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**Council Meeting**

The next meeting of the Aitkin County 4-H Council is Monday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Home Ec Room at McGregor High School.

**Building Leadership & Understanding “BLU”**

**February 27-28, Aitkin County at Long Lake Conservation Center**

**January 15** - Registrations DUE

4-H members currently in 6th grade or older should attend this fun teen retreat. Participants will include 4-H teens from several counties and the sessions are led by teens for teens! Non-4-H members are welcome, too. Aitkin County 4-H members receive a $50 scholarship towards the $100 registration fee. Call Beth for more details and/or check it out here: [http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/aitkin/4-h/article/register-now-the-2016-4-h-blus-0](http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/aitkin/4-h/article/register-now-the-2016-4-h-blus-0)

**Donations needed for “Socks of Love” Service Project**

The recipient receives a new pair of socks filled with personal care items.

The socks of love will be distributed to food shelves in the Aitkin County area and the homeless shelter in Brainerd.

Donations are needed by February 12:

- New pairs of socks (or very gently used and clean)
- Travel size or small toiletries (soap, shampoo, conditioners, combs, razors, lotion, chapstick, deodorant, hand sanitizer, wipes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.). Yes! We would love for you to donate all the hotel samples you have been hoarding to use someday....today is the day!
- Ribbon to tie at top of socks with a tag.
- Scrapbook paper to make tags and possibly messages for inside socks.
- Money (to buy toiletries and socks).

Send to school with your Rippleside student, drop off at CVS Pharmacy, bring to the January 11 Council Meeting or the 4-H office in Aitkin.

Call or email Beth Haasken at 218-927-2538 or stran017@umn.edu.

**State Horse Winter Roundup**

Winter Roundup is an exciting three day, two night conference January 22-24 in Spicer, focused on developing youth and adult leadership in the 4-H horse project. The conference is packed with speakers and educational workshops. Topics cover areas such as developing leadership skills, horse care and showing, western heritage, Horse Bowl, hippology, speech and demo, applying to the Dan Patch and Youth Leadership Awards, and more!

This conference is geared towards and best appreciated by adults and youth 8th grade and above. For more information and registration materials, go to [www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/horse/winter-roundup/index.html](http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/horse/winter-roundup/index.html). Registrations are due by January 5 for the early bird discount. You can also register in 4HOnline and mail your payment.

**Fruit Sale 2016**

Get ready now to make it a great sale year!

Packets will be available January 19, 20 & 21 in the 4-H Office. On January 22, I will mail the remaining packets. Every packet that gets picked up instead of mailed saves 4-H postage costs!
Livestock & Horse Project Meeting Night

Save the Date: Tuesday, February 23

The meetings will be held in the Aitkin High School Home Ec Rooms: LIVESTOCK at 5:00 p.m. and HORSE at 6:00 p.m. All 4-H members, parents and leaders involved in the livestock or horse projects are highly encouraged to attend the meeting(s)!

Livestock agenda includes: LQA&E, policies, ID’s, county fair, state fair, NE livestock show, educational opportunities, and more.

Horse agenda includes: county horse show points, participation points, and more.

Please let Beth know if you have agenda items.

Winter Cancellation Policy

County 4-H meetings and events will be cancelled if:

• schools are closed for the day or close early
• the temperature is -20F or the wind chill is -40F
• travel is not advised due to snow, wind or ice
• there are any doubts as to what the weather will do during an event.

Call the Extension Office at 218-927-2538. Any weather related 4-H cancellations will be on the 4-H office answering machine. We will try to make cancellation decisions by 3:00 p.m.

Re-enroll in 4-H now

Act today and join the 16,000 other 4-H youth and adult volunteers who have re-enrolled for the 2015-16 4-H year. Not only is active enrollment required for all youth (and adult volunteers) participating in county, regional or state 4-H events, active enrollment ensures that you’ll get the latest and correct information from 4-H staff.

For more information and user guides go to www.4-H.umn.edu/4honline. If internet access is not available, a paper based re-enrollment option is available by contacting your county extension staff.

Summer Camp Dates

4-H Summer Camp is scheduled for June 8-10 for youth currently in grades 3-6 from Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison and Todd counties. Watch future newsletters for details!

Market Beef & Dairy Steer ID’s

DUE February 16th

A reminder to youth enrolled in the market beef and dairy steer projects that their project animals must be identified no later than 11:50 p.m. on February 16th. Watch your mail for information on eartags and the process to identify, or visit: http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/animal-ID/index.html

2016 Project Bowls

Project Bowls are just around the corner! Many teams have begun practicing for the regional contests in March. There are opportunities for teams to form in dairy, dog, general livestock, horse, poultry, rabbit and wildlife. Check out the 4-H Project Bowl website at: www.4-h.umn.edu/events/project-bowl/ for rules, resources, and more information. If you would like to coach, help coach or participate in any of these teams, please call your Extension office.

Regional Bowl dates and locations are:

• March 5: Foley
• March 12: Hastings
• March 19: Remidji
• March 19: Redwood Falls
• April 2: Snow Date
• April 16: State Bowl (Sauk Rapids)
Message from Dorothy

Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

Happy New Year! 4-H is starting the New Year by celebrating 4-H alumni! Most of our 4-H parents and volunteers were 4-H members themselves, and are now carrying on the tradition of supporting 4-H by having their children participate, volunteering, and often times, both!

The Minnesota 4-H Foundation is holding a Minnesota 4-H alumni reunion on Saturday, February 6. Join us at the event to eat, visit, take a picture in the alumni photo booth, and participate in a service project benefitting Anna Marie’s Alliance & Salvation Army!

We hope this fun gathering provides an opportunity to gather together and celebrate all that we love about 4-H, and our fond memories and experiences in the program over the years.

Learn more and register for the event here: blog-mn4hgive.extension.umn.edu/2015/12/4-h-alumni-reunion.html

I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

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

Regional horse event

We are welcoming all to the next regional horse event scheduled for Saturday, January 9. This is a great time to connect with people in your area around horse topics. The two hour agenda will include an educational topic, discussion of the state horse program, and updates about the program.

Each area will be electing two youth and one adult to represent their region on the State Horse PDC. Elections will happen at the January regional meeting. This is a GREAT way to get involved and make a difference in the Minnesota 4-H Horse Project.

Applications and a job description can be found at www.4-H.umn.edu/projects/animal-science/horse/. Bring your application to the regional meeting or email it to Renee Kostick at hinkx001@umn.edu by January 4. There will be time to discuss issues, network between counties and bring your issues to the State PDC reps so they can share them at the February State PDC meeting.

Current area reps and locations for regional meetings are listed below. Check the website for possible location changes or updates prior to the events.

NW Region: Perkins Restaurant and Bakery, 623 Frontier Dr, Fergus Falls, 10:00 a.m. - noon
Reps: Adults: Kristen Gabrielson. Youth: Paige Gabrielson, Morgan Kastner

NE Region: McGregor Community Center, 41442 State Highway 65, McGregor,(location to be confirmed), 10:00 a.m. - noon
Reps: Adults: Michelle Peterson, Meg Sax. Youth: Lindsay Peterson, Allie Peterson

Central Region: Minnco Credit Union Community Room, located one block south of Hwy 95 on the corner of Birch Street S and 2nd Ave SW, Cambridge, 10:00 a.m. - noon
Reps: Adults: Mark Storm, Dan Dolan. Youth: Julianne Quandt, Lauren Olson

SW Region: Marshall Animal Health Center, 1300 N. Hwy 59, Marshall, 10:00 a.m. - noon
Reps: Adults: RaeAnn Bartz, Randy Dokken. Youth: Josh Johnson, Danielle Jibben

SE Region: East Annex Building across from the Court House, Waseca (location to be confirmed), 10:00 a.m. - noon
Reps: Adults: Gretchen Sankovitz, Peggy Hildebrandt. Youth: Abby Sankovitz, Jackie Thayer

If you have any questions contact Renee Kostick at hinkx001@umn.edu or 218-232-5174.
LQA&E train the trainer webinar

We are looking into an online training for the future, but training will remain the same in 2016.

Intended Audience: All new trainers teaching any of the LQA&E lessons and any others wishing to brush up their skills. LQA&E curriculum will be sent to new trainers after the first of the year.

Dates:
- January 9, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
- January 12, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

4-H alumni reunion

You’re invited to a fun and friendly 4-H alumni reunion! On February 6 at the Gold’n Plump company offices in St. Cloud, the Minnesota 4-H Foundation will host an alumni reunion from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Activities include food and mingling, a service project, alumni photo booth and a few nostalgic surprises. Registration is open and space is limited, so RSVP today! More info is available on our event website: http://z.umn.edu/4hreunion.

Attention dairy families!

Four reminders Minnesota 4-H dairy project members will want to keep in mind for 2016:

1. All animals must be owned or leased AND identified (data entered into 4HOnline or an ID worksheet submitted to the Extension office) before the animal’s first freshening. If you want to ID a first calf heifer for the first time, please note this must be done BEFORE she calves.

2. All other IDs for dairy project animals must be completed by May 15. You will receive details from your county office.

3. All leased animals need a lease agreement reviewed/renewed each year. To renew leases, download last year’s lease agreement OR obtain a copy from the Extension office. Get the appropriate signatures to renew or update the agreement. Finally, scan and email the updated lease agreement to the Extension office OR take it to the Extension office. The deadline for this is May 15. Remember, all lease forms need to be completed and uploaded prior to the animal’s first freshening.

4. If your "family unit" includes someone who has graduated out of 4-H or is not enrolling in dairy this year AND ID’d in their name last year, you will want to reassign those animals to another family member. The exception is animals shown by this past dairy project member AFTER freshening. Those animals are not eligible to be shown by another 4-Her.

Complete details are available on the Dairy Information Sheet, which is posted at www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-id.

Summer intern positions

Are you looking for work experience in the youth development field?

Once again, there will be county-based 4-H summer intern positions throughout the state of Minnesota. Each internship 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 apply online through the University of Minnesota job site. Application materials will include a standard application, résumé, cover letter, list of three references and a college transcript. The summer intern positions will be posted soon at www.extension.umn.edu/about/employment/. The application deadline is February 15.

For more information, please contact Michele VanDyke at mvandyke@umn.edu.
**State beef committee**

Beef members in 9th grade and up can be part of the state fair beef show committee. We will select three members for a one year term to help plan and organize the state fair 4-H beef project experience. We are looking for members with extensive beef project and leadership experience. Selected youth will work with adult volunteers and staff members to enhance the competitive and educational opportunities with the beef project at future state fairs. See the application for more details at [www.4-h.umn.edu/projects/animal-science/beef](http://www.4-h.umn.edu/projects/animal-science/beef). Return the form by **February 15**.

**Youth Day at the Capitol**

Minnesota 4-H will be participating in the 2016 Youth Day at the Capitol on **March 29**. Join youth from throughout the state in learning about our state legislative process, and share your perspective on local issues with policy makers! Additional information will be posted in late January at [www.4-h.umn.edu/events/youth-day-at-the-capitol/index.html](http://www.4-h.umn.edu/events/youth-day-at-the-capitol/index.html).

This annual event is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Alliance With Youth, Ignite Afterschool, Youthprise, Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board, Minnesota School-Age Care Alliance and YWCA of Minneapolis.

To learn more about how you can participate, contact Nicole Pokorney, Citizenship & Leadership Team Member, at 507-536-6304 or pokorney@umn.edu.

**Livestock volunteers**

Mark your calendars for the county livestock PDC (project development committee) training webinar on **April 7**. More details to come.

**SS&W leader certification**

The Shooting Sports & Wildlife Program Development Committee invites you to attend a 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, muzzle-loading, and wildlife. This training meets the 4-H project leaders’ requirements for certification and recertification. Although there is range time in the schedule, the majority of the training is classroom work to become an effective instructor. See registration materials for full details.

The training will take place **April 23-24** at St. Mary’s Church and the Kanabec County Gun Club in Mora.

Registration materials will be available February 1: [www.4-h.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-certification/](http://www.4-h.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-certification/)

The deadline to register is **April 8**. Disciplines fill quickly, so make sure registration forms are sent in early! All volunteers MUST have successfully completed the background screening process through their county extension office before participating in the training.

**Citizenship Washington Focus**

Thousands of young people from across the United States come to the National 4-H Youth Conference Center every summer to participate in Citizenship Washington Focus, a citizenship and leadership program held in Washington, DC. Through a series of speakers, committee work, field trips and social events, participants learn the importance of citizenship and social responsibility and are given the opportunity to explore, develop, and refine skills needed to be an outstanding leader on both a local and national level.
Dates

- **July 2**: A.M. Required pre-conference workshop then depart for Washington D.C.
- **July 9**: Arrive Back in Minnesota in P.M.

Application

- **January 16**: Pre-application materials on website.
- **February 16**: Full application materials on website. With a postmark date beginning **February 16**, all required application materials and $700 down payment due.
- Check with your County 4-H Program Coordinator if there are other requirements for participation.

Additional information: [www.4-H.umn.edu/events/citizenship-washington-focus/index.html](http://www.4-H.umn.edu/events/citizenship-washington-focus/index.html)

Contact: Judith A. Conway, conw0076@umn.edu

National 4-H Conference

It is never too early to start thinking about which youth would be a great delegate for the 2017 National 4-H Conference. Check out the 2016 National 4-H Conference website to learn more. (Please note that dates, age requirements, and post-conference expectations will change for 2017)

[www.4-h.umn.edu/events/national-conference/index.html](http://www.4-h.umn.edu/events/national-conference/index.html)

Contact: Judith A. Conway, conw0076@umn.edu

Presidential Inauguration

Minnesota 4-H will be bringing a group of youth to participate in the 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus Presidential Inauguration 2017!

Participants will practice their roles in citizenship through service, civic education, and engagement; learn the meaning and importance of the democratic process; and explore the history of the American presidency, the election process, the role of the press, the intricacies of the Executive Branch and careers in politics.

WHO: 4-H'ers ages 14-19 at the time of the experience

WHEN: **January 17-21, 2017**

WHAT: Participate in workshops, sessions, and speakers; visit memorials, historical sites, and museums; and participate in Inauguration Day events, including an Inaugural Ball dinner and dance cruise.

Additional information will be posted online at [http://z.umn.edu/cwfinauguration](http://z.umn.edu/cwfinauguration) by January 15.

Calendar

**JANUARY**

- 5 Winter roundup deadline
- 9 Regional horse events
- 9 LQA&E train the trainer webinar
- 11 Council meeting, McGregor
- 12 LQA&E train the trainer webinar
- 15 BLU registration deadline
- 19 Fruit sale starts!
- 22-24 Winter Roundup

**FEBRUARY**

- 6 4-H alumni reunion
- 12 Socks of Love donations needed
- 15 Summer intern application deadline
- 15 State beef committee deadline
- 16 Market beef / dairy steer ID’s due
- 23 Livestock project meeting, 5:00 p.m., Aitkin High School
- 23 Horse meeting, 6:00 p.m., Aitkin High School
- 27-28 BLU, Aitkin County
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<td>Regional project bowl, Foley</td>
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<td>Regional project bowl, Bemidji</td>
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<td>Youth day at the Capitol</td>
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<td>Regional project bowl – snow date</td>
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<td>Livestock PDC training webinar</td>
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<td>SS&amp;W leader certification registration deadline</td>
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<td>National 4-H Conference, Washington, D.C.</td>
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<td>State project bowl, Sauk Rapids</td>
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