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Online Enrollment for 4-H Families

Remember all members and volunteers need to re-enroll each year!

Enrollment for the new 4-H year is now open and Minnesota 4-H families are reminded and encouraged to go to 4HOnline 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 at www.4-h.umn.edu/4honline.

Youth, their parents and adult volunteers, as part of enrolling or re-enrolling, will all be agreeing to the Minnesota 4-H code of conduct, which is available for review, along with other policy and authorization statements at www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/policies/ or by contacting your local Extension office: www.extension.umn.edu/county.

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 at www.4-h.umn.edu/volunteer/#application.

All returning 4-H members and volunteers will re-enroll online by May 16th. User guides and information are available online. This is statewide.

New Members: Youth new to 4-H can join at any time throughout the year!

Re-Enrollment Deadline for Receiving County Scholarships: January 1st – NEW IN 2016!!!

Re-Enrollment Deadline: May 16th.

Animal Science ID Deadline: The Animal Science ID deadlines are February 16th (for market beef) and May 16th (for all others) to the Extension Office.

These ARE strict MN 4-H deadlines, and the consequence below applies. If a member is already enrolled and wants to add or drop projects, then he/she should go online and make their changes by May 16th.

If enrollments are not received by the May 16th deadline, the participant can still exhibit at county fair, participate in the auction and receive premium, but will receive no ribbon placing higher than a blue (including champions and reserve champions) and will not be eligible for State trips

2016 4-H Events Dates

March 12th – Share the Fun & Performing Arts Day Practice
March 13th – Share the Fun & Performing Arts Day
April 2nd – Food Review & Demonstration Day
April 16th – State Project Bowl
July 14th – Fashion Review
July 19th – Dog Obedience & Rally Show
July 25th – Fair Clean up Night
July 26th – Dog Obedience & Rally Show
July 30th – County Horse Show
Aug 1st – Dog Agility & Showmanship Show
Aug 3rd – County Fair Entry Day
Aug 4th – 7th – County Fair
Aug 24th - 28th - State Fair Livestock Encampment

Schedule for Monday, March 21

6 p.m. – Foodstand Committee – Each club needs to have at least 1 Representative
6 p.m. – Exhibit Building Committee – Each club needs to have at least 1 Youth & 1 Adult Representative
7 p.m. – Federation (Meeting Room 200)
7:30 p.m. – Livestock Planning Meeting (Meeting Room 200) – Open to all livestock families

*All of these events will be held at the Family Services Center in Litchfield. These events are open to all 4-H members and their families.

Foodstand Committee
Each club is expected to have at least one adult be a part of this very important committee. Our first meeting will be Monday, March 21 at 6 p.m. at the Family Services Center in Litchfield.

Exhibit Building Committee
Each club is expected to have at least one adult and one youth be a part of this very important committee. Our first meeting will be Monday, March 21 at 6 p.m. at the Family Services Center in Litchfield.

March Federation Meeting
Monday, March 21, 7:00 p.m.  Meeting Room 200, Family Services Center
Refreshments: Danielson Hustlers & Valley Victors

Livestock Planning Meeting
Our next meeting will be Monday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Family Services Center in Litchfield. All livestock members and their families are invited to attend!

Winter Weather Policy
Just in case the weather becomes questionable and you are concerned about whether or not an event will take place, please watch for an email and listen to KLFD Radio, AM 1410, for cancellation notices and other pertinent information. Thanks.

Engineer It and Engineer It 2.0
A day for kids to imagine, plan, build, test and modify original designs in a series of workshops!

Every part of our lives is affected by science and many everyday mysteries can be solved by using the Eight Science and Engineering Practices. Join University of Minnesota Extension Youth Development Staff and Volunteers at the Engineer-It Challenge Workshop to develop your engineering skills!

Engineer It: Please join us for a morning filled with hands-on engineering challenges: bridge building, Rube-Goldberg Machines, roller-coaster building, and more!

WHEN & WHERE: Saturday, April 9th, 2016, 8:30 am to Noon at the Litchfield High School
All youth in grades 3-8 can attend. Registration is limited to the first 100 kids!

Engineer It 2.0: Please join us in the afternoon to explore a little deeper into engineering and bridge building!

WHEN & WHERE: Saturday, April 9th, 2016, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Litchfield High School
All youth in grades 3-8 can attend. Registration is limited to the first 100 kids!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:
Registrations are due by Friday, April 1st, 2016 to the University of Minnesota Extension, Meeker County Office.

The cost to attend is $15/child.

LEARN MORE: To learn more about 4-H STEM check our website: http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/events/engineer-it/index.html.
Share the Fun
Date: Sunday, March 13th
Tentative Start Time: 2:30 p.m. (Following Performing Arts acts)
Location: Family Services Center in Litchfield
Practice: Saturday, March 12th
All clubs are encouraged to participate!

Performing Arts Day
Date: Sunday, March 13th
Start Time: 1 p.m.
Location: Family Services Center in Litchfield
Practice: Saturday, March 12th
Registration deadline: February 24th

SAVE THE DATE: Meeker County’s Livestock Quality Assurance & Ethics Training
Date: Monday, June 20th
Time: 8:30-12. (Registration: 8:15 a.m.
Location: Litchfield High School

Food Review & Demonstration Day
Date: Saturday, April 2, 2016
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Meeker County Family Services Center
Registration Deadline: Wednesday, March 23rd
(NO LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED)
All FOOD REVIEW participants are asked to provide their recipe (preferably in electronic format) and a photo (preferably digital) of the completed dish to be included in recipe book that will be compiled of all the 2016 Food Review dishes.

All participants must be actively enrolled in 4-H for the 2015-2016 4-H year to be eligible to participate.

County Dog Training
Again this year, Melissa Baggenstoss will serve as our Meeker County 4-H Dog Project Leader. Please note that this year’s practices will be held on Mondays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Meeker County Fairgrounds. For spring practices, watch for weather updates and practice cancellations, as necessary. Please save the following Mondays for practices:
April: 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th
May: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
June: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th
July: 11th, 18th

*NOTE: Agility members must attend at least six (6) training classes!!! Attending County 4-H training is preferred, but you may also attend a recognized training school. If you attend a recognized training school, documentation is needed to prove attendance at a minimum of six classes. Simply working with your dog in the backyard does not count.

Attention Minnesota 4-H Dairy Families!
Four reminders Minnesota 4-H dairy project members will want to keep in mind for 2016:

1. All animals must be owned or leased AND identified (data entered into 4HOnline or an ID worksheet submitted to the Extension office) before the animal’s first freshening. If you want to ID a first calf heifer for the first time, please note this must be done BEFORE she calves.
2. All other ID’ing for dairy project animals must be completed by May 15. You will receive details from your county office.
3. All leased animals need a lease agreement resigned/renewed each year. To renew leases, download last year’s lease agreement OR obtain a
copy from the Extension office. Obtain the appropriate signatures to renew and, if need be, update the agreement. Finally scan and email the updated lease agreement to the Extension office OR take it to the Extension office. The deadline for this is May 15. Remember, all lease forms need to be completed and uploaded prior to the animals first freshening.

4. If your “family unit” includes someone who has graduated out of 4-H or is not enrolling in dairy this year AND ID’ed in their name last year, you will want to reassign those animals to another family member. The exception is animals shown by this past dairy project member AFTER freshening. Those animals are not eligible to be shown by another 4-Her. Complete details are available on the Dairy Information Sheet, which is posted at www.4-H.mn.edu/animal-id.

Meeker County 4-H Shooting Sports Project Details

The Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Program is designed to promote life skills through a safe and educational program. This program is led by trained and certified 4-H leaders. Young people learn by doing, as they experience hands-on learning in shooting sports and wildlife education.

Disciples Include:

Archery  Air Rifle/Pistol
Shotgun  .22 Rifle
Wildlife  Muzzleloading

Each discipline teaches safety, concentration, self-discipline, self-confidence, goal setting, decision-making and courtesy as the young people learn basic skills and build toward more advanced activities. Both competitive and cooperative skills are included. Participants are exposed to local policies, regulations, laws, and ethical behavior both by repeated demonstration and through personal practice.

*Equipment is not needed to participate. The county has some for member use.

County Dates: All practices will be held from 6:30-8:30. There will be a kickoff on the first day of practice at each location

- **Kimball practices:** June 12th, June 22nd, July 10th, July 27th, August 14th, August 24th.
- **Grove City Dates:** May 5th, May 19th, June 2nd, June 16th, June 30th, July 7th, July 14th, July 28th, August 11th, August 25th.

State Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational- September 9th-11th

Winter Shooting Sports Project Indoor Practices

Dates: Saturdays, March 5th, March 19th, April 2nd, April 16th.

Time: 1 – 3 p.m.

Location: Steffes Group Inc. building (24400 MN Hwy 22 S., Litchfield, MN 55355)

Disciplines Offered: Air rifle/pistol, archery

March 19th- Trap release Demo by the DNR
Federation Meeting & County Fair Work Night: Pre and Post-Fair Cleanup!

Please plan ahead and save Monday, July 25th at 5 p.m. for the County Fair work night. A short Federation Meeting will be held after clean up. This will be the only evening designated for pre-fair clean up. Please note the minimum number of members requested from each club. More workers are always welcome!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assigned Task</th>
<th>Clubs In Charge</th>
<th>Adults In Charge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-H Building Pre-Fair Power Washing – You’ll need to supply your own pressure washer and hose. – Call Carol or Perry at 593-0497 to schedule a time to get into the 4-H Building</td>
<td>Koronis Eager Beavers</td>
<td>Designated by Assigned Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-H Building (At Least 3 adults, 3 youth per club)</td>
<td>Acton Buzzers</td>
<td>Exhibit Building Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-H Office</td>
<td>4-H Staff</td>
<td>4-H Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Pre-Fair) Food Stand Clean Up (FOUR adults and two youth per club)</td>
<td>Foodstand Committee Members</td>
<td>Dede Hard (Foodstand Manager)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Forest City Livewires</td>
<td>4-H Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kimball Kruisers</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Litchfield Satellites</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Valley Victors</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday night of fair clean up at 4-H Building 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. (at least 3 adults, 3 youth, 16+ per club)</td>
<td>Dassel Lamplighters</td>
<td>4-H Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Koronis Eager Beavers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Valley Victors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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4-H Residential (Morris) Camp Counselors Announced

We are excited to announce this year's 4-H Camp Counselors! This group of young people will be providing leadership to the Regional Out of the World 4-H Camp, June 23rd – 25th! Counselors were chosen through an application process. This year’s counselors from Meeker County include: Jayson Hedtke, Kayla Kutzke, Daniel Williamson, Darrin Williamson (Jr. Counselor)

Message from Dorothy

**Dear 4-H families and volunteers,**

Over the last few years, you may have heard or read about how youth need "social-emotional" or "soft" skills to succeed in learning, school, work and life. More and more, the value of these skills - including confidence, self-control, caring, and problem solving – is being examined to understand how they are acquired, and where and how they are being taught.

Youth learn these skills in a variety of environments – at school, in youth programs and at home.

The Search Institute recently released a study called, “Don't Forget the Families,” which highlights the power of family relationships as a critical, but often neglected, factor in developing these skills. A key finding is that parent-child relationships are 10 times more powerful than race, ethnicity, family composition, and family income in predicting whether children are developing these skills.
The Search Institute has created a useful booklet called "Bringing Developmental Relationships Home: Tips and Relationship Builders for Families,” with activities and tips that families can use to help youth develop these important skills and strengths: http://www.search-institute.org/downloadable/SearchInstitute-DontForgetFamilies-Activities-10-13-2015.pdf.

I encourage families to explore how you can help youth develop social emotional skills that will prepare them to succeed.

Sincerely,
Dorothy M. Freeman
Associate dean and state 4-H director

2016 SS&W spring Leader Certification Trainings: Two sites!

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, 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.

April 23-24, 2016
St. Mary’s Church and Kanabec County Gun Club, Mora

April 23-24, 2016
Worthington Regional Office, Worthington

Registration materials will be available online Feb. 1 at www.4-h.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-certification/. Deadline to register is April 8, 2016. Disciplines fill quickly, so make sure registration forms are sent in early!

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, 2016. 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)

Minnesota Alliance with Youth
Red Wagon Awards: Due April 1

The Red Wagon Awards honor young people in grades 6-12 in Minnesota that have shown resilience and overcome obstacles to achieve academic gains, give back to their community and grow to become leaders among their peers.

In 2016, the Alliance will be honoring three Minnesota youth and one youth-led community service club, each nominated by caring adults, peers or partners in their local community. Each individual winner will receive a $500 education scholarship, and the winning youth service group will receive $500 to support the work of their group. Any young person or youth-led service group in grades 6-12 in Minnesota is eligible for nomination.

The nomination form is available online through April 1.

The award winners will be honored at the 2016 Alliance fundraiser and Red Wagon Awards celebration event on June 23 at Macalester College. For nomination criteria and additional information about the Red Wagon Awards, visit mnyouth.net/work/red-wagon-awards/.
Youth Day at the Capitol with Minnesota 4-H!

Enrolled Minnesota 4-H members are invited to attend a Youth Day at the Capitol (YDAC) event with the Minnesota Alliance with Youth from 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29, 2016! The YDAC will provide both training and engagement opportunities for youth in grades 6-12 to participate in the legislative process. Screened volunteer chaperones will also be needed. The application process will open on Feb. 18, and the deadline to apply is March 11. Additional details are available at 4-h.umn.edu/events/youth-day-at-the-capitol.

Presidential Inauguration Focus

Minnesota 4-H will be selecting a group of 50 youth from across the state to attend the 2017 presidential inauguration in January. The application material will be posted in early March and will be due in mid-April, with selection occurring in May. This will be a competitive application process, and open to Minnesota 4-H members in grades 9 through one year past high school, as of January 2017. More information will be posted Mar. 1 at http://z.umn.edu/cwfinauguration.

Calendar

MARCH
• 1 Horse Bowl Practice
• 5 Regional Project Bowl, Foley
• 5 Shooting Sports Practice
• 6 Poultry Bowl Practice
• 8 Horse Bowl Practice
• 11 Youth Day at the Capital application deadline
• 12 Share the Fun & Performing Arts Practices
• 12 Regional Project Bowl, Hastings
• 13 Share the Fun & Performing Arts Day
• 13 Poultry Bowl Practice
• 15 Horse Bowl Practice
• 17-19 M4-HAVA 2016 Annual conference, Fergus Falls
• 19 Regional Project Bowl, Bemidji
• 19 Regional Project Bowl, Redwood Falls
• 19 Fundraiser Delivery
• 19 Shooting Sports Practice
• 20 Poultry Bowl Practice
• 21 Exhibit Building Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.
• 21 Foodstand Meeting, 6 pm
• 21 Federation Meeting, 7 p.m.
• 21 Livestock Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
• 22 Horse Bowl Practice
• 29 Horse Bowl Practice
• 29 Youth Day at the Capitol

APRIL
• 1 Minnesota Alliance with Youth Red Wagon Award nomination deadline
• 2 Food Review & Demonstration Day
• 2 Camp Counselor Training, Morris
• 2 Regional Project Bowl, Snow date
• 2 Shooting Sports Practice
• 4 Dog Training
• 7 County livestock PDC training webinar
• 9 Engineer It!
• 9-14 National 4-H Conference, Washington, D.C.
• 11 Dog Training
• 11 ACGC babysitting clinic
• 15 Minnesota 4-H Foundation college scholarship applications due
• 16 State Project Bowl, Sauk Rapids
• 16 Shooting Sports Practice
• 18 Dog Training
• 18 Ambassador Meeting, 6 p.m.
• 18 Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
• 23-24 Shooting Sports Leader Certification Training, Mora
• 25 Dog Training

MAY
• 2 Dog Training
• 9 Dog Training
• 15 Re-enrollment Deadline
• 15 Livestock ID Deadline
• 15 2016 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge registration due
• 16 Foodstand Committee, 6 p.m.
• 16 Ambassador Meeting, 6 p.m.
• 16 Federation Meeting, 7 p.m.
• 16 Livestock Committee, 7:30 p.m.
• 16 County Fair Premium Book Available
• 16 Dog Training
• 23 Dog Training
• 30 Dog Training
• 30 Office Closed (Holiday)

JUNE
• 6 Dog Training
• 13 Dog Training
• 20 LQA&E
• 20 Ambassador Meeting, 6 p.m.
• 20 Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
• 20 Dog Training
• 21-23 Residential Camp, Morris
• 27 Dog Training

JULY
• 1 County Fair Registration Deadline
• 2-9 Citizenship Washington Focus
• 4 Office Closed (Holiday)
• 11 Dog Training
• 14 Fashion Revue
• 18 Dog Training
• 25 County Fair Clean Up Night
• 25 Federation Meeting, 7 p.m.
• 25 Livestock Superintendent Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
• 26 Dog Obedience and Rally Show. 5:00 p.m.
• 30 County & State Qualifying Horse Show

AUGUST
• 1 Dog Agility & Showmanship Show, 5 p.m.
• 3 County Fair Entry Day
• 4-7 Meeker County Fair
• 24-28 State Fair Livestock Encampment
• TBD State Fair General Encampment

SEPTEMBER
• 5 Office Closed (Holiday)