Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

It is fair season again, and I know many of you are preparing to participate in 4-H at your county fairs this summer. I know you, like I, enjoy seeing the wonderful accomplishments of our youth.

For the third year, we will be live-streaming some of our 4-H events at the Minnesota State Fair!

Our goal is to provide a way for 4-H families and friends who are unable to come to the fair to see some of the 4-H fun from home. The livestream is provided on the internet, so you can watch from computers, laptops, smart phones or any mobile device with internet service.

We're live-streaming three 4-H events at the fair this year: the 4-H Lama Costume Competition, 4-H Dairy and Market Goat Show, and a 4-H State Arts-In performance.

The 2015 4-H at the Minnesota State Fair live-streaming schedule is:

- **Friday, Aug. 28, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.**: 4-H Dairy and Market Goat Show
- **Monday, Aug. 31, 5-5:30 p.m.**: 4-H State Arts-In performance
- **Wednesday, Sept. 2, 6-7 p.m.**: 4-H Lama Costume Competition

Watch the shows live here: [4-H.umn.edu/state-fair/4-h-live-cam/](http://4-H.umn.edu/state-fair/4-h-live-cam/)
A recording will be available on the 4-H State Arts-In, llama, and goat project pages of the Minnesota 4-H web site after the fair.

I hope those of you who can’t join us in person enjoy seeing some of our wonderful 4-H’ers who are sharing their learning and accomplishments at the Minnesota State Fair this year!

Sincerely,

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

Clothing Project Exhibitors

All 4-H Clothing Project exhibitors (including Cloverbuds participating in Fashion Revue), should have received a letter with judging details for August 4. Judging will take place at Christ Lutheran Church in Slayton and practice for the public revue that evening, will take place at the church during that time. The evening Fashion Revue at 7:30 p.m. is open to the public at no cost and everyone will enjoy delicious cupcakes and refreshments.

Performing Arts Judged
August 4

Performing Arts project members will be judged on Tuesday, August 4 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church. A judging schedule will be sent to project members. Performers will be invited to repeat their performance that same evening at the 4-H Fashion Revue.

Cash and Food Awards at County Fair

There are numerous opportunities to WIN cash or food awards with your exhibits at county fair. A complete list can be found on page 5 of the 4-H Premium List. Food exhibitors can win cash and/or food coupons; those participating in swine showmanship are eligible for a cash prize. Check with superintendents or 4-H staff if you have questions on your eligibility.

Fair Clean Up & Set Up Schedule

Pre-fair clean up and set up in the 4-H Building & arena will be Sunday, August 9 at 4:30 p.m. The Badger Lake & Slayton Shooting Stars clubs will help with this. All ages are welcome; there will be some heavy lifting & moving required. After the fair, Cameron will help with post-fair clean up at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 16. Again, this will require some heavy lifting but also some short people to clean under the bleachers in the arena. If you are a family from one of these clubs, please come to the fairgrounds on your designated evening.

Helpful Information for 4-H Exhibitors

Pre-fair judging day is Monday, August 10 from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Refer to page 4 of the 4-H Premium List for projects judged on Monday.

Livestock and “perishable” exhibits are entered on Wednesday, August 12.

Again, refer to page 4 for more details and for a daily schedule for county fair.

When you come to the 4-H Exhibit Hall with your general project exhibits, look for signs indicating WHERE exhibits are judged (many projects are grouped together under one judge). You will receive your EXHIBIT CARDS in line. These cards will be attached to your exhibit and the ribbon will be displayed. Please inform the superintendent if you are NOT bringing exhibits that you registered. Judges will ask you QUESTIONS about your project, what you LEARNED, what were your CHALLENGES, etc.
Judges may offer suggestions for improvements and give comments on your exhibit. Listen, ask questions and volunteer information about your project. This is part of the learning process with your project. Parents are encouraged to listen to the conference but should remember it’s the 4-H’ers conference.

Last minute exhibit tips: Remember that exhibits are displayed at your risk. Care is taken to protect all exhibits but valuable items or family heirlooms should not be left on display – consider taking photos or other options.

Please don’t use copyrighted materials without permission (cartoon characters, product logos, etc.) Be creative and come up with your own. Credit your sources when you use material or information in your exhibit.

Perishable foods will be pitched after judging, so take a photo to leave with the exhibit card. A recipe or nutritional information can be left with the photo & exhibit card.

Double check display sizes to meet the guidelines on page 6. Remember to adapt school projects to fit the 4-H format. No headers on displays! Titles should be included on the board, not above it. These headers become droopy in humidity and the display becomes messy.

If you have EXTRA exhibits, consider entering them into Open Class. Entry requirements & registration details are included in the Open Class Fair Premium Book or stop by the Fairboard Office.

Livestock Exhibitors: Note the weigh in/check in times on Wednesday for each species on page 4 of the 4-H Premium List. Horses must have a current Coggins test; proof should be provided upon request. Be sure vaccinations are current on all animals, including pets coming in for just the show. Review all livestock exhibit information on pages 6 & 7 of the 4-H Premium List.

Fun Food Challenge For All

This year’s Fun Food Challenge sponsored by Murray County, will include colossal cupcakes! Details can be found on page 26 of the 4-H Premium List. Affiliation past or present with 4-H is NOT required. All ages are welcome to enter! Everyone will receive a 4-H Food Stand coupon just for entering. Additional prizes will be awarded based on yet-to-be determined categories (might be “most colossal” or “I can taste _____ or “melt in your mouth delicious” or many more) Bring a cupcake on a paper plate and your recipe or decorating tips to the 4-H Exhibit Hall between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 12. Recipes will be on display throughout the county fair.

Peoples’ Choice Photography Award

4-H photography exhibitors may designate ONE of their entries (also is judged by the photography judge) to be eligible for the Peoples’ Choice Award. Be sure the superintendent notes the entry, as we will allow fairgoers to vote for their favorite exhibit between 4:00 and 8:00 on Wednesday. ONE VOTE per person; be sure to tell your friends and relatives to stop in and vote! Awards will include gift cards for film developing or digital printing. Awards are sponsored by Murray County 4-H.

Food Stand Shifts At County Fair

The Murray County 4-H Food Stand provides operating funds for 4-H events, awards and programming. 4-H members, their families (and extended families) and supporters give five hours or more to cover the shifts in order to keep the Food Stand operating throughout county fair. Additional volunteers are welcome OR families needing to switch from their
assigned club times should contact their club leader to make those arrangements.

**Wednesday, August 12**
7:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. – Chandler Hilltoppers & Post family
1:00 p.m. to closing – Cameron

**Thursday, August 13**
7:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. – Slayton Shooting Stars
1:00 p.m. to closing – Currie Poco-a-Poco

**Friday, August 14**
7:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. – Prairie Hustlers
1:00 p.m. to closing – Bondin Belfast & Sweetman family

**Note:** Pork Supper 4:00-7:30 p.m. – Badger Lake

**Saturday, August 15**
7:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. – Lakers
1:45 p.m. to closing – Fenton Friends

Job descriptions and food donation lists are available from your Club Leader.

---

**Science For Kids At The Fair**

McAmbies will lead numerous science experiments in the 4-H Building throughout the county fair. Watch for details on TIME and WHAT will be blowing up, freezing, changing, gliding and exploding in the 4-H Building.

**When The Fair Is Over**

All 4-H Building exhibits are released at **5:30 p.m.**; livestock is released at **6:00 p.m.**. Early removal will result in no premium. This Fairboard timeline and policy will be enforced. If you’re not able to pick up exhibits, talk to someone from your club to take your exhibits or let the 4-H staff know that you need to make other arrangements.

**State Fair Bound?**

4-H’ers who have completed sixth grade or older are eligible to compete for state fair trips. State Fair Livestock Encampment is August 26-30; General Encampment is September 5-7 (Labor Day weekend). Champions and reserve champions who qualify by age are first on the state fair line up. Purple ribbon and even blue ribbon exhibits are next on the list. If you want to go to state fair, the best thing to do is INQUIRE! 4-H staff can check the state fair line up list for every exhibit area. If you’re on the list, chances are you could be headed to State Fair! There are quotas in each project area and it’s rare to fill all quotas for state fair trips. You CAN participate in both livestock encampment and general encampment in the same year. All State Fair trip winners (and a parent) MUST attend a meeting on Saturday, August 15 at Olsen Arena. Detailed information about state fair, paperwork and payment are taken care of at this time. Transportation details are also shared at the meeting. Murray County 4-H shares in the cost for all State Fair trip winners. If you’d like to experience the State Fair as a
representative of Murray County 4-H, talk to Melissa, Margie, Nancy or Haleigh.

Adults Wanting To Attend State Fair

Adult volunteers are needed for both Livestock Encampment AND General Encampment. Chaperones must have completed the 4-H volunteer screening process prior to state fair or have started the process no later than August 10 to be completely screened by state fair. 4-H pays for lodging and meals on the fairgrounds. Chaperones check in 4-H’ers staying on the grounds, help them when needed or find someone who can help. There is plenty of free time to see the fair, as well. Contact the Office if you’re interested.

When The Fairs Are Over....

You’ll be putting away the ribbons and cashing your premium checks, but wait just a minute! There is one more thing to complete the 4-H year -- your project records! Records are an excellent way to preserve memories, track goals, record accomplishments and chronicle your hard work. Plus it’s the only way to receive the recognition you deserve. 4-H project records will be evaluated by youth and adult volunteers and project award discs will be presented at the fall awards celebration. 4-H project record books are due in the office by Monday, September 28 -- record judging is Wednesday, September 30. Talk to your club leader about submitting your records AND about helping with judging. Teens and adults are NEEDED on the 30th – supper will be provided (as well as mouth-watering treats!). Complete your 4-H year by submitting your records and helping to judge project records.

THANKS Bondin Belfast & Prairie Hustlers Clubs

Thank you Bondin Belfast families for the $150 donation and Prairie Hustlers for the $75 donation to be used toward improvements in the 4-H Food Stand.

4-H alumni at the Minnesota State Fair

Do you plan on visiting the state fair this summer? The Minnesota 4-H alumni & friends community is looking for alumni who can volunteer a few hours during the fair. Volunteers who fill a 3-hour shift in either the 4-H building or the 4-H livestock areas will receive a complimentary gate ticket and alumni t-shirt (must be 19 years or older). To learn more, visit z.umn.edu/4Halumni. We’d love to see you there!

Get the app! 4-H at the Minnesota State Fair

If you have a smart phone and you’re going to the state fair, you should download our free app! It combines all of our state fair communications into one place:

- Judging results
- Public schedule
- Interactive map
- Livestock shows and general projects announcements in real time – switch on the alerts function, and you won’t even need to open the app!
  - MN4HBeef
  - MN4HDairy
  - NEW: MN4HSheep
  - MN4HAnnounce for all other projects

State fair winners and families, volunteers, staff and all fairgoers interested in 4-H will find it
useful. Download it from the iTunes or Google Play store.

If you don’t have a smart phone, you can receive these messages on your cell phone by texting “Follow MN4HAnnounce” to 40404. Text “STOP” when you want them to stop. These accounts are active during the state fair.

To join a conversation about 4-H, use the Twitter app and follow MN4H.

General & livestock demonstrations

$30 awards will be given to all 4-Hers who complete a 4-H demonstration during general encampment and livestock encampment. This includes livestock & general encampment, illustrated talks, and Youth in Action presentations.

New in 2015! 4-Hers doing Avian Flu demonstrations at the county fair will receive a $30 cash incentive. This includes 4-Hers who are not yet state fair eligible. There will be an additional $50 award for Avian Flu demonstrations at the state fair!

For the livestock demonstration:

- Each county is allowed one additional state fair livestock trip for a livestock demonstration exhibitor.
- All livestock demonstrations must incorporate a live animal into the demonstration.
- The 4-Her must demonstrate on livestock weekend and can also participate in all other species activities (show, interviews, showmanship).
- Counties may add one additional state fair trip in the species area of the demonstration.

EquiMania

Do you love being around people at the state fair? Want a free ticket and a cool t-shirt? Volunteer for two hours at the award-winning EquiMania! exhibit in the horse barn. Horse knowledge is not required - the exhibit activities are easy and fun for guests. EquiMania is a great opportunity for families, friends, 4-H clubs, small group and individuals to participate at the fair and have a great time doing it! The Minnesota State Fair is just around the corner...and is very much in need of volunteers for this year’s fair! Please consider volunteering for a short two hour shift! We welcome all volunteers, so please be sure to share this fantastic opportunity with your friends, families, and colleagues!

Email us at Equimania@mnstatefair.org or call 651-288-4480 today! More info at mnstatefair.org

4-H scholarship opportunities

High school seniors and college students -- check out the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association Scholarship (MLBA) and Minnesota State Fair Scholarship Program (formally known as Hallberg Scholarship) opportunities at www.extension.umn.edu/youth/scholarships/.

Minnesota 4-H Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics (LQA&E) Policy

All youth participating as a state fair 4-H livestock exhibitor in beef, dairy, sheep, swine, poultry, rabbits, meat and dairy goat and lama must have completed the Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics Workshop. Certification is required prior to the county fair qualifying show and is good for three fair seasons. The level of training required is determined by the
grade of the youth at the time the training takes place.

Please contact your local extension office or visit 4-H.umn.edu/projects/animal-science/lqae/index.html for training near you.

Minnesota 4-H Dairy Showcase: Honoring Blue Ribbon Kids

This event recognizes overall achievement of Minnesota 4-H Dairy Project exhibitors that have demonstrated year-round participation within 4-H and the dairy industry including:

- success with the animal
- knowledge of the dairy project and industry
- involvement within 4-H and dairy communities
- activities in school, church and community

The Minnesota 4-H Dairy Showcase will recognize the top 25 4-H Dairy Project members that exhibit at the Minnesota State Fair. Complete details and online portfolio are available at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/dairy-showcase.html.

Minnesota 4-H Poultry Prince & Princess Contest

The Minnesota 4-H Poultry Prince & Princess Contest is a scholarship program offered by Minnesota 4-H and Gold’n Plump. The Poultry Prince & Princess Contest details are available at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/poultry-prince-princess.html.

Minnesota 4-H is again hosting “Chef for a Day Cook-Off!”

The Chef for a Day Cook-Off will be held during all state fair encampments, and open to all 4-H state fair exhibitors. Each county will provide a team of 3-5 exhibitors for a two hour program during livestock encampment and every general encampment. The first hour will include an educational activity, and the second hour will be the Chef for a Day Cook-Off! All equipment will be supplied as well as all of the meat, and some possible ingredients. Teams may bring additional ingredients but note that no refrigeration is supplied. There will be no morning assignments -- but there will be prizes!

4-H summer employment opportunities

A variety of employment opportunities are available at 4-H state-level summer events. Applications are accepted up to five working days prior to the event. Additional details are available at www.4-h.umn.edu/state-fair/employment/.

Share the Fun reminder

State fair Share the Fun nominations/applications are available as of June 1. Rehearsal times are assigned on a first come, first served basis upon receipt of the nomination/application forms. More information can be found at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/share-the-fun.html.

Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show

Mark your calendar: The annual Minnesota 4-H Horse Show will be held September 18-21, 2015. Watch the Minnesota 4-H horse website for more information at www.4-H.umn.edu/projects/animal-science/horse.
Minnesota 4-H Dog Show

Mark your calendar: The Minnesota 4-H Dog Show will be held September 26-27, 2015. Watch the Minnesota 4-H dog website for more details at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/state-dog-show.html.

Fall 2015 Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification Training

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 (grade nine 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.

The training will take place October 3-4, 2015 at the Perham Middle School and Fort Thunder Gun Club in Perham.

Registration materials are available at 4-H.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-certification/. The deadline to register is September 18, 2015. Disciplines fill quickly, so make sure registration forms are sent in early!

SS&W Ambassador Program seeking applications for new Ambassadors!

The Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador Program is a leadership opportunity for youth leaders, grades 9-13, to promote and enhance Minnesota 4-H shooting sports. Ambassadors positively represent the Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Program at state, regional, and local levels. Youth must be starting grade 9-13 in the fall and be able to attend the October 3-4 training in Perham.

Program information, application, and reference forms can be found at: 4-H.umn.edu/projects/shooting-sports/shooting-sports/

Applications for new Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassadors are due August 24, 2015.

4-H volunteer corner

4-H chaperones and the Minnesota State Fair

In the Minnesota 4-H program the state fair is recognized as the grand finale of the summer. Each year “The Great Minnesota Get-Together” provides over 6,500 4-H members with the opportunity to showcase their projects at the state level. This would not be possible without 4-H chaperones. Serving as a 4-H chaperone is an important responsibility. Prior to chaperoning any 4-H program, including the
state fair, training is required. The training modules cover roles, expectations and best practices to help ensure youth have a quality educational experience. Serving as chaperones provides a valuable service and enables caring adults the opportunity to positively shape the life experiences of many young people.

The online training, 4-H chaperone policies: A guide for 4-H adult chaperones, found at [4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training](http://4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training), offers valuable information to help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for the youth and the adult chaperones.

4-H Volunteer Training 24/7

4-H has a comprehensive and multi-format system of training and support for the thousands of volunteers who deliver 4-H youth development programs to young people across the state. Much of that training is provided face-to-face. But we know that providing some training opportunities online will help our volunteers more easily access the training and resources they need, when they need it. Minnesota 4-H offers a series of dynamic, interactive 30-minute online training modules to help volunteers build their skills and knowledge from home at any time of the day or night. Check out current online volunteer training topics:

- Creating a welcoming, engaging and encouraging environment for youth
- The 4-H learning environment
- 4-H project leaders: Where the action starts!
- Managing 4-H clubs: A guide for 4-H club leaders
- 4-H financial management
- Ensuring a safe 4-H environment
- Chaperone training
- Keeping youth in 4-H

Training modules for individual viewing can be accessed through any adult volunteer account on [www.4Honline.com](http://www.4Honline.com). A detailed user guide is available at [www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training](http://www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training). We’re striving for 25% of Minnesota 4-H volunteers to complete at least one online volunteer training module by September 30, 2015. Which one will you try?

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

- **27** 4-H Federation Meeting, 7:30 pm, Courts Building
- **28** Pizza Garden, 9-10 am, Community Garden
- **29** McAmbies Fair Planning Supper, 6 pm, Courts Building

AUGUST

- **3** 4-H Scholarship Applications Due in Office
- **4** Clothing/Fashion Revue Judging, 8:30 a.m., Christ Lutheran Church
- **4** 4-H Fashion Revue, 7:30 p.m., Christ Lutheran Church
- **4** 4-H Performing Arts Judging, 3:30 p.m., Christ Lutheran Church
- **6** Presentations & Food Review Judging, 6:30 p.m., Courts Building
- **9** Pre-Fair Clean Up/Set Up by Badger Lake & Slayton Shooting Stars Clubs, 4:30 p.m.
- **10** Pre-Fair Judging Day, 2:00-7:00 p.m., 4-H Building
- **12-15** Murray County Fair
- **16** Post Fair Clean Up by Cameron Club, 5:00 p.m.
- **24** Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador applications due
- **26-30** 4-H Livestock Encampment at the MN State Fair
- **27-Sept 7** Minnesota State Fair

**SEPTEMBER**
- **5-7** Murray County at MN State Fair General Encampment
- **7** Labor Day Holiday – Office Closed
- **11-13** Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational
- **18-21** Minnesota 4-H Horse Show
- **26-27** Minnesota 4-H Dog Show

**OCTOBER**
- **3-4** Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador training, Perham