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Fruit Sales

Huge THANK YOU to all the 4-H families participated in our 4-H Fruit Sales! The early tabulations were sales of $25,600 (this is $2000 higher than last year). Our final profit will be determined once final volume discounts are applied, but we are anticipating profits around $8000. The dollars raised fund many activities!!! Just a few include: your 50% scholarship to the Minnesota State Fair (yes, the initial price is double), summer camp payouts for both campers and counselors, county-wide programs like the recognition banquet and family fun night, insurance for all members and screened volunteers, and more. Delivery date will be Monday, March 9 at 10:00 am. We will need volunteers for about 3 hours that morning to sort fruit.

April County Meeting Schedule

April 12th:
6:15 p.m. - Café Meeting (Each club is asked to have at least one adult representative in attendance)
7:30 p.m. - Animal Science/Livestock Meeting
8:00 p.m. - Auction Meeting

April 18th:
6:15 p.m. - Federation Meeting
7:30 p.m. - Fashion Revue Planning Meeting

April 24th:
1:30 p.m. - Ambassador Meeting

*All meetings to be held in the 4-H Café.

McLeod County Livestock Assurance Quality & Ethics Training

Date: Saturday, April 9th
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Location: Agribition Building, Fairgrounds
Registration Deadline: April 1st

All youth participating as a State Fair beef, dairy, goats, lama, poultry, rabbits, sheep or swine livestock exhibitor must have completed a Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics workshop within the last three fair seasons (2014, 2015, 2016). Visit http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/lqae/ for additional training dates. Watch for more details to come.

Animal Science Project Workshop

We’re planning an animal science workshop for anyone interested in learning the basics about animal science projects of interest.

Mark your calendars and watch for more details soon.

Date: Saturday, April 9th
Time: 12:30 p.m.
Location: Agribition Building, Fairgrounds
Registration Deadline: April 1st

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 13th-15th: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Nicollet
Session 2 - June 15th-17th: Freeborn, Mower, Rice, Steele, Waseca
Session 3 - June 20th-22nd: Carver, Scott, McLeod, Sibley *NOTE DATE CHANGE!

**Teen Camp: Grades 6th-8th**
June 22nd-24th: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Nicollet, McLeod, Sibley, Carver, Scott, Freeborn, Mower, Rice, Steele, 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!

**Message from Dorothy**

**Dear 4-H families and volunteers,**

Over the last few years, you may have heard or read about how youth need “social-emotional” or “soft” skills to succeed in learning, school, work and life. More and more, the value of these skills - including confidence, self-control, caring, and problem solving - is being examined to understand how they are acquired, where and how they are being taught.

Youth learn these skills in a variety of environments - at school, in youth programs and at home.

The Search Institute recently released a study called, “Don’t Forget the Families,” which highlights the power of family relationships as a critical, but often neglected, factor in developing these skills. A key finding is that parent-child relationships are 10 times more powerful than race, ethnicity, family composition, and family income in predicting whether children are developing these skills.


I encourage families to explore how you can help youth develop social emotional skills that will prepare them to succeed.

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!

Scholarships for college-bound 4-H youth

Are you entering college this fall? Did you know that each year the Minnesota 4-H Foundation awards over $20,000 in scholarships to college-bound 4-H’ers? Applications are due April 15, 2016. Visit the Minnesota 4-H Foundation website (http://z.umn.edu/sga) to learn more. Direct questions to Erin Kelly-Collins (erinkc@umn.edu/612-624-7667)

Minnesota Alliance with Youth Red Wagon Awards: Due April 1

The Red Wagon Awards honor young people in grades 6-12 in Minnesota that have shown resilience and overcome obstacles to achieve academic gains, give back to their community and grow to become leaders among their peers.

In 2016, the Alliance will be honoring three Minnesota youth and one youth-led community service club, each nominated by caring adults, peers or partners in their local community. Each individual winner will receive a $500 education scholarship, and the winning youth service group will receive $500 to support the work of their group. Any young person or youth-led service group in grades 6-12 in Minnesota is eligible for nomination.

The nomination form is available online through April 1.

The award winners will be honored at the 2016 Alliance fundraiser and Red Wagon Awards celebration event on June 23 at Macalester College. For nomination criteria and additional information about the Red Wagon Awards, visit mnyouth.net/work/red-wagon-awards/.

Youth Day at the Capitol with Minnesota 4-H!

Enrolled Minnesota 4-H members are invited to attend a Youth Day at the Capitol (YDAC) event with the Minnesota Alliance with Youth from 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29, 2016. The YDAC will provide both training and engagement opportunities for youth in grades 6-12 to participate in the legislative process. Screened volunteer chaperones will also be needed. The application process will open on Feb. 18, and the deadline to apply is March 11. Additional details are available at 4-h.umn.edu/events/youth-day-at-the-capitol.

Presidential Inauguration Focus

Minnesota 4-H will be selecting a group of 50 youth from across the state to attend the 2017 presidential inauguration in January. The application material will be posted in early March and will be due in mid-April, with selection occurring in May. This will be a competitive application process, and open to Minnesota 4-H members in grades 9 through one year past high school, as of January 2017. More information will be posted Mar. 1 at http://z.umn.edu/cwfinauguration.

Calendar

MARCH
• 5 Regional Project Bowl, Foley
• 7 Family Fun Night
• 7 Favorite Food Show
• 7 Fruit Sales Delivered
• 11 Youth Day at the Capitol application deadline
• 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
• 1 Minnesota Alliance with Youth Red Wagon Award nomination deadline
• 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
• 12 Auction Meeting, 8 p.m., 4-H Café
• 15 Minnesota 4-H Foundation college scholarship applications due
• 16 State Project Bowl, Sauk Rapids
• 17 County livestock PDC training webinar
• 18 McLeod County Federation Meeting, 6:15 p.m., 4-H Café
• 18 Fashion Revue Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 4-H Café
• 23-24 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification training, Mora and Worthington
• 24 Ambassador Meeting, 1:30 p.m., 4-H Café

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
• 20-22 Camp Patterson – Youth Camp
• 22-24 Camp Patterson – Teen Camp

JULY
• 1 McLeod County 4-H Scholarship Application Deadline
• 2-9 Citizenship Washington Focus
• 15 County Fair Registration Deadline
• 25 Federation Meeting, 7 p.m., McLeod County North Complex (Glencoe)

AUGUST
• 15 County Fair Entry Day
• 17-21 McLeod County Fair
• 25-Sept 5 State Fair