In This Issue:

Goodbye From Enid/Office Hours ...................................................... 2
State Event Results ............................................................................. 3
Enrollment/Re-enrollment .................................................................. 3-4
Council & Federation Schedule .......................................................... 4
Club Chartering/Treasurer Training ................................................ 4-5
Fall Volunteer Training/Recognition Banquet ................................... 5
National 4-H Week ................................................................................ 6
County Information ........................................................................... 6-8
State & Regional Information......................................................... 9-13
Upcoming Events .......................................................................... 13-14

Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

National 4-H Week is October 4-10, 2015. This year’s theme is “4-H Grows Here!”

This year’s theme is, “4-H Grows Here,” to highlight the many positive ways youth grow through their hands-on learning experiences in 4-H. We know that through 4-H, youth gain valuable 21st century skills such as communication, team work, problem solving and confidence that help them succeed throughout their lives. We will also celebrate 4-H National Youth Science Day on Oct. 7, when 4-H’ers across the country will learn about physics, speed and safety through the Motion Commotion experiment.

I encourage you to learn more about “4-H Grows Here” and 4-H Week activities and events in your county, and join us in celebrating the impact 4-H is making in the lives of youth and communities throughout Minnesota.

Sincerely,

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

To My 4-H Friends:

I would like to thank each and every 4-H member, leader and adult volunteer ~ past and present ~ who have contributed to the success I feel when I look back on my 44 years with the U of M Extension Service. In your own ways, you have helped develop me into the person I am today. I am very proud of my association with 4-H and each of you.

Many of you don't know me beyond the person answering the phone, or waiting on you at the counter. I have tried my best to always serve you ~ the public ~ with a caring attitude and help to answer your questions and concerns.

There are three past 4-H members, whom I believe, bestowed onto me the true meaning of 4-H in things they did during their 4-H careers, and the enthusiasm for life. These lovely ladies are no longer with us, but they truly gave me inspiration to keep trying "to make the best better". They are: Kim Celander, Kris Ann Levik and Jackie Malo. I think of them often and all of the help and guidance they gave to me.

As I look back on my career, working with a multitude of "bosses", please know that in my heart you have a very talented, organized and caring 4-H leader in Kristie Gaalswyk-Pomereneke. She is both fair and understanding to all your needs.

If your travels get out to the South Silver Lake area, please stop in and say hello. My door is always open to the good people of 4-H.

Thank you for making my life full!

Enid

New Extension Office Hours

With Enid retiring, the Extension Office is currently without a support staff person. As such, there will be new Extension Office Hours observed during this time.

The Martin County Extension Office will now typically be open from 8 am to 12 pm and 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

Please Note: The Program Coordinator (PC) has a flexible schedule to better accommodate the schedules of 4-H families. Since this 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 me or need any Extension/4-H specific items to ensure that staff is in the office to assist you.

Also, during this transitional time, the best way to reach the Extension Office is through my direct line: 507-238-3116.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this transitional time. We hope to have additional staff help in our office soon to better accommodate our 4-H families!

Martin County Extension Office CLOSED

The Martin County Extension Office will be closed on Wednesday, October 21 as Kristie will be attending a Regional Extension Meeting.
The Office will also be closed on Monday, October 12 for a County In-Service Day.

Thank you for your understanding and flexibly!

**MN 4-H State Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational**

Congratulations to those 4-H’ers who participated in the MN 4-H State Shooting Sports and Wildlife Invitational! You were all great representatives for Martin County 4-H! The 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational event involved youth from all over the state in the following areas: archery, muzzle loader, shotgun, air rifle, .22 Rifle, air pistol, silhouette fun shoot, and skill-a-thon. To find results of the event, visit the following website: http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn 4-H/events/shooting-sports-invitational/

**MN 4-H State Horse Show Results**

Congratulations to those 4-H’ers who participated in the MN 4-H State Horse Show! The Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show was held September 18-20 at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Preparation and participation in this show provides life skills and learning experiences for 4-H Horse Project members, their families and leaders.

Results will soon be available at the following website: http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn 4-H/projects/animal-science/horse/state-horse-show/index.html

**Enrollment/Re-enrollment is now OPEN! Be sure to get this taken care of ASAP!**

The process is quick and easy; even families with multiple youth should be done in 10 minutes or less. To enroll or re-enroll just visit https://mn.4HOnline.com! 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 here: http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn 4-H/4honline/

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 here (http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn 4-H/policies/) 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: http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn 4-h/volunteer/

**Early Enrollment/Re-Enrollment Incentive!**

A prize drawing will be held on November 30 for the youth and adult volunteers that have enrolled/re-enrolled in 4HOnline by then! You must be enrolled with an ACTIVE status in 4HOnline by 8 a.m. on November 30 to be eligible for this
drawing! One Enrolled Active Youth and One Enrolled Active Adult Volunteer will each win a prize!

2015-2016 Federation Schedule

7:00 p.m. at the Martin County Courthouse
(unless otherwise specified)

September 28: Club Host: Waverly/Westford
October 26: East Chain
November 2 at 6:00 p.m.: Fall Volunteer Training @ the Martin County Resource Center
IMPORTANT: Each Club must have at least one representative attend this training.
November 15 (tentatively): Recognition Banquet
January 25: Club Host: Elm Creek
March 14: Fox Lake
April 25: Galena
May 23: Pleasant Prairie
June 27: @ the Martin County Resource Center
*Club Host: Rutland
July 25: @ the Martin County Resource Center
*Club Host: Silver Lake
September 26: Waverly/Westford

PLEASE NOTE:
- 4-H Council meets at 6:00 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.

General Exhibits Pick-Up

General Exhibits that were left over from the County Fair and State Fair Exhibits are available for pick-up at the Martin County Extension Office. Come and get your exhibits as soon as you can!!

Club Chartering

Club Chartering is just around corner! Be sure your Club Treasurer makes note of your financials’ ending balances on September 30, as these are the figures that will need to be your beginning balances as you create and list your budget for the 2015-2016 4-H Year within your Charter.

Here is a wonderful webpage filled with detailed instructions on how to complete your Club’s Charters as well as the forms you need to get this done:
http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/leading-a-club/

Club Treasurer Training and Book

Both the club treasurer’s book and treasurer’s training are now posted here:
http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/leading-a-club/

All treasurers should be using the four new treasurer documents; Excel checkbook ledger, itemized income form, reconciliation form and the club treasurer
report. The goal is to have them download these documents onto their computer so they type in the information rather than handwrite on the forms.

If all treasurer’s use the Excel checkbook ledger, the club chartering documents (Minnesota 4-H annual summary – Form B, and the club proposed budget – Form C) will calculate automatically. This will make the club chartering process much easier next November.

Fall Volunteer Training: Save the Date!

Martin County 4-H will be hosting its annual Fall Volunteer Training on Monday, November 2 at the Martin County Resource Center beginning at 6:00 p.m. There will be a light supper provided for those in attendance.

This year’s training topic is, “All Together – Not All the Same.” This training integrates principles of positive youth development with diversity and inclusion practices that should be applied to the 4-H program.

IMPORTANT: Each Club must have at least one representative attend this training.

Recognition Banquet: Save the Date!

The Annual Recognition Banquet will be (tentatively) held on Sunday, November 15, 2015. 4-H Clubs in charge of planning the Banquet this year are Elm Creek and Fox Lake. Stay tuned for further details!

Livestock Achievement Award, Fab 5, and Terrific 10

Livestock Achievement Award, Fab 5, and Terrific 10 Applications are available for download on the Martin County 4-H Website in the “Downloads” section: http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/martin/4-h/downloads/page/1

Livestock Achievement Award Application is due to the Martin County Extension Office by September 28.

Fab 5 and Terrific 10 Score Sheets are due to the Martin County Extension Office by October 9. The Terrific 10 is for 4-H’ers who have completed grades 3rd – 6th grade. The Fab 5 is for 4-H’ers who have completed 7th grade and older.

The Livestock Achievement Award, Fab 5 Awards, and Terrific 10 Awards will be presented at the 4-H Recognition Banquet in November.

Youth Federation Officer Elections Reminder

Reminder that there is a new process in Youth Federation Officer Elections:

-Interested youth Federation Officer Candidates must complete an application and interview process with the Scholarship/Officer Selection Committee. The Scholarship/Officer Selection Committee will then decide upon the candidates to be included on the ballot, ideally at least two per position prior to the Annual Meeting.

-Before the election takes place, the officer candidates will be required to present a
short speech introducing them, telling about their 4-H activities, and why they wish to serve in this office. If the candidate is absent, the speech should be provided to the 4-H Youth Development Staff so that it may be presented to the Federation prior to the election.

-Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the Annual Meeting only from individuals on the pre-selected ballot who wish to switch their candidacy for another position. Nominations shall be declared closed by a two-thirds vote.

-Elections shall be by secret ballot. Order of elections shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Youth Federation Officer Applications are available for download at the Martin County 4-H website (http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/martin/4-h/downloads/page/1) and are due to the Martin County Extension Office by September 28.

INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD ON OCT. 6 BEGINNING AT 6:30 p.m. AT THE COURTHOUSE.

National 4-H Week

National 4-H Week is October 4-10, 2015. This year’s National 4-H Week theme is 4-H Grows Here.

Clubs start thinking and planning of other fun ways you can promote 4-H in the community during this week. Here are some ideas:

- Community Promotion: Public Service Announcements on radio, articles in newspapers, posters at businesses, telling friends and family about 4-H, window displays at businesses, displays/signs in 4-H families’ yards and more!

- School Promotion: Coloring page, window display, classroom presentation, booth at school events, 4-H members wearing 4-H shirts to school and more!

- Club Event: Invite a friend to a Club party, bowling, hayride, game night, swim party and more!

- Social Media: Celebrate National 4-H Week October 4-10 by sharing photos of your 4-H Week activities with #4HGrowsHere.

  1. Follow 4-H on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

  2. Caption your photos with "4-H is growing [What kids are doing] in [Your 4-H club or county] #4HGrowsHere

  3. Be sure to use the hashtag #4HGrowsHere so your photos can be featured on 4-H.org

4-H has something for everyone, so let’s spread the word!

U.S. Bank Halloween Party – HELP NEEDED!

The Federation agreed to have Martin County 4-H’ers assist with the U.S. Bank Halloween Party at U.S. Bank in Fairmont on October 31 from 3:20 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. We need 6 youth leader volunteers to help with this event. You can come in costume or just wear a 4-H T-shirt.

If you’re able to help at this event, please contact Kristie at gaals001@umn.edu or at 507-238-3116.
Project Development Committees

Project Development Committees (PDC) are developed to provide leadership, oversight, and planning in specific project areas within 4-H. They are typically made up of a combination of older youth and adult leaders. We currently have a Horse PDC, Poultry PDC, Clothing & Fashion Revue PDC, and more! If you wish to have your project area form a PDC or wish to join/receive future communications on an existing PDC, let me know at gaals001@umn.edu.

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 2015-2016 year! What a wonderful was to get involved!

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

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.

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.

5 Young Shepherd’s Scholarships to be awarded

The Minnesota Hampshire Sheep Association will award five $200 - Young Shepherd’s Scholarships to Minnesota youth interested in beginning or expanding a sheep project.

The scholarships are to be applied toward the purchase of a registered Hampshire breeding ewe or ewe lamb at the Minnesota Bred Ewe Sale at Rochester, MN, Saturday, November 28, 2015.

Any interested youth between 6 to 18 years of age may apply for a $200 scholarship by sending a one-page entry that contains the following information:

1. Name.
2. Address.
3. Age.
4. Phone Number

Written answers to the following questions:

5. Tell about yourself and why you want to raise a Hampshire sheep.
6. How will you take care of your Hampshire sheep.
7. What will you do to improve and promote Hampshire sheep and help the sheep industry?

Applications are due on or before October 15, 2015. Applicants will be notified by awards committee.

Send completed application to Awards Committee Chairman

By mail or by e-mail to:
Tom Bobendrier
1351 U.S. Hwy 75
Pipestone, MN  56164
e-mail to: tom.pgc@svtv.com

For additional information contact:
Tom Bobendrier (H)507-825-2364, (C)507-215-0334  e-mail: tom.pgc@svtv.com or Art Frame
507-376-4928, e-mail: aframe@nobleswildblue.com

Plan Ahead: 4-H PC will be Out of the Office December 6-12

The 4-H Program Coordinator, Kristie Gaalswyk-Pomeranke, will be out of the office from December 6-12. This notice is to give you the opportunity to PLAN AHEAD should you require payments from Martin County 4-H Federation or signatures from Kristie during this period of time.

All Federation payment requests that are needed during December 6-12 must be submitted by November 30 to allow time for processing.

Thank you for your understanding!
Sign up for an online STEM adventure – a CRASH course in physics!

Registration is now open for our latest online adventure, “A CRASH course in Newtonian physics”. It will start on Oct. 7 and run for four weeks. Each week, the very cool and smart Andrew Maxwell-Parrish (andrewmaxwellparish.com/) will issue 1-2 fun, hands-on video challenges for youth to think about and respond to, using video and online chat.

Each of the challenges will illustrate Newton’s laws of physics, governing motion and collisions, so the challenges will ask the kids to drop and throw household objects and see what happens. It gives youth who are interested in STEM subjects or Rube Goldberg machines a chance to learn and explain their learning to others using science terminology.

The weekly challenges are related to this year’s National Youth Science Experiment “Motion Commotion” (www.4-h.org/4-h-national-youth-science-day/science-experiments-projects/motion-commotion/). There’s no cost to take part in the CRASH course, but there is a limit of 20 youth.

Register here: efans.wufoo.com/forms/a-crash-course-in-newtonian-physics/.

Participants must be age 10-14 or in grades 5-8; have a video camera such as the one in most phones or computers, Internet access and an interest in dropping things and watching them go splat. They will interact with other youth from across the state and gain understanding about physics, the scientific process, and presenting their findings. We suggest adult supervision since they will be dropping and throwing things.

Learn more about this online adventure on our website:

www.4-h.umn.edu/projects/set/physics-crash-course/index.html

If you have questions, contact Ann Nordby, nordby@umn.edu or Todd Mehrkens, toddmehr@umn.edu, co-leaders of the state 4-H online learning team.

2016 National 4-H Conference

Are you recognized as a youth leader in your county programs? Have you experienced leadership opportunities outside of your county? Minnesota 4-H will send four selected youth delegates to Washington D.C. for the National 4-H Conference April 9 - 14, 2016. Selection is based on qualifications, contents of delegate nomination/recommendation forms and interview. All information is outlined on the 4-H events website under National 4-H Conference: www.4-H.umn.edu/events/national-conference/index.html.

Application postmark deadline is Nov. 19. Go to the website today. Find out requirements to apply and also the steps in the application process. Talk with your program coordinator today for further details.

North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum

You are cordially invited to participate in the North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum. Get energized as you network with other volunteers and staff from the twelve North Central Region states. Leave with new ideas you can use to infuse heart into your 4-H programs. This is the third year the North Central Region has offered a volunteer e-Forum. Individuals meet in small groups for hands-on activity and discussion while listening to content delivered via webinar. This format has been very successful and we are excited to bring you a new option for participation: the e-Forum Kitchen Table Conference!
An e-Forum Kitchen Table Conference is just like the e-Forums you may have participated in during previous years, except now we are also offering you materials to host a session from the convenience of your own home with other volunteers from your 4-H club. You may contact your county 4-H program coordinator or State Director of Volunteer Systems Molly Frendo (mefrendo@umn.edu) for more information on how to participate.

There are three sessions this year, which will each be offered twice. October’s session is called “The Heart of Belonging” and focuses on how to create a welcoming and inclusive environment in your 4-H program and promote positive behavior. This session takes place on Oct. 8 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. and again on Oct. 13 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. November’s session is entitled “The Heart of Community” and will strengthen volunteers’ skills on incorporating citizenship into 4-H programming to build community engagement. This session takes place on Nov. 5 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. and again on Nov. 10 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. December’s session is “Encouraging the Heart of Leadership” and will explore how to intentionally build leadership skills in youth during 4-H programming. This session takes place on Dec. 3 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. and again on Dec. 8 from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

To register, you can sign up at events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=volunteereforum. If you want to learn more, feel free to visit the North Central Region Volunteer Specialists’ website at fyi.uwex.edu/ncrvd/4-h-volunteer-e-forum/.

**Online enrollment for 4-H families**

Enrollment for the new 4-H year opened up on Sept. 16 and Minnesota 4-H families are reminded and encouraged to visit mn.4HOnline.com 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.

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 at www.4-H.umn.edu/policy 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.

**4-H & Text, Talk, Act**

4-H is partnering with an innovative program that is proven effective in getting young people more comfortable talking about mental health. Text, Talk, Act uses text messaging to facilitate a face-to-face conversation on mental health. Participants gather in small groups (3-4 people) with one cell phone per group. They text START to the number 89800 to receive a series of text messages that guides their group through a conversation on mental health: why it is important, how to care for it, and how to help a friend in need. The text messages include videos, social media interactions, polling questions and discussion questions.

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, 4-H is teaming up to bring Text, Talk, Act to all 4-H programs nationwide, free of charge.

4-H is also hosting a webinar on Oct. 1 at 12 p.m. Eastern where you can learn about Text, Talk, Act and how to bring this to your program.
To register, visit attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8601905344351950850.

4-H'ers that host Text, Talk, Act can win $1,000 for their program. For more information, visit creatingcommunitysolutions.org/texttalkact.

If you are interested in learning more about Text, Talk, Act, please contact Raquel Goodrich at rgoodrich@email.arizona.edu.

National Service-Learning Conference: Seeking youth emcees

The National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) is seeking youth emcees to speak at the National Service-Learning Conference, March 30 - April 2 in Minneapolis! Applicants must be 23 years old or younger at the time of the conference, and submit a complete application by Dec. 4. More information is available at http://z.umn.edu/nslcemcee.

2016 4-H Science of Agriculture Challenge

As part of the University of Minnesota Extension Center for Youth Development, 4-H has made improving science literacy a priority, and is working to develop the next generation of agriculture scientists. 4-H provides hands-on, experiential, inquiry-based learning opportunities that promote excitement and interest in science, and improve science literacy by equipping youth with science knowledge and skills. Through 4-H, youth:

- Gain exposure to cutting-edge science and technology in agriculture that produces abundant, healthy and economical food.
- See themselves as scientists.
- Explore college and careers in agriculture, science and engineering.

The 4-H Science of Agriculture Challenge event will challenge youth to explore and develop science-based solutions to agricultural problems they have identified in their communities. 4-Hers will work on teams of 3-4 youth, in 6th grade and above. Participants will attend a statewide event to present their 4-H Science of Agriculture projects, which will be evaluated and judged. The top three teams will be awarded scholarships that range from $500 to $1,000 per team member. Youth will also have a chance to connect with representatives from the University of Minnesota and agribusiness community, who are eager to meet the next generation of leaders in agriculture and STEM.

Through “hands on” 4-H agriculture, science, technology, engineering and math learning experiences, youth who participate in the Science of Agriculture Challenge will:

- Get excited about and interested in agriculture and STEM.
- Have a greater understanding and knowledge of food production and its importance in our economy and world.
- Gain 21st century skills, including technology, health, business and economic literacy, critical thinking, problem solving, initiative and self-direction.
- Consider and connect with agricultural-related studies at the university level while being exposed to and exploring future careers in agriculture.

Please contact your county 4-H program coordinator in regards to starting a Science of Agriculture team for the 2016 event. More information about the Science of Agriculture, including the quick start guide, sample videos of presentations from the 2015 event, and stories from 2015 teams can be found on the Science of Agriculture webpage at http://z.umn.edu/scienceofag.
Decisions, decisions, decisions?

From what to eat to where to go, every day we make decisions. The media, peer pressure, the need to fit in – all these factors play major roles in the decisions we make. We are happier with our decisions when we learn to make informed decisions.

Minnesota 4-H introduces a new innovative program, My Project Place – Consumer Decision Making. This new online version of our Consumer Decision-Making judging program provides an opportunity for youth to learn about decision making, practice decision making and share their experiences with peers and adult mentors. The 12 week online class will involve one to two hours of weekly activities, starting mid-October. Youth will learn about finances, decision making, consumerism, review scenarios, and compare products to make informed decisions. Participants will post information about their decision making process and decisions made while interacting with peers and adult mentors online at their convenience.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Extension Educator Carrie Olson (olson166@umn.edu, 320-589-1711) today.

Minnesota's 2015 National 4-H Shooting Sports Champion team

Minnesota sent 9 teams of 33 youth to the National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships in Grand Island, Nebraska. These youth represented Minnesota 4-H and were coached by Minnesota 4-H volunteer coaches during their competitions. The air pistol team of Brett Carlson, Cade Haiby and Caitlyn Klejeski of Beltrami County and Maria Turbes of Redwood County were national champions. The air pistol team was coached by Rose Erickson and Mike Porter of Beltrami County. Congratulations to this outstanding team and their coaches for a job well done. Minnesota was represented well by these youth and coaches at this national event.

2016 National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships: Interested youth encouraged to apply

The 2016 National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships will be held in Grand Island, Nebraska June 26 - July 1. Youth born in the years 1997-2000 and who participated at the 2015 Minnesota 4-H State Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational are eligible to apply. An interest survey link and more information can be found on the 4-H SS&W website at www.4-h.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-national-championships/index.html.

The due date for indicating interest on a national team is Oct. 7.

4-H volunteer corner

Be the “connector” in your 4-H club to creating a welcoming environment

Take a moment to reflect on your time as a youth joining a new organization or attending a new school for the first time. Do you remember that nervous feeling; the pit in your stomach of not knowing anyone, not sure if you belonged? Also reflect on the individual(s) who greeted you and introduced you to other people, creating an inviting, welcoming environment. These individuals are “connectors”- people who build bridges between others and expand social networks. Being a connector isn't just the responsibility of the 4-H club leader or the person greeting individuals as they come into the meeting. Everyone in the 4-H club (adults and youth leaders) has an opportunity to be a
connector: It takes a team effort! 4-H clubs that create a welcoming environment retain members and have greater parent involvement.

To learn more view the 30-minute 4HOnline training module *Creating a welcoming 4-H environment: Engaging, encouraging, and respectful* available at [www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training](http://www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training).

**Let's talk money: County financial practices**

There is a saying that the least entertaining part of an organization’s business meeting is the financial report... that is, unless it’s announced that the organization is completely out of money, then the meeting gets really exciting! As one can imagine, that is not the kind of excitement we are looking for at a meeting.

4-H Youth Development focuses on teaching life skills that include wise financial management. “County Financial Practices” is an available online training module. Learn about the practices that have been put in place to create a quality learning experience for the county youth treasurer. The practices also protect the financial resources that support youth educational programs. To learn more view the 4HOnline training module *County Financial Practices* available at [www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training](http://www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training).

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**SEPTEMBER**

- 28 Livestock Achievement Applications Due
- 28 Youth Federation Officer Applications Due
- 28 Council and Federation Meetings

**OCTOBER**

- 3-4 Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador training, Perham
- 4-10 National 4-H Week
- 6 Federation Officer Candidates Interviews – 6:30 p.m. at the Courthouse
- 7 4-H National Youth Science Day
- 7 Online adventure: A CRASH course in Newtonian physics
- 7 Due date for indicating interest in the 2016 National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships
- 8 North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum: The Heart of Belonging, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Fab 5 & Terrific 10 Applications Due
- 12 Extension Office Closed
- 13 North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum: The Heart of Community, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Young Sheperd’s Scholarship Application Due
- 21 Extension Office Closed
- 26 Council and Federation Meetings
- 30 Club charters due to county Extension offices
- 31 US Bank Halloween Party

**NOVEMBER**

- 2 Fall Volunteer Training, 6 pm, Martin County Resource Center
- 5 North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum: The Heart of Community, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
- 10 North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum: The Heart of Community, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
- 15 Recognition Banquet (Tentative)
- 19 National 4-H Conference application postmark deadline
- 30 Enrollment/Re-enrollment Prize Drawing

DECEMBER

- 3 North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum: Encouraging the Heart of Leadership, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Youth emcee application deadline for the National Service-Learning Conference
- 6-12 Kristie Out of Office
- 8 North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum: Encouraging the Heart of Leadership, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

APRIL

- 9-14 National 4-H Conference, Washington, D.C.