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Message from Dorothy

Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

Due to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health’s ban on live birds at public events to help limit the spread of avian flu, 4-H had to adjust its 4-H Poultry Project events and activities at county and state fairs this summer. Our state poultry committee leapt into action, got creative and came up with plans that made it possible for our 4-H Poultry Project youth to participate in fairs this summer and share their learning.

One adjustment was to use photos of poultry or plush stuffed birds for showmanship judging, so youth would have something in place of their live birds to help facilitate their conversations with judges. We also gave youth an option to create and bring a poultry exhibit in the areas of biosecurity, animal health, nutrition, production, and careers, which gave them an opportunity to dig deeper and learn more about a specific topic related to the poultry industry. Some county fairs also offered a chicken BBQ contest, carcass judging and other poultry-related learning events. And at the Minnesota State Fair, we held a Science of Poultry ½ day learning event, where 4-H poultry youth could hear from a panel of experts from Jennie-O, Cargill, Rembrandt Enterprises, Minnesota Turkey, Midwest Poultry Federation, Minnesota Chicken and Egg, and Extension; work in roundtables with the experts learning about an issue; and apply their new knowledge by creating a poster on the topic and presenting it to the group.

Though some of our 4-H’ers were disappointed they could not bring the birds they spent months raising and caring for to fairs, they rose to the occasion and had wonderful learning experiences as a result.

I’d like to congratulate all of our 4-H poultry youth, and poultry families and volunteers for all of your extra effort this summer, and making 4-H poultry experiences at the fair rich and rewarding!

Sincerely,
Dorothy M. Freeman
Associate Dean And State 4-H Director

Premium Checks

As a reminder, the fair premium book says that all premium checks must be cashed within 60 days. Please honor this and make sure all premium checks are deposited soon if you haven’t already. The Premium Book also states that corrections to the premium checks must be requested within two weeks, so we are no longer accepting changes to misprinted checks.

Auction Plaques

If you haven’t picked up your auction plaque to deliver to your buyer yet please stop at the office as soon as possible to pick up. Also please deliver your plaque and return the postcard verifying delivery. This must be done before you can receive your auction check.

Judges Assistants

Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers that helped as a Judges Assistant. The time you put in made a BIG difference at the fair. The judges had a lot of positive comments about the judging day, including the assistants.

Herdsmanship

Below are the herdsmanship championship results for livestock species.

**Beef**
Champion: North Benton, Elk River Critters, St. Pats

**Dairy**
Champion: Minden, Elk River Critters

**Goats**
Champion: St. Pats

**Sheep**
Champion: 79’ers

**Swine**
Champion: North Benton
State Fair Project Pick Up

September 8
Heidi Anderson will be picking up the non-livestock state fair projects from the state fair on September 8th. Starting September 9th, they will be available for pick up at the Extension Office in Foley. Please pick your projects up within a week. If not picked up by September 30th, they will be donated or tossed!

Committee Meetings

September 27
The committees that will be meeting this month are listed below with the start time for each meeting. All youth members and screened volunteers are welcome to attend and participate in the committees. Feel free to attend the meeting you are interested in joining or learning more about even if you aren’t a screened volunteer. If you wish to join I can help you through the paperwork.

4:30 p.m. Small Animals Committee Meeting
5:00 p.m. Ambassador Meeting
5:00 p.m. Livestock Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m. Lunch Stand Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m. Shooting Sports Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. Auction Committee Meeting

9:00 p.m. Leader’s Council Meeting

September Leader’s Council

September 27
The September Leader’s Council meeting is held on Sunday, September 27th at 7:00 PM at the We will also be electing new officers that night and welcome any youth leader to run for one of our leadership positions!

Silent Auction Recipient

The Benton County 4-H Silent Auction is an annual event in which Benton County 4-H raises money for a community member or family that is in need. Recipients are generally in need because of medical bills. Past recipients include individuals suffering from cancer, accident victims, or individuals with other debilitating diseases. We are in the process of selecting a recipient for the 2015 Silent Auction; please contact the office if you know of any individual or family you feel should be a recipient.

4-H Records Due

September 30
4-H Project Records
What exactly is a 4-H project? A 4-H project is set up to be a yearlong learning process. 4-H projects are supposed to start in the fall when a 4-H member sets learning goals for the year. Then the member actually does a learning project. The project can be anything including workshops, book reading, fair projects, etc. After the learning is completed, then the member should reflect upon what they did. A 4-H project record is the best way to track and reflect on project learning. They really help make the projects come full circle. 4-H projects should not be just about the fair exhibit or the premium, it really needs to be focused on learning, doing and reflecting.

Benton County 4-H is making a push to get more youth to complete record, part of that is a new record implementation guide, and new project specific records. The Implementation Guide can be found online at http://z.umn.edu/bentonrecords. Project specific project records can be downloaded online from http://z.umn.edu/benton-4h or requested in paper form from the Extension Office. 4-H records are due September 30th. Members completing records will be eligible for prizes.
4-H records are due to the Extension Office on September 30th. 4-H records can be found on the Benton County 4-H website, or hard copies may be requested from the Extension Office.

For every five records each club submits, you need to send a youth leader or an adult volunteer to help read & score the records. Records submitted without club representation will not be read.

**4-H Officer Books Due**

**September 30**

4-H office books are due to the Extension Office on September 30th. Club officers should submit a copy of their secretary and treasurer books to the Extension Office by September 30th. All clubs need to be submitting books this year for financial stewardship reasons. The top secretary and the top treasurer books will be selected and be awarded a plaque!

**Minnesota 4-H Club Chartering Process**

It is hard to believe it is time for clubs to renew their annual charter! The chartering documents are now up on the Minnesota 4-H website ([www.4-H.umn.edu/leading-a-club/](http://www.4-H.umn.edu/leading-a-club/)) and have a whole new face lift. The forms have been streamlined to make the process easier for clubs to complete.

New in 2015 is a club chartering training video that can also be found on the Minnesota 4-H website. This video is approximately 19 minutes in length and gives step by step directions on how to fill in each form, and the purpose of annual club chartering. Clubs/leaders can watch this video on their own, or the program coordinator can bring leaders together to watch the video as a group and answer questions.

Remember all club charters must be in the county Extension office on or before **Nov. 2, 2015**.

**Get the Free 4-H At The Minnesota State Fair App**

If you have a smart phone and you’re going to the state fair – or you know a 4-H'er who will be showing a project -- download our free app before you leave home! It combines all this:

- Judging results
- Public schedule linked to an interactive map
- For exhibitors – switch on the alerts so you'll know where to be and when
- New: Stalling announcements for beef exhibitors on Tuesday night!
- 4-H live cam 12 hours a day
- Photo sharing
- More!

Download it now:

For iPhone: [http://www.z.umn.edu/4hstatefairiapp](http://www.z.umn.edu/4hstatefairiapp)

For android: [http://www.z.umn.edu/4hstatefairaapp](http://www.z.umn.edu/4hstatefairaapp)

If you already have this app from last year, be sure to update it for new features.

**Online Enrollment for 4-H Families**

Enrollment for the new 4-H year opens up on **Sept. 16** and Minnesota 4-H families are reminded and encouraged to visit [mn.4HOnline.com](http://mn.4HOnline.com) to enroll/re-enroll both youth members and adult volunteers. The process is quick and easy; even families with multiple youth should be done in 10 minutes or less. Re-enrolling early ensures that critical communications will be received, especially as it relates to deadlines and project specific information. Detailed information about online enrollment and re-enrollment is available at [www.4-H.umn.edu/4honline](http://www.4-H.umn.edu/4honline).

As part of enrolling or re-enrolling, youth, their parents and adult volunteers will all be agreeing
to the Minnesota 4-H Code of Conduct, which is available for review in its entirety, along with other policy and authorization statements at www.4-H.umn.edu/policy or by contacting your local Extension office (www.extension.umn.edu/county/).

If you are not yet an adult volunteer but are willing to share your time and talents to make a difference, 4-H needs you! The first step to becoming an adult 4-H volunteer is to complete the volunteer application process. Learn more at www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/#application.

Celebrate Ag & Food Day

4-H families and alumni are invited to join a celebration of Minnesota agriculture and food at a special University of Minnesota Gopher football game on Sept. 19. Discounted tickets can be purchased at z.umn.edu/umafd2015. Join us before the game from 9 - 11a.m. for activities outside the stadium including a tailgate party featuring Minnesota brats and cheese. To RSVP or with questions, contact Erin Kelly-Collins at erinkc@umn.edu.

Safety of Minors Training: A Big Thank You!

On behalf of the University of Minnesota Extension Center for Youth Development, please accept our sincere gratitude for your timely completion of the University-sponsored “Safety of Minors” training and compliance with the policy. Getting 7,000 adult volunteers through training in two months is no small task, but we are proud to share that we accomplished this task due to the timeliness and commitment of our volunteers and the diligence of our staff. We greatly appreciate your service to Minnesota 4-H and dedication to ensuring that all Minnesota youth are engaged in safe, fun, and positive experiential learning.

2015 Fall Volunteer Training: All Together, Yet Not All the Same

We are excited to announce this year’s topic for our annual fall volunteer training: cultural competency and inclusion. The training, titled “All Together, Yet Not All the Same,” is designed to help prepare 4-H volunteers to build youths’ global citizenship skills and give them the tools needed to ensure that 4-H is a program where youth from all backgrounds, cultures, beliefs and abilities feel welcome and safe. It is our responsibility to young people to prepare them for global citizenship and to work constructively across areas of difference. As we strive in Minnesota 4-H Youth Development to make our programs relevant and accessible to all youth, we must consider areas where we might encounter different values, backgrounds, beliefs, abilities, and goals.

By preparing adult volunteers who are essential to 4-H program delivery to be aware of and respectful of these differences, we will not only create an environment where all individuals feel safe and welcome, but also ensure that we model valuable 21st century global citizenship skills to youth that will prove critical now and in their future. Activities are designed to be hands-on and encourage active discussion. Participants will be given at least one activity to take back to their clubs as well as have access to the WeConnect curriculum from their county library of available curricula. All 4-H volunteers are encouraged to attend the annual training in their county. Activities are also appropriate for youth who are interested in this topic.
New Online Version of The Consumer Decision-Making Project

How do you decide which entrée to order? What shoes to buy? What vacation to plan? It’s a tough job, but someone needs to make the decision! And pay the bills. The media, peer pressure, the need to fit in – all these factors play major roles in the decisions that youth make.

Minnesota 4-H is recruiting members interested in learning to make wise consumer decisions in a new online version of our Consumer Decision-Making Project. The online nature of this project means you can work review challenges, post your decisions and share with other youth from anywhere and at any time, through the convenience of your mobile device or home internet connection.

How does it work? Each week for up to 1 to 2 hours for a 12 week period, youth will learn about finances and consumerism, review a scenario, and compare products to make informed decisions. Youth post their decision process and decisions while also reflecting on their values and giving feedback to their peers. Volunteer mentors respond to questions and provide feedback.

If you are interested in learning more about this online opportunity in becoming savvy consumers and building financial intelligence, contact Carrie Olson (320-589-1711, olson166@umn.edu) today.

Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show

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

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 Oct. 3-4 training in Perham.

Program information, application, and reference forms can be found at:
4-H.umn.edu/projects/shooting-sports/shooting-sports/

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, muzzle loading, 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 **Oct. 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/](http://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**

**Managing 4-H clubs: A guide for club leaders**

October marks the beginning of a new 4-H year and a new volunteer opportunity for individuals who are moving into a club leadership position. 4-H volunteers who are taking on club leadership responsibilities have several important roles. A leader is a mentor, a motivator for young people, an organizer and coordinator with other adults in the club, and a liaison with the larger 4-H organization in your area. An excellent training resource and online learning module for new and existing 4-H club leaders is *Managing 4-H Clubs: A guide for club leaders*. Extension staff designed this module to help with some of the typical management issues in 4-H clubs and bring all these pieces together to build an environment where young people thrive and grow. Take advantage of the resource to get your 4-H club off to a great start this fall. To view this training module and other 4-H online training opportunities visit [www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/volunteer/online-training/](http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/volunteer/online-training/).

**Calendar**

**AUGUST**

- 26 – Sept. 7 Live-streaming of 4-H State Arts-In performance
- 27 - Sept. 7 Minnesota State Fair

**SEPTEMBER**

- 2 Live-streaming of the 4-H Lama Costume Competition 6-7 p.m.
- 2-4 State Fair Lama Encampment
- 5-7 State Fair General Encampment
- 7 Office Closed – Labor Day
- 9 Pick up State Fair Projects from Extension Office
- 11-13 Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational
- 16 Online enrollment for the new 4-H year begins
- 18-21 Minnesota 4-H Horse Show
- 19 Celebrate Ag & Food Day at the Minnesota Gopher football game
- 26-27 Minnesota 4-H Dog Show
- 27 Leader’s Council Meeting
- 27 Committee Meetings
- 30 Records due to Extension Office

**OCTOBER**

- 3-4 Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador training, Perham
- 4-10 National 4-H Week
- 15 Holiday Workshop, Foley Intermediate School

**NOVEMBER**

- 9 Fall Volunteer Training
- 11 Office Closed – Veterans Day
- 26-27 Office Closed - Thanksgiving