The Minnesota State Fair is just around the corner...and is very much in need of volunteers for this year’s fair! Please consider volunteering for a short two hour shift! We welcome all volunteers, so please be sure to share this fantastic opportunity with your friends, families, and colleagues!

Email us at Equimania@mnstatefair.org or call 651-288-4480 today! More info at mnstatefair.org

Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show

Mark your calendar: The annual Minnesota 4-H Horse Show will be held September 18-21, 2015. Watch the Minnesota 4-H horse website for more information at www.4-H.umn.edu/projects/animal-science/horse.

Minnesota 4-H Dog Show

Mark your calendar: The Minnesota 4-H Dog Show will be held September 26-27, 2015. Watch the Minnesota 4-H dog website for more details at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/state-dog-show.html.

Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational Sept. 11-13

The 2015 Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational will be held in Douglas County (Alexandria) Sept. 11-13. 4-H members who are involved in their county 4-H Shooting Sports and Wildlife Program will participate in a variety of events such as BB gun, archery, air rifle, air pistol, trap, .22 rifle, black powder and wildlife events. In order to participate, members must work with a certified 4-H instructor and complete 15 hours of training in a discipline and 8 hours of wildlife education.

The state 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational is a great way to demonstrate the skills learned in a safe environment. Come to the Alexandria Shooting Park (located on Interstate 94 – Alexandria exit 103) Sept. 11-13 to see the 4-H members in action. To learn more about the 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Program, or to see the rules and registration information, contact your Extension office or visit the website at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-invitational/. Registrations will be due to your county Extension office on Monday, July 20 or a date pre-determined by your county.

SS&W Ambassador Program seeking applications for new Ambassadors!

The Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador Program is a leadership opportunity for youth leaders, grades 9-13, to promote and enhance Minnesota 4-H shooting sports. Ambassadors positively represent the Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Program at state, regional, and local levels. Youth must be starting grade 9-13 in the fall and be able to attend the October 3-4 training in Perham.
Program information, application, and reference forms can be found at: 4-H.umn.edu/projects/shooting-sports/shooting-sports/

Applications for new Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassadors are due August 24, 2015.

**Fall 2015 Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification Training**

The Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Program Development Committee invites you to attend a 4-H Shooting Sports & 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 (grade nine 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.

The training will take place October 3-4, 2015 at the Perham Middle School and Fort Thunder Gun Club in Perham.

Registration materials are available at 4-H.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-certification/. The deadline to register is September 18, 2015. Disciplines fill quickly, so make sure registration forms are sent in early!

**4-H volunteer corner**

**4-H chaperones and the Minnesota State Fair**

In the Minnesota 4-H program the state fair is recognized as the grand finale of the summer. Each year “The Great Minnesota Get-Together” provides over 6,500 4-H members with the opportunity to showcase their projects at the state level. This would not be possible without 4-H chaperones. Serving as a 4-H chaperone is an important responsibility. Prior to chaperoning any 4-H program, including the state fair, training is required. The training modules cover roles, expectations and best practices to help ensure youth have a quality educational experience. Serving as chaperones provides a valuable service and enables caring adults the opportunity to positively shape the life experiences of many young people.

The online training, 4-H chaperone policies: A guide for 4-H adult chaperones, found at 4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training/, offers valuable information to help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for the youth and the adult chaperones.

**4-H Volunteer Training 24/7**

4-H has a comprehensive and multi-format system of training and support for the thousands of volunteers who deliver 4-H youth development programs to young people across the state. Much of that training is provided face-to-face. But we know that providing some training opportunities online will help our volunteers more easily access the training and resources they need, when they need it. Minnesota 4-H offers a series of dynamic, interactive 30-minute online training modules to help volunteers build their skills and knowledge from home at any time of the day or night. Check out current online volunteer training topics:

- Creating a welcoming, engaging and encouraging environment for youth
- The 4-H learning environment
• 4-H project leaders: Where the action starts!
• Managing 4-H clubs: A guide for 4-H club leaders
• 4-H financial management
• Ensuring a safe 4-H environment
• Chaperone training
• Keeping youth in 4-H

Training modules for individual viewing can be accessed through any adult volunteer account on [www.4honline.com/](http://www.4honline.com/). A detailed user guide is available at [www.4-h.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training](http://www.4-h.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training). We’re striving for 25% of Minnesota 4-H volunteers to complete at least one online volunteer training module by September 30, 2015. Which one will you try?