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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
Grant County Happenings

**Federation Meeting**

The next Federation meeting is scheduled for **September 28**, 6:30pm at the Grant County Extension office meeting room. Elections will be held for our 2015-16 officer team.

**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.

**2015 Fall Volunteer Training**

All Together, Yet Not All the Same: **November 23**, 6-7:30pm at the Grant County Extension Office meeting room. Dinner provided at 5:45pm. Federation meeting following training. Please register by calling the Extension Office 218-685-8323.

**State Ambassador**

Congratulations to **Allyson Coleman** being named a 2015-2016 State 4-H Ambassador. Allyson, along with 27 youth from across the state, will be planning, implementing, teaching and facilitating 4-H learning opportunities around the state over the course of the next year.

Committees

Grant County Committees: please contact the Extension Office at 218-685-8323, if you would like to serve on any of the following County Committees: Budget, Awards/Recognition, County Event, Food Stand or Livestock.

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 [4-H Online](#) 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 iPhone and for Android.

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

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 1-2 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.

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 grades 9 and up, who 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, muzzleloading 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 October 3-4 at the Perham Middle School and Fort Thunder Gun Club in Perham.

Registration materials are available at on the 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

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