4-H Year Ends; New One Begins

The 4-H year runs from October 1 to September 30. So we are wrapping up yet another year for Murray County 4-H. That means 4-H project records should be FINISHED and SUBMITTED to your club leader for evaluation and possible advancement to county record judging. Club leaders should submit record books by Monday, September 28 to the Extension Office. That concludes one year. Enrollment packets will be available to the club leaders in the Extension Office club mailboxes. It is very helpful to re-enroll/enroll immediately so that 4-H families receive the monthly newsletter, email reminders or other special mailings, including livestock information. Refer to the article on page 4 for more enrollment information and information about early re-enrollment.

See Impact of 4-H in Record Books

Adult and teen volunteers will evaluate 4-H project records and decide who will receive awards for their project work and record keeping. Clubs are encouraged to send THREE people to Murray County 4-H Record Judging on Wednesday, September 30 at 5:00 p.m. at the Courts Building meeting room. Supper will be provided, as well as delicious
treats for evaluators who find “impact statements” in records. Depending on number of evaluators and number of project records, this could take two to three hours. This is an excellent way to see what 4-H members are learning or for 4-H members to get ideas from their peers! Let your club leader know that you’re interested in helping on September 30.

Annual 4-H Volunteer Training

Watch for more details on the annual 4-H Fall Leadership meeting & supper set for Monday, October 19 at 5:45 p.m.; prior to the 4-H Federation meeting at the 4-H Building. Murray County 4-H provides supper and you’ll learn more about your youth or adult 4-H leadership role. Current club leaders will receive more information to share with new club leaders as well as club officers or other youth leaders in the club. Club officer elections should be held before October 19, so officers can come to this training! Note: this is NOT considered an officers training for their specific tasks as a club officer.

Club Officer Elections

As one year comes to a close and the next one begins to take shape, club officers need to be elected. Clubs should consider holding their elections in September. Club officers will be included with the annual 4-H Leadership meeting & supper on Monday, October 19 at 5:45 p.m. Club officers are an excellent group of young leaders that can bring activities back to their peers and younger club members.

Join McAmbies, Join the Fun

Murray County 4-H Ambassadors, also called McAmbies, would like to encourage other teens to join the group and join the fun. 4-H members ninth grade and older should consider this leadership opportunity. McAmbies help with after-school programs, summer programs, 4-H promotion opportunities, county fair shows & crafts, project days, Cloverbud events, dances AND monthly FUN events just for McAmbies. McAmbies know how to work hard but also know how to play hard. If you’d like more information, talk to a McAmbie: Regan Davis, Rachel Bruxvoort, Faith Bose, Emily Kathman, McKenna Samuelson, Riley Schmitz, Kailey Wixon, McKenna Schreier or Mason Whitehead. Applications are available at the Extension Office or the Murray County Extension website: Application deadline is October 15.

Thank You 4-H Supporters

It’s time to recognize those who pay it forward. The Currie Poco-a-Poco Club gave $500 to improvements in the 4-H Building. Thank you Dodi Haugen for the $90 donation in memory of Nick Zenk. Thank you to Brad Bergerson for his $50 donation to the 4-H program.

Silverware Needed in Food Stand

The 4-H Food Stand is in need of silverware to be donated BEFORE the next county fair. So when you go to garage sales or clean out cupboards, remember 4-H, please!

Congratulations to Newly Elected Federation Officers

The Murray County 4-H Federation elected the following officers for 2015-16: President Regan Davis; Vice President Rachel Bruxvoort; Secretary McKenna Samuelson; Historian Justin Dierks; Program/Recreation Leader Maggie Heezen. This is the youth leadership team for your 4-H program!
Time to Celebrate!

It is time to plan the annual 4-H celebration for Murray County 4-H. Currie Poco-a-Poco, Prairie Hustlers and Slayton Shooting Stars will plan and host this year’s event. If you have suggestions, ideas or thoughts about how we celebrate the 2014-15 4-H year, please contact someone from one of those host clubs. The planning meeting is set for 5:05 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16 at the Extension Office.

Message from Dorothy

Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

Due to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health’s ban on live birds at public events to help limit the spread of avian flu, 4-H had to adjust its 4-H Poultry Project events and activities at county and state fairs this summer. Our state poultry committee leapt into action, got creative and came up with plans that made it possible for our 4-H Poultry Project youth to participate in fairs this summer and share their learning.

One adjustment was to use photos of poultry or plush stuffed birds for showmanship judging, so youth would have something in place of their live birds to help facilitate their conversations with judges. We also gave youth an option to create and bring a poultry exhibit in the areas of biosecurity, animal health, nutrition, production, and careers, which gave them an opportunity to dig deeper and learn more about a specific topic related to the poultry industry. Some county fairs also offered a chicken BBQ contest, carcass judging and other poultry-related learning events. And at the Minnesota State Fair, we held a Science of Poultry ½ day learning event, where 4-H poultry youth could hear from a panel of experts from Jennie-O, Cargill, Rembrandt Enterprises, Minnesota Turkey, Midwest Poultry Federation, Minnesota Chicken and Egg, and Extension; work in roundtables with the experts learning about an issue; and apply their new knowledge by creating a poster on the topic and presenting it to the group.

Though some of our 4-H’ers were disappointed they could not bring the birds they spent months raising and caring for to fairs, they rose to the occasion and had wonderful learning experiences as a result.

I’d like to congratulate all of our 4-H poultry youth, and poultry families and volunteers for all of your extra effort this summer, and making 4-H poultry experiences at the fair rich and rewarding!

Sincerely,

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

Minnesota 4-H club chartering process

It is hard to believe it is time for clubs to renew their annual charter! The chartering documents are now up on the Minnesota 4-H website (www.4-H.umn.edu/leading-a-club/) and have a whole new face lift. The forms have been streamlined to make the process easier for clubs to complete.

New in 2015 is a club chartering training video that can also be found on the Minnesota 4-H website and gives step by step directions on how to fill in each form, and the purpose of annual club chartering.

Clubs/leaders can watch this video on their own, or the program coordinator can bring leaders together to watch the video as a group and answer questions.

Remember all club charters must be in the county Extension office on or before Oct. 30, 2105.
Get the free 4-H at the Minnesota State Fair app

If you have a smart phone and you’re going to the state fair – or you know a 4-H’er who will be showing a project -- download our free app before you leave home! It combines all this:

- Judging results
- Public schedule linked to an interactive map
- For exhibitors – switch on the alerts so you’ll know where to be and when
  - New: Stalling announcements for beef exhibitors on Tuesday night!
- 4-H live cam 12 hours a day
- Photo sharing
- More!

Download it now:
For iphone:  
http://www.z.umn.edu/4hstatefairiapp
For android:  
http://www.z.umn.edu/4hstatefairaapp

If you already have this app from last year, be sure to update it for new features.

Online enrollment for 4-H families

Enrollment for the new 4-H year opens up on Sept. 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. Re-enrolling 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.

Celebrate Ag & Food Day

4-H families and alumni are invited to join a celebration of Minnesota agriculture and food at a special University of Minnesota Gopher football game on Sept. 19. Discounted tickets can be purchased at z.umn.edu/umafd2015. Join us before the game from 9 - 11a.m. for activities outside the stadium including a tailgate party featuring Minnesota brats and cheese. To RSVP or with questions, contact Erin Kelly-Collins at erinkc@umn.edu.

Safety of Minors Training: A big thank you!

On behalf of the University of Minnesota Extension Center for Youth Development, please accept our sincere gratitude for your timely completion of the University-sponsored “Safety of Minors” training and compliance with the policy. Getting 7,000 adult volunteers through training in two months is no small task, but we are proud to share that we accomplished this task due to the timeliness and commitment of our volunteers and the diligence of our staff. We greatly appreciate your service to Minnesota 4-H and dedication to ensuring that all Minnesota youth are engaged in safe, fun, and positive experiential learning.
**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 WeConnect curriculum from their county library of available curricula. All 4-H volunteers are encouraged to attend the annual training in their county. Activities are also appropriate for youth who are interested in this topic.

**New online version of the Consumer Decision-Making Project**

How do you decide which entrée to order? What shoes to buy? What vacation to plan? It’s a tough job, but someone needs to make the decision! And pay the bills. The media, peer pressure, the need to fit in – all these factors play major roles in the decisions that youth make.

Minnesota 4-H is recruiting members interested in learning to make wise consumer decisions in a new online version of our Consumer Decision-Making Project. The online nature of this project means you can work review challenges, post your decisions and share with other youth from anywhere and at any time, through the convenience of your mobile device or home internet connection.

How does it work? Each week for up to 1 to 2 hours for a 12 week period, youth will learn about finances and consumerism, review a scenario, and compare products to make informed decisions. Youth post their decision process and decisions while also reflecting on their values and giving feedback to their peers. Volunteer mentors respond to questions and provide feedback.

If you are interested in learning more about this online opportunity in becoming savvy consumers and building financial intelligence, contact Carrie Olson (320-589-1711, olson166@umn.edu) today.

**Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show**

Mark your calendar: The annual Minnesota 4-H Horse Show will be held **Sept. 18-21, 2015**. Watch the Minnesota 4-H horse website for more information at [www.4-H.umn.edu/projects/animal-science/horse](http://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 **Sept. 26-27, 2015**. Watch the Minnesota 4-H dog website for more details at [www.4-H.umn.edu/events/state-dog-show.html](http://www.4-H.umn.edu/events/state-dog-show.html).
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 Oct. 3-4 training in Perham.

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

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 Oct. 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!

4-H volunteer corner

Managing 4-H clubs: A guide for club leaders

October marks the beginning of a new 4-H year and a new volunteer opportunity for individuals who are moving into a club leadership position. 4-H volunteers who are taking on club leadership responsibilities have several important roles. A leader is a mentor, a motivator for young people, an organizer and coordinator with other adults in the club, and a liaison with the larger 4-H organization in your area. An excellent training resource and online learning module for new and existing 4-H club leaders is Managing 4-H Clubs: A guide for club leaders. Extension staff designed this module to help with some of the typical management issues in 4-H clubs and bring all these pieces together to build an environment where young people thrive and grow. Take advantage of the resource to get your 4-H club off to a great start this fall. To view this training module and other 4-H online training opportunities visit www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/volunteer/online-training/.

5 Young Shepherd’s Scholarships to be awarded

The Minnesota Hampshire Sheep Association will award five $200 - Young Shepherd’s Scholarships to Minnesota youth interested in beginning or expanding a sheep project.
The scholarships are to be applied toward the purchase of a registered Hampshire breeding ewe or ewe lamb at the Minnesota Bred Ewe Sale at Rochester, MN, Saturday, November 28, 2015.

Any interested youth between 6 to 18 years of age may apply for a $200. scholarship by sending a one-page entry that contains the following information:

1. Name,
2. Address,
3. Age,
4. Phone Number.

**Written answers to the following questions:**
5. Tell about yourself and why you want to raise a Hampshire sheep.
6. How will you take care of your Hampshire sheep.
7. What will you do to improve and promote Hampshire sheep and help the sheep industry?

Applications are due on or before October 15, 2015. Applicants will be notified by awards committee.

Send completed application to Awards Committee Chairman

By mail or by e-mail to:
Tom Bobendrier
1351 U.S. Hwy 75
Pipestone, MN 56164
e-mail to: tom.pgc@svtv.com

For additional information contact:
Tom Bobendrier (H)507-825-2364, (C)507-215-0334  e-mail: tom.pgc@svtv.com or Art Frame
507-376-4928, e-mail: aframe@nobleswildblue.com

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**AUGUST**

- **26-30** 4-H Livestock Encampment at the MN State Fair
- **26 - Sept. 7** Live-streaming of 4-H State Arts-In performance

**SEPTEMBER**

- **27-Sept 7** Minnesota State Fair
- **2** Live-streaming of the 4-H Lama Costume Competition
- **5-7** Murray County at MN State Fair General Encampment
- **7** Labor Day Holiday – Office Closed
- **11** State Fair exhibits available in office
- **11-13** Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational
- **13** 4-H Exchange Families meeting, 3-5 pm, 4-H Building
- **16** 4-H Awards Night planning meeting, 5:05 pm, Extension Office
- **16** Online enrollment for the new 4-H year begins
- **18-21** Minnesota 4-H Horse Show
- **19** Celebrate Ag & Food Day at the Minnesota Gopher football game
- **26-27** Minnesota 4-H Dog Show
- **28** 4-H project record books due in office
- **30** 4-H Record Judging, 5:00 pm, Courts Building

**OCTOBER**

- **1** Happy New 4-H Year!
- **3-4** Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador training, Perham
- **4-10** National 4-H Week
- **30** Club charters due to county Extension offices