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Aquatic Robotics Program

Youth and adults will attend a training scheduled for August 6-7 to learn more about the aquatic robotics program, design and build ROV’s, learn about water quality, and discover how they can make a difference. Training and program support will be provided by University of Minnesota Extension Professionals and Screened Volunteers. Training will take place at the Pokegama Lake Association Building, located west of Pine City.

After the training, participants will apply their knowledge by using the underwater robotic technology to conduct water testing and monitoring. They will also work to educate the community on water quality issues.

Interested? Contact the University of Minnesota Extension, Pine County, for more details.

County Fair

Thank you to all the 4-H members, parents and volunteers that helped to make the 2015 County Fair a success. The fair wouldn’t be possible without all of your wonderful projects and your help running shows, working in the exhibit building and food stand, supervising in the barns, performing, and more. Each one of you helps to make 4-H a true treasure.

Records

Have you been working on your records lately? The record deadline will be here before you know it. Mark your calendar for September 15. This is the day that all records must be submitted the Extension Office. The top placing records will receive gift certificates to be used at the 4-H Mall (for 4-H items such as t-shirts, sweatshirts, jewelry, hats, and other supplies).

Annual Council Meeting

Everyone is invited to attend the Annual Council meeting at the Hinckley-Finlayson High School on Wednesday, September 30th at 7:00 p.m. These meetings are a time for all members and leaders to voice their opinions on how they would like to see the county 4-H program run. The Council also decides on county-wide policies, fundraisers, etc.

Executive Board meeting

The Executive Board meeting will be meeting one hour prior to the annual Council meeting on Wednesday, September 30th at 6:00 p.m. We need all executive board members to be present to finalize the 2016 budget.

4-H Promotion

Volunteers are needed to promote 4-H at school open houses. If you will be attending your school’s open house, please consider assisting at an information table for 4-H. This is a great time to share how wonderful 4-H is! All of the Pine County schools are holding their open houses at the end of August and beginning of September. Flyers, brochures, activities and more are provided by the office. If you’re interested in helping out, please contact the Extension office.

Fall Promotion Window and Yard Displays

This year, the window display contest will continue. Each year, several clubs in Pine County put up a window display to promote 4-H and recruit new members. This is an opportunity for clubs to be more creative and to make use of a larger space and larger items. If someone in your club lives on a major roadway, or if you could get permission to use someone else's front yard, that would be a great place to attract attention. The idea is to have your display seen by as many people as possible. Displays need to be up the week of October 5-9. Call the Extension Office to register your club and then email them a picture (or two or three) of your display by October 10th! Prizes and money will be awarded at Recognition Night.
Recognition Night
Nominations Needed

Do you know an outstanding 4-H member or adult? Do you know someone that has gone above and beyond for 4-H this year? Do you know a person or business that has been very supportive of Pine County 4-H? This is your chance to have them be recognized! Submit a short nomination letter to the Extension Office by September 15th. Your nominee might just be the next recipient of a spectacular award.

Secretary and Treasurer
Reports Due

All club secretary and treasurer reports must submit their reports to the Extension Office by September 15th to be eligible for the outstanding secretary and treasurer awards. All other treasurer reports must be submitted in October.

Recognition Night

Recognition Night will be held on Saturday, October 10th at 6:00 pm. The location is TBD. Please mark your calendars. This is a wonderful time to celebrate another wonderful year of 4-H! A meal will be served and there is no cost to families! Details will be sent in the mail soon.

Project Workshop Day
Instructors Needed

As we start planning for the 2015-16 4-H year, we are looking for adults and youth leaders that would be interested in teaching a workshop or have ideas. We are especially looking for someone that would be willing to teach youth about photography, foods, fitness, crafts, woodworking, quilting, sewing, clothing, general Cloverbud projects, and more! If you or someone you know would be willing to help teach, please contact the office. The date of Project Workshop Day will be announced soon.

Camp Staff Thank You

A huge thank you to our dedicated camp volunteers that attended PICCKM Camp this year. We couldn't have had camp without you and I hope the wonderful memories you helped create help in healing your mosquito bites!

State Fair Encampment

Pine County will be in the first general project encampment this year. The dates are Sunday, August 30th through Tuesday, September 1st. The dates for livestock exhibitors are Wednesday, August 26th through Sunday, August 30.

State Fair Requirements

To be eligible for a state fair trip, youth must have completed 6th grade and be selected as a trip winner at the county fair. Each county has a limit of how many can be selected to go to the state fair based on a quota system. The more enrolled/participating in the project, the more trips we have.

Chaperones Needed

Any screened adult volunteers interested in chaperoning at the MN State Fair should contact the Extension Office. Chaperones are housed and fed in the “4-H Hilton” on the MN State Fairgrounds for the general encampment. This is a great time to celebrate the accomplishments of Pine County youth!

4-H Program Coordinator
Position Open

The Pine County 4-H Program Coordinator Position is currently open. For more information, visit http://www.extension.umn.edu/about/employment/.
Farewell

As most of you know by now, I have submitted my resignation as the Pine County 4-H Program Coordinator. My last day in the Extension Office will be Friday, September 4th. I have accepted a teaching position at East Central Schools in Finlayson.

I have been truly blessed to serve all of you over the past ten years. I have greatly enjoyed my 4-H work and especially loved working with each and every one of you! This position has been an incredible experience and has changed my life for the better.

I now look forward to serving as a 4-H volunteer and soon-to-be 4-H mom!

Message from Dorothy

Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

It’s fair season again, and I know many of you are preparing to participate in 4-H at your county fairs. 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 live stream can be watched from computers, laptops, smart phones or any mobile device with internet service. Here is the live stream event line-up:

- Performing arts, 4-H building: 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 26-Monday, Sept. 7
- Dairy goat judging: 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Friday, Aug. 28
- Lama costume competition: 6-7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 2

You can watch 12 hours of state fair activities live every day: 4-H.umn.edu/state-fair/4-h-live-cam/.

The Arts-In performance will be available on our website and the Minnesota 4-H Youtube channel after the fair is over.

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

Alumni at 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 State Fair App!

If you have a smart phone and you’re going to the state fair, 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 and Livestock Demonstrations

$30 awards will be given to all 4-Hers who complete a 4-H demonstration during general or livestock encampment. This includes 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 1 additional livestock trip for a livestock demonstration exhibitor.
- Livestock demonstrations must incorporate a live animal.
- 4-Her must demonstrate on livestock weekend and can also participate in all other species activities (show, interviews, showmanship).
- Counties may add 1 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! Consider volunteering for a short two hour shift! 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 (MLBA) Scholarship and Minnesota State Fair Scholarship Program (formally known as Hallberg Scholarship) opportunities at www.extension.umn.edu/youth/scholarships/.

Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics 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.

Contact your local extension office or visit 4-H.umn.edu/projects/animal-science/lqae/index.html for a training near you.
Dairy Showcase: Honoring Blue Ribbon Kids

This event recognizes overall achievement of dairy project exhibitors who 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 who exhibit at the Minnesota State Fair. Complete details and online portfolio are available at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/dairy-showcase.html.

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. Contest details are available at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/poultry-prince-princess.html.

Chef for a Day Cook-Off!

The Chef for a Day Cook-Off will be held during all state fair encampments, and is 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 the meat and some ingredients. Teams may bring additional ingredients but note that no refrigeration is supplied. There will be no morning assignments -- but there will be prizes!

Summer Employment

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

Share the Fun

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.

State Horse Show

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

State Dog Show

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

Premium Book Online

The 4-H State Fair premium book will only be available online this year at www.4-H.umn.edu/state-fair/resources.html.
Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassadors

The 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 program at state, regional, and local levels. Youth must 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 SS&W ambassadors are due August 24.

Volunteer Corner

September 18. Disciplines fill quickly, so make sure registration forms are sent in early!

4-H chaperones and the Minnesota State Fair

In Minnesota 4-H, 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, training (and screening) are required. 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, can be found at 4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training/. It 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/. A detailed user guide is available at 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. Which one will you try?

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2015
• SE Region Western Heritage Competition, JS Rodeo Arena, Lakeville – Aug. 1
• Pine County State Fair Meeting – Aug. 2
• NE Region Western Heritage Competition, R.J.’s Stables, Sauk Rapids – Aug. 3
• Aquatic Robotics – Aug 6-7
• Western Heritage State Competition, Wright County Fairgrounds, Howard Lake – Aug. 22
• Western Heritage Sunday Fun Day, Wright County Fairgrounds, Howard Lake – Aug. 23
• Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador applications due – Aug. 24
• Live-streaming of performing arts at State Fair – Aug. 26 – Sept. 7
• Livestock Encampment – Aug. 26-30
• Live-streaming of dairy goat judging at State Fair – Aug. 28

• General State Fair Encampment – Aug. 30-Sept. 1
• Minnesota State Fair – Aug. 27-Sept 7

September 2015
• Live-streaming of lama costume competition at State Fair – Sept. 2
• Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational – Sept. 11-13
• Records Due – Sept. 15
• Recognition Night nominations due – Sept. 15
• Secretary & Treasurer Reports Due – Sept. 15
• Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification registrations due – Sept. 18
• State 4-H Horse Show – Sept. 18-21
• NE Livestock Show – Sept. 19-20
• State Dog Show – Sept. 26-27
• Executive Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m. – Sept. 30
• Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. – Sept. 30

October 2015
• Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador training – Oct. 3-4
• Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification – Oct. 3-4
• National 4-H Week – Oct. 4-10
• Fall Promotion Window & Yard Displays – Oct. 5-9
• Window & Yard Display pictures due to office – Oct. 10
• Recognition Night – Oct. 10