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Welcome to Darcy Cole - New McLeod County 4-H Program Coordinator

We are pleased to share with you the news that Darcy Cole has accepted the position of McLeod County 4-H Program Coordinator, effective January 4, 2016. As many you know, Darcy brings a wealth of 4-H and Extension experience to this role and this community. Darcy was a 12 year member of McLeod County 4-H, previously served as the Meeker County PC, and is a resident of McLeod County.

Darcy will begin her work in McLeod County starting on Monday, January 4th, 2016.

Please join us in welcome Darcy back to the McLeod County 4-H program and to this new role.

Sarah Chur
Regional Director, Central

Mark Haugen
Extension Educator, youth development

Introducing Darcy Cole!

Hi, my name is Darcy Cole and I am extremely excited to be coming back to my home county as the McLeod County 4-H Program Coordinator where I'll be able to share my passion and experience with all of the families of McLeod County. I was born and raised in Acoma township and live there now with my husband, Rob, and our three children Audrey (6 years old), Everett (3 years old), and Cora (10 months old). Some of you may recognize me by my maiden name, Darcy Karstens.

My passion for 4-H first began as a 12 year member of the McLeod County 4-H Program and the Acoma Acorns 4-H Club. As a 4-H member, I was very active in livestock projects, particularly, the sheep project and also as a County 4-H Ambassador. This involvement inspired me to attend college at the University of Wisconsin - River Falls majoring in Agricultural Education and ultimately to pursue a career working with 4-H. While in college, I worked as the Carver County 4-H Summer Assistant for two summers.

Since graduating from college, I have served for the past ten years as the Meeker County 4-H Program Coordinator. In this role, I have been allowed the opportunity to work with my passions - 4-H, youth, and volunteers. While in this position, I have overseen the development of many new programs and opportunities for 4-H youth and volunteers. Through completion of my Master's of Education program at the University of Minnesota, I gained further insight into educational practices, research methods, and experiential learning theory that will serve me well in my work as your County 4-H Program Coordinator. All of these experiences have allowed me to truly develop an understanding of positive youth development and the 4-H Program, which will serve me well in McLeod County.

My first day in McLeod County will be Monday, January 4th. I look forward to meeting each of you soon and working with the best county 4-H program ever! See you in January!

Darcy Cole
McLeod County 4-H Program Coordinator
dacole@umn.edu
320-484-4305

Dear McLeod County 4-H Families,

Thanks for the warm welcome, support and grace you’ve extended to me as I’ve served with you during the interim of your County 4-H Program Coordinator transition. You have an excellent 4-H Program that values and supports youth in so many ways. You should be proud of the fine tradition of positive youth development that you have built and I know you will continue in the years ahead. Best wishes!

Jim Deidrick
Shooting Sports

McLeod County 4-H Shooting Sports/Wildlife is offering a variety of shooting sports and wildlife activities for young people 3rd grade and up enrolled in 4-H. Wildlife is also open to Cloverbuds and up.

4-H Shooting Sports and Wildlife members start training January 14, 2016 from 7-9 pm in the Poultry/Archery building on the McLeod County Fairgrounds. Your 2015-2016 4-H enrollment must be completed before training, January 14, in order to participate in any of the classes.

If you have questions feel free to contact the Extension Office at 320-484-4334.

To all 4-H Sheep, Swine, Beef and Goat members!

It’s that time of year again to get ready for the 2016 Project Bowls! Showcase your livestock knowledge, while having fun with friends and learning something new. Practices are on Sundays at the Doug and Patty Dahlke home, 14275 Lace Ave, Glencoe, MN. Bring a dish to share for a potluck supper beginning at 6:00 p.m. Practices will then be held each Sunday evening until the Regional Project Bowl in March. If you have any questions contact Patty at 320-864-5537

Favorite Food Show Planning Meeting

The planning meeting for the 2016 Favorite Food Show will be on Monday, January 25 at 6:00 p.m. in the 4-H Café (this is be right before the Federation Meeting). Any adults and youth interested in helping plan this event should plan on attending. For questions; please contact Darcy at the Extension Office.

Federation Meeting

The next McLeod County 4-H Federation meeting will be on Monday, January 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the 4-H Café. We encourage all clubs to have delegates there.

Beef Project Tagging and Weigh-in

Beef project members who wish to idea market animals for the 2016 show season need to mark their calendars for Saturday, January 30th. Ted and Paula Frick will be tagging all 4-H Beef at the Long Prairie Packing buying station from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Snow date is February 6th and everything remains the same. Details will be coming the first week of January to all beef project families.

4-H Ambassador Meeting

4-H Ambassadors should mark their calendars for Sunday, February 7th for their next meeting. The group will meet at the 4-H Café 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 snack to share.

Ag Career Day – February 15th - Save the Date!

Here’s an exciting opportunity for 4-H’ers (grades 8 - 12) to discover the vast array of careers available in the field of Agriculture! Come to “EXPLORING AGRICULTURE CAREER DAY”, on Monday, February 15th (Presidents Day) at the University of Minnesota. Check in starts at 8:45 a.m. and the day will end at 2:30 p.m. The event will be held at the North Star Ballroom located in the St. Paul Student Center. Participants will do a career inventory, hear from panelist who work in various ag fields, explore college options, learn about college financial planning, and take tours of the U of M campus. The cost for the day is $15/participant which includes lunch. Don’t miss out on this exciting opportunity! Registration deadline is; Monday, February 8th. Learn more and register for event here:

http://www3.extension.umn.edu/sites/default/files/download/Ag%20Day%20Registration.pdf
McLeod County 4-H Family Fun Night/Favorite Food Show/ Fruit Sales Delivery

SAVE THE DATE! Monday, March 7 is the annual 4-H Family Fun Night, Favorite Foods Show and Fruit Sales delivery. Watch for more details in upcoming newsletters.

Fruit Sales

4-H Fruit Sales are the second largest fundraiser for 4-H members in McLeod County. The money is used to cover county wide programing costs for 4-H, as well as scholarships for events that members attend. This year we have a goal of meeting last year’s sales of $24,000. By meeting that sales goal we will be able to sustain our scholarship programs for Camp Patterson, State Fair and Summer Day Camps. Fruit Sales packets will be handed out to clubs at the McLeod County 4-H Federation Meeting on January 25. Sales will be due around the 15th of February. Watch for more details in your email and from club leaders!

Message from Dorothy

Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

Happy New Year! 4-H is starting the New Year by celebrating 4-H alumni! Most of our 4-H parents and volunteers were 4-H members themselves, and are now carrying on the tradition of supporting 4-H by having their children participate, volunteering, and often times, both!

The Minnesota 4-H Foundation is holding a Minnesota 4-H alumni reunion on Saturday, Feb. 6. Join us at the event to eat, visit, take a picture in the alumni photo booth, and participate in a service project benefitting Anna Marie’s Alliance & Salvation Army!

We hope this fun gathering provides an opportunity to gather together and celebrate all that we love about 4-H, and our fond memories and experiences in the program over the years.

Learn more and register for the event here:

blog-mn4hgive.extension.umn.edu/2015/12/4-h-alumni-reunion.html

I hope to see you there!

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

2016 SS&W Spring 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 (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. Please see registration materials for full details.

The training will take place April 23-24, 2016 at St. Mary’s Church and the Kanabec County Gun Club in Mora.

Registration materials will be available Feb. 1 and posted here:

www.4-H.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-certification/

The deadline to register is April 8, 2016. Disciplines fill quickly, so make sure registration forms are sent in early! All volunteers MUST have successfully completed
the background screening process through their county extension office before participating in the training.

4-H Summer Intern Positions

Are you looking for work experience in the youth development field?

Once again this year, there will be county-based 4-H summer intern positions throughout the state of Minnesota. Each internship 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 positions will be posted soon at www.extension.umn.edu/about/employment/. The application deadline is Feb. 15.

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

4-H Alumni Reunion Feb. 6

You’re invited to a fun and friendly 4-H alumni reunion! On Feb. 6, 2016 at the Gold’n Plump company offices in St. Cloud, the Minnesota 4-H Foundation will host an alumni reunion from 1 - 4 p.m. Reunion activities include food and mingling, a service project, alumni photo booth and a few nostalgic surprises. Registration is open and space is limited so RSVP today! More info is available on our event website: http://z.umn.edu/4hreunion.

Save the Date: Youth Day at the Capitol March 29

Minnesota 4-H will be participating in the 2016 Youth Day at the Capitol on March 29. Join youth from throughout the state in learning about our state legislative process, and share your perspective on local issues with policy makers! Additional information will be posted online in late January at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/youth-day-at-the-capitol/index.html.

The annual event is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Alliance With Youth, Ignite Afterschool, Youthprise, Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board, Minnesota School-Age Care Alliance and YWCA of Minneapolis.

To learn more about how you can participate, contact Nicole Pokorney, Citizenship & Leadership Team Member, at 507-536-6304 or pokorney@umn.edu.

Save the Date: 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus 2017

Inauguration Jan. 17-21

Minnesota 4-H will be bringing a group of youth to participate in the 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus Presidential Inauguration 2017!

Participants will practice their roles in citizenship through service, civic education, and engagement; learn the meaning and importance of the democratic process; and explore the history of the American presidency, the election process, the role of the press, the intricacies of the Executive Branch and careers in politics.

WHO: 4-H’ers must be ages 14-19 at the time of the experience to participate

WHEN: Jan. 17-21, 2017

WHAT: Participate in workshops, sessions, and speakers; visit memorials, historical sites, and
museums; and participate in Inauguration Day events, including an Inaugural Ball dinner and dance cruise.

Additional information will be posted online at http://z.umn.edu/cwfinauguration by Jan. 15.

Don't Miss Out On 4-H BLU Registration!

Registration deadlines are Jan. 5 (central BLU) and Jan. 15 (all others)! Don’t miss the opportunity to attend the 2016 4-H Building Leadership and Understanding (BLU) events! Join the Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors and youth from across the state for a fun filled youth leadership retreat. This year’s topic will focus on exploring your passions to “Find your Element”, and envision how you can live out your passion in your life. All youth in 6th grade and above are invited to participate! For more information, contact your county Extension office, or visit the 4-H BLU website at www.4-h.umn.edu/events/blu.

Attention Minnesota 4-H Dairy Families!

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

1. All animals must be owned or leased AND identified (data entered into 4HOnline or an ID worksheet submitted to the Extension office) before the animal’s first freshening. If you want to ID a first calf heifer for the first time, please note this must be done BEFORE she calves.

2. All other ID’ing for dairy project animals must be completed by May 15. You will receive details from your county office.

3. All leased animals need a lease agreement resigned/renewed each year.

To renew leases, download last year’s lease agreement OR obtain a copy from the Extension office. Obtain the appropriate signatures to renew and, if need be, update the agreement. Finally scan and email the updated lease agreement to the Extension office OR take it to the Extension office. The deadline for this is May 15. Remember, all lease forms need to be completed and uploaded prior to the animals first freshening.

4. If your "family unit" includes someone who has graduated out of 4-H or is not enrolling in dairy this year AND ID’ed in their name last year, you will want to reassign those animals to another family member. The exception is animals shown by this past dairy project member AFTER freshening. Those animals are not eligible to be shown by another 4-Her.

Complete details are available on the Dairy Information Sheet, which is posted at www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-id.

Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF)

Thousands of young people from across the United States come to the National 4-H Youth Conference Center every summer to participate in CWF, a citizenship and leadership program held in Washington, DC. Through a series of speakers, committee work, field trips and social events, participants learn the importance of citizenship and social responsibility and are given the opportunity to explore, develop, and refine skills needed to be an outstanding leader on both a local and national level.

Dates

- July 2, 2016: A.M. Required pre-conference workshop then depart for Washington D.C.
July 9, 2016: Arrive Back in Minnesota in P.M.

Application

- Jan. 16, 2016: All pre-application materials accessed on website.
- Feb. 16, 2016: CWF full application materials accessed on website. With a postmark date beginning Feb. 16, all required application materials and $700 down payment due.
- Check with your county 4-H program coordinator if there are other requirements for participation.

Additional information: [www.4-H.umn.edu/events/citizenship-washington-focus/index.html](http://www.4-H.umn.edu/events/citizenship-washington-focus/index.html)

Contact: Judith A. Conway, conw0076@umn.edu

National 4-H Conference

It is never too early to start thinking about your Minnesota 4-H older youth that would be a great youth delegate for the 2017 National 4-H Conference. Be thinking about this experience for 2017. Check out the 2016 National 4-H Conference url below to learn more. (Please note that dates, age requirements, and post-conference expectations will change for 2017)

[www.4-h.umn.edu/events/national-conference/index.html](http://www.4-h.umn.edu/events/national-conference/index.html)

Updated material for 2017 National 4-H Conference will be on this website beginning in September 2016.

Contact: Judith A. Conway, conw0076@umn.edu

Information For 2016 LQA&E Train The Trainer Webinar Registration!

We are looking into an online training for the future, but training will remain the same in 2016.

Intended Audience: All new trainers teaching any of the LQA&E lessons and any others wishing to brush up their skills. LQA&E curriculum will be sent to new trainers after the first of the year.

Dates:
- Jan. 9, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
- Jan. 12, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Livestock Volunteers Are Invited!

Mark your calendars for the county livestock PDC (project development committee) training webinar on April 7, 2016. More details to come.

Youth Application for State 4-H Beef Committee

Minnesota 4-H is looking for 4-H beef members 9th grade and up to be part of the state fair beef show committee. We will select three members for one year terms to help plan and organize the state fair 4-H beef project experience. We are looking for members with extensive beef project and leadership experience. 4-H members selected will work with adult volunteers and staff members to enhance the competitive and educational opportunities with the beef project at future state fairs. See the application for more details. To apply, please complete the Minnesota 4-H youth beef committee application at [www.4-h.umn.edu/projects/animal-science/beef](http://www.4-h.umn.edu/projects/animal-science/beef). Please return the completed form by Feb. 15, 2016.
Regional Horse Event Jan. 9

We are welcoming all to the next regional horse event scheduled for **Saturday, January 9, 2016**. This is a great time to connect with people in your area around horse topics. The two hour agenda will include an educational topic as well as discussion of the state horse program and updates regarding any changes in the program.

Each area will be electing two youth to represent their region on the State Horse PDC as well as one adult. Elections will happen at the January regional meeting. This is a GREAT way to get involved and make a difference in the Minnesota 4-H Horse Project.

Applications can be found at [www.4-H.umn.edu/projects/animal-science/horse/](http://www.4-h.umn.edu/projects/animal-science/horse/). If you scroll down you will find the link to click on the application as well as job description. Bring your application to the regional meeting in January or email to Renee Kostick at [hinkx001@umn.edu](mailto:hinkx001@umn.edu) by Jan. 4. There will also be time to discuss issues, network between counties and bring your issues to the State PDC reps so they can bring them to the February State PDC meeting. Bring your comments to discuss.

Current area reps and locations for regional meetings are listed below. Be sure to check the website for any meeting location changes or updates prior to the events.

**NW Region**: Perkins Restaurant and Bakery, 623 Frontier Dr, Fergus Falls, MN 56537, 10 a.m. - noon
Reps: Adults: Kristen Gabrielson. Youth: Paige Gabrielson, Morgan Kastner

**NE Region**: McGregor Community Center, 41442 State Highway 65, McGregor, MN 55760 (location to be confirmed), 10 a.m. - noon
Reps: Adults: Michelle Peterson, Meg Sax. Youth: Lindsay Peterson, Allie Peterson

**Central Region**: Minnco Credit Union Community Room, located one block south of Hwy 95 on the corner of Birch Street S and 2nd Ave SW., Cambridge, MN, 10:00 a.m. - noon
Reps: Adults: Mark Storm, Dan Dolan. Youth: Julianne Quandt, Lauren Olson

**SW Region**: Marshall Animal Health Center, 1300 N. Hwy 59 Marshall, MN 56258, 10:00 a.m. - noon
Reps: Adults: RaeAnn Bartz, Randy Dokken. Youth: Josh Johnson, Danielle Jibben

**SE Region**: East Annex Building across from the Court House, Waseca (location to be confirmed), 10:00 a.m. - noon
Reps: Adults: Gretchen Sankovitz, Peggy Hildebrandt. Youth: Abby Sankovitz, Jackie Thayer

If you have any questions contact Renee Kostick at [hinkx001@umn.edu](mailto:hinkx001@umn.edu) or 218-232-5174.

Minnesota 4-H State Horse Winter Roundup

Winter Roundup is an exciting three day, two night conference Jan. 22 - 24, 2016, in Spicer, focused on developing youth and adult leadership in the 4-H horse project. The conference is packed with speakers and educational workshops. Topics cover areas such as developing leadership skills, horse care and showing, horse project areas such as western heritage, Horse Bowl, hippology, speech and demo, applying to the Dan Patch and Youth Leadership Awards and much more!

This conference is geared towards and best appreciated by adults and youth 8th grade and above. For more information and registration materials go to [www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/horse/winter-roundup/index.html](http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/horse/winter-roundup/index.html). Registrations are due by Jan. 5 for the early bird discount. You can also register in 4HOnline and mail your payment.
Calendar

JANUARY
• 1  Extension Office Closed- Holiday
• 9  Regional horse event
• 9  LQA&E train the trainer webinar, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
• 12  LQA&E train the trainer webinar, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
• 14  Shooting Sports/Wildlife Training Starts, Fairgrounds, 7 - 9:00 p.m.
• 25  Favorite Food Show Planning Meeting, 4-H Café, 6:00 p.m.
• 25  Federation Meeting, 4-H Café, 7:00 p.m.
• 30  Beef Project Tagging and Weigh-in, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY
• 6  Beef Project Tagging and Weigh-in, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - Snow date
• 6  4-H alumni reunion
• 7  4-H Ambassador Meeting, 4-H Café, 1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.
• 15  Extension Office Closed - Holiday
• 15  Ag Career Day
• 15  Application deadline for 4-H summer intern positions
• 15  Youth application deadline for state 4-H beef committee

MARCH
• 5  Regional Project Bowl, Foley
• 7  Family Fun Night/ Favorite Food show/ Fruit Sales Delivery
• 12  Regional Project Bowl, Hastings
• 19  Regional Project Bowl, Bemidji
• 19  Regional Project Bowl, Redwood Falls
• 29  Youth Day at the Capitol

APRIL
• 2  Regional Project Bowl, Snow date
• 16  State Project Bowl, Sauk Rapids
• 17  County livestock PDC training webinar
• 9-14  National 4-H Conference, Washington, D.C.
• 23-24  4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification training, Mora.

MAY
• 15  Animal ID deadline

JULY
• 2-9  Citizenship Washington Focus