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Update on Mcleod County 4-H Program Coordinator Position

Dear McLeod County 4-H Members, Volunteers and Families,

Please join me in welcoming Kim Hausladen and Jim Deidrick as Program Coordinators here in McLeod County! Kim and Jim will each be filling one-half of the interim role through January 1, 2016 as the program recruits and identifies a new full time 4-H Program Coordinator. For information on this position visit www.extension.umn.edu/about/employment/.

Kim Hausladen has a background in animal science with an emphasis in dairy from the University of Minnesota and has served dairy families for six years as a Program Coordinator for the Dairy Profitability Enhancement Program. Kim also has connections to 4-H youth programs having worked as a Children's Librarian at the Winsted Library, as an 8 year member in neighboring Meeker County 4-H and as an 8 years club leader of the Winsted Jolly Juniors 4-H Club.

Jim Deidrick has a strong 4-H background having been a 10 year member in Wright County 4-H and serving as staff for over 35 years! Jim has worked with the 4-H program in 3 counties, the Center for 4-H Youth Development and most recently in providing leadership for a partnership between USDA, National 4-H Headquarters, the Department of Defense and the Army in supporting the children and youth of service members i the deployment cycle across the country.

Kim and Jim will together be providing leadership for McLeod County 4-H in this critical recruitment, club meeting and planning time. Their combined experience will truly be a benefit for McLeod County!

Mark Haugen
Extension Educator, Youth Development, Central Region MN 4-H

Message from Dorothy

Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

November is a time when we reflect and give thanks for the friends, family and communities that support us and give meaning to our lives.

I would like to thank each of you for supporting 4-H and helping make a positive difference in the lives of Minnesota youth.

Without the contributions of parents and volunteers, 4-H would not be able to provide the important learning experiences that guide youth in exploring new interests, developing new skills and finding their spark.

I give thanks for you each and every day.

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

Minnesota 4-H Week of Thanks

4-H families, volunteers and supporters are invited to join our 2nd annual Minnesota 4-H Week of Thanks Nov. 18-25. Take a photo holding this sign (http://z.umn.edu/4hwot) and share it via Facebook, Twitter or Instagram during the week leading up to Thanksgiving. Be sure to include the hashtags #ThankYou #MN4H so we can see all your fabulous photos! The 4-H Week of Thanks is sponsored by the Minnesota 4-H Foundation. Please direct questions to Erin Kelly-Collins at mailto:erinkc@umn.edu.

Reminder Club Charter

Due November 1

Just a reminder that club chartering documents are up on the Minnesota 4-H Website.

All of the directions and documents can be found on the website along with a video that explains the entire step-by-step process.
Power Point Pictures Needed!

If you would like to see your 4-H club, judging team, State Fair experience, shooting sports, etc. represented in the Recognition Banquet Power Point, please get your digital pictures to the Extension Office by November 1: email, CD or flashdrive.

Youth That Have Graduated

If you have a 4-Her that graduated from high school in 2014, this was your last year in 4-H. If you graduated this year, 2015, you are eligible to graduate from 4-H this year or next. Please let the extension office know if 2014-2015 was your last year. We would like to acknowledge you at the Recognition Banquet. Please let the Office know by November 1st.

2015-2016 Club Treasurer Training

Club Treasurers have two opportunities for training this year. November 12, 6:30 PM at the McLeod County Extension Office we will have a more in-depth training on 4-H treasurer duties, balancing accounts, reporting, etc. It will be most helpful to come as a team with the adult advisor from your club. You will also receive your Treasurer’s Binder and Handbook at this training. You’re also invited to the 3 county 4-H Officer Training on November 14 in Cologne. You may take advantage of both. Please RSVP your attendance with the Extension Office.

2015 Recognition Banquet

It is once again that time of year when the 4-H members of McLeod County come together to celebrate their accomplishments this past year. This year’s 4-H Recognition Banquet will be held on FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20th at Christ the King Church in Hutchinson. The meal begins promptly at 6:30 p.m. with the awards program to follow at approximately 7:00 p.m. This year’s host club is the Bear Lake Beavers and Winsted Jolly Juniors are the assisting club. Watch the mail for your formal invitation.

Attention Clubs

We are once again asking each 4-H club to donate one door prize for the Recognition Banquet. You could do a gift basket of some sort, a gift certificate, a club shirt or donate the services of 4-H members in your club. Use your imagination and please do not spend more than $25 on your door prize(s). Bring them the night of the banquet labeled with your club name. Please call Kim at the Extension Office if you have any questions. (320) 484-4339

Online Enrollment for 4-H Families

Enrollment for the new 4-H year opened up on September 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. Reenrolling 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
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 young people 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 We Connect curriculum from their county library of available curricula. All 4-H volunteers are highly encouraged to attend the annual training for their county. Activities are also appropriate for youth who are interested in this topic.

Meeker & McLeod County’s training will be:

Date: Thursday, November 5th

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Family Services Center, Litchfield - Meeting Room 200

To register, contact the Meeker County Extension Office at 320-693-5275 (toll-free 1-877-993-5275) or email at mehuhn@umn.edu

Youth in Action Awards

National 4-H Council's Youth in Action Awards recognize exceptional 4-H'ers who epitomize 4-H youth empowerment and leadership. It is a life changing experience!

Winners receive a $5,000 educational scholarship and the opportunity to serve as a 4-H youth spokesperson. Counties of winning youth also earn a $5,000 grant.

Register here: n4h.convio.net/site/PageNavigator/2016_YIA_Webinar_Registration.html.

For qualifications, application rules, and information on past honorees, please visit the Youth in Action Awards website at n4h.convio.net/site/R?i=_HMmPFnxz1MlVDwR-6NCQ.

All applications must be submitted by 12 p.m. EST on Monday, Nov. 30, 2015.

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 will send four youth delegates to Washington D.C. in the spring with selection 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 at www.4-h.umn.edu/events/national-conference/index.html.
Summer 2016 Citizenship Washington Focus

Minnesota youth delegates will be heading to Washington D.C. for Citizenship Washington Focus leaving on July 2, 2016 and returning to Minnesota on July 9. Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) is a week-long 4-H citizenship program that takes place at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Washington, D.C. Participants will learn from and meet young people from across the nation, strengthen their civic engagement understanding and skills, experience Washington D.C., and learn how to develop and implement a CWF: Call to Action plan upon returning home.

Information about this great experience can be found on the 4-H events website under Citizenship Washington Focus at www.4-h.umn.edu/events/citizenship-washington-focus/index.html.

Beginning Nov. 1 on the website, you will find a flyer for distribution to those who might be interested as well as information regarding the application process.

Pre-registration materials will be found on this website beginning Jan. 15 with full application materials available on Feb. 17. This is a first-come first-served application process. Check with your county program coordinator to find out if there are any additional county requirements for this experience.

Changes to Volunteer Re-Enrollment Forms

As you are re-enrolling this fall, you might notice a change to volunteer re-enrollment forms and in 4HOnline. New this program year, we are asking adult volunteers to provide us with the same health information 4-H youth provide us during the enrollment process. In the past, a separate form was used to collect this information in conjunction with special events.

To streamline our processes and make things easier, you can now share this information once and it will be accessible when needed as you travel outside of your county for any 4-H related experiences. While this information is not required for individuals who will not travel outside of their county in any way in their role as a 4-H volunteer, it is recommended as a best practice to ensure the safety of all of our volunteers. Many individuals travel to neighboring counties for 4-H club/group activities, regional events and volunteer training in addition to state events like YELLO or state fair.

If you have already completed your enrollment paperwork for the year, you may go into your records in 4HOnline and update your information to include the health fields. If you have not yet re-enrolled, you may share your information on the 4-H re-enrollment form.

4-H Volunteer Corner

Ensuring a safe 4-H environment

What makes some youth programs better than others? The answer is that high-quality youth programs ensure a safe environment, which is defined as a place where everyone feels physically and emotionally safe. Physical safety refers to an environment that is free of hazards that can cause bodily harm. Emotional safety refers to an environment that is respectful, welcoming and values each individual. In order for youth to have a quality experience, 4-H volunteers must first ensure that young people feel safe and supported.

To learn more view Ensuring a Safe 4-H Environment: www.4-h.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training/

This online training offers valuable information on how to create a 4-H environment that is physically and emotionally safe.
Fall 4-H Officer Training

Join Carver, McLeod and Scott County incoming club and county officers for the Fall 4-H Office Training. 4-H’ers will have the chance to learn about parliamentary procedure as well as tips and tricks they can use throughout the year to help make them successful officers! The training is scheduled to be held on Saturday, November 14, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Carver County Extension Office in Cologne. Invitations to Officers will be sent out.

Café Meeting

There will be a wrap-up Café meeting on Tuesday, November 17th at 6:15 pm in the 4-H Café. All clubs need to be represented.

Animal Science (Livestock) Meeting

There will be a McLeod County 4-H Animal Science (Livestock) meeting on Tuesday, November 17th at 7:30 p.m. This meeting is open to all 4-H members and parents enrolled in Goat, Sheep, Dairy, Beef, Swine, Horse, Rabbit and Poultry projects.

At these meetings we evaluate county fair, submit suggestions for judges at the 2016 county fair, make project meeting suggestions, evaluate the project area, the 4-H Livestock Auction and identify new Auction Committee members. The Extension Office will also take nominations for project Superintendents for all species.

Hope you can make this important animal science planning meeting!

Calendar

**November**

- **1** Club Charters Due to County Extension Office
- **1** Pictures due to Extension Office for Banquet Slideshow
- **1** Graduated Youth Information due to Extension Office
- **5** Fall Volunteer Training, 6:30-8 p.m.
- **11** Office Closed in observance of Veteran’s Day
- **14** Officer Training, 9 a.m. – 12 noon, Carver County Extension Office
- **17** Café Meeting - 6:15 p.m.
- **17** Animal Science (Livestock) Committee Meetings – 7:30 p.m
- **18-25** Minnesota 4-H Week of Thanks
- **19** National 4-H Conference application postmark deadline
- **20** McLeod County 4-H Recognition Banquet – 6:30 p.m.
- **30** Application deadline for Youth in Action Awards