March 2016

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, Photography and Media Judging- Projects Include Food Review, Video, Computer, Illustrated Presentation and NEW in 2016 PHOTOGRAPHY Judging 1-8 p.m.
- July 18-21 - Arts-In Encampment
- 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
- August 24-28 - State Fair 4-H Livestock Encampment
- August 25-September 5 - Minnesota State Fair

To keep up on what is happening, visit the Dakota County 4-H webpage.

**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. 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 March 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.

Ambassador Meeting - March 14

The Dakota County 4-H Ambassadors will meet on Monday, March 14 at 6 p.m. at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center. A detailed agenda will be sent to Ambassadors and families one week prior to the meeting.

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 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

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 a 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. The Scholarship is intended for high school seniors who will be attending an accredited college, university, community college or technical college fall quarter/semester 2016 and who have a strong commitment to 4-H. This application is located at: http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/dakota/4-h/downloads/page/1. You can find the application in both a pdf and Word format. Please contact Anja at akoester@umn.edu if you have any questions.
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 a pdf and a 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 ktjaecckels@gmail.com.

Luck-O-Three 4-H Cloverbud Workshop - March 19 - 9-11 a.m.

Join the Dakota County 4-H Ambassadors in an event for Cloverbuds on March 19. The workshop will be from 9-11 a.m. at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center in Farmington. There will be exciting activities including games, crafts, scavenger hunt and a snack. The workshop is open to all 4-H members and their friends in grades K-2. Pre-registration is required by Friday, March 11, so adequate supplies are available for all participants. Workshop is free!

To register, please e-mail Cherie at frand004@umn.edu or call 651-480-7702 by March 11.

Roadshow for Careers in Food, Agriculture, & Environmental Sciences Training - March 24

Dakota County 4-H has opportunities for youth (9th grade and above) and adult volunteers to help with in-school agriculture programming. You will have the opportunity to work with middle school youth along with Inver Hills Community College students through the classes while helping them learn about career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, agriculture and math (STEAM) and the Dakota County 4-H program. This will not be a lecture, but a super fun, hands-on, experiential learning experience. This is a perfect opportunity for anyone interested in education, STEM, agriculture, communication….or just fun! You can help with as many classes as your schedule and parents allow!

This spring we will be going to the following schools:

Inver Grove Heights Middle School - April 12 (10:27 a.m-1:55 p.m.) April 14 (7:40-10:27 a.m.) and April 15 (7:40-10:27 a.m.) with approximately 55-minute class periods.
Valley Middle School District 196 - May 10, 17, 24 and 31 from 11:40 a.m.-2:40 p.m.; each class period is 55 minutes.

Training will be Thursday, March 24 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center in Farmington. Please RSVP to Anja at akoester@umn.edu or 651-480-7758 if you will be attending. If you can’t attend, but still want to participate, contact Anja, so other arrangements for training can be made.

4-H Horse Project Meeting - March 28

The next horse project meeting is scheduled for March 28 from 6:30-8 p.m. at This Old Horse which is a retirement, recovery and rescue horse facility located at 19025 Coates Blvd, Hastings, MN (approximately 10 minutes east of Farmington, just off Highway 52). We will be learning about their business, the horses at their farm and taking a tour! At this meeting, we will be rolling out a new horseless horse program and the miniature horse project, which we are excited to be offering in Dakota County 4-H in 2016! Horse Project meetings are open to horseless and horse project members. Future horse project meetings are scheduled for May 23 and July 25.

Environmental, Food & Agricultural Science Summer Academy - Early Bird Registration is March 31

Once again, Dakota County 4-H and Inver Hills Community College have teamed up to offer you a week-long opportunity to explore agriculture in ways you never knew were possible. Environmental, Food and Agricultural Science Summer Academy is being offered to youth who have completed the 9th 12th grade and who are interested in pursuing careers in agriculture. We have an exciting week planned with new activities along with many hands-on educational activities led by high school teachers.

During the Environmental, Food and Agricultural Sciences "Ag" Summer Academy, youth will have an opportunity to participate in a number of exciting activities including:

- Urban Farming
- Study of Fisheries Management
- Small Animal Care
- Commodities Training
- Food Science Labs
- Wind Energy
- Forestry
- Water Quality

Participants will go on field trips to the University of Minnesota and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls to learn about agricultural opportunities at these local colleges. There will be a hands-on parent/guardian workshop for families to get the “ins” and “outs” of navigating through college and financing options.

Ag Summer Academy will be held from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on July 18-22. The cost for the week is $95 (fee includes lunch, transportation for college visits, and week-long hands-on
This program will be held at Inver Hills Community College in Inver Grove Heights.

Registration is due June 1; however, space is limited so it is suggested you sign up soon. To register, please go to https://give.inverhills.edu/sslpage.aspx?pid=402&siteid=1&hbc=1 and click on the next button to register. Once you have signed up, you will be sent additional information about the week.

Funding for the Environmental, Food and Agricultural Sciences Ag Summer Academy is provided by CHS, Syngenta and the Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council MAELC. For questions or more information please contact Anja Johnson, 4-H Program Coordinator at akoester@umn.edu or 651-480-7758.

**LQA&E Training - April 7 - Registration Deadline is April 1**

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 interested in participating at state fair as a 4-H livestock exhibitor in beef, dairy, sheep, swine, poultry, rabbits, meat and dairy goat and lama must have completed the Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics training prior to the county fair qualifying show. Training is good for three fair seasons and is free for Dakota County 4-H members. Cost is $10 for non-Dakota County 4-H members. LQA&E registration forms are due April 1. If April 7 does not work for you, it is your responsibility to find 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/.

**2016 SS&W Spring Leader Certification Training - Registration Deadline is April 8**

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. Your 4-H Program Coordinator’s signature is required on the registration form, so please plan accordingly. Registration materials are posted at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-certification/.
Rocket Launch Day - April 9

4-H aerospace members that participated in the February rocket building workshop are invited Saturday, April 9 at 10:00 a.m. to the rocket launch day at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center. Rocket engines will be provided to those who constructed rockets in February. Please register by April 6, by e-mailing Cherie at frand004@umn.edu or calling 651-480-7702.

4-H Green Team - Feed My Starving Children - April 23

The Dakota County 4-H Green Team will be doing a community service project with Feed My Starving Children on April 23 from 2-4 p.m. Watch your e-mail for a Sign Up Genius invite.

Project Day - April 30

Save the date for a fun and interactive 4-H project day. This morning will be filled with hands-on activities and learning. Registration and more details will be coming out soon.

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 and to learn about the new online registration process for county fair registration. Watch for more information.

Day Camp Counselor Applications Due May 6

Camp counselors are needed for the “Anything Goes” Day Camp on Thursday, June 16 and Friday, June 17. Camp will be held at the Dakota County Fairgrounds. 4-H Staff 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. Day camp counselor 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 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 - Openings in Session 2 - June 27-30

There is still room in Session 2 (June 27-30) of 4-H Resident Camp! 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 are 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. The registration deadline is June 1.

Dakota County 4-H Agriculture Programming

Thanks to those who participated in the survey that was sent out last month to families. We had an outstanding number of responses with over a 10% response rate and over 100 people who took time out of their busy schedule to fill out the survey. They survey is a tool that the Dakota County 4-H Agriculture Advisory Board is now viewing and putting steps in place to ensure Dakota County 4-H is meeting the wants and needs of the 4-H members and the local community regarding agriculture programming now and in the future. As the committee continues to work to come up with new ways to bring agriculture to the forefront, we will continue to keep the 4-H membership posted on their progress. The advisory board will be coming together in March to begin some potential program planning for 2016 and beyond.

SOAR - Science of Agriculture Response Teams - Your Help and Suggestions are Needed and Encouraged!

In 2016, Dakota County 4-H has five teams that will be competing at the state competition in June. Teams have been working hard to come up with a topic that interests them and is a “problem” in the community. They work together to come up with a solution for the issue or problem. This year a new contest has been added in which teams engaging the most people on their topic receive a community engagement award giving the team an extra $100 to put towards their $600 participation fee. These presentations must be completed by June 7. Each team consists of 3-4 members and teams range in age from 6th grade to a year past high school.

If you have an idea where they can present, please contact me at 651-480-7758 or akoester@umn.edu as soon as possible, so we can add it to their busy schedules. This could include community venues, your local organizations, 4-H club meetings, schools, etc. The teams will be participating in a fundraiser at Culver’s as part of the “Thank You Farmers” campaign. More information regarding this fundraiser will be going out to families soon.

Join us for the SOAR Meet and Greet on September 19 to learn more about SOAR and what is expected of a team. Current teams will be on hand along with Science of Agriculture Extension Educator, Dr. Joshua Rice, to answer questions and offer advice. This year's topics include: Nitrogen from fertilizer gets into surface water and groundwater; Hay Mold Probe; Economic impact of GMO/Non-GMO and Grocery Stores; and Organic versus traditional farming—comparing production rates.

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. Teens 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!

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.

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: There are no paper registrations 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.**

If you are interested in being part of a Dakota County Rube Goldberg team, please e-mail torg0116@umn.edu and we will add you to our e-mail list for updates about upcoming practices and workshops.

**We Need Your Jeans!**

Dakota County 4-H members are participating in a statewide 4-H community service project and are collecting jeans for two service projects. Over a million young people experience homelessness in the U.S. every year. One item they often request is a pair of jeans. Jeans can be dropped off through May 31 in the box located in the lobby at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center in Farmington. Jeans in good condition will be donated to Teens for Jeans and other jeans will be donated to Sole Hope. See flyer on the Dakota County 4-H webpage for more details.

**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 you are 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/).

**Scholarships for College-bound 4-H Youth**

Are you entering college this fall? Did you know that each year the Minnesota 4-H Foundation awards over $20,000 in scholarships to college-bound 4-H'ers? Applications are due April 15. Visit the [Minnesota 4-H Foundation website](http://z.umn.edu/sga) to learn more. Direct questions to Erin Kelly-Collins (erinkc@umn.edu/612-624-7667).

**LOOKING AHEAD – CALENDAR**

Regional Project Bowl Competition – Hastings High School – March 12

Ambassador Meeting – March 14 – 6 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.

Dog Project Orientation – April 25 – 6:30 p.m.

4-H Project Day – April 30

4-H Graduation – May 25
Pie Workshops - June 13-14
4-H Day Camps - June 16-17
4-H Resident Camp Session 1 - June 20-23
4-H Resident Camp Session 2 - June 27-30
Science of Agriculture Response Challenge (SOAR) - June 21-23
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