Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

Due to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health’s ban on live birds at public events to help limit the spread of avian flu, 4-H had to adjust its 4-H Poultry Project events and activities at county and state fairs this summer. Our state poultry committee leapt into action, got creative and came up with plans that made it possible for our 4-H Poultry Project youth to participate in fairs this summer and share their learning.

One adjustment was to use photos of poultry or plush stuffed birds for showmanship judging, so youth would have something in place of their live birds to help facilitate their conversations with judges. We also gave youth an option to create and bring a poultry exhibit in the areas of biosecurity, animal health, nutrition, production, and careers, which gave them an opportunity to dig deeper and learn more about a specific topic related to the poultry industry. Some county fairs also offered a chicken bbq contest, carcass judging and other poultry-related learning events. And at the Minnesota State Fair, we held a Science of Poultry ½
day learning event, where 4-H poultry youth could hear from a panel of experts from Jennie-O, Cargill, Rembrandt Enterprises, Minnesota Turkey, Midwest Poultry Federation, Minnesota Chicken and Egg, and Extension; work in roundtables with the experts learning about an issue; and apply their new knowledge by creating a poster on the topic and presenting it to the group.

Though some of our 4-H’ers were disappointed they could not bring the birds they spent months raising and caring for to fairs, they rose to the occasion and had wonderful learning experiences as a result.

I’d like to congratulate all of our 4-H poultry youth, and poultry families and volunteers for all of your extra effort this summer, and making 4-H poultry experiences at the fair rich and rewarding!

Sincerely,

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

Thank you!

Once again, I am in awe of the support the Martin County 4-H program receives at the County Fair. Thank you to all of our wonderful 4-H families, volunteers, Fair Board members, Barn Superintendents, Judges, and the countless others who made Martin County 4-H’s participation in the County Fair a success! Each of your contributions, big or small, ensured that our young people were given the opportunity to exhibit and be recognized for their hard-work at the County Fair! This is an enormous undertaking that could not have been done by just one person, so thank you!

Also, thank you to our State Fair Chaperones for taking the time and energy to help our youth navigate the State Fair!

Now that another Fair Season is almost done, I hope everyone is able to get some rest from all the days of fun!

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

Best Wishes on your Retirement, Enid!

Martin County Extension and 4-H said farewell to Enid on Monday, August 31. Enid is retiring after close to 44 years of service to Martin County Extension and 4-H! Thank you to everyone who attended her retirement party or sent well wishes from afar! She is a remarkable lady who provided wonderful service to our community. She will be greatly missed! Thank you for all of your years of service, Enid! We appreciated your commitment to our program, youth, and community!

Some fun facts on Enid’s service to the Martin County Extension and 4-H Program:

- Worked 91,200 hours over 43 years & 10 months
- Worked with 16 Extension agents, 3 temporary Extension agents, and many 4-H summer interns
- Survived 43 county fairs
- Worked with at least 2 full generations of 4-H members
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 the afternoon of Friday, September 4 through Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day.

The Office will also be closed September 9-11.

Thank you for your understanding!

Auction Update

Due to the incredible success of this year's Blue Ribbon Auction, a special thank you needs to be extended to committee members, line-up help, thank-you card assistants, auctioneers, clerks, and all those who talked with a local business. I would like to encourage parents and adults leaders to write your own thank you to businesses for their contribution to Martin County 4-H.

Thank you again for all your help!

Congratulations to all State Fair Participants!

Congratulations to those 4-H’ers who exhibited at the Minnesota State Fair. You were all great representatives for Martin County 4-H! A complete list of State Fair results will be in the October Newsletter. For now, check out the results online at:

http://www1.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/state-fair/fair-results/current-results/index.html

2014-2015 Federation Schedule

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

September 28: Club Host: Waverly/Westford
PLEASE NOTE:
- 4-H Council will meet at 6:00 p.m. prior to the Federation meeting
- 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 at the County Fair and State Fair Exhibits will be available for pick-up at the Martin County Extension Office beginning on September 16.

ALL exhibits MUST be picked-up by September 22!

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 charters are due to the Martin County Extension Office on October 30!

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. Eligibility: Any Martin County 4-H member grade 6 and up may apply for the award. There is no limit as to how many times the award may be received

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.

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 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.

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.

Minnesota 4-H club chartering process

It is hard to believe it is time for clubs to renew their annual charter! The chartering documents are now up on the Minnesota 4-H website (www.4-H.umn.edu/leading-a-club/) and have a whole new face lift. The forms have been streamlined to make the process easier for clubs to complete.

New in 2015 is a club chartering training video that can also be found on the Minnesota 4-H website. This video is approximately 19 minutes in length and gives step by step directions on how to fill in each form, and the purpose of annual club chartering. Clubs/leaders can watch this video on their own, or the program coordinator can bring leaders together to watch the video as a group and answer questions.

Remember all club charters must be in the county Extension office on or before Oct. 30, 2105.

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

If you have a smart phone and you’re going to the state fair – or you know a 4-H’er who will be
showing a project -- download our free app before you leave home! It combines all this:

- Judging results
- Public schedule linked to an interactive map
- For exhibitors – switch on the alerts so you’ll know where to be and when
  - New: Stalling announcements for beef exhibitors on Tuesday night!
- 4-H live cam 12 hours a day
- Photo sharing
- More!

Download it now:
For iphone:  
http://www.z.umn.edu/4hstatefairiapp 
For android:  
http://www.z.umn.edu/4hstatefairaapp

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

**Online enrollment for 4-H families**

Enrollment for the new 4-H year opens 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.

**Celebrate Ag & Food Day**

4-H families and alumni are invited to join a celebration of Minnesota agriculture and food at a special University of Minnesota Gopher football game on Sept. 19. Discounted tickets can be purchased at z.umn.edu/umafd2015. Join us before the game from 9 - 11a.m. for activities outside the stadium including a tailgate party featuring Minnesota brats and cheese. To RSVP or with questions, contact Erin Kelly-Collins at erinkc@umn.edu.

**Safety of Minors Training: A big thank you!**

On behalf of the University of Minnesota Extension Center for Youth Development, please accept our sincere gratitude for your timely completion of the University-sponsored “Safety of Minors” training and compliance with the policy. Getting 7,000 adult volunteers through training in two months is no small task, but we are proud to share that we accomplished this task due to the timeliness and commitment of our volunteers and the diligence of our staff. We greatly appreciate your service to Minnesota 4-H and dedication to ensuring that all Minnesota youth are engaged in safe, fun, and positive experiential learning.
2015 Fall Volunteer Training: All Together, Yet Not All the Same

We are excited to announce this year's topic for our annual fall volunteer training: cultural competency and inclusion. The training, titled "All Together, Yet Not All the Same," is designed to help prepare 4-H volunteers to build youths' global citizenship skills and give them the tools needed to ensure that 4-H is a program where youth from all backgrounds, cultures, beliefs and abilities feel welcome and safe. It is our responsibility to prepare them for global citizenship and to work constructively across areas of difference. As we strive in Minnesota 4-H Youth Development to make our programs relevant and accessible to all youth, we must consider areas where we might encounter different values, backgrounds, beliefs, abilities, and goals. By preparing adult volunteers who are essential to 4-H program delivery to be aware of and respectful of these differences, we will not only create an environment where all individuals feel safe and welcome, but also ensure that we model valuable 21st century global citizenship skills to youth that will prove critical now and in their future. Activities are designed to be hands-on and encourage active discussion. Participants will be given at least one activity to take back to their clubs as well as have access to the WeConnect curriculum from their county library of available curricula. All 4-H volunteers are encouraged to attend the annual training in their county. Activities are also appropriate for youth who are interested in this topic.

decision! And pay the bills. The media, peer pressure, the need to fit in – all these factors play major roles in the decisions that youth make.

Minnesota 4-H is recruiting members interested in learning to make wise consumer decisions in a new online version of our Consumer Decision-Making Project. The online nature of this project means you can work review challenges, post your decisions and share with other youth from anywhere and at any time, through the convenience of your mobile device or home internet connection.

How does it work? Each week for up to 1 to 2 hours for a 12 week period, youth will learn about finances and consumerism, review a scenario, and compare products to make informed decisions. Youth post their decision process and decisions while also reflecting on their values and giving feedback to their peers. Volunteer mentors respond to questions and provide feedback.

If you are interested in learning more about this online opportunity in becoming savvy consumers and building financial intelligence, contact Carrie Olson (320-589-1711, olson166@umn.edu) today.

New online version of the Consumer Decision-Making Project

How do you decide which entrée to order? What shoes to buy? What vacation to plan? It’s a tough job, but someone needs to make the

Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show

Mark your calendar: The annual Minnesota 4-H Horse Show will be held Sept. 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 annual Minnesota 4-H Dog Show will be held Sept. 26-27, 2015. Watch the Minnesota 4-H dog website for more details at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/state-dog-show.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 Oct. 3-4 training in Perham.

Program information, application, and reference forms can be found at: 4-H.umn.edu/projects/shooting-sports/shooting-sports/

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 Oct. 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

Managing 4-H clubs: A guide for club leaders

October marks the beginning of a new 4-H year and a new volunteer opportunity for individuals who are moving into a club leadership position. 4-H volunteers who are taking on club leadership responsibilities have several important roles. A leader is a mentor, a motivator for young people, an organizer and coordinator with other adults in the club, and a liaison with the larger 4-H organization in your area. An excellent training resource and online learning module for new and existing 4-H club leaders is Managing 4-H Clubs: A guide for club leaders. Extension staff designed this module to help with some of the typical management issues in 4-H clubs and bring all these pieces together to build an environment where young people thrive and grow. Take advantage of the resource to get your 4-H club off to a great start this fall. To view this training module and other 4-H online training opportunities visit www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/volunteer/online-training/.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 2  Live-streaming of the 4-H Lama Costume Competition
- 4-7  Martin County Extension Office CLOSED for Labor Day
- 9-11 Martin County Extension Office CLOSED
- 11-13 Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational
- 16  Online enrollment for the new 4-H year begins
- 16  General Project Pick-up Starts
- 18-21 Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show
- 19  Celebrate Ag & Food Day at the Minnesota Gopher football game
- 26-27 Minnesota 4-H State Dog Show
- 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
- 9  Fab 5 & Terrific 10 Applications Due
- 15  Young Shepard’s Scholarship Application Due
- 30 Club charters due to county Extension offices