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Calendar

JULY
1  Safety of Minors training completion deadline for all MN 4-H volunteers
2  Ambassador Club meeting at the Proctor Fairgrounds
2  Food Stand clean-up in the Industrial Building at the Proctor Fairgrounds
7-12 South St. Louis County Fair at the Proctor Fairgrounds
16 South St. Louis County deadline for registering projects for the Fair
20 Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational registrations due to county Extension offices

AUGUST
27 - Sept. 7  Minnesota State Fair

SEPTEMBER
11-13 Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational

Message from Your 4-H Program Coordinator

It’s Fair Time! After waiting all year and preparing awesome projects and great animals, it is finally time to show everyone your efforts and win well-deserved ribbons. I am so excited to meet everyone and celebrate your accomplishments! What else does fair time mean? Eating ice cream and watermelon, riding fun carnival rides, hanging out with friends and connecting with all the other 4H’ers that you rarely get to see. I hope everyone is looking forward to it as much as I am! See you there.

See you at the fair!

Tim Caines, SSLC 4-H Program Coordinator

County Fair Schedule

Tuesday, July 7
3 to 7 p.m. General Project Entry Day and exhibit judging in the Industrial Building

Wednesday, July 8
12-6 p.m. Animal Check-in at the barns

Thursday, July 9
8-9:15 a.m. Beef and Dairy Show
10 a.m.-12 p.m. Sheep and Swine Show
10 a.m.-6 p.m. State Qualifying Horse Show

Friday, July 10
8-10 a.m. Goat Show
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Horse Costume Contest
1 p.m. Horse Music-in-Motion Contest
2-5 p.m. Horse Gaming Show
1-6 p.m. Poultry Show (no live birds)
3 p.m. Pet Show near outdoor stage

Saturday, July 11
8-11 a.m. Rabbit Judging,
11 a.m. Performing Arts on the outdoor stage
11 a.m. Fashion Review on the outdoor stage
1 p.m. Food Review and Demonstration Contest in the Industrial Building
1-4 p.m. Creative Club Showcase near the Industrial Building

TBD Livestock and Horse Demonstrations and Group Presentations

Sunday, July 12
TBD Livestock and Horse Demonstrations and Group Presentations
3:30 p.m. State Fair trip meeting in the hockey arena
5:30 p.m. Awards Ceremony and After Fair Party on the outdoor stage and Industrial Building
6:00 p.m. Exhibits released
Fair Confirmation Packets

Confirmation packets were sent out on June 22. If you did not receive a packet please contact the 4-H office.

Late Fair Registration

If you have not registered it is not too late. We would love to see all our 4-H'ers at the Fair! 4-H members can still register online or send in the paper form. Late registrants will need to use their one time exemption for certain privileges such as State Fair trips or champion ribbon awards (see the Fair Guide for more info) but can participate fully in all events and activities and will still earn premiums.

You can register for the Fair online at:


SSL County Fair Guide

Find all (or most) of your Fair info in one handy place. The 4-H Guide to the South St. Louis County Fair (Fair Guide) is posted online at:


If you would like a hard copy, please stop in to the 4-H office to pick one up.

Judge’s Assistants on Entry Day

This year we are asking 2-3 4-H members from each club to volunteer as judge’s assistants on Entry on Tuesday, July 7th. We would prefer that they are aged 10 or up. Judge’s assistants are important in speeding up the judging process for everyone on Entry Day. They make the judges feel welcome and less stressed. We will have a short judge’s assistant training before judging begins on Tuesday.

Creative Club Round-up

Saturday, July 11, 1-4 p.m.

If your club is interested in sharing their accomplishments with members of the public they can do that at the Fair! It’s an opportunity for clubs to show what they are all about. Prepare a display, short presentation, or other interactive materials to be available at table in front of the Industrial Building. If possible, be present at your table to answer questions or make a presentation. Please call Tim or Stacey or let us know on entry day so we can have a table ready for you on Saturday.

Performing Arts, Demonstration, and Food & Fashion Reviews

Saturday, July 11

We should have an exciting Showcase Saturday at the Fair. There are many 4-H’ers signed up to participate in Food and Fashion Review, Performing Arts, and Demonstration Contest and we are excited to see their talent and creativity.

Here are the scheduled events:

- 11:00 a.m. Performing Arts & Share the Fun
- 11:00 a.m. Fashion Review Show
- 1:00 p.m. Food Review & Demonstration Contest

Participants in the above projects will sign-up for judging slots ahead of time to prevent long waits and allow them to participate in more than one Saturday event. More details will be sent after the June 16th registration deadline to 4-H’ers who register for these projects.

We encourage all 4-H families to come and watch the fashion and performing arts show and come try a few of the tasty Food Review samples before they disappear!
Photography Projects

The Photography Project area is one of the most popular at our Fair. We love to display photos in the best way possible so when you bring photos to the Fair please follow these guidelines: single photos should be 5” x 7” or 8” x 10”; photos in a series should be 4” x 6”. All photos should be mounted on a matte made of cardstock, poster board, or heavier weight paper. We'll be using clips to hang items so keep that in mind before using something you wouldn't want marked by the clips. If you are altering/enhancing your photo in any way make sure you attach an unaltered 4” x 6” photo on the back of the matte. For safety’s sake please don’t put your photos in frames or use glass. We are looking forward to seeing all your fabulous photos!

Horse Project Reminders

- Stalls in the horse barn will be chosen at the June 29th mini-clinic at the DFA. The theme for the horse barn this year is “Favorite Superhero.” Individual stalls can be decorated accordingly. All horse project members are invited to decorate the barn after general exhibit judging on July 7th.
- Please make sure to turn in your Coggins at the first open ride you attend or when you arrive for Fair check-in on Wednesday, June 8th.
- Due prior to show on Thursday, July 9. We encourage you to bring your horse records in on Tuesday during general exhibit Entry Day or

South St. Louis County Fair Poultry Plan

This year has been a challenging one for youth hoping to show poultry at the fair due to the avian flu outbreak. The State Fair Poultry Committee has come together to offer the following alternative for this year’s fairs:

In South St. Louis County Youth bringing a qualifying poultry project to County Fair should plan to participate in **ALL** of the following:

- Bring a Poultry exhibit (no live birds) to the Fair (examples listed below)
- Participate in poultry showmanship
- Complete an interview (see below)

Carnival Ride Wristbands

On sale now until noon on July 8

Our fair board sells mega wristbands for carnival rides before the Fair starts. Mega wristbands are $30 and cover rides for every day of the Fair. You can also purchase a $15 daily wristband (1-5 pm access to rides) and $15 ticket packs.

Please note: SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED AND WRISTBANDS MUST BE PURCHASED BEFORE NOON ON JULY 8. For more info call the Fair office at 628-2401. And remember--4-H youth members get free access to the fairgrounds if they are wearing their 4-H wristband. Make sure you get your 4-H wristband on Entry Day, Tuesday, July 7.

Be a Big Help at the Fair

4-H members and their families can volunteer for many fun jobs before and during the Fair.

These include: Office Assistant during the week before Fair, judge's assistants, helpers at the Horse Show, Pet Show, 4-H Showcase, or Awards Ceremony and more. To sign-up for a volunteer shift go to: [http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a44aad28a20-beabig](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a44aad28a20-beabig)

Food Stand Shifts

All 4-H members who participate at the County Fair are asked to fill at least one 2 1/2 hour Food Stand shift. Food Stand revenue helps pay for all the
events and activities for 4-H families at the County Fair.

4-H members that plan to participate in the State Fair can earn a $50 voucher by working 5 hours in the Food Stand. These older members are welcome to work a full 5 hour shift if their Club signs up for two consecutive shifts, if they sign-up for a shift outside of their club's shift, or if they are independent members.

4-H Clubs are asked to sign up for two short shifts rather than one longer shift. They can be consecutive but please use your good judgement when planning for younger 4-H'ers to work any longer than 2-3 hours. This was done in response to many requests, considering that it can be hard for younger 4-H'ers to work 5 hours in a row. It is first come, first served for shift times so email or call me as soon as possible.

Please note: Clubs with many horse members should not sign-up for shifts on Thursday or Friday. Clubs with many members in Saturday Showcase activities should also make sure they have enough members to cover shifts on this very busy day before signing up for a Saturday spot. Thank you for your assistance on this.

Participation in the above requirements will best prepare youth for the State Fair experience.

A letter detailing the poultry plan was included in the Fair confirmation packets of 4-H members who signed up to exhibit poultry at the Fair.

If you need additional info please contact the 4-H office.

State Fair

Livestock encampment is Aug. 27-30

General Encampment is September 3-5

State Horse Show is September 18-21

State Dog Show is September 26-27

4-H members who have earned a blue, grand, or reserve ribbon at the County Fair have the opportunity to take one blue ribbon project to the State Fair. 4-H calls this “winning a State Fair trip.” The number of trips is determined by how many 4-H members participate in a project area in our county. Winners must plan on attending the State Fair with their exhibit. 4-H members have the option of staying in the dormitory during our county’s encampment or attending just for the day of judging designated for their project area. State Fair participants must have completed 6th grade. More information regarding State Fair is available in the Fair Guide and during the County Fair.

Youth interested in bringing a livestock project to the Fair need to provide their own transportation or coordinate with other youth attending to carpool. Animals must accompany the exhibitor to the Fair and the youth will be in charge of caring for the animal during the entire livestock encampment.

On the Sunday of the County Fair (3:30 p.m.) we have a special meeting where State Fair trip winners fill out the necessary paperwork and pay fees to cover transportation, gate entry, meals and lodging for the State Fair. Chaperones are always needed, so if you are interested it may be a possibility.

REMEMBER: Youth that work a 5 hour shift in the food stand are entitled to a $50 scholarship towards State Fair expenses.
Message from Dorothy

Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

On June 17-19, 12 teams of 4-H’ers from across the state came to the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus to share their research about important agriculture-related issues at the 4-H Science of Agriculture Challenge. The first of its kind in the country, the new program asked 4-Hers to identify agriculture-related issues in their communities and develop science-based solutions. They worked for nine months with adult mentors and agriculture experts to identify their issues and develop their solutions using science and engineering practices. They shared their results at the event last week, which included judging presentations, interviewing and resume-building workshops, campus tours to explore agriculture and science resources at the University, and a showcase fair and recognition celebration to share their work and connect with representatives from the University and agribusiness community who are eager to meet the next generation of leaders in agriculture.

The top three teams were awarded scholarships that can be used at any accredited university, college or trade school. First place team members received $1000 each, second place received $750 each, and third place received $500 each.

- 1st place: Meeker County 4-H Hay Waste Team: Kayla Kutzke, Ryan Peterson, Daniel Williamson. The team researched, designed, built and tested a feed bunk to reduce hay waste of beef cattle.
- 2nd place: Washington County 4-H Insects as Food Source Team: Serenna Svano, Theo Svano, Chloe Brey. The team researched insects as a sustainable source of protein for humans and animal, and cultural attitudes, methods and barriers to production and consumption in western nations.
- 3rd place: Le Sueur County 4-H Biodiesel Team: Brian Prchal, Anna Prchal, Tyler Fromm. The team researched and compared the efficiency and environmental impact of b10 conventional diesel, ethanol, kerosene and 100 percent biodiesel made by the team, and tested temperature, ph and particulate matter.

There is a critical need for skilled agriculture professionals, nationally and in Minnesota, and we know that hands-on experiences like the new annual 4-H Science of Agriculture Challenge are a great way to introduce and engage youth in learning about agriculture, make it fun and exciting, and expand the pipeline of youth studying agriculture and pursuing agriculture-related careers. I look forward to seeing this important new program grow in the coming years.

Sincerely,

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

4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge update

The 2015 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge is off to an amazing start! To date, there are 47 teams registered from 25 counties with 279 team members, 50 adult volunteer team coaches, and 17 youth volunteer coaches!

Here’s what Rube Goldberg teams need to know about this year’s 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge:

Qualifying for state fair trip

- Teams will be awarded ribbons as part of the judging at fairs this year. (Last year, teams were awarded medals.) Teams that earn a blue (or purple) ribbon at their county fair qualify for a trip to the Minnesota State Fair to demonstrate their machine during the second day of their county’s state fair encampment. All RG teams in a county that earn blue or purple
Ribbons qualify for trips to the state fair. (Note: As this event grows, we may not be able to allow all blue ribbon teams to attend the state fair in future years, but this year all blue ribbon teams may attend.)

State fair attendance confirmations

- All the RG teams need to tell their county 4-H program coordinators if they intend to participate at the state fair if they earn a blue or purple ribbon at the county fair by the third week of July. If your program coordinator hasn’t talked to you about this by late July, please contact them.

RG machine transportation onto fair grounds

- In response to feedback from last year’s RG teams, 4-H state fair staff have arranged to provide transportation of RG machines onto and off of the Minnesota State Fair grounds at two set times on the day of judging (the second day of each encampment). The RG machines will be picked up at 7:30 a.m. at the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus and taken to the 4-H building on the fairgrounds. At 9 p.m., RG machines will be taken back to the campus drop-off location. (Teams may still choose to transport their machines from public parking lots themselves, using dollies, wagons, etc. they bring themselves.) Teams that expect to avail themselves of this option must inform their county 4-H program coordinator in time for program coordinators to include this information on the team intention for state fair form.

All information for teams participating in the 2015 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge can be found in the rule book. Contact Patrick Jirik at pjirik@umn.edu with any questions.

2015 scholarship recipients announced

Congratulations to the Minnesota 4-H Foundation's 2015 scholarship recipients. These nine outstanding 4-H youth and alumni from across Minnesota stood out among the 87 individuals who submitted applications. To learn more, please visit our website: http://z.umn.edu/sga.

Kern Family Scholarship recipients:
- Anna Johnson, Wadena County & Ryan Kohlmeyer, Olmsted County

David E. Pace and Valerie Halverson Pace Leadership Scholarship recipient:
- Logan Johnson, Traverse County

Ada and Helmuth Schroeder Scholarship recipients:
- Emily Clarke, Lincoln County & Natalie Sayles, Mower County

CCI Innovation in Agriculture Scholarship recipient:
- Brian Prchal, Le Sueur County

Searles Family Scholarship recipient:
- Jake Borst, Olmsted County

4-H Adult Scholarship:
- Heidi Schaefer, Mille Lacs County & Jeanne Verhoef, Anoka County
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.

MN 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.

4-H volunteer corner

4-H chaperone training

For adult volunteers, let's take a walk down “memory lane” back to the days of your youth. If you had the opportunity to go on a field trip through school, a youth group or faith-based organization, the trip was mostly likely made possible because there were adults willing to serve as chaperones.

4-H chaperones play a key role in creating "learn by doing" travel experiences. For some youth the trip could be their first travel opportunity away from home without a parent or guardian. Adult chaperones have the responsibility of creating an environment that is physically and emotionally safe. In addition, chaperones recognize and manage risk and understand how youth and adult behavior expectations impact the 4-H member’s travel experience. Serving as a chaperone is a rewarding experience; it also requires training.

The online training 4-H chaperone policies: A guide for 4-H adult chaperones offers valuable information to help insure a safe and enjoyable experience for the youth and the adult chaperones.

Access the training here: www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/volunteer/online-training/