February 2016

Dakota County 4-H Families,

Summer will be here before we know it, so we wanted to share some important 4-H dates to include on your calendars:

- June 13-14 - Pie Making Workshops
- June 15 - County Fair Registration Help Day 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.
- Horse Camp - June 17-19
- June 20-23 and June 27-30 - Resident Camp (2 sessions)
- July 6 - County Fair Registration Forms Due - New in 2016: Online Registration for County Fair
- July 13 - Food Review and Media Judging - Projects Include Food Review, Video, Illustrated Presentation and New This Year PHOTOGRAPHY 1-8 p.m.
- July 25 - Livestock PDC meeting 6:30 p.m.
- July 27 - Clothing Judging
- August 1 - Livestock Interviews 5-8 p.m., Barn Set Up 5-8 p.m. and 4-H Building Set Up 1-8 p.m.
- August 6 - General Project Entry Day, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.
- August 8-14 - Dakota County Fair

Important Enrollment Reminders:

We want to remind everyone that you need to re-enroll in https://mn.4Honline.com if you have not already done so. This is required for both youth and adult leaders every year. We encourage everyone to do this process as soon as possible, so you stay current and up to date on correspondence from the 4-H office: http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/4honline/ 4HOnline - Quick start guide to re-enrolling can be found on the Dakota County 4-H webpage.

ALL youth and screened adult volunteers must be active in 4HOnline BEFORE participating at any local, state or regional event.

4-H Membership Fee

Membership fee for 2015-16 4-H year is $25/member, including Cloverbuds. Please submit dues to your club leader in a timely manner, so clubs can pay dues to the county.

Volunteering with 4-H

We welcome all parents/guardians to volunteer with the 4-H program! To be a 4-H volunteer, you must complete the Minnesota 4-H Volunteer Application. This form enables staff to begin the
volunteer screening process, which Minnesota 4-H mandates be completed. It is a three-part process, including a 4-H volunteer application, background check, and 4-H volunteer orientation. The Dakota County 4-H volunteer application can be found at: http://www3.extension.umn.edu/sites/default/files/download/Dakota%20County%20Volunteer%20Screening%20Process_0.pdf.

Upcoming Activities

Below you will find some of the upcoming programs for February along with some other important dates to add to your calendar.

Please check the Dakota County 4-H website regularly for upcoming events and activities, as it is continually updated: http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/dakota/4-H

**Beef Weigh In - February 6**

ALL MARKET BEEF (beef steers, dairy steers, and market heifers) WILL BE TAGGED with a MN 4-H ear tag and weighed on Saturday, February 6 from 9-11 a.m. at Haas Livestock, 28705 Rochester Blvd., Cannon Falls. Cattle will be weighed on a first-come first-serve basis. Weigh in closes at 11 a.m.; please plan to arrive before 10:45 a.m. to ensure your animals get weighed. Feeder calves and breeding beef DO NOT come to weigh in, but must be ID'ed by the May 15 deadline. You will need the following for weigh in: Animal birthdate, breed, copy of registration paper if registered, at least a parent and one 4-Her per family to sign ID forms. (Saturday, February 13 is a snow date and will only be used if inclement weather occurs on the 6th).

**Aerospace Workshop - February 6**

There are still a few spots left in the introduction to rocket building on Saturday, February 6. The workshop will be from 8:45 -11:30 a.m. at the Extension Office. Contact Cherie at frand004@umn.edu for registration information and space availability. Cost is $5/4-H member. Space is limited.

**Rabbit Workshop - February 6**

It's not too late to register for the 4-H Rabbit Workshop on February 6 from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Extension Office. During this workshop participants will learn more about the judging process and how to select a rabbit, feed and nutrition along with an opportunity for participants to build their own rabbit cages. Snacks and refreshments will be available. RSVP to Cherie at frand004@umn.edu by February 4.

**Ag Career Day - February 15; Registration Due February 8**

We are offering an exciting opportunity for 4-H'ers in grades 8–12 to discover the vast array of careers available in the field of Agriculture! Come to “EXPLORING AGRICULTURE CAREER DAY” on Monday, February 15 (Presidents' Day) at the University of Minnesota. Check-in starts at 8:45 a.m. and the day will end at 2:30 p.m. Dakota County 4-H will provide transportation for participants if they need a ride. We will be leaving the Dakota Extension and Conservation Center in Farmington at 7:45 a.m. and will return home at 3:45 p.m. This event will be held at the North Star Ballroom located in the St. Paul Student Center. Participants will do a career inventory, hear
from panelists who work in various Ag fields, explore college options, learn about college financial planning, and take tours of the U of M campus. The cost for the day is $15/participant which includes lunch. Don’t miss out on this exciting opportunity! [Ag Career Day registration](mailto:AKoester@umn.edu) is due Monday, February 8. If you have additional questions, please contact Anja at AKoester@umn.edu.

**4-H Green Team Meeting - February 18**

Youth in grades 6-8 are invited to the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center on Thursday, February 18 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. to have fun and meet other kids throughout the county. This event will highlight Youth-In-Action demonstrations and we will have a demonstration on how to give a Youth-In-Action demo. The group will also discuss upcoming activities for the Green Team for the rest of the year, play games and enjoy refreshments. Please RSVP to Cherie at frand004@umn.edu or call 651-480-7702 by February 16.

**4-H Cloverbud Workshop - February 20**

Want to beat the mid-winter chill? The Dakota County 4-H Ambassadors are hosting an event for Cloverbuds this February that is sure to make everyone happy! The February Fun for Cloverbuds is Saturday, February 20 from 9-11 a.m. at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center in Farmington. There will be exciting activities, games, crafts, and a snack! Come and enjoy the fun!

Workshops are free and open to non-4-H friends. Pre-registration is required by February 12, so adequate supplies are available for all participants. Register by e-mailing Cherie at frand004@umn.edu or calling 651-480-7702.

**Poultry Workshop - February 20**

4-H families will have the opportunity to talk to youth and adult poultry volunteers to get all your questions on the 4-H Poultry project answered. Some of the information available will include purchasing and raising birds, showing at the fair, details on the pigeon project and more. The fun happens on Saturday, February 20 from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center in Farmington. There is no need to pre-register. This workshop will be an open house style, so come when you can and stay as long as you like.

**Beef Workshop - February 22**

There will be a beef workshop on Monday, February 22 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Dakota County Extension Office and Conservation Center. LeeAnn Waugh and Mark Purfeerst will be on hand to share their knowledge on beef nutrition and grooming techniques. RSVP to Cherie at frand004@umn.edu by February 17.

**Quilting Workshop - March 5**

We will be hosting another quilting workshop on Saturday, March 5 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center in Farmington. Check the Dakota County 4-H webpage for more details and a registration form. Registration is required and due February 26.
Federation Meeting – March 14

All 4-H members and leaders are invited to attend the upcoming 4-H Federation meeting on Monday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center. Each club should be represented at all Federation Meetings.

4-H Auction Scholarship - Application Due March 15

This scholarship is awarded to high school seniors that will be attending an accredited college, university, community college or technical college fall quarter/semester 2016 are eligible to apply for the 4-H Auction Scholarship. The 4-H Auction scholarships are funded through Dakota County 4-H Livestock Auction funds received from the sale/donation of the last pen of rabbits/turkeys/ducks/geese/chickens. This last pen is sold and donated back to 4-H repeatedly until buyer interest diminishes. Money generated from this “sale” has allowed 4-H to offer college scholarships to deserving 4-Hers, in addition to paying for livestock-related equipment, state fair chaperone expenses, 4-H promotion supplies, project bowl buzzer systems and supplies for the county fair. 4-H auction scholarship winners will be awarded $750. You do not need to have participated in livestock events to apply for this scholarship. The application is located at: http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/dakota/4-h/downloads/page/1. You can find the application in both pdf and Word format. Please contact Anja at akoester@umn.edu if you have any questions.

Jacque Devney Memorial Scholarship - Application Due March 15

High school seniors that will be attending an accredited college, university, community college or technical college fall quarter/semester 2016 are eligible to apply for the Jacque Devney Memorial Scholarship. One $500 scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior, graduating in 2016, based on activities in 4-H, the community, high-school, and employment throughout the year. Applicant must average a 3.0 (4.0 scale) or higher grade point average during high school, and maintain a 3.0 through applicant's first semester of college. Upon meeting the minimum requirement of the GPA, it is not a determining factor for this scholarship. You do not need to have participated in livestock events to apply for this scholarship. Please contact Anja at akoester@umn.edu if you have any questions. The application is located at http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/dakota/4-h/downloads/page/1. You can find the application in both pdf and Word format.

Horse Drill Team Kick-Off and Information Session – March 17

What is drill team? Drill team is a group of horses and riders performing choreographed maneuvers to music. If this sounds like fun to you or you are just curious about drill team, then you should attend this information session held from 7-8 p.m. at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center in Farmington. All 4-H members are invited! During this meeting you will learn about drill team and the new format for this year. Registration, practice schedules, and other important information will be handed out at this meeting. Parent/guardians should also plan to attend. Drill team will be meeting weekly on Thursday evenings at the Extension Office, beginning March 17 through April 28 to work on patterns and music. For additional questions, please contact drill team coordinators, Jeanne at jeannelinnett@gmail.com or Kelly at ktjaeckels@gmail.com.
**LQA&E Training - April 7**

Dakota County’s only LQA&E training for 2016 will be on Thursday, April 7 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center in Farmington. A light dinner will be provided for registered participants. All youth participating as a State Fair 4-H livestock exhibitor in beef, dairy, sheep, swine, poultry, rabbits, meat and dairy goat and llama must have completed the Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics training prior to county fair qualifying show. Training is good for three fair seasons. Cost is $10 for non-Dakota County 4-H members attending training. **Pre-registration is REQUIRED by April 1.** Registration forms available on the Dakota County 4-H webpage. If April 7 does not work for you, it is your responsibility to find a training in another county. Visit the state LQA&E training site for additional training dates [http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/lqae/](http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/lqae/).

**Rabbit Workshop - April 30**

4-H members will have the opportunity to get their rabbit tattooed, learn about rabbit agility for the upcoming season, learn tips and tricks of showing your rabbit, judging and how to select a rabbit, information about market rabbits and the process for ID'ing rabbits by May 15. You will also learn about the new online registration process for county fair registration. Watch for more information.

**Day Camp Counselor Applications Due May 6**

Dakota County 4-H staff is looking for camp counselors for the “Anything Goes” Day Camp on Thursday, June 16 and Friday, June 17. Camp will be held at the Dakota County Fairgrounds. We are searching for great role models, filled with energy and enthusiasm. Camp Counselors are required to have completed 8th grade. Counselors will be responsible for a group of 8-10 youth, grades K-5. This is a leadership role that requires maturity, patience, and flexibility. This is a full day commitment from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Applications are due Friday, May 6 to the Extension Office. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Rezac at reza0027@umn.edu or 651-480-7754 or Kirsten Pederson at kapeders@umn.edu or 651-480-7722.

**4-H Day Camp – Anything Goes! - June 16 and June 17**

Dakota County 4-H Day Camp is open to all youth in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Participants can choose to attend one or two days. There will be live animals, guest presenters, parachutes and more! Campers will receive an “Anything Goes” day camp t-shirt and spend their day learning new things, making friends and having fun! Camp registration is due June 1. For more information, see day camp registration and information flyer. If you have any questions, please contact Kirsten at kapeders@umn.edu or Rachel at reza0027@umn.edu.

**4-H Resident Camp – June 20-23 and June 27-30**

4-H Resident Camp is a fun-filled overnight camping experience at Baker Near Wilderness Camp in Maple Plain. Camp is open to youth in grades 3-8. Campers will enjoy cabin camping, campfires, challenges, outdoor adventures, crafts, cultural encounters, service projects, making new friends and much more! There will be two camping sessions in hopes of opening up more spaces for more 4-H members to have the camping experience. See resident camp flyer and registration form for more details.
What is Dakota County 4-H Youth Teaching Youth?

Dakota County 4-H Youth Teaching Youth is a cross-age teaching model that gives high school students the opportunity to teach elementary students about character building, alcohol and tobacco decision-making, building community in the classroom and internet safety. Aside from gaining leadership experience, public speaking skills and learning about classroom management techniques, it is also a great way for you to promote all the other programs 4-H has to offer. Any youth entering grades 9-12 may submit an application, and attend a two-hour training at their respective high school in the fall.

Once teen teachers are trained by staff, they sign-up to teach with other teens at local elementary schools. They visit the same classroom for three, one-hour sessions during the school day. Some of the activities include role plays, educational DVD's, a poster contest and group discussions. Teens may transport themselves to and from the elementary school or staff can transport in the University of Minnesota vans. There is no additional charge for 4-H members to participate in this program.

For more information and applications, please contact Kirsten Pederson at 651-480-7722 or kapeders@umn.edu or Rachel Rezac at 651-480-7754 or reza0027@umn.edu. Please note you must have parent and teacher permission to participate in this program.

4HOnline Training: A Wealth of Knowledge at Your Fingertips

4-H volunteers have a tremendous opportunity to positively influence the lives of young people. Volunteers serve as club leaders, project leaders, mentors and role models. These caring adults create an environment that fosters learning and fun that shapes a lifetime. Training is one of the key components for creating a positive learning environment. The 30-minute training modules available in 4HOnline offer a wealth of knowledge at your fingertips from the comforts of your home. Topics include managing 4-H clubs, creating a learning environment, keeping youth in 4-H, serving as a 4-H project leader and much more. To view the full menu of online training modules visit www.4-h.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training/. Remember, every young person deserves a trained volunteer!

2016 SS&W Spring 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 (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 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 April 22-24 at the Kanabec Conservation Club in Mora.

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. Registration materials will be available February 1 and posted here: www.4-H.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-certification/

**Additional Events and Information**

### Promoting 4-H in Local Parades

Does your 4-H club participate in a local parade? If so, staff would like to know which community or the name of the parade, and the type of float designed in previous years. Staff are in the process of streamlining efforts in promoting 4-H in one section of a parade, rather than creating multiple floats.

There is a potential partnership with the Dakota County Ag. Society in promoting 4-H and the Dakota County Fair in parades in the following communities: Farmington, Rosemount, Hastings, and Cannon Falls. If your club is interested in learning more, please let Rachel know at 651-480-7754 or reza0027@umn.edu.

### 4-H Summer Intern Positions – Application Deadline February 15

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

Once again this year, there will be county-based 4-H summer intern positions throughout the state of Minnesota. This 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 must apply on-line through the University of Minnesota job site. The 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 Van Dyke at mvandyke@umn.edu.

### 4-H Tack Swap - February 20

The Le Sueur County 4-H Horse Project is hosting a tack swap at Valley Green Square Mall in Le Sueur, MN on Saturday, February 20 from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. For additional information, please see the [tack swap flyer](#).

### 2016 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge: Crush and Recycle a Can!

The 2016 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge is to create a machine that will crush an empty aluminum soft drink can and put it into a recycling container! The third annual challenge asks teams of youth to design overly complex contraptions that accomplish this year’s designated task using everyday items that interact in a series of chain-reactions. Teams compete in contests at their county fair, and then will be eligible to compete at the Minnesota State Fair. Teams are encouraged to register by **May 15** and get started on their machines! To learn more about the 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge and how to register, go to: [www.4-h.umn.edu/events/engineering-design-challenge/index.html](http://www.4-h.umn.edu/events/engineering-design-challenge/index.html). **NOTE: No paper registration this year. Team leaders, members and
youth coaches will sign up through 4HOnline accounts. Adult volunteer leaders must register before their team members can register.

**M4-HAVA 2016 Annual Conference**

Please consider attending the 31st annual Minnesota 4-H Adult Volunteer Association Conference being held **March 17-19** at the Bigwood Event Center/Best Western Inn in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. This year’s theme is Keen, Green, and Lean in 2016. The M4-HAVA Conference is a great place for volunteers to learn about what is happening throughout the state and new trends going on in 4-H. You will meet other volunteers who are really excited about 4-H, leave with an arsenal of new activities and ideas from the 32 workshops offered to take back and share with your clubs and counties, and recognize outstanding volunteers and clubs during the annual banquet. For more information on registration for the 2016 M4-HAVA Conference, Blue Ribbon Awards, and Membership visit [www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/m4-hava/](http://www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/m4-hava/).

**Judging 4-H Exhibits at Minnesota County Fairs**

Minnesota 4-H depends on the skills, talents and dedication of hundreds of adults who judge 4-H projects at county fairs across Minnesota. In support of 4-H judges, Minnesota 4-H offers online training, toolkit resources and more. To learn more, or if interested in becoming a 4-H judge, visit [www.4-H.umn.edu/county-fair/judges/](http://www.4-H.umn.edu/county-fair/judges/).

**Looking Ahead - Calendar**

Office Closed – February 15
Regional Project Bowl Competition – Hastings High School – March 12
Ambassador Meeting – March 14 – 6 p.m.
Federation Meeting – March 14 – 7 p.m.
Cloverbud Workshop – March 19 – 9-11 a.m.
LQA&E Training – April 7 – 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Executive Board Meeting – April 11 – 7 p.m.
Ambassador Meeting – April 12 – 6 p.m.
State Project Bowl Competition – April 16
Cloverbud Workshop – April 23 – 9-11 a.m.
Green Team – Feed My Starving Children – April 23
Dog Project Orientation – April 25 – 6:30 p.m.
Science of Agriculture Response Challenge SOAR–June 21-23
Citizenship Washington Focus trip –July 2-9
Agricultural Academy –July 18-22
Minnesota State Fair – August 25-September 5
More information regarding meetings and times can be found at the following link:

http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/dakota/4-h

Minnesota 4-H

http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/

Sincerely,
Dakota County 4-H Staff