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 half-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
Clay County Happenings

State Fair Ambassador

Our very own Kristin Harrington will be representing Clay County 4-H as a State Ambassador at the 2015 MN State Fair and throughout the 2015-2016 4-H year. Kristin is one of 29 Minnesota youth who were selected to represent 4-H at a state level, focusing on areas including leadership, service, teamwork and citizenship. Kristin’s role at the MN State Fair will include helping other 4-H peers as they prepare and compete with their exhibits, greeting visitors at the 4-H building and serving as a volunteer in variety of capacities. After the State Fair Kristin will continue to engage in a year of service through participation in leadership activities that influence the community and other 4-Hers; which will include orchestration of the BLU and YELLO leadership conferences. Clay County is proud to be represented by Kristin as a State Ambassador.

Good luck to all of our State Fair Participants

- Livestock Encampment: August 26 - 30
- Non-Livestock Encampment: September 1 - 3
- State Shoot/Wildlife Invitational: September 11 - 13
- State 4-H Horse Show: September 18-21
- State 4-H Dog Show: September 26 - 27

Also, a huge shout out to our MN State Fair volunteer chaperones - Sue Seifert, Denise Erickson and Kevin O’Neil, thank you all for contributing your time to help make the MN State Fair a great success for our Clay County 4-Hers.

Committee Kickoff

It’s time to wrap up the 2014-2015 4-H year and start planning for a successful year ahead. Join us at the Committee Kickoff on September 10, 7pm at the Clay Co. Family Service Center, Room 4. We will meet to go over goals, a budget for the upcoming year and end with breakout sessions for each committee to meet. Reminder: all committee receipts for reimbursement for the years’ expenses are due by September 10.

Re-enrollment

Youth and volunteers can begin enrolling as early as September 16. Committee members and volunteers such as club and project leaders need to be screened volunteers. First-year volunteers will need to begin the application process. If you have volunteered as a screened volunteer before, just sign in to 4-H Online and follow the steps to re-enroll for the new year.

Hints for re-enrollment:

1. Do your best to remember the email you would have entered when you or a family member signed up. If you know this and have forgotten your password, you can request help and get in yourself. If you lock yourself out by using the wrong password, call the Extension office and we will enlist the regional office for help.

2. Re-enroll early. This helps the office to get the needed updates on projects, events and deadlines to you. It is fast and easy, so “just do it”. Thank you.

3. Be sure that you update your contact information so that the Extension office has access to an email address you check
regularly, as well as a phone number to reach you, especially in case of an emergency.

**Federation Meeting**

Our Federation meeting and volunteer awards ceremony will take place on **October 10** at Calvary Church in Moorhead. Below is a schedule of the event:

- 9am Breakfast
- 9:30am Volunteer awards
- 10:15am Federation meeting

Several awards are given to worthy recipients. Youth may apply for the following awards:

- **Key Award** - the highest award for 4-ers
- **Ben Kotta Award** - Sweatshirt given by the Kotta family to recognize an energetic leader who bleeds green (nominations accepted at the Extension office)
- **Evenson Award** - $100 for a youth who has completed grade 10
- **Red River youth leadership Award** - $200

Other awards that will be given out include:

- **“I Dare You” Award**
- **Friend of 4-H Award**

Check out the Clay County Extension website for detailed descriptions of the guidelines. Applications are available for download on the right hand side of the Clay County website. Applications are due on **September 30**.

**Constitution/By-Law Changes**

We need your VOTE to approve the new Clay County Federation constitution/by-laws.

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, which 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 Clay County have been working 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 Clay County Federation.

We are asking all eligible voting members of the Federation to attend the meeting on **October 10** as they will be presented at this time. Eligible voting members include all youth who have completed grade 6 and adult leaders. In order for the new constitution/by-laws to be approved we must have a quorum. A quorum in Clay County is 15 members of the Federation.

A copy of the “New” constitution/by-laws is posted on the county website for your review before the meeting. If you would like to request a printed copy or have any questions, please contact Lisa Kasson-Bauer, County 4-H Program Coordinator at 218-299-7346 or lkassonb@umn.edu. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

**End of the 4-H Year**

**September 30** is the end of the 4-H year. Please take time to make sure your 4-H house is in order. All volunteer and committee receipts are due in the office by **September 10** so the treasurer has time to close the books on **September 30**.
Clubs will close out their books September 30 and begin the process of completing the club charter due in the Extension Office on or before October 31.

Committees will meet September 10 for a kick-off of the new year. Please be prepared to hand in your year-end reports at the end of the meeting. Please call Mitzi with suggestions of new committee members.

Junior Leader Workshop “Find Yourself Through 4-H”

JLW (Junior Leader Workshop) is open to any youth grades 6-9. Plan to make new friends, participate in fun workshops, laugh at skits and enjoy free time around the campfire. It will be a time to discover all of your path and direction of leadership. This workshop is designed by youth leaders for youth leaders.

When: October 15-16

Where: Faith Haven Camp (near Battle Lake)

Cost: $95 (includes meals, lodging and t-shirt)

Please contact your county office for scholarship opportunities. To sign up please send name, grade, address, phone number to your Extension Office by October 9 with your t-shirt size and a non-refundable payment.

Senior Horse Judging Team

A Senior Clay County Horse Judging Team, made up of Rebecca Dahl, Sarah Sanderson and Morgen Kastner, had a fantastic time representing Clay County and the State of Minnesota at the Appaloosa/Paint Youth World Championship Horse Judging Contest held in Fort Worth, Texas. Want to learn more about horses? Think about joining a judging or knowledge bowl team this year.

Fall Volunteer Training

How well do you know the stories of your fellow 4-Hers? Where are they from? What’s their family background? We each have different experiences, backgrounds, values and beliefs that make us who we are. This fall we have crafted a great training to help us grow closer as a 4-H community by celebrating our uniqueness through understanding our differences.

It is mandatory that each club is represented at the Fall Volunteer Training by either an adult or youth club member. The training will take place on November 5. A light supper will be served at 6:30pm and training will begin at 7pm.

Upcoming Ambassador Season

Clay County was chosen to participate in a ‘pilot program’ during the 2014-2015 4-H year which was designed to enhance the county ambassador program. To build upon what was accomplished this past year, new curriculum will be introduced in January based on the evaluation from this year’s pilot program. All youth grades 7 and up are encouraged to attend the next Clay County Ambassador meeting.

Beginning of the New Year for Youth

What are your goals for the 2015–2016 year? It’s up to you to make the most of it. Here are a few items to consider.

- Run for office. 4-H is youth-led and adult-guided. Your club needs officers. The Federation needs officers. 4-H is the best place to learn and practice leadership skills. You don’t have to have experience. This is the year to grow and gain experience.

- Join a committee. Committees will be organizing mid-September. We need new ideas and energetic workers on all committees.

- Join the Ambassador Program. If you want more leadership experience as well as a social outlet, the Ambassador Program is a
great activity for you. Sue Brusseau and Jackson Lindom have volunteered to be leaders and the group will continue to build on their success from participation in a pilot project that took place throughout the 2014-2015 4-H year. All youth grades 7 and up are invited to participate.

- Take on a new project area. What strikes your fancy? Rabbits, wood working, cooking, aerospace, crafts, engineering, insects, needle arts....? The office has a lot of curriculum to loan. We love hearing about your interests. Let us know and it is possible we can help set up a class or a one day adventure to get a group get started.

- Join a team. We offer First Lego League, Aquatic Robotics, Livestock Quiz Bowl, Horse Quiz Bowl and Hippology.

**Beginning of the New Year for Adults**

Your child is in 4-H, now what? We rely on parents and other supporters to give assistance to the program in many ways. Many of you have passions, expertise and experience to share. Consider participating as we strive to make Clay County 4-H the best it can be! Here are a few ways you can be a part of the process:

- Run for a position on the Board of Directors for the Federation. We need a new crop every year to support the program and youth officers. This group will meet 4 times a year and serve two-year terms.

- Volunteer for a committee. Do you enjoy fundraising? Clay County fruit sales are a tried and true money maker for us, however, we need help with pick-up, setting prices, and organizing volunteers. Expressive Arts is a busy group. Food and Consumer Science, Livestock, Dog, Shooting Sports, Fashion Review, Science Engineering and Technology and Food Stand are working committees that meet approximately 4–6 times a year to organize educational programming and county fair activities.

- Volunteer to assist at your local club. Club leaders should not do it all. To run an effective club there are administrative and financial duties to attend to, project leaders, demonstration organizers, leadership trainers for officers and more. The club leader does not need to do it and the club is best served by a team of supporters.

**Herdanship Winners**

Due to the thunderstorm and late start of the auction, the winners of the herdmanship winners were not announced at the fair. The following are the winners:

**INDIVIDUAL SPECIES**

- Dairy – Silver Lake
- Beef - Tansem Tigers
- Sheep - Independent
- Goat - Morken Lucky Leaf
- Swine - Tansem Tigers
- Horse - Tansem Tigers
- Rabbits - Independent

**OVERALL SPECIES**

1. Tansem Tigers - 93%
2. Morken Lucky Leaf - 91%
3. Mission Green - 87%

A very big thank you to Amy McConnell Germolis to serving as herdmaship judge. Great job to the standouts. Not only are you taking great care of your animals, you are showing great
stewardship practices and representing animal agriculture in the best way to the fair-going public.

**Hats Off**

To a Sunny Summer Bunch who helped with the promotion and activities at River Arts: Michele Gedgaud, Philip Gedgaud, Joey Gedgaud, Globe University, Annette Graves, Victoria Gardner, Jennifer McManamon and Bridget McManamon. These people did a great job representing 4-H with fine arts and crafts projects in addition to animal education.

To Sue Seifert who agreed to serve the long Livestock Weekend as dorm chaperone for Clay County.

To Kate Harrington and Ellie Bauer who served as summer interns. In addition to their work with the county fair, they organized and educated 150 4-Hers and non 4-Hers in Ulen, Hawley, Barnesville, Dilworth with the local community education programs, Moorhead Parks and Rec and Moorhead Public Schools Migrant School. Engineering and Photography offerings were provided to youth grades K-5. In addition they supported Extension Educator Joshua Kukowski in taking 4-H to Churches United and provided a 4-H experience to 14 youth who are in the temporary shelter.

To the 4-H Summer Adventures volunteers. The success of the program could not have been achieved without the help of several volunteers; Kari Robideau, Kristin Grommesh, Susan Nelson, Pam Ekre, Amy Anderson and Lily Crume. Thank you for your hours of service in Barnesville, Dilworth, Ulen, Hawley and Moorhead. These women partnered with staff to teach the classes. Your service is much appreciated.

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**State News and Events**

**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 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 **November 30**.

**Online Enrollment**

Enrollment for the new 4-H year opens up on **September 16** and Minnesota 4-H families are reminded and encouraged to visit [4HOnline](http://www.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 online.
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 or by contacting your local Extension office.

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 here.

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 September 19. Discounted tickets can be purchased at this link. Join us before the game from 9-11am 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.

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 our website.

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
- 4-H live cam 12 hours a day
- Photo sharing and more

Download it now for i-phone and for android.

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

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 1-2 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 for the annual Minnesota 4-H Horse Show will be held September 18-21. Watch the Minnesota 4-H horse website for more information.

Minnesota 4-H Dog Show

Mark your calendar: The Minnesota 4-H Dog Show will be held September 26-27. Watch the Minnesota 4-H dog website for more details.
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 grades 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 on this website. The deadline to register is September 18. Disciplines fill quickly, so make sure registration forms are sent in early.

Calendar of Events

August

26-9/7 Live-streaming of 4-H State Arts-In Performance
27-9/7 MN State Fair

September

TBD District Horse Show
1-3 Non-Livestock Encampment
2 Live-streaming of the 4-H Lama Costume Competition
11-13 MN 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational
18-21 MN 4-H Horse Show
19 Celebrate Ag & Food Day, MN Gopher football game
26-27 MN 4-H Dog Show

October

3-4 MN 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador training, Perham

November

30 Club Charters due to Extension Offices