4-H Calendar

2016 Mower County 4-H Calendar

* Please note that dates may change, keep posted by viewing monthly newsletter for date changes*

February

5th: 4-H at the Bruins Game
8th: Advisory Board-7 pm, 4-H Building
13th: Project Day -- 1-3 pm, 4-H Building
15th: Extension Office Closed
15th: Ambassador Meeting - 7 pm 4-H Building
16th: Market Beef ID Due - Office
15th: Leaders Meeting - 7 pm Extension office (new location)
20th-21st: BLU-Rochester

March

TBD Lock-In, Grades 3-6 @ Ellis Middle School - 7-10 pm
5th: Cloverbud Morning - 10 am-Noon, 4-H Building
5th: Regional Project Bowl - Foley, MN
7th: 4-H Shooting Sports Fundraiser -- 4-9 pm, Pizza Ranch, Austin
12th: Regional Project Bowl - Hastings, MN
14th: Advisory Board -7 pm, 4-H building
15th: Leaders Meeting - 7 pm, Extension office (new location)
19th: Regional Project Bowl - Bemidji/Redwood Falls, MN
21st: Ambassador Meeting - 7 pm, 4-H Building
25th: Extension Office Closed
28th: Auction Meeting - 6 pm, 4-H Building
28th: Livestock Committee 7 pm, 4-H Building

April

• Livestock ID starting
11th: Advisory Board -7pm 4-H, building
16th: State Project Bowl
18th: Ambassador Meeting - 7 pm, 4-H Building
19th: Leaders Meeting - 7 pm, Extension office (new location)

May

• Rabbit Verification
7th: Sheep and Goat Weigh-In 9 am-Noon Mower County Fairgrounds
9th: Sheep and Goat Weigh-In 5 pm-6 pm Mower County Fairgrounds
9th: Advisory Board-7 pm 4-H building
16th: Livestock Affidavits Due, 4Honline, you are always welcomed to drop a copy of your worksheets off at the office.
16th: Ambassador Meeting- 7 pm 4-H Building
17th: Leaders Meeting - 7 pm Extension office (new location)
30th: Extension Office Closed
Mower County 4-H Mission Statement

Mower County 4-H will provide a fun learning and growing environment for youth and adults, by promoting traditions both old and new.

2015-2016 Advisory Board Goals

1. Members enrolled by January 1st:
   a. If a club has 75% of their members re-enrolled by January 1st they will receive a pizza party.
   b. If a club has 85% of their members re-enrolled by January 1st advisory board will pay for a club activity.
   c. If a club has 100% of their members re-enrolled by January 1st advisory board will pay for a club outing!
2. Every club will participate in a STEM activity by May 30, 2016.
3. There will be project mentor list for half of the general projects by April 1, 2016.

We Have Moved!

Our new office is behind the Mower County Highway Department. Our address is 1105 ½ 8th Ave NE. Our phone number is the same 507-437-9552.

Directions:
**I-90 coming from the EAST:**
Take the 11th Dr NE exit, EXIT 179.
Turn left onto 11th Dr NE.
Turn right onto 8th Ave NE.
1105 1/2 8TH AVE NE is on the right. Look for University of Minnesota Extension signage!

**I-90 coming from the WEST:**
Take the 11th Dr NE exit, EXIT 179.
Turn right onto 11th Dr NE.
Turn right onto 8th Ave NE.
1105 1/2 8TH AVE NE is on the right. Look for University of Minnesota Extension signage!

4-H Re-Enrollment Is Open

4-H families can go to 4Honline to re-enroll in 4-H for the 2014-2015 4-H year. Don't forget you must select at least one project for re-enrollment to be completed. You can go back and change as needed, but you must select at least one project during the time of enrollment. The longer you wait, the greater the chance of missing out on project, county and event related announcements. Starting the first of January county fair information will start being mailed, if you or someone you know is not enrolled they will not be getting the information.

Project Bowl (Quiz Bowl)

Project Bowl (Quiz Bowl) season is right around the corner! The second most attended event during the 4-H year is the Project Bowl competition. Patterned after the golden-oldie television show "College Bowl", it challenges teams of 3-6 youth on their knowledge of 4-H project areas: Dairy, Dog, General Livestock, Horse, Poultry, Rabbit and Wildlife.

There are four Regional Project Bowls (each team only has to attend one regional event), followed by the State Project Bowl. Each has two divisions: Junior (grades 3 - 8) and Senior (grades 4 - 4-H graduation). Regional winners advance to the State Project Bowl and state winners in dairy, general livestock, horse, and poultry go on to national contests.

Currently Mower County has coaches for General Livestock, Rabbit, Poultry and Lama. If there is interest in Dairy, Dog, Wildlife we will find coaches! Please contact the office if you are interested in any of the Project Bowl (Quiz Bowl) areas! 507-437-9552 or dbergstr@umn.edu

Get your friends together, recruit a coach, study hard, and ... most of all HAVE FUN during the Project Bowl (Quiz Bowl) season!
Cloverbud Mornings!

Mark your calendar now for these Cloverbud Adventures for the year! Call the Extension Office to RSVP!
- March 9th: Cloverbud Morning 4-H Building 10am-Noon
- June 18th: Cloverbud Morning 4-H Building 10am-Noon

4-H Night at the Austin Bruins

February 5th will be 4-H Night at the Austin Bruins game! Come and watch the Bruins take on the Brookings Blizzard starting at 7:05 PM at Riverside Arena, 501 2nd Ave NE, Austin, MN.

Call the Extension Office today, 507-437-9552, to reserve your tickets. Adults $7 and youth $3! Bring a non-4-H friend with!

Dedee Bergstrom will meet you in the lobby before the game and hand out your tickets. All tickets must be reserved AND paid for by February 3rd! Don't forget to wear a 4-H Clover!

Livestock Updates

LQA&E training dates are listed below call the Extension Office to register for one. Please contact your club leader or the Extension Office to check if you need the training for this year.
- Owatonna - April 2nd
- Albert Lea - June 11th

Youth need LQA&E if...

- Their last training is 2013 or older.
- Are 6th grade and older and want to go to state fair.
- Show swine. All youth showing swine must take LQA&E (3rd grade and up).

You do NOT need to take the LQA&E training in 2015 if:

- You are ONLY exhibiting horse and/or dog
- You are a Cloverbud
- You will NOT be exhibiting any livestock at the 2016 Mower County Fair (beef, dairy, goat, lama, poultry, rabbit, sheep, and/or swine)
- You will NOT be exhibiting any livestock at the 2016 Minnesota State Fair 4-H Livestock Encampment.
- Youth in Grades 3-5 who will be exhibiting at the Mower County Fair only - You are, however, strongly encouraged to take the training.

If you cannot make one of the LQA&E trainings listed above, it is your responsibility to attend another county’s training. These dates and times are listed on the web at http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/lqae/. Keep checking this website as it is updated frequently.

Weigh-In Dates:

May 7th: Sheep and Goat Weigh-In 9am-Noon Fairgrounds
May 9th: Sheep and Goat Weigh-In 5pm-6pm Mower County Fairgrounds
May 16th: Livestock Worksheets Due, 4Honline, you are always welcome to drop a copy of your worksheets off at the office.

- Please remember all dairy must be ID’d before their first freshening.
- Market Rabbits must turn in worksheets by July 15th.
- Jr. Doe Kids must turn in worksheets by July 15th.
Rabbit Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>6:30 - 8:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>6:30 - 8:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>6:30 - 8:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>VERIFICATION 5:30 - 8:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 20</td>
<td>6:30 - 8:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 11</td>
<td>6:30 - 8:00 pm</td>
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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.

Wanted Camp Counselors!

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 9th grade or older and want to develop your leadership skills, help campers have a great experience at camp, make new friends from other counties, and have a lot of fun, then you should consider becoming a camp counselor. 4-H members who have been camp counselors claim it is one of the best leadership experiences of their lives! The deadline to apply is February 26, 2016! To apply complete the electronic Camp Counselor application here. You can also visit the Mower county website or contact your local Extension Office at 507-437-9552.

Summer Camp 2016 at Camp Patterson--Save the Date!

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 Sessions** (Grades 3-6):
- Session 1 - June 6-8: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Nicollet
- Session 2 - June 8-10: Freeborn, Mower, Rice, Steele, Waseca
- Session 3 - June 13-15: Carver, Scott, McLeod, Sibley

**Teen Camp Session** (Grades 6-8):
- Session 4 - June 15-17: All Counties

NOTE: At the 6th grade level, a 4-H member may attend only one camp session – either Youth Camp or Teen Camp, but not both.

4-H Scholarships – available for Mower County 4-Hers to attend leadership events, national trips, 4-H camping experiences, and other educational events. Contact the Extension Office if you are interested in receiving a scholarship. Events costs break down listed below:

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$0-$75 &= 35\% \text{ paid by Mower County 4-H} \\
$76-$150 &= 60\% \text{ paid by Mower County 4-H} \\
$151- \text{ up} &= 85\% \text{ paid by Mower County 4-H}
\end{align*} \]

Mower County Endowment

County 4-H endowments are long-term investments meant to ensure that local programs remain strong and vital for future generations of 4-H’ers. The local 4-H program oversees expenditures of its investment. Reports are made to the county annually and funds are paid out at the request of the county program. The local county determines the use of the funds. 4.5% of the endowment is available to spend annually; the remaining interest earned is reinvested to build principal.

If you would like more information about the Mower County Endowment please contact the Extension Office 507-437-9552.
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 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!