PURPOSE OF RICE COUNTY 4-H…

4-H is a fun opportunity for people to get involved and promote educational and leadership experiences, to appreciate self-identity.

SYMBOLS…As 4-H work grew through the years, symbols which express the spirit and ideas of the organization developed. Every club member and leader should be thoroughly familiar with them.

4-H Emblem

The National 4-H emblem is a four-leaf clover with the letter "H" placed parallel to the midrib of each leaf. The H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands and Health. The four-leaf clover signifies good luck and achievement. This diagram of the 4-H emblem symbolizes the aim and hope - for results of effective learning for each individual.

4-H Pledge

I pledge…

my head to clearer thinking
my heart to greater loyalty
my hands to larger service and
my health to better living
for my family, my club, my community, my country and my world.

4-H Colors

Green – natures most common color and represents springtime, life and youth.
White – symbolizes purity and high ideas.

4-H Motto

MAKE  BEST  BETTER

This should be the aim of every 4-H club member, parent and volunteer.
RICE COUNTY 4-H Membership Guide

RICE COUNTY EXTENSION STAFF…
Kelly Chadwick, 4-H Program Coordinator  
Lisa Holling, Administrative Assistant  
Karen Anderson, Extension Educator

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS…
President      Riley Donkers  Big Woods  
Vice President Hank Schultz  Big Woods  
Secretary     Courtney Albers  Big Woods  
Treasurer     Kyra Flom  Big Woods  
Historian     Morgan Albers  Big Woods  
West Representatives:
Youth         Judd Saemrow  Warsaw Willing Wkrs  
Youth         Rebecca Meger  Webster Willing Wkrs  
Adult        Hindy Saemrow  Warsaw Willing Wkrs  
Adult       Lisa Karsten (2nd term)  Warsaw Willing Wkrs  
East Representatives:
Youth         Nick Flom  Big Woods  
Youth         Mikayla Wetzel  Big Woods  
Adult        Kyle Flom  Big Woods  
Adult       Greg Johnson (2nd term)  Big Giants

WEST
Warsaw Willing Workers  Nancy Zimmer  507-334-9630  
Lisa Karsten  507-685-2934  
Webster Willing Workers  Leon & Rachel Meger  952-652-2826  
Wheatland Wheaties  JoAnn Erickson  952-652-2826  
Melissa Horejsi  952-215-4340  
Kelly Vikla  507-744-2031  
Theresa Hyde  507-744-4361  
Willing Wells  Kim Chmelik  507-333-0297

EAST
Big Giants  Colleen Almen  507-663-7930  
Big Woods  Pam Donkers  507-334-2121  
Gail Donkers  507-332-8707  
Full-O-Pep  Carol Oys  507-744-5669  
Mike Little  507-581-6253

ENROLLMENT… 4-H is open to all without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. A member is officially enrolled in the 4-H program when enrollment has been completed on-line with the authorization forms signed and sent to the Rochester Regional Center by May 15. For enrollment completed after May 15 see information under “LATE FORMS”.

• To be a 4-H member, youth may enroll anytime from Kindergarten through one year after graduation. Members are considered to be in the grade in which they are enrolled in school. (A youth who has completed 4th grade is considered to be in that grade until he/she starts the 5th grade in September.)
• Youth with special needs are considered enrolled in 4-H based on their grade in school. Minnesota State Law requires access to public schools until the age of 21. Thus, a 4-H club could include a 22-year-old special needs member if he/she is still enrolled in school. Participation at Minnesota 4-H activities and events outside the framework of the graduation policy must be pre-approved by the center staff most closely connected with the activity/event.
• Home school ages can be coordinated by parents and program coordinator.
• Youth who drop out of school may continue membership until 19 years of age after January 1 of current year.
• Marriage and/or pregnancy does not disqualify youth from 4-H membership or participation.
• Youth are encouraged to enroll in their home county. However, some may choose membership in a neighboring county for convenience. Youth cannot enroll in two different counties.
• Youth may be involved in 4-H as either a member or participant. (Participants are youth who participate in specific educational programs, who do not desire membership.)

RE-ENROLLMENT…Member/Volunteer - after the first year you are enrolled/accepted you will need to complete the re-enrollment process annually on-line by May 15th by logging into mn4honline.com and follow the prompts (a guide is posted on the Rice County Extension website). To maintain 4-H membership/volunteer status the re-enrollment process must be completed on-line by May 15th.

CODE OF CONDUCT… Youths, parents and volunteers are required to verify the code of conduct statement when enrolling/re-enrolling each year. To review the Code of Conduct statements refer to the mn4h.org website. Click on Be a 4-H Member, click on Current 4-H member, click on Policies then on the Membership & Code of Conduct tab, scroll down to Code of Conduct. You may also contact the Extension Office for a copy.

PROJECTS… A member will be required to enroll in at least one project per year. There is no maximum number of projects. Questions to think of when selecting projects are – Is it a project I like or think I will like? How much is this project going to cost? Where will I get the money? Is the space and equipment I need to complete this project available? How much time will it take? Is there someone who can help me if I need help?
CLOVERBUDS...Is a special enrollment opportunity for youth in Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grade. It is considered the member’s project. Cloverbuds are developmentally appropriate, non-competitive, and activity based. A parent/responsible person is required to be with the Cloverbud when in the presence of an animal or when using equipment that is potentially dangerous. When animals and Cloverbuds are together, an adult/responsible person will be in control of the animal. A detailed description of the policy is available at the Extension Office or at MN4h.org.

LIVESTOCK INFORMATION...If showing livestock is something youth would like to do as part of their 4-H experience, there are important pieces of information they need to know. The state has set guidelines for birthdates of animals, owning vs. leasing, identification requirements, etc. A very informational website for all species is http://www.fourh.umn.edu/programs/AnimalScience/. Another resource that every family needs to read is the county fair premium book (available in May). This has all project area classes, rules, suggestions, and requirements for the fair. Livestock ID worksheets must be completed on 4honline by:
- February 15 - Beef (market-steers/heifers & dairy steer); May 15 - Beef (breeding & cow/calf), Dairy, Dog, Goats (except Jr. Does), Horse, Lama, Rabbit, Sheep and Swine; July 1 - Goat Jr. Does.

COUNTY & STATE FAIR ELIGIBILITY...
For all premiums, special awards and state trips:
- Re-Enrollment must be completed by May 15th. Members MUST BE enrolled prior to participating in any 4-H event.
- Enrollment must be completed on-line by May 15th. For enrollment completed after May 15 see information under “LATE FORMS”.
- Livestock ID’s must be completed on 4hOnline by required date.
- Advanced Fair Entry - on FairEntry on-line by 11:59 p.m. on due date OR paper form must be filled out correctly and turned into the Extension Office by due date.

In addition to the above requirements, the following must be met to accept a trip to the State Fair/Shows:
- State Fair - youth must have completed 6th grade.
- Livestock – must have completed the LQA&E certification.
- State Horse Show – youth must have completed 6th grade and earned a blue ribbons in the class at the county show.
- State Dog Show - youth must have completed 3rd grade and earned blue ribbons in the class at the county show.

LATE FORMS...
Established deadlines for forms must be met to avoid penalties.
- State Animal Identification – Show for blue, red or white ribbon only, not eligible for purple ribbon, special awards or state fair/show.
- Re-enrollment – Must be enrolled as 4-H member prior to participating in any 4-H event. Occurrences after will follow the County Fair Advance Entry penalty.
- County Fair Advance Entry or if you fail to register a fair entry – Show for blue, red or white ribbon only, not eligible for purple ribbon, special awards or state fair/shows. Auction - eligibility at the discretion of the county.

The state has added a ONE-TIME EXEMPTION. A member recognizing that they have missed a 4H deadline may waive all consequences for that deadline by using their “one-time exemption”. The one-time exemption applies to the career of the 4-H member and will transfer among Minnesota counties if the member transfers to another county. If the deadline missed is for an Animal Science identification the member has one week after the deadline to turn in the form and be eligible for the one-time exemption (animal must be owned by deadline).

YOUTH LEADERS...Youth wanting to be youth leaders (6th grade and older), and serve on a Project Developmental Committees (PDC’s) and/or Standing Committee, need to make their selection under the “ACTIVITIES” step during the on-line enrollment process. By selecting the specific committee(s) they are responsible for attending the committee meetings where they will have an opportunity to give input on decisions made related to specific project and/or committee.

ADULT VOLUNTEER SCREENING... We welcome volunteers to the 4-H program! Volunteer screening will be completed on all new volunteers. The instructional letter is at http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/volunteer/. Following are the three steps to becoming a Minnesota 4-H volunteer:
- STEP A - Application: (DONE FIRST) The adult volunteer screening application may also be completed electronically, printed, signed and mailed to the Extension Office.
- STEP B - Background Check: Online at The McDowell Agency, Inc. website. For assistance, see instructions for online entry OR a paper copy of the background check release can be printed and mailed or faxed to The McDowell Agency, Inc.
- STEP C - Volunteer Orientation: View the 40-minute 4-H volunteer orientation, which includes the “Safety of Minors” training.

Once you have completed all three steps of the screening process, you will be notified of your volunteer status by the Regional Extension Office and they will enter your information into 4HOnline. Each volunteer can then review or choose a project developmental committee (PDC) according to their interests under “ACTIVITIES”. These committees advise members in the project areas. You need to re-enroll each year online to continue as a volunteer. If you do not re-enroll and want to be a volunteer a few years later you will need to complete the procedure again. Adult volunteers are re-screened every five years.

To learn more about projects, visit the 4-H website at http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/.

Interested in activity guides for your 4-H projects? The National 4-H office provides a National 4-H Curriculum catalog-on-line at www.4-hmall.org/curriculum or contact the National 4-H Supply Service at 301-961-2934.
STANDING COMMITTEES & PDC'S... WHOSE JOB IS IT?
This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. The Standing Committees and Project Developmental Committees (PDC's) are very important, and Everybody was asked to help. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Everybody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Standing Committees meet on an as needed basis. Project Developmental Committees have meetings in November, January, April & September at 7 p.m. on the same nights as Federation. To be on a Standing Committee or PDC you must be a youth leader (6th grade and above) or a screened adult volunteer.

- **STANDING COMMITTEES** - Four committees within the Rice County 4-H Program to develop ideas and direction for the program. The committees are: Auction, Awards & Recognition, Building & Maintenance and Foundation.
- **PROJECT DEVELOPMENTAL COMMITTEES** - Twenty-three committees advise members in project area. The responsibilities include: attend quarterly meetings; develop goals and objectives; plan, promote, conduct and evaluate all promotion, trainings, educational events and fair related items.

EVENTS & PROGRAMS...
- **4-H Sunday** - It is a day when members worship with their families in their respective religious places.
- **National 4-H Week** – It is held the first full week in October to kick-off the 4-H Year. Members give non-4-H youth an idea of what 4-H is all about through radio, articles, window displays and other planned activities.
- **Dog/Horse Trainings** - Sessions for members to train their dog/horse for the fair and other shows.
- **Project Workshops** - Project Developmental Committees put together a program for youth on a specific project area.
- **Exchange** – Members 14-19 years of age by June 1st to participate in a two-year Interstate Exchange with a county from another state. One year they host the visiting county and the next year they travel to that county.
- **Project Quiz Bowl** - An exciting way for youth to explore a project area. It encourages youth to develop teamwork, self-confidence and decision making skills. Organizational and leadership skills are also outcomes. Teams compete at the regional event for an opportunity to compete at the state and national events.
- **Share-the-Fun** - This event is designed to encourage youth to use their dramatic and musical skills. The top two clubs are eligible to participate in the State Fair contest.

- **Heartland Camp** – A 3-day camp with other counties for 3rd through 8th graders at Camp Patterson near Mankato, MN. The sessions are full of swimming, canoeing, nature skills, crafts and educational workshops.
- **Invitational Dog Show** – The PDC plan and conduct a show in which they invite 4-H members from surrounding counties. It is a chance to compete with members from other counties and hopefully exchange project information.
- **Club Tour** - Club members visit others' homes to see a variety of projects that members are exhibiting at the fair.
- **Day Camps** – A 1-day camp for youth K-5th grades. The participants are involved in themed based crafts and recreation!
- **State Fair/Shows** – Selected members with outstanding exhibits at the county fair may have an opportunity to represent the Rice County 4-H program at the State Fair/Shows.
  * **General Encampment (general projects, Share-the-Fun)** - A 3-day stay at the Minnesota State Fair for winners with general projects. Members stay on the State Fairgrounds.
  * **Livestock Encampment** - A 5-day stay at the Minnesota State Fair for winners in animal 4-H projects. Members stay on the State Fairgrounds or nearby campus.
  * **Judging Contests** – Teams compete to go on to National Contests.
  * **State Horse Show** – A 3-day event held in September at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds for the top point winners at the county fair 4-H Horse Show.
  * **State Dog Show** – A one or two day event held in September at the Minnesota 4-H Building on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds for blue ribbon winners at the county fair 4-H Dog Show.
  * **Record Judging** - Members learn skills in goal-setting, project work and evaluation and then how to record these efforts in a written form. Awards are based on project work and record keeping.
  * **Family Banquet** - Recognition for members and leaders. Awards and recognition are given for years in 4-H, outstanding efforts and achievements.

Go to [http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/rice/](http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/rice/) to find the:
- Rice County 4-H Constitution & By-Laws
- Program & Financial Polices
- Current years budget and calendar of events