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Mower County Upcoming Events

March
5  Cloverbud Morning - 10 am-Noon, 4-H Building
7  4-H Shooting Sports Fundraiser -- 4-9 pm, Pizza Ranch, Austin
12  Regional Project Bowl - Hastings, MN
14  Ambassador Meeting - 6 pm, 4-H Building
14  Advisory Board -7 pm, 4-H building
15  Leaders Meeting - 7 pm, Extension office (new location)
25  Extension Office Closed
28  Livestock Committee 7 pm, 4-H Building

April
1  Lock-In, Grades 3-6 @ Ellis Middle School - 7-10 pm
4  Auction Meeting - 7 pm, Extension Office
11  Advisory Board -7pm 4-H Building
16  State Project Bowl
18  Ambassador Meeting - 6 pm, 4-H Building
19  Leaders Meeting- 7 pm, Extension office (new location)

May
7  Sheep and Goat Weigh-In 9 am-Noon Mower County Fairgrounds
9  Sheep and Goat Weigh-In 5 pm-6 pm Mower County Fairgrounds
9  Rabbit Verification - 5:30--8 pm @ 4-H Building
9  Advisory Board-7 pm 4-H building
16  Livestock Affidavits Due, 4Honline , you are always welcomed to drop a copy of your worksheets off at the office.
16  Ambassador Meeting- 6 pm 4-H Building
17  Leaders Meeting- 7 pm Extension offices (new location)
30  Extension Office Closed for Memorial Day Holiday
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, and 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.

The Search Institute has created a useful booklet called “Bringing Developmental Relationships Home: Tips and Relationship Builders for Families,” with activities and tips that families can use to help youth develop these important skills and strengths: http://www.search-institute.org/downloadable/SearchInstitute-DontForgetFamilies-Activities-10-13-2015.pdf.

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

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 Club Winners

Our Club winners for the re-enrollment are:

With 85% or more and winning a paid Club Activity from the Advisory Board:
- Racine Ramblers 96%
- LeRoy Wide Awake 87%

With 75% or more and receiving a pizza party from the Advisory Board:
- Country Acres 83%
- Lucky Clovers 82%
- Enterprise 81%
- Red Rock Rangers 78%

Congratulations to these clubs for their re-enrollment efforts!

Project Bowl Update

Congratulations to our "Mower County Llama Lovers" on attending the Project Bowl invitational January 30th. They did an awesome job placing second!

We want to wish our Project Bowl team members good luck on attending the Regional Project Bowl March 12th at Hastings MN. They have been working hard and are ready!

The county teams are the Herefords, Shorthorns, Mower County Cluckers, Furious Fluffies, Rabbidazzle, Golden 5, Rostin Rabbits, and two senior teams.

We also want to thank the leaders for all their hard work and dedication to 4-H, Project Bowl, and their team members. GOOD LUCK to all our teams!

Little Lock-In

The 2016 Little Lock-In is April 1st from 7-10 pm at the Ellis Middle School Gym & Pool. There will be basketball, volleyball, games, swimming and tons of FUN with the county Ambassadors! Pizza and Pop provided.

In order to hold the Lock-In there will need to be at least 20 paid and registered participants by March 25th. Cost is $5 if Registered by March 25th. $8 at the door. Download the registration form and details from the county website.

Bruins Game a Hit!

We had a very good turnout for the Bruins game February 5th with 66 participants. It was an exciting game and the Bruins won….GO BRUINS! We also had a few winners ourselves in the Chuck the Puck toss! The cover picture is from the Bruins game.

Cloverbud Mornings!

Mark your calendar now for these Cloverbud Adventures for the year! Call the Extension Office to RSVP!
- March 5th: Cloverbud Morning 4-H Building 10am-Noon
- June 18th: Cloverbud Morning 4-H Building 10am-Noon

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 before.
- 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.

Rabbit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</tr>
<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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Shooting Sports Fundraiser

Join us March 7th at the Pizza Ranch in Austin a fundraiser to support the Shooting Sports projects. The fundraiser will run from 4 to 9 pm.

Weigh-In Dates:

- **May 7th**: Sheep and Goat Weigh-In 9am-Noon Mower County Fairgrounds
- **May 9th**: Sheep and Goat Weigh-In 5pm-6pm Mower County Fairgrounds
- **May 16th**: Livestock Worksheets Due, 4thonline, 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.

Summer Camp 2016 at Camp Patterson--Dates have changed!

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:

Youth Camp Sessions (Grades 3-6):
**June 15-17**: Freeborn, Mower, Rice, Steele, Waseca

Teen camp Session (Grades 6-8):
**June 22-24**: 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.

Camp is located at Camp Patterson on Lake Washington in Madison Lake, MN. Check the county website for details and registration information. Save the date on your calendar and join us for summer camp.
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.

4-H Scholarships

Scholarships are 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:

- $0-$75 = 35% paid by Mower County 4-H
- $76-$150 = 60% paid by Mower County 4-H
- $151- up = 85% paid by Mower County 4-H

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2016 SS&W spring Leader Certification Trainings: Two sites!

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!

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
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 Regional Project Bowl, Snow date
7 County livestock PDC training webinar
15 Minnesota 4-H Foundation college scholarship applications due
16 State Project Bowl, Sauk Rapids
9-14 National 4-H Conference, Washington, D.C.
23-24 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification training, Mora and Worthington

MAY

15 Animal ID deadline
15 2016 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge registration due

JULY

2-9 Citizenship Washington Focus