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March Cloverbuds!

The next Cloverbud meeting will be on Tuesday, March 8\textsuperscript{th} at 6:00 pm in the Farmer’s Room which is located in the basement of the Government Center. Please RSVP to Katie at kmkloste@umn.edu or by calling 507-295-5313 by March 4\textsuperscript{th}.

Advisory Board Meeting

The next Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Monday, March 21\textsuperscript{st}, 2016, at 6:00 PM in the Farmer’s Room of the Government Center. All Advisory Board members and Federation Officers should make plans to attend.
Federation Meeting

The next Federation Meeting will be on Monday, March 21st, 2016 at 7:00 PM. Please make sure that at least two adults and two youth from each club attend this meeting so that we can meet quorum! Meeting will be held in the Farmer’s Room, in the basement of the Government Center.

4-H Insurance DUE

Again this year there will be 4-H insurance available to Cloverbuds, 4-H members, and screened Adult Volunteers. The cost is $2.00 per person, and you can turn your money in to your club leader. The club should then issue one check to the Extension Office and made out to “Nobles County 4-H” for the total dollar amount, and they also need to submit a list of all youth and adults that the insurance is to cover. Insurance is due to the Extension Office from clubs by March 1st, 2016.

Winter Weather Reminder

We’re slowly getting closer to spring, but as winter weather continues we still want to remind everyone that all 4-H county meetings (as well as most club meetings) will be postponed or cancelled when there is inclement weather. We will do our best to cancel/postpone meetings two hours before their scheduled start time. Announcements will be made on KWOA 730 AM/93.5 FM/95.1 FM, US 104.3, and also by email. Remember that weather conditions do vary from one side of the county to the other, so please use your own judgment in deciding if traveling is safe for your kids and family. We always welcome your calls if you are concerned about the weather and we will do our best to inform you well in advance of any cancellations.

Thank you for your flexibility and understanding that safety comes first!

4-H Enrollment and Re-enrollment for 2015-2016

Don't miss out! The new 4-H year began on October 1st and all 4-H youth and volunteers must be enrolled (or re-enrolled) in order to participate or volunteer in Minnesota 4-H. Enrolling early ensures continued communication about 4-H opportunities and deadlines as well as accident coverage while participating in 4-H programs.

Youth may enroll as Cloverbuds (Grades K-2), club members (Grades 3-13), or independent members (Grades 6-13). Project interests are selected as part of the enrollment process but may continue to be updated until county fair exhibit registration is due.

Enrollment options are detailed at www.4-H.umn.edu/be-a-4-H-member. The direct link to 4HOnline is https://mn.4honline.com.

MN 4-H uses 4HOnline.com, which means that families can go online to enroll new members and to re-enroll returning members and volunteers. In addition, club and project leaders can access enrollment data in 4HOnline related to their club or project area. Full details about 4HOnline.com are available at www.4-H.umn.edu/4honline.

New (first time) 4-H adult volunteers are always welcome and needed! To get
started, interested adults must first complete the three step 4-H volunteer screening process before enrolling. Instructions and forms are available at www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/#application.

*CLUB LEADERS* - *if you have new members that have been attending meetings but are not enrolled in 4-H yet please encourage them to do that as soon as possible! If you have new families that the office is not aware of then we aren’t able to contact them and send information on how to enroll in 4HOnline. Please help them with this process, or contact the Extension Office for assistance, so that your new families can receive county 4-H updates from the Extension Office.*

Fruit/FF/Cheese Fundraiser Update

Congratulations and THANK YOU to everyone on a successful fundraiser! The 2016 Food Fundraiser wrapped up on Wednesday, February 17th, when all club reps turned in their club’s family fundraiser totals to the office. THANK YOU to the families and club reps for getting that information to the office in a timely manner, your promptness in turning in your forms was greatly appreciated. Great job to everyone who helped make this year’s sale a success, and thank you to all who served as a member of the Fundraising Committee. Also a HUGE thank you goes out to those families and clubs that really stepped it up this year and helped to make this fundraiser so successful – we appreciate all you do for your club and our county 4-H program! We won’t know our exact profit until after Delivery Day when we get our final invoices for food, but our sales were up approximately $1,800 over last year’s fundraiser!

**Congratulations to our Top Sales Families!**

Incentives this year are awarded as follows:

- **1st** – Paige, Blake and Lauren Madison– $20 gift card for Puffin Sales, $100 cash prize for highest amount of food sold
- **Qualifiers for 4th – 5th Place (All received $20):**
  - 4th – Cole, Jaden, Levi, Tanner Hennings
  - 5th – Ethan, Kaiden, and Mason Haberman

**Also, Congratulations to these top selling clubs!**

GREAT WORK!!!

- **1st** – Grand Prairie Rockets = $9,230.50
- **2nd** – Elk Tip Toppers = $7,256.25
- **3rd** – Indian Lake Progressives = $5,103.00

**Proud to say that ALL clubs sold over $2,500! You are all top sellers!**

**Congratulations!**

**Important Fruit, Cheese, Puffin, & Frozen Food Fundraiser Dates:**

- **Saturday, March 12th – Fundraiser Delivery Day – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM at Worthington Christian Church (1501 Douglas Ave, Worthington, MN 56187). ALL products must be picked up during this time frame!**
  - Please make sure to park/wait in line on Douglas Ave in order to create a smooth distribution environment.

Livestock Quality Assurance & Ethics Policy

All youth that are age eligible to participate as a State Fair livestock exhibitor in beef, dairy, sheep, swine, poultry, rabbits, meat and dairy goat, and llama must have
completed a Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics (LQA&E) training workshop. It is also a requirement for Nobles County Swine showmen in grade 3rd+ to complete a certification course prior to exhibiting at the County Fair. The LQA&E certification is good for three fair seasons. The level of training required is determined by the grade of the youth at the time training takes place.

If you did not attend an LQA&E workshop in 2014 or 2015, and are of State Fair eligible age (6th grade and older), you MUST attend a workshop this spring/summer! Letters will be sent out in early spring to those that must take a course to participate at the County and/or State Fair. It is recommended that if you must take LQA&E this year you get it done sooner rather than later! Nobody wants to have to drive several hours to training in another county right before County Fair, so get it done early and you won’t have to worry about it later!

You can check the State 4-H website to see when neighboring counties are holding their LQA&E trainings by going to: http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/lqae/index.html. You will have several opportunities to enroll in an LQA&E course, but if you are unable to make it to the Regional or County training courses offered then we encourage you to attend an LQA&E course in a neighboring county.

The LQA&E training workshops offered for Nobles County are as follows:

- **Saturday April 2nd, 2016** – Level I & Level II training at the Regional Extension Office, 1527 Prairie Drive, Worthington, from 9:00 am-12:00 p.m.
- **Thursday July 21st, 2016** – Level II Bus Tour to SDSU.

### 2016 4-H Livestock Eartags

**Remember to pick up your 4-H Livestock Eartags before the May 16th Deadline!**

Even though the deadline just pasted for market beef and dairy steers, be thinking ahead to the May 16th deadline for all other livestock! There are three different sizes of eartags for 2016. The smaller tag will be used for swine, the large tag will be used for commercial (non-registered) beef heifers, cow/calf pairs, and prospect market calves, the small rectangle tag will be used for all sheep and goats. There are several taggers that you can check out from the Office that contain the correct pin, but there will not be enough for all families to check them out at the last minute prior to the deadline. So if you want a tagger, do NOT wait until the last minute to tag your animals! Also you will need to make sure that any unused/damaged tags get brought back to the Extension Office – all tags issued to families will be audited so if you did not put a tag in an animal and it is unaccounted for YOU will be responsible for explaining what happened to it!

Below is a more detailed description of which species/animals require tags:

- Commercial beef heifers (unregistered females)
- Commercial cow/calf pairs (unregistered animals)
- Commercial & purebred prospect market calves (calves that will be shown as market steers/heifers in 2015)
- ALL Swine (market AND breeding)
- Sheep (market lambs and ALL commercial ewes)
4-H tags qualify as one of the second forms of ID for registered ewes but they are NOT required

- ALL Market Goats (market dairy-type and market meat goat)

*4-H tags are NOT an acceptable form of ID for Meat Breeding Does; Meat Breeding Does must use tattoo and Scrapies tags for identification.

*Registered Breeding Beef do NOT need a state 4-H ear tag; they should be identified with an ear tattoo that matches their registration papers.

Remaining Deadlines for Identifying (Tagging) 4-H Livestock:

- Commercial Breeding Beef, All Market Goats, All Sheep, All Swine by May 16th

ID WORKSHEETS AND TAGS

Ear Tags are $2.25 each. Please use exact change or check when picking up tags. Taggers are also available for a deposit of $15. You are responsible for ID’ing your animal through 4-HOnline (https://mn.4honline.com). A hardcopy of the ID Worksheets are encouraged to bring into the office, so we can hopefully prevent any ID mistakes. Please include a picture of the animal, and ID markings if possible. Using a picture can help someone check over the ID, as well as help you fill out the paperwork online.

Here are some ways to turn in your ID Worksheets and pictures AFTER putting information into 4-H online:

- Dropping off the originals at the Extension Office (lower level of the Government building) during normal business hours
- Mailing originals to: Nobles County Extension Office; 315 10th St, PO BOX 757; Worthington MN 56187
- Faxing a copy to 507.372.8209 (remember the originals are due in the office within 72 hours!)
- Emailing your worksheet to lmloonan@umn.edu (remember the originals are due in the office within 72 hours!)

There are many ways to turn in your worksheets by the State mandated deadlines that we must enforce!

*And if at any point you have a question regarding 4-H ear tags, worksheets, or deadlines, please call the Office. Remember that we're here to help!

Looking Ahead to the County Fair

Even though it's probably hard to be thinking about summer 4-H events with all this snow and cold weather we've been getting, I was reminded the other day that the 2016 Nobles County Fair is only SIX months away!! When it's too cold to do anything outside it is the perfect time to be inside thinking about summer 4-H events and projects you want to do. County Fair planning is well under way here in the Extension Office, so if you have thoughts, concerns, or questions regarding this year’s fair please contact Katie at the 4-H Office. Here are some dates to keep in mind as you begin planning other summer events:
- Friday, July 29th – Quilting, Clothes You Buy, Clothes You Make, Performing Arts, Non-Livestock Demonstrations & Public Fashion Revue location TBD

- Tuesday, August 9th—Foods, Foods Preservation, Foods Revue, Needle Arts, Clothes You Make- Non-Garment and all other General Project Areas will be judged

Dr. Bents & New Vision Co-op Swine Meeting

At least one representative from each family of Co-op Swine Participants should plan on attending the Co-op Swine Meeting on March 14th, at 7:00 PM at New Vision Co-op in Worthington. Participants will be touring the New Vision Feed Mill, learning about Animal Husbandry and completing a project! Please let Katie know if you are unable to attend.

2016 Andrea Ruesch 4-H Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for the Andrea Ruesch Scholarship. The Family of Andrea Ruesch established a 4-H scholarship with the Minnesota 4-H Foundation in memory of her dedication and contributions to the Minnesota 4-H program. The focus of this scholarship is on demonstrated learning through hands-on experience and using what you have learned to help others (youth leadership). A minimum of four scholarships of $1,000 each will be awarded annually in a nine county region.

The scholarship application materials are available on the county Extension website under 4-H downloads section at www.extension.umn.edu/county/nobles or the MN 4-H Foundation http://z.umn.edu/sga

Who is eligible: Be a high school senior or first year college student currently enrolled in 4-H in one of the following nine counties: Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Rock and Watonwan (Due to Andrea’s 4-H experiences as a youth and adult, when all else is equal, preference will be given to youth from the following counties: Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson and Nobles).
- Be active in 4-H leadership roles
- Be continuing your education at a post secondary institution
- Demonstrate passing grades in high school
- Submit a current photo of yourself; it will not be returned

What: Applicants much submit the following:
- Typed application (two pages). You may add up to one additional page of
- Supplemental information; no more than three pages total.
- 4-H story (one to two typed page(s), double spaced, 12 point font).
- Two typed letters of recommendation.
- A copy of your high school transcript or unofficial college transcript.
- One individual photo. The photo will be used for publicity if you receive the scholarship; it will not be returned.

When: Applications must be postmarked by Monday, March 7, 2016. The scholarship recipients will be announced in April 2016.
Contact: Sharon Leopold at 372-3900 ext 3901, leopo008@umn.edu with questions regarding the scholarship or the application process.

4-H Camp coming in June

Under all this snow are 4-H summer camps just waiting to come alive! Third through sixth graders are invited to come to SW MN 4-H Camps on Lake Shetek (north of Slayton) in June. Campers will chose from wiggly worms, buttons or ribbons with thread, theatre masks, and fun with food. There will be singing around the campfire, canoeing and swimming and so much more. All campers will experience STEM activities and learn team work through games. Camp for Cottonwood, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Redwood & Yellow Medicine counties is June 20-22. Camp for Jackson, Martin, Nobles, Pipestone, Rock & Watonwan counties is June 22-24. Cost for camp is $130 when you register by the May 1 early bird registration deadline. Nobles County pays for 50% of the early bird registration fee. Non-members are invited to attend at full cost. Camp brochures will be available on the county website at www.extension.umn.edu/county/nobles or at the Extension Office. Learn sewing skills, explore performance through voice, movement & masks, find out why staying active and eating healthy is important and check out the Red Wigglers who are super composters. 4-H camp could be the most memorable summer activity!

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
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 [www.4-h.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-certification/](http://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/](http://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 \textit{Feb. 18}, and the deadline to apply is \textit{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.

**Making Clubs Better**

Quality is one of the most important issues in youth programs. High quality youth programs are related to having a positive impact on the development of young people and 4-H clubs and activities have a great responsibility for experiences they provide.

The Pyramid of Youth Program Quality has four parts. In an \textit{interactive environment} youth are partnering with adults on a variety of experiences, involved in small groups within their clubs, have a feeling of belonging and lead and mentor other youth.

- Are youth leading the ideas and activities of the club or project with support from adults who are able to sit back and let the youth take the lead?
- Are some of the activities and projects happening in smaller groups instead of with the entire club?
- Are members’ ideas sought out, even the quietest of youth?
- Do the older youth mentor the younger members through project support, youth leadership opportunities and/or inviting them to be part of an event?

4-H clubs can improve the quality of the experience for youth by focusing on just one or two areas! Please look over the pyramid and refer to it before, during and after your 4-H club meets in this month.

**Upcoming Events**

**FEBRUARY**

- 27 BLU, Building Leadership and Understanding, at SMSU in Marshall

**MARCH**

- 1 Club Insurance Money due to Office
- 4 New Vision Co-op Calf Applications Due into office
- 7 Andrea Ruesch Scholarship Applications Due
- 8 March Cloverbud Meeting, 6 PM--Farmer’s Room of the Government Center
- 11 Youth Day at the Capitol application deadline
- 12 Fundraiser Delivery Day, 8:00-9:30: Worthington Christian Church
• 14 Co-op Swine Meeting at New Vision Co-op in Worthington, 7 PM
• 17-19 M4-HAVA 2016 Annual Conference, Fergus Falls
• 19 Regional Project Bowl, Redwood Falls
• 21 Advisory Board Meeting—6:00 PM, Farmer’s Room
• 21 Federation Meeting--- 7:00 PM, Farmer’s Room
• 29 Youth Day at the Capitol

APRIL
• 1 Minnesota Alliance with Youth Red Wagon Award nomination deadline
• 2 Nobles County LQA&E 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Regional Extension Office
• 2 Regional Project Bowl, Snow date
• 7 County livestock PDC training webinar
• 9-14 National 4-H Conference, Washington, D.C.
• 11 Co-op Swine Meeting, 7:00 PM in Farmer’s Room
• 12 April Cloverbud Meeting, 6 PM- in Farmer’s Room
• 15 Minnesota 4-H Foundation college scholarship applications due
• 16 State Project Bowl, Sauk Rapids
• 23-24 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification training, Mora and Worthington

MAY
• 2 Co-op Swine Program Meeting—7:00 PM, Farmer’s Room

JUNE
• 13 Co-op Swine Meeting, 7 PM at Fairgrounds
• 14 June Cloverbud Meeting, 6 PM at Fairgrounds

JULY
• 2-9 Citizenship Washington Focus
• 12 July Cloverbud Meeting, 6 PM at Fairgrounds
• 18 Advisory Board Meeting, 6 PM, Benton Hall
• 18 Federation Meeting, 7 PM, Benton Hall
• 25 Co-op Swine Meeting, 7 PM at Fairgrounds
• 29 Fashion Revue, Clothing Judging, Performing Arts, Non-Livestock Demonstrations Judging Day

AUGUST
• 9 (Tuesday): General Exhibit Judging, with the addition of Foods & Nutrition, Food Preservation & Foods Review
• 9-14: 2016 Nobles County Fair