In This Issue:

Cloverbuds, December 10th ...................................................... 2
Leader’s Council + Action Plan meeting ..................................... 2
4th Annual Northern MN 4-H Project Bowl Invitational ............... 2
AmeriCorps Position Available .............................................. 2
Message from Dorothy .......................................................... 2
Helping Hands Grants ............................................................. 3
Regional Horse Event ............................................................ 3
4-H BLU theme announced .................................................... 3
2015 Project Bowls ............................................................... 4
Minnesota 4-H State Horse Winter Roundup ............................. 4

Calendar

DECEMBER
10 Cloverbuds

JANUARY
23-25 Minnesota 4-H State Horse Winter Roundup
28 Leader’s Council Meeting

FEBRUARY
1 Helping Hands Grants due to the 4-H Foundation office
21-22 Northwest BLU, Moorhead

MARCH
21 Regional Project Bowl, Bemidji
28 Regional Project Bowl (snow date)

APRIL
6-11 National 4-H Conference
11 State Project Bowl, Sauk Rapids

JUNE
18-19 Science of Agriculture Response Challenge
20-27 Citizenship Washington Focus
Cloverbuds, December 10th

Cloverbuds project hour will be held Dec 10th after school until 4pm. All kids in grades K-2 are welcome to attend!

Leader’s Council Meeting + Action Planning Meeting Jan 28th

Our county 4-H program has been taking part in Growing 4-H Opportunities Together: Volunteers in Vision and Action, a process that has engaged youth and adults in defining the direction a county 4-H program can take to fully contribute to the positive development of young people. A steering committee has determined program priorities, and the next step is to develop action plans to reach our goals. At the next meeting on January 28th at 5:30pm at the courthouse, we will be working in small groups to develop action plans to address priorities. As the action plans are created, we will determine what volunteer structure is needed to carry out the action and will brainstorm possible youth and adult volunteers and partners to support the work. We hope you will take part in this opportunity to shape the next action steps for our county’s 4-H program. Please contact the County Extension Office with questions.

Northern MN 4-H Project Bowl Invitational

The 4th annual Northern MN 4-H Project Bowl Invitational will take place Saturday, February 7, 2015 at the UMC campus in Crookston MN again. Registration forms are available online at: http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/roseau/4-h

Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/northernmn4hprojectbowlinvitational

I have emailed the coaches who’s teams attended last year a couple of weeks ago. If you could forward the information to anyone else that would be interested that would be great.

Attention 4-H Families and Alumni – AmeriCorps Positions Available in Fisher, Bemidji, TRF and Roseau

Through this program, tutors are provided complete training, on site mentoring/support, an eleven month paid stipend/living allowance, an educational award of up to $5,645, and opportunities for personal and professional development. Tutors commit to serving for eleven months (full or part-time) at a local school, and may also be eligible for federal student loan forbearance, health care benefits and child care. Tutors must be at least 18 years old with a high school diploma/G.E.D and a U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien, and available for at least part of the normal school day. Our tutors come from many areas, including recent high school or college graduates, empty nesters, career changers and retirees. Apply online at minnesotareadingcorps.org or minnesotamathcorps.org. Questions can be directed to Anne DeMotts atademotts@servemnaction.org or 320-230-0833. The positions available are a Preschool Literacy Tutor, an Elementary Literacy Tutor (K-3 grades) or a Math Enrichment Tutor (4-6 grades).

Message from Dorothy

Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

It’s the holiday season, and time when many of us reflect and give thanks for all of the things that bring joy and meaning to our life. I am truly thankful that Extension 4-H is able to provide learning opportunities for youth across Minnesota. 4-H is an important part of the University’s outreach mission. The goal is to provide positive learning experiences that prepare all youth in Minnesota to succeed.

Any questions you can contact 218-964-5689 or cttorstveit@gvtel.com. Chad Torstveit.
The current edition of Extension’s Source magazine is now available and includes a story about how 4-H is working to serve the diverse and changing populations of Minnesota youth. I hope you will read this story and share it with people in your community to help them understand the important role 4-H plays in preparing all youth in Minnesota to learn, lead, contribute, and help Minnesota communities thrive. You can find the article on Extension’s web site here: http://www.extension.umn.edu/source/fall-winter-2014/4-h-opens-new-doors/. I often reflect on how honored and humbled I am to lead such an audacious program for young people. Thank each of you for being in the journey with me whether as a youth, parent, volunteer, staff, or community supporter. I appreciate your engagement with the Minnesota 4-H program.

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

Helping Hands Grants: A great source of funding for your 4-H club

Approximately $30,000 will be awarded to 4-H counties and clubs through the Helping Hands Grant program. Average grant awards are between $200 and $2,000. Multiple applicants from the same county are welcome and encouraged.

Applications are due to the 4-H Foundation office by Feb. 1, 2015 and can be downloaded from the Minnesota 4-H Foundation website (z.umn.edu/helping). Questions can be directed to Erin Kelly-Collins at (erinkc@umn.edu / 612.624.7667).

Regional Horse Event

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 10, 10 a.m. - noon for the next Regional Horse Event. This is a great time to connect with persons in your area about the horse project. Specifically at the January meeting we will be electing representatives to be on the State Horse PDC. There will be two youth and one adult opening in each region. I encourage you to get involved with both the regional events and the State Horse PDC. This is an excellent way to show leadership and to make a difference in the horse program in Minnesota. Locations of the regional meetings will be established soon. Please watch the website for locations at www.4-H.umn.edu/projects/animal-science/horse/regional-horse-meetings/. Also applications are available on the State PDC website www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/horse/PDC/. You can bring the completed application with you to the regional meeting, send it to your regional representative ahead of time or send it to me prior to the meetings and I can get them to the representatives. If you have any questions contact Renee Kostick at hinkx001@umn.edu or 218-232-5174.

4-H BLU theme announced

The Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors are thrilled to announce this year’s theme for the Building Leadership and Understanding (BLU) overnight leadership retreat: “4-H BLU: Tune Into You”, which will focus on self-acceptance and acceptance of others. Youth in grades 6 through one year past high school are invited and volunteer chaperones will also be needed, contact your PC if interested! Five BLUs will be held this year in the following locations:

- Feb. 7 - 8, 2015 - Central: Elk River
- Feb. 21 - 22, 2015 - Northwest: Moorhead
- Feb. 21 - 22, 2015 - Southeast: Rochester
- Feb. 28 - March 1, 2015 - Northeast: Duluth
- Feb. 28 - March 1, 2015 - Southwest: Marshall

Additional details are available online at: www.4-H.umn.edu/events/blu/!
2015 Project Bowls

Project Bowls are just around the corner! It is that time of year again when project bowl teams will begin practicing for the regional contests in March. There are opportunities for teams to form in dairy, dog, general livestock, horse, poultry, rabbit and wildlife. And new in 2015, we will be offering llama bowl at the State Bowl! Two team contests are held - Junior (grades 3-8) and Senior (grades 4-12+). Check out the 4-H Project Bowl website at www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/events/project-bowl/ for rules, resources, and more information for the 2015 bowls. If you would like to coach, help coach or participate on any of these teams, please call your Extension office.

Regional Bowl dates and locations:
- March 7 – Foley
- March 14 - Farmington
- March 21 - Bemidji
- March 21 - Redwood Falls
- March 28 – Snow Date
- April 11 – State Bowl (Sauk Rapids)

Minnesota 4-H State Horse Winter Roundup

Winter Roundup is an exciting three day, two night conference Jan. 23 - 25, 2015, in Spicer, focused on developing youth and adult leadership in the 4-H horse project. The conference is packed with speakers and educational workshops. Topics cover areas such as developing leadership skills, horse care and showing, horse project areas such as western heritage, Horse Bowl, hippology, speech and demo, applying to the Dan Patch and Youth Leadership Awards and much more!

This conference is geared towards and best appreciated by adults and youth 8th grade and above. For more information and registration materials go to www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/horse/winter-roundup/index.html. Registrations are due by Jan. 9 for the early bird discount.