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4-H Ambassador Meeting

4-H Ambassadors should mark their calendars for Sunday, February 14th for their next meeting. The group will meet at the Extension Office from 1:30-3:30 p.m. to plan their 4-H Lock-In, Family Fun Night, and more. Everyone attending is asked to bring a snack to share.

Market Beef and Dairy Steer Deadline

Beef project members are reminded to have their market beef and dairy steers tagged and identified by February 15th. Since February 15th is a county holiday, forms must be postmarked or submitted to the County Extension Office by Tuesday, February 16th. You have until 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, February 16th to enter them into 4holine. Reminder: Cloverbud Beef Projects do NOT tag or ID their projects; instead they will indicate their intent to show an animal through their county fair registration in July.

Favorite Food Show

Mark your calendars for the 2016 4-H Favorite Food Show. It will be held on Monday, March 7th beginning at 5:30 p.m. The 4-H Favorite Food Show is a 4-H Event in which a 4-H member prepares a favorite dish and displays it in an appropriate table setting. They are judged on their knowledge of preparation, appropriate table setting, menu, and nutrition knowledge. An email will go out the week of February 1st. You can also find out more information on the McLeod County 4-H Website under the 4-H section. The registration deadline in Monday, February 29th – late registrations will NOT be accepted!

Fruit Sales

4-H Fruit Sales are the second largest fundraiser for 4-H members in McLeod County. The money is used to cover countywide programing costs for 4-H, as well as scholarships for events that members attend. This year, we have a goal of exceeding last year’s sales of $23,000 and every 4-H family selling a minimum of $100. By meeting this sales goal, we will be able to sustain our scholarship programs for Camp Patterson, State Fair, and Summer Day Camps. Packets were mailed to each family in late January. If you need additional selling forms or would like to utilize the Excel spreadsheet developed, they can be downloaded from the county 4-H website. Remember that in 2016 the top selling family will receive a “Movie Basket” valued at $50 for the efforts, in addition to every seller receiving an appreciation gift.

McLeod County 4-H Family Fun Night

Our 14th Annual 4-H Family Fun Night will be held on Monday, March 7th in conjunction with our Favorite Foods Show and Fruit Sales delivery. The Ambassadors are working on some great project booth ideas; come enjoy an evening of family fun and explore a few 4-H projects. The Glencoe Junior Pioneers will be serving a light supper, you can enjoy the project fair and favorite food show all while picking up your 4-H Fruit! Watch your email for more details!

4-H Family Fun Night Volunteers Sought

We are in search of youth and adult volunteers who would be willing to lead project booths. If you would like to volunteer to help at a booth, please contact Darcy at the Extension Office.

Winter Weather Policy

Just in case the weather becomes questionable and you are concerned about whether or not an event will take place, please watch for an email and listen to KDUZ Radio, AM 1260, for cancellation notices and other pertinent information. Thanks.
Summer Camp 2016 at Camp Patterson

It is hard to believe that we are already thinking camp! Bring on the warm weather, the swim suits, the campfire songs, and the sun! This will be three days of action packed fun! Meet new friends, learn new skills, and make great memories. The 2016 4-H Summer Camp is set for the following counties:

(Note: If the date of your county camp does not work, you can always attend a different session).

Youth Camp: Grades 3rd-6th

Session 1 - June 6th-8th: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Nicollet

Session 2 - June 8th-10th: Freeborn, Mower, Rice, Steele, Waseca

Session 3 – June 13th-15th: Carver, Scott, McLeod, Sibley

Teen camp Grades 6th-8th

June 15-17: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Nicollet, McLeod, Sibley, Carver, Scott, Freeborn, Mower, Rice, Steele, Sibley, and Waseca.

Camp is located at Camp Patterson on Lake Washington in Madison Lake, MN. Details and registration information will be in the March newsletter! Save the date on your calendar and join us for summer camp!

Camp Patterson Counselors Wanted

Summer is right around the corner and it is time to think about being a 4-H Camp Counselor at Camp Patterson! If you are in ninth grade or older and want to develop your leadership skills, help campers have a great experience, make new friends from other counties, and have a whole lot of fun, then you should consider becoming a camp counselor. People who have been camp counselors claim it is one of the best leadership experiences of their lives! The deadline to apply is February 26th, 2016! Sign up today!!!

To apply complete the electronic Camp Counselor application here.

You can also visit the county website or contact your local Extension Office.

Youth Camp: Grades 3rd-6th

Session 1 - June 6th-8th: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Nicollet

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Message from Dorothy

Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

This month, hundreds of 4-H'ers from around the state will participate in one of our five 4-H Building Leadership and Understanding (BLU) youth leadership conferences.

The annual regional youth conferences are planned and facilitated by our Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors. The ambassadors use a youth-teaching-youth approach to teach their peers about leadership and engage participants in hands-on activities, games, small group discussions, and a dance during each event. This year’s topic is called, "Find Your Element." The focus will help youth explore how they can live out the passions in their lives. The 4-H BLU conferences are one important way that we provide youth with hands-on opportunities to learn and practice leadership skills.
If you aren’t familiar with 4-H BLU, or the statewide 4-H Youth Exploring Leadership and Learning Outloud! (YELLO! youth conference in June, I encourage you to explore these wonderful leadership opportunities for youth (and adult volunteers!)

Go to our web site at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/blu/index.html and www.4-H.umn.edu/events/yello/index.html.

Sincerely,

Dorothy M. Freeman
Associate Dean and State 4-H Director

2016 SS&W Spring Leader Certification Trainings: Two Sites!

The Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife program development committee invites you to attend a 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification! The committee recommends that leaders attend the entire certification weekend every five years. Now is your chance to attend!

The training is designed for adults and youth (9th grade and older) that lead or would like to lead training in shooting sports or wildlife. Classes will be offered in the disciplines of coordinator, archery, rifle/pistol, shotgun, muzzleloading, and wildlife. This training meets the 4-H project leaders’ requirements for certification and recertification. Although there is range time allocated in the schedule, the majority of the training is classroom work to become an effective instructor, not to practice your own shooting skills.

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

April 23-24, 2016
Worthington Regional Office, Worthington

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

Are You Looking For Work Experience In The Youth Development Field?

This year, we are offering 54 county-based 4-H summer intern positions throughout the state of Minnesota. Internships will provide an excellent opportunity to learn more about University of Minnesota Extension and explore job opportunities in 4-H Youth Development. Most positions will be for ten or eleven weeks, with flexible starting dates.

Candidates must have a high school diploma, and at least two years of undergraduate study is preferred. Candidates must apply on-line through the University of Minnesota job site. The application materials will include a standard application, résumé, cover letter, list of three references and a college transcript. The summer intern position is available here. The application deadline is Feb. 15.

For more information, please contact Michele VanDyke at mvandyke@umn.edu.

M4-HAVA 2016 Annual Conference

Please consider attending the 31st annual Minnesota 4-H Adult Volunteer Association Conference being held March 17-19 at the Bigwood Event Center/Best Western Inn in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. This year’s theme is Keen, Green, and Lean in 2016.

The M4-HAVA Conference is a great place for volunteers to learn about what is happening throughout the state and new trends going on
in 4-H. You will meet other volunteers who are really excited about 4-H, leave with an arsenal of new activities and ideas from the 32 workshops offered to take back and share with your clubs and counties, and recognize outstanding volunteers and clubs during the annual banquet.

For more information on registration for the 2016 M4-HAVA Conference, Blue Ribbon Awards, and Membership visit www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/m4-hava/.

Judging 4-H Exhibits at Minnesota County Fairs

Minnesota 4-H depends on the skills, talents and dedication of hundreds of adults who judge 4-H projects at county fairs across Minnesota. In support of 4-H judges, Minnesota 4-H offers online training, toolkit resources and more. To learn more, or if interested in becoming a 4-H judge, visit www.4-H.umn.edu/county-fair/judges/.

2016 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge: Crush And Recycle A Can!

The 2016 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge is to create a machine that will crush an empty aluminum soft drink can and put it into a recycling container!

The third annual challenge asks teams of youth to design overly complex contraptions that accomplish this year’s designated task using everyday items that interact in a series of chain-reactions. Teams compete in contests at their county fair, and then will be eligible to compete at the Minnesota State Fair.

Teams are encouraged to register by May 15, 2016 and get started on their machines!

To learn more about the 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge and how to register, go to: www.4-h.umn.edu/events/engineering-design-challenge/index.html.

NOTE: No paper registration this year. Team leaders, members and youth coaches will sign up through 4HOnline accounts. Adult volunteer leaders must register before their team members can register.

What Do Minnesota 4-H First Year Member Parents Have To Say?

In October 2015, the first-year member parent survey was administered to parents of new members in the 2014-2015 program year. We do this survey annually to learn more about the experiences of our families new to the 4-H program. This survey asks parents to give feedback on items such as how welcoming their experience was, if their child had opportunities for learning, and if policies were challenging.

What did we learn this year?

- Overall parents and youth feel welcomed into the program.
- A quarter of parents felt that enrollment and membership policies were challenging.
- 94% of parents said the topics their child worked on were of interest to them.
- 80% of parents agreed that their child became really good at something they worked on.
- We have a large number of youth who are experiencing 4-H for the first time in their family. Over 45% of our survey respondents had never had exposure to the 4-H program in their family history.

Currently teams of educators are looking at this information and thinking about how we can
improve the 4-H program to help all our members.

Thank you first year member parents for responding to this survey!

Calendar

FEBRUARY
• 6-7 BLU Leadership Retreat, St. Cloud
• 14 Ambassador Meeting – 4-H Café 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
• 15 Application deadline for 4-H summer intern positions
• 15 Youth application deadline for state 4-H beef committee
• 16 Fruit Sales Due to Club Coordinator
• 21 4-H Movie Day – State Theater, Hutchinson
• 26 Camp Patterson Camp Counselor Application Due

MARCH
• 5 Regional Project Bowl, Foley
• 7 Family Fun Night
• 7 Favorite Food Show
• 7 Fruit Sales Delivered
• 12 Regional Project Bowl, Hastings
• 17-19 M4-HAVA 2016 Annual Conference, Fergus Falls
• 19 Regional Project Bowl, Bemidji
• 19 Regional Project Bowl, Redwood Falls
• 29 Youth Day at the Capitol

APRIL
• 2 Camp Patterson Counselor Training – Teen Camp, Mankato
• 2 Regional Project Bowl, Snow date
• 3 Camp Patterson Counselor Training – Youth Camp, Jordan
• 7 County livestock PDC training webinar
• 9-14 National 4-H Conference, Washington, D.C.
• 12 4-H Café Meeting, 6:15 p.m., 4-H Café
• 12 Spring Animals Science Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 4-H Café
• 16 State Project Bowl, Sauk Rapids
• 23-24 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification training, Mora and Worthington
• TBD McLeod County Federation Meeting, 7 p.m.

MAY
• 15 Livestock Identification Deadline (Breeding Beef, Dairy, Dog, Goat, Rabbit, Sheep, Swine)
• 15 Deadline to Re-Enroll
• 15 2016 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge registration due

JUNE
• 3 Hutchinson Dairy Day
• 8-11 YELLO! Leadership Retreat, MN State Fairgrounds, St. Paul
• 13-15 Camp Patterson – Youth Camp
• 15-17 Camp Patterson – Teen Camp