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

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.

To all Nobles County 4-H’ers, Parents, & Volunteers,

Congratulations on a FANTASTIC 2015 County Fair! All Nobles County 4-H’ers should be incredibly proud of the work you showcased - the exhibit buildings housed some wonderful projects and the barns were filled with high quality livestock! The livestock shows, Ribbon Sale, and Pork Auction were well attended, and all projects were well presented. A great big THANK YOU to everyone that participated in the Nobles County Fair – whether it be projects, animals, or graciously volunteering your time –
without you we would not have had the great fair that we did!
A special thank you goes out to all the businesses and individuals who attended the Ribbon Sale and Pork auction, and to those who were unable to make it but still showed their support for our youth by pooling their funds ahead of time. From this year’s KWOA & JBS, USA Pork Auction we raised $4,955! This money will be used towards covering the cost of transportation to and from the MN State Fair, as well as covering the cost of registration and programming fees for the 4-H’ers representing Nobles County with General and Livestock projects. We truly appreciate everyone’s continued support and dedication to keeping Nobles County 4-H a positive experience for all! Thank you to everyone that helped to make the fair a success! Many hours were spent cleaning up the fairgrounds, setting up and designing the exhibit areas, checking in livestock, cleaning and prepping the Food Stand, setting up and tearing down for different livestock shows, and so much more. We had a great time seeing all of our 4-H’ers in action, and spending time with each of you and your family!
And finally, CONGRATULATIONS to all of the 4-H’ers that will be attending the 2015 Minnesota State Fair! We wish you all the best of luck!!
Have a safe and wonderful Labor Day Weekend!
Sincerely,
Katie Klosterbuer
Nobles County 4-H Program Coordinator
Linda Loonan
Nobles County Extension Support Staff

District Fair T-Shirts
Please be sure and personally thank someone that you know on the Nobles County Corn and Soybean Growers Association for again sponsoring this year’s 4-H t-shirts at the Nobles County Fair. It is so generous of them to provide all of the Nobles County 4-H’ers with a matching t-shirt to wear when they are exhibiting during County Fair. Again we want to sincerely thank them for their support!

Congratulations to Our Premier Showmanship Winners!

McKayla Gravenhof, member of the Elk Tip Toppers 4-H Club was named Premier Showman at the 2015 Nobles County Fair! Jacie Lowe, member of the Elk Tip Toppers 4-H Club was named Reserve Champion Premier Showman!
The Nobles County Corn & Soybean Growers donated $500 towards the Premier Showmanship competition and its exhibitor’s. The money donated was divided and given to all exhibitors. Bruce Lubben, of Lubben Chemical & Seed along with AgStar donated the Champion & Reserve Champion Belt Buckles! Thank you to the Nobles County Corn & Soybean Growers, Bruce Lubben, and AgStar for their donations!

Congratulations to you both, and to all showmanship winners in each species!
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.

Advisory Board Meeting

On Monday, September 21st, at 6:00 PM we will have our Advisory Board Meeting. Reminder to all CURRENT Federation Officers that you should attend this meeting. New Federation Officers and Advisory Board members do not have to attend this meeting. We will be wrapping-up County Fair and beginning to plan for the year ahead. Please make every effort to attend! Installation of officers will occur at the Achievement Night. Meeting will be held in the Farmer’s Room.

Federation Meeting

The Federation Meeting will be on Monday, September 21st at 7:00 PM. Please make sure that at least two adults and two youth from each club attend this meeting! We will have much to discuss and plan for the year ahead. We are still searching for a Federation secretary, and will hopefully be filled at the September meeting. Installation of officers will take place at Achievement Night. We also ask that members of the Advisory Board plan to stay and attend this meeting to provide guidance to the Federation and share ideas for the year ahead. Meeting will be held in the Farmer's Room.
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.

Lego Robotics

Any 4-H member that is between the ages of 9-14 years old and interested in being on a Robotics Team for the 2015 winter competition should contact Katie in the Extension Office. Nobles County 4-H owns a Lego Robotics kit, now we just need interested 4-H'ers to be on the team and compete this winter! On a Lego Robotics team the group will learn about the "challenge" that will be given this year, program a robot, plan a team activity to present to the judges, and work together as a group! This is a fun and challenging program for boys AND girls, so please let the Office know if you are interested so that the group can start planning practices!

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.

King Turkey Day Parade!

This year's King Turkey Day Parade will be Saturday, September 19th, 2015. We will need LOTS of people volunteering to ride the float/walk the route! We also will need a volunteer to drive the truck and float through the parade route. It's lots of fun! Sign-up by calling the Extension Office at 507-295-5313 or emailing lmloonan@umn.edu.

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.
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.

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/

Attention Cloverbuds!

We will be having our September meeting on Tuesday, September 15th, at 6:00 PM in the Farmer's Room. This will be our last meeting of the 2014/2015 4-H year, so make sure to attend!! Please RSVP to the Office by Friday, September 11th if you are planning on attending.

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!

Records Reminder

Just a reminder to be thinking about getting your project records done! The records are posted online now on the Nobles County 4-H website. The important due dates to keep in mind are:

- Monday, October 5th - Record books DUE to your club leaders
- Friday, October 9th - All records DUE to Extension Office

4-H club leaders and volunteers: We will be needing volunteers to help judge the records for the Achievement Banquet. If you are interested, please contact the adult club leader and/or the Extension Office.
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. This video is approximately 19 minutes in length 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.

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  Livestock Encampment, State Fair
- 27 - Sept. 7 Minnesota State Fair
- 26 - Sept. 7 Live-streaming of 4-H State Arts-In performance

SEPTEMBER
- 2  Live-streaming of the 4-H Lama Costume Competition
- 4  Horse Giveaway Essays Contest applications due
- 5-7  General Encampment, State Fair
- 11  Ribbon Sale Thank You’s Due
- 11-13 Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational
- 15  Cloverbud Meeting, 6 pm, Farmers Room
- 16  Online enrollment for the new 4-H year begins
- 18-21 Minnesota 4-H Horse Show
- 19  King Turkey Day Parade
- 19  Celebrate Ag & Food Day at the Minnesota Gopher football game
- 21  Advisory Board Meeting: 6 pm, Federation Meeting 7 pm in Farmer’s Room
- 26-27 Minnesota 4-H Dog Show

OCTOBER
- 3-4  Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador training, Perham
- 5  Records due to club leaders
- 9  Records due to Extension Office
- 15  Young Shepherd’s Scholarship Due
- 30  Club charters due to county Extension offices