Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

It is fair season again, and I know many of you are preparing to participate in 4-H at your county fairs this summer. I know you, like I, enjoy seeing the wonderful accomplishments of our youth.

For the third year, we will be live streaming some of our 4-H events at the Minnesota State Fair!

Our goal is to provide a way for 4-H families and friends who are unable to come to the fair to see some of the 4-H fun from home. The live stream is provided on the internet, so you can watch from computers, laptops, smart phones or any mobile device with internet service. Here is the live stream event line-up:

- Dairy goat judging: 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Friday, Aug. 28
- Lama costume competition: 6-7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 2
- Performing arts in the 4-H building: 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 26-Monday, Sept. 7

You can watch 12 hours of state fair activities live every day of the fair here 4-H.umn.edu/state-fair/4-h-live-cam/.
The Arts-In performance recording will be available on our website and on the Minnesota 4-H Youtube channel after the fair is over.

I hope those of you who can't join us in person enjoy seeing some of our wonderful 4-H'ers who are sharing their learning and accomplishments at the Minnesota State Fair this year!

Sincerely,

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

The Martin County Fair will be here soon!

The Martin County Fair will be here before we know it! I love the Martin County Fair as it's a chance to showcase all the hard work, skills, and talents of our 4-H members. We get to show the public what the Martin County 4-H program is all about! The fair gives us the opportunity to demonstrate how our members have grown and developed through our year-round programming. I am truly proud to be a part of the Martin County 4-H program and this is mostly due to YOU - all of the dedicated members, volunteers, and families who make the 4-H program a strong and thriving one. Thank you all for your hard work and passion year-round to ensure our 4-H program continues to “Make the Best Better.”

Thank you, in advance, for all of your help and support during the Martin County Fair! I can't wait for the County Fair, and I hope you're all just as excited as me!

See you at the Fair!

Kristie Gaalswyk-Pomerene
4-H Program Coordinator, Martin County

Food Stand Renovations

The Martin County 4-H Food Stand renovations are on their way! We can't wait to reveal all of the hard work we have put into updating the Food Stand. This has turned into quite the project filled with exciting changes! We are so thankful to those who have donated funds and material goods as well as to our volunteers who have contributed their time and energy towards this project!

If you're interested in donating to this project to continue the Food Stand's legacy and longevity, contact the Martin County 4-H office at 507-235-3341 or at gaals001@umn.edu.

Bellin Youth Agriculture Education Barn

This summer Weiss Milling, Inc., with the help of other community members and organizations, are putting up a new building at the fair to educate youth about agriculture in our area. This barn will host different pens of baby animals including: goats, lambs, calves, ponies, a sow/piglet pen, and hopefully next year, chickens and ducks. There will also be a fun corn box for kids to play in and learn about agriculture.

This barn is being built by multiple donations from area Ag businesses and generous individuals. It will be in memory of Floyd Bellin. Floyd dedicated 27 years to educating the youth in our area as the extension agent. This building will take a lot of work to get ready for the fair this August. We will need your help setting up pens, making displays, and working in the barn.
Contact your Club Leader if you are interested in helping out in the Bellin Youth Agriculture Education Barn, as they have the sign-up sheets.

**Bellin Youth Agriculture Education Barn Donation Request**

A request of a donation from Martin County 4-H for this building project was made at the June 29th Federation Meeting. It was discussed and the decision was to wait on donating until we know the full extent of the costs incurred from the Food Stand renovation project.

The request is $5,000, but any amount will be appreciated.

**Bring It Back Scholarship Reminder!**

This is a friendly reminder to those of you who have used the Bring It Back Scholarship for your registration fees to State 4-H and Martin County 4-H sponsored events that you **MUST** complete the “Bring It Back Report” portion of your Bring It Back Scholarship **within two months of attending the event**. If you do not complete the “Bring It Back Report” and submit it to the Martin County Extension Office within two months of attending the event, you will be expected to pay the registration fee in FULL to the Martin County 4-H Federation.

Feel free to contact the Martin County 4-H Office with any questions or concerns regarding this, 507-238-3116 or email gaals001@umn.edu

**Martin County 4-H Showmanship Clinic**

Learn from 4-H alum on how to master your showmanship skills! Species covered: Beef, Goat, Sheep, and Swine.

**Who: 4-H’ers in grades 3 and above**

**When:** July 29 at 5:30 p.m.

**Where:** Martin County Fairgrounds

A meal will be provided for participants.

Register by July 24 to the Martin County Extension Office at 507-235-3341 or email mnext-martin@umn.edu.

Door Prizes provided by Weiss Milling, Inc!

**Thinking about being a 4-H Chaperone?**

There are several exciting 4-H events coming up that will require adult chaperones. If you are interested in being a 4-H Chaperone for any upcoming events (e.g. YELLO!, State Fair, etc.), then you must complete the necessary steps to become a screened 4-H Volunteer. If you were a screened 4-H Volunteer in the past, then you will need to re-enroll as re-enrollment is required every year. This is a painless process; however, it can take some time. Be sure you are allowing enough time to get this taken care of before your event. Thank you in advance for your willingness to be a 4-H Volunteer/Chaperone!

For more information on how to become a screened 4-H Volunteer, visit: [http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/volunteer/](http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/volunteer/)
Attention 4-H Horse Project Members!

The MN State 4-H Horse Rule Book was revised in March 2015. Please make sure to read through the rule book to familiarize yourself with the changes made.

You can download the Rule Book here: http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn 4-H/projects/animal-science/horse/

2015 Martin County 4-H Horse Clinics & Open Rides

ALL WILL BE TAKING PLACE INDOORS AT KIETZER ARENA

Thursday, July 30   MENTOR RIDE 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 4  TRAIL CLINIC 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY:

From **8:00 to 8:30 p.m.** at each of the clinics (except for Trail) the clinicians will be available to answer participants’ specific questions.

4-H Horse Reminder: Coggins Report Must be Up-To-Date!

This is a friendly reminder that your horse’s Coggins Report must be up-to-date in order to participate in any horse event (this includes any of the open rides, clinics or boot camps).

Remember:

- Coggins expires every 12 months from when the date it was “reported out on.” Be sure your Coggins Report is up-to-date.
- Valid Coggins Report is REQUIRED before you can participate/exhibit in any horse event.

Once you have received your valid Coggins Report, you **MUST** bring a copy of it to the Martin County Extension Office, so we can upload it into your horse’s ID account on 4HOnline. You **MUST** also present a copy of it at your Martin County 4-H Horse Clinics and Open Rides!

Martin 4-H Club Container Garden Challenge

This is a reminder that Martin County 4-H will be renewing the Club Container Garden Challenge this year!

The purpose of this contest is to encourage 4-H Clubs to help add beauty and interest to the fairgrounds during the fair. The intent is to provide an opportunity for clubs to use their creativity and gardening skills to promote 4-H projects and opportunities in a pleasing and eye-catching manner.

Every Martin County 4-H Club is challenged to design and plant THREE garden boxes to be displayed at the 2015 Martin County Fair. Garden boxes and equipment provided will remain the property of Martin County 4-H following the fair. Let the Extension Office know if you your club still needs a garden box. Happy planting!
2014-2015 Federation Schedule

7:00 p.m. at the Martin County Courthouse (unless otherwise specified)
July 27: @ Martin County Resource Center
   Club Host: Silver Lake
September 28:
   Club Host: Waverly/Westford

PLEASE NOTE:
- 4-H Council meets at 6:30 p.m. prior to each Federation meeting, unless otherwise specified.
- Club host: give a club update & have club member(s) give a demonstration.
- If a proposed agenda is absent of action items, the scheduled meeting may be canceled at the discretion of the Program Coordinator. Advance notice will be given in these circumstances.

Early Fair Registration Incentive – Winners!

This year, we had a great number of families turn in their fair registrations early, and we want to THANK YOU!! Members who turned in their forms by June 16 were entered into a drawing to win a $20 punch card to the 4-H Food Stand. Four names were drawn, and the winners are:

- Ryelynn Forsberg, Elm Creek 4-H Club
- Mason Kotewa, Silver Lake 4-H Club
- Evan Roben, Elm Creek 4-H Club
- Teya Schmidtke, Elm Creek 4-H Club

Congratulations to our winners! Your prize punch card will be available for you at the 4-H Food Stand when you get to the Fair. Thank you again to all of the families who turned their forms in early! We really appreciate it!

Project Selection Guide

Are you curious about what projects you can enroll in through 4-H and exhibit at the 2015 Martin County Fair? From Photography to Youth Leadership and Geospatial to Dogs – there is something for everyone! Check out the Project Selection Guide for more details:
http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/projects/

2015 Fairground Clean Up Days

Tuesday, August 4 at 6:00 p.m.
Foodstand Clean-Up: Galena

Thursday, August 6 – Food stand Clean-Up at 6:00 p.m. and Exhibit Building at 6:00 p.m.
Foodstand Clean-Up: Elm Creek
Exhibit Building Clean-Up: Pleasant Prairie & Waverly/Westford

Tuesday, August 11 at 6:00 p.m.
Foodstand Clean-Up: Fox Lake & Rutland
Exhibit Building Clean-Up: East Chain

Monday, August 24 at 6:00 p.m.
Post-Fair Clean-Up: Silver Lake

Bring your own wash clothes, buckets, brooms, mops – any cleaning supplies you think you may need! Instructions will be provided when you get there. Thank you!
Ambassador Meetings

Reminder to Martin County 4-H Ambassadors on your upcoming meetings:

**August 5** – Work day to complete your Info Booth – at the Martin County Fairgrounds

**August 24** – End of the Year Picnic – from 1pm to 3pm – at the Martin County Fairgrounds

Want to be a 2015-2016 Martin County 4-H Ambassador?

The Martin County 4-H Ambassador Program is designed for you, BYOU. Over the course of a year, Ambassadors learn new leadership, team-building, and communication skills; complete service learning projects; and teach youth around Martin County about 4-H. You will be a key representative for our 4-H program!

If you are interested in serving as a 2015-2016 Martin County 4-H Ambassador, you **AND** a parent **MUST** attend the Kick-Off on **Sunday, August 23 at 2:30 p.m.** (immediately following the Livestock Judging Contest) in the Livestock Arena at the Martin County Fairgrounds. There are many exciting changes in store for the program this year. As such, attendance at this event is **MANDATORY** to be eligible to participate in the 2015-2016 Ambassador Program, including potential returning Ambassadors.

The Kick-Off will give an overview of the Ambassador Program including Ambassador expectations, the application process, and MORE!

**Who:** Interested youth in grades 6+ and their parent(s)

**Where:** Livestock Arena at the Martin County Fairgrounds

**When:** Sunday, August 23 at 2:30 p.m. (immediately following the Livestock Judging Contest)

Please note: Ambassador applications will only be available at the meeting.

Attention All 4-H Rabbit Project Members

Regional 4-H/FFA Rabbit Show at the Martin County Fair

Saturday, August 22 at 12:00 p.m.

Top awards will be given:

- Supreme Champion Rabbit - $150
- Reserve Champion Rabbit - $75

Make plans now to attend the Regional 4-H/FFA Rabbit Show for another chance to show your rabbit(s), meet other area project members, and to win one of the top two awards! Rabbits must be on your identification affidavit and will be judged by an ARBA judge. All members in 4-H and FFA Rabbit Project from all counties, all states, are eligible. Please email or call Carmen for more detailed information:

- cjdeling@gmail.com
- call/text Carmen at 507-236-1552

Detailed information will be emailed to those requesting with classes and lots.

The entry fee is $2.50 per rabbit, with all entry fees being paid back in the class premiums on a pro-rate basis according to number of entries.
This show is sponsored by the Martin County Fair and AgStar. All participants will receive a free t-shirt.

Please email or send entries by Saturday, August 15 to cjdeling@gmail.com or mail to Carmen Deling, 2103 150th Street, Fairmont MN 56031. We will also accept late entries up to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 22 at check-in.

Martin County Fair Volunteers

We are putting together our County Fair Volunteer Schedules! If you know of someone who would love to be on a committee, help with herdsmanhip, be a livestock superintendent, straighten up the 4-H building, or help out all around – please contact the Extension Office!

Minnesota State Fair Update

The Martin County 4-H Encampments for the Minnesota State Fair are:
Livestock: Wednesday, August 26- Sunday, August 30
General (Non-Livestock): Sunday, August 30- Tuesday, September 1

LQA&E

REMEMBER: Training is required every three years for anyone showing swine at the Martin County Fair as well as for anyone showing livestock 6th Grade and up. If you fit into one or both of these categories and did NOT attend training in either 2013 or 2014, you must attend training this year. It is YOUR responsibility to get your LQA&E certification!

For a complete listing of available LQA&E Trainings, visit: http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/lqae/

When I get to the fair, how do I enter my general projects?

Entry Day is Monday, August 17, from 2:00-7:00 p.m.

- Look in the 4-H premium book to find the time your club is scheduled for conference judging (pg. 4).
- Stop at the Extension Office in the 4-H area to receive your entry cards.
- Take your exhibits and entry cards to the area where the project will be judged.
- Wait in line to be conference judged.
- Be prepared to tell the judge about your exhibit and what you learned.
- The judge’s assistant will give you your ribbon, put a sticker on the entry card and display your exhibit

Food Stand Policies and Information

The 4-H Food Stand proceeds, along with the Auction, are the MAJOR sources of income for the Federation budget. Not only are these monies used for ongoing expenses, but also to help pay registration fees for various events, such as BLU, YELLO, and State Fair Exhibitors. Everyone’s help is needed to make the Foodstand successful! You will sign up with your club leaders for the shift you would like to work. If you cannot work the shift your club was assigned, please call the Extension Office.
after August 5th. By then, all the clubs will have turned in their shift schedules and they should be able to give you some options.

If you do not work the shift assigned to you in its entirety, you will not receive funding from the Martin County 4-H Federation for the next 4-H State sponsored event (i.e. State Fair, State Horse Show, BLU, YELLO!, State Shoot, etc.). This consequence will only be for the next immediate 4-H State sponsored event they attend.

Our goal is to continue the Food Stand success we have seen in the recent years. Thank you for your help and support!

Fair Auction: PARENTS AND MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE!

Along with the 4-H Food Stand, the Auction held on the Friday of the Fair is our main fundraiser. Martin County 4-H is extremely grateful to the buyers who support the Auction.

To show our appreciation to our buyers, each 4-H member has the following responsibilities in order to participate in the Auction:

- Participation in the auction is a privilege.
- Each member and a parent will need to stop by the 4-H Office at the Fair by noon on Thursday, August 20 to indicate their project for the auction and sign that they agree to go through the auction with that particular project OR indicate not wanting to participate. Beef Show participants will be expected to indicate their project and sign at the 4-H Office immediately following the Beef Show. If you do not inform the office, you will not be listed in the auction program.
- Check the auction program, which will be posted by 8 a.m. on auction day, to verify your place in the auction order.
- Be in line at least 25 numbers ahead of your place in the auction order. If you miss your place, you will go to the end of the auction order.
- Appear courteous and interested at all times during the auction. No gum chewing or wearing hats. Wear appropriate clothing (no short tops, no halter tops, no t-shirts with inappropriate sayings, no soiled or dirty clothing, etc).
- An adult volunteer will instruct you on lining up and when your name is announced, smile and walk rapidly to the center of the auction ring.
- When your ribbon is sold: walk up to your buyer, smile and give them your ribbon, shake his/her hand and say, “Thank you.”
- Go to the “Thank you Note” table and write your note.
- Post the sign with your buyer’s name on or near your exhibit.
- ALL Auction checks should be cashed as soon as possible!

4-H Livestock Exhibitors

Here are a few items to keep in mind while entering/housing your animals at the fair:

- Do your part to assist with set-up before the fair and clean up after the fair.
  - Check with the barn superintendent to see what needs to be done and the best way for you to help.
- Please adhere to the times in the premium book as to when your species is entered.
Volunteers are entering these animals and if you aren’t there on time, they cannot fulfill other obligations.

- Remember to make sure your animal has adequate amounts of water at all times.
- Livestock Interviews will be done on entry day, with the exception of Poultry, Dairy, Dairy Goats and Rabbits, which will be done one and a half (1 ½) hours before the start of their respective shows.

### Club Posters

Clubs are invited to make and hang posters to promote joining their club to display at the Fair. What a great publicity opportunity to let the public know why your club is the one to join!

### Wanted! Martin County Chaperones for the Minnesota State Fair!

Attention parents and adult volunteers: when was the last time you attended the Minnesota State Fair? Did you know that it is the second largest state fair in the nation? Would you like to experience this great gathering this summer? If so, consider being a Martin County 4H chaperone!

**Benefits of being a chaperone include:**
- Transportation to and from the State fairgrounds.
- Free entrance pass to the State Fair.
- Free meal passes to eat at the 4-H Building or Livestock Barns
- A chance to see our wonderful 4H'ers in action!

The State Fair dormitory staff requires at least one male and female chaperone for each encampment. If you would like more information or are interested, please contact the Extension Office. If you are not already a screened 4-H volunteer, you will need to complete the screening process before August 1 to be eligible for this.

### Cloverbud Competition Rules

The University of Minnesota Extension 4-H Cloverbud Program is to support the positive development of youth grades Kindergarten - second grade. There are particular competition rules within the Cloverbud program to ensure the safety of its K-2 participants.

**IMPORTANT TO NOTE:** When Cloverbuds and animals (including beef, cats, dairy, dogs, goats, horse, lama, pets, poultry, rabbit, swine and sheep) are together at a 4-H program or participating at the county fair as a 4-H member, the following rules apply:

- The responsible person must be in control of the animal at all times and never turn the control over to the Cloverbud.
  - It is the expectation that the responsible person will be in control of the animal at all times of the 4-H experience including but not limited to all of the following situations: to and from the trailer, to and from the wash rack, to and from the barns, in the barns, in the stall, to and from the show arena and in the show arena.
  - It is not acceptable to use more than one lead rope or halter with any animal as this turns at least some control over to the Cloverbud.
- During judging, the Cloverbud should walk next to the parent/responsible person, available to learn from the project leader and/or to dialog with the evaluator/judge.

Please refer to the Cloverbud Fact Sheet for Parents, Guardians, and Mentors for more information regarding competition rules, which is accessible here: http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/martin/4-h/article/cloverbud-information-and-rules

NEW! Addition to Livestock Grooming Rule

The grooming of livestock, including clipping, trimming, and blocking (all species), for a 4-H exhibitor in grades 5th and under can be done by anyone as long as the 4-H’er exhibiting the animal is present and involved in the process.

4-H exhibitors in grades 6th and up must follow the guidelines of the original grooming rule as stipulated in the Premium Book (General Show Rules - Livestock #8 on page 6), which is “All grooming of livestock, including clipping, trimming and blocking (all species) must be clearly done by the exhibitor, members of the immediate family, or any other registered Minnesota 4-H member. Immediate family members are defined as being parents, step parents, legal guardians, grandparents, brothers or sisters. The 4-H’er exhibiting the animal should be present and involved in the fitting process at the county fair. Exhibitors in violation of this rule may show for ribbon only and will not be considered for championship or auction.”

Martin County 4-H is on Facebook

A Martin County 4-H Facebook page has been created to keep 4-H members, families, and volunteers with Facebook profiles up-to-date on 4-H activities and events in Martin County. Find the and “like” the page on Facebook to receive notifications on Martin County 4-H!

You can find the page by searching, “University of Minnesota Martin County 4-H,” on Facebook.

Remember, all users are to communicate with respect, representing 4-H well. If something inappropriate is posted to the wall, the administrators have the authority to delete the post and/or block the person posting, if necessary.

Please Note: No one is required to create a Facebook profile. The information provided on this Facebook page will also be distributed to 4-H members and volunteers through traditional communication means (e.g. email, mail, phone, and etc.). This is just another way to receive information specific to Martin County 4-H.

4-H Family Day at the Fairmont Aquatic Park

Mark your calendars! The Fairmont Aquatic Park will be hosting 4-H Family Day on July 26 and August 2 from noon to 8:00 p.m. All Martin County 4-Hers and their families will be able to enjoy a fun and relaxing day at the Fairmont Aquatic Park for only $2 per person! You must present a 4-H Family Day card when you visit the Park on July 26 and August 2 to receive this special
offer. 4-H Family Day Cards are available for pick-up in the Martin County Extension Office.

The Fairmont Aquatic Park is also offering $3.00 Admission for Martin County 4-H’ers during the week of the fair (August 17-23, 2015), when they present a coupon. Coupons available for pick-up at the Martin County Extension Office.

4-H Competitive Events: Deadlines, Consequences and Exemptions

As we get into the busy time of the 4-H year, it’s important that you refresh yourself on the important deadlines coming up and the consequences associated with missing each of these deadlines. The 4-H Competitive Events: Deadlines, Consequences, and Exemptions chart has been created to assist 4-H members, families and 4-H staff in understanding state and county 4-H individual competitive event deadlines, consequences applied to each situation/deadline, and the use of the one-time exemption to remove all consequences for a single situation/deadline.

To view the 4-H Competitive Events Chart specific to Martin County 4-H, visit: [http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/martin/4-h/article/martin-county-4-h-competitive-events-deadlines-consequences-exemptions](http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/martin/4-h/article/martin-county-4-h-competitive-events-deadlines-consequences-exemptions)

Severe Weather Reminder

We would like to remind you that all county 4-H meetings (as well as most club meetings) will be postponed or cancelled when there is threatening weather. We will do our best to cancel/postpone meetings at least two hours before their scheduled start time.

Announcements will be made on KSUM 1370 AM/KFMC 106.5 FM, and also by email. Remember that weather conditions do vary from one side of the county to the other, so please use your own judgment in deciding if traveling is safe for your family. We always welcome your calls if you are concerned about the weather and we will do our best to inform you well in advance of any cancellations.

Thank you for your flexibility and understanding that safety comes first!

Email Address Updates

Please take the time to check your email to get all pertinent information about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and 4-H updates. We utilize email to continue to use 4-H and Extension dollars wisely.

Also, please let us know if you’ve changed your email address recently or need to add another frequently checked email to our list. Please email mnext-martin@umn.edu with any updates.

Are you at college?

Would you like to receive 4-H notices and newsletters while you are at college? If so, please send us your college address (including email) and we will be happy to send your mailings to you.
Extension Office Hours

This is a friendly reminder to all Martin County 4-H families that the Extension Office hours are traditionally the hours held by the Extension Support Staff, while the Program Coordinator (PC) has a flexible schedule to better accommodate the schedules of 4-H families.

Because the flexible schedule allows the PC to attend evening and weekend events, the PC may not always be in the Extension Office during “regular” hours. Please be sure to call ahead if you are planning to come to the office to see the PC, to ensure she is available. Thank you for your consideration!

County 4-H Committees

All Junior and 4-H Leaders are invited to be on the following committees: Livestock-Auction, Chaperones, Finance, Food Stand, Presentation and Clothing/Performing Arts Day, Scholarships, Exhibit Building, and Policy Committee. As a member of these committees, you will assist in developing policy and programming for the 2014-2015 year! What a wonderful was to get involved!

Contact the Martin County Extension Office if you would like to join any of these committees.

4-H alumni at the Minnesota State Fair

Do you plan on visiting the state fair this summer? The Minnesota 4-H alumni & friends community is looking for alumni who can volunteer a few hours during the fair. Volunteers who fill a 3-hour shift in either the 4-H building or the 4-H livestock areas will receive a complimentary gate ticket and alumni t-shirt (must be 19 years or older). To learn more, visit z.umn.edu/4Halumni. We'd love to see you there!

Get the app! 4-H at the Minnesota State Fair

If you have a smart phone and you’re going to the state fair, you should download our free app! It combines all of our state fair communications into one place:

- Judging results
- Public schedule
- Interactive map
- Livestock shows and general projects announcements in real time – switch on the alerts function, and you won’t even need to open the app!
  - MN4HBeef
  - MN4HDairy
  - NEW: MN4HSheep
  - MN4HAnnounce for all other projects

State fair winners and families, volunteers, staff and all fairgoers interested in 4-H will find it useful. Download it from the iTunes or Google Play store.

If you don’t have a smart phone, you can receive these messages on your cell phone by texting “Follow MN4HAnnounce” to 40404. Text “STOP” when you want them to stop. These accounts are active during the state fair.

To join a conversation about 4-H, use the Twitter app and follow MN4H.
General & livestock demonstrations

$30 awards will be given to all 4-Hers who complete a 4-H demonstration during general encampment and livestock encampment. This includes livestock & general encampment, illustrated talks, and Youth in Action presentations.

New in 2015! 4-Hers doing Avian Flu demonstrations at the county fair will receive a $30 cash incentive. This includes 4-Hers who are not yet state fair eligible. There will be an additional $50 award for Avian Flu demonstrations at the state fair!

For the livestock demonstration:

- Each county is allowed one additional state fair livestock trip for a livestock demonstration exhibitor.
- All livestock demonstrations must incorporate a live animal into the demonstration.
- The 4-Her must demonstrate on livestock weekend and can also participate in all other species activities (show, interviews, showmanship).
- Counties may add one additional state fair trip in the species area of the demonstration.

EquiMania

Do you love being around people at the state fair? Want a free ticket and a cool t-shirt? Volunteer for two hours at the award-winning EquiMania! exhibit in the horse barn. Horse knowledge is not required - the exhibit activities are easy and fun for guests. EquiMania is a great opportunity for families, friends, 4-H clubs, small group and individuals to participate at the fair and have a great time doing it!

The Minnesota State Fair is just around the corner...and is very much in need of volunteers for this year's fair! Please consider volunteering for a short two hour shift! We welcome all volunteers, so please be sure to share this fantastic opportunity with your friends, families, and colleagues!

Email us at Equimania@mnstatefair.org or call 651-288-4480 today! More info at mnstatefair.org

4-H scholarship opportunities

High school seniors and college students -- check out the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association Scholarship (MLBA) and Minnesota State Fair Scholarship Program (formally known as Hallberg Scholarship) opportunities at www.extension.umn.edu/youth/scholarships/.

Minnesota 4-H Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics (LQA&E) Policy

All youth participating as a state fair 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 Workshop. Certification is required prior to the county fair qualifying show and is good for three fair seasons. The level of training required is determined by the grade of the youth at the time the training takes place.

Please contact your local extension office or visit 4-H.umn.edu/projects/animal-science/lqae/index.html for training near you.
Minnesota 4-H Dairy Showcase: Honoring Blue Ribbon Kids

This event recognizes overall achievement of Minnesota 4-H Dairy Project exhibitors that have demonstrated year-round participation within 4-H and the dairy industry including:

- success with the animal
- knowledge of the dairy project and industry
- involvement within 4-H and dairy communities
- activities in school, church and community

The Minnesota 4-H Dairy Showcase will recognize the top 25 4-H Dairy Project members that exhibit at the Minnesota State Fair. Complete details and online portfolio are available at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/dairy-showcase.html.

Minnesota 4-H Poultry Prince & Princess Contest

The Minnesota 4-H Poultry Prince & Princess Contest is a scholarship program offered by Minnesota 4-H and Gold’n Plump. The Poultry Prince & Princess Contest details are available at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/poultry-prince-princess.html.

Minnesota 4-H is again hosting “Chef for a Day Cook-Off!”

The Chef for a Day Cook-Off will be held during all state fair encampments, and open to all 4-H state fair exhibitors. Each county will provide a team of 3-5 exhibitors for a two hour program during livestock encampment and every general encampment. The first hour will include an educational activity, and the second hour will be the Chef for a Day Cook-Off! All equipment will be supplied as well as all of the meat, and some possible ingredients. Teams may bring additional ingredients but note that no refrigeration is supplied. There will be no morning assignments -- but there will be prizes!

4-H summer employment opportunities

A variety of employment opportunities are available at 4-H state-level summer events. Applications are accepted up to five working days prior to the event. Additional details are available at www.4-H.umn.edu/state-fair/employment/.

Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show

Mark your calendar: The annual Minnesota 4-H Horse Show will be held September 18-21, 2015. Watch the Minnesota 4-H horse website for more information at www.4-H.umn.edu/projects/animal-science/horse.

Minnesota 4-H Dog Show

Mark your calendar: The Minnesota 4-H Dog Show will be held September 26-27, 2015. Watch the Minnesota 4-H dog website for more details at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/state-dog-show.html.
Premium book only available online

The 4-H at the Minnesota State Fair premium book will only be available online! You can access it at www.4-H.umn.edu/state-fair/resources.html.

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 grade 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 at: 4-H.umn.edu/projects/shooting-sports/shooting-sports/

Applications for new Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassadors are due August 24, 2015.

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 (grade nine 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.

The training will take place October 3-4, 2015 at the Perham Middle School and Fort Thunder Gun Club in Perham.

Registration materials are available at 4-H.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-certification/. The deadline to register is September 18, 2015. Disciplines fill quickly, so make sure registration forms are sent in early!

4-H volunteer corner

4-H chaperones and the Minnesota State Fair

In the Minnesota 4-H program the state fair is recognized as the grand finale of the summer. Each year “The Great Minnesota Get-Together” provides over 6,500 4-H members with the opportunity to showcase their projects at the state level. This would not be possible without 4-H chaperones. Serving as a 4-H chaperone is an important responsibility. Prior to chaperoning any 4-
H program, including the state fair, training is required. The training modules cover roles, expectations and best practices to help ensure youth have a quality educational experience. Serving as chaperones provides a valuable service and enables caring adults the opportunity to positively shape the life experiences of many young people.

The online training, 4-H chaperone policies: A guide for 4-H adult chaperones, found at 4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training/, offers valuable information to help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for the youth and the adult chaperones.

4-H Volunteer Training 24/7

4-H has a comprehensive and multi-format system of training and support for the thousands of volunteers who deliver 4-H youth development programs to young people across the state. Much of that training is provided face-to-face. But we know that providing some training opportunities online will help our volunteers more easily access the training and resources they need, when they need it. Minnesota 4-H offers a series of dynamic, interactive 30-minute online training modules to help volunteers build their skills and knowledge from home at any time of the day or night. Check out current online volunteer training topics:

- Creating a welcoming, engaging and encouraging environment for youth
- The 4-H learning environment
- 4-H project leaders: Where the action starts!
- Managing 4-H clubs: A guide for 4-H club leaders
- 4-H financial management
- Ensuring a safe 4-H environment
- Chaperone training

- Keeping youth in 4-H
  Training modules for individual viewing can be accessed through any adult volunteer account on www.4honline.com/. A detailed user guide is available at www.4-h.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training. We’re striving for 25% of Minnesota 4-H volunteers to complete at least one online volunteer training module by September 30, 2015. Which one will you try?

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

- 27 Council & Federation Meetings at MCRC
- 29 Martin County 4-H Showmanship Clinic

AUGUST

- 2 4-H Day at Fairmont Aquatic Park
- 4 Horse Trail Clinic, 5:30-8:30 pm
- 4 Food Stand Clean-Up
- 5 Ambassador Work Day
- 6 Fair Clean-Up
- 11 Fair Clean-Up
- 17-23 Martin County Fair
- 22 Regional Rabbit Show at MC Fair
- 23 Livestock Judging Contest
- 23 Ambassador Kick-Off, 2:30 pm, Livestock Arena
- 24 Post Fair Clean-Up
- 24 Ambassador End of Year Picnic, 1-3 pm, Martin County Fairgrounds
- 24 Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador applications due
• 27 - Sept. 7 Minnesota State Fair
• 26 – 30 Livestock Encampment at State Fair
• 30- September 1 General (Non-Livestock) Encampment at State Fair

SEPTEMBER
• 7 Martin County Extension Office CLOSED for Labor Day
• 11-13 Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational
• 18-21 Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show
• 26-27 Minnesota 4-H State Dog Show
• 28 Council and Federation Meetings

OCTOBER
• 3-4 Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador training, Perham