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Calendar of Events

Looking Ahead ........

- June 2-4th / 4H X Camp (Exploration Camp) / UMC
- **Friday June 12th** / Fair Registration forms due to the Extension Office
- June 10-13th / YELLO leadership retreat, MN State Fairgrounds, St. Paul
- June 15th / County Wide brainstorm/grill out 6:30 pm, Fairgrounds
- June 18-20th / SandHill Lake 4-H Camp, Fosston
- June 22nd / Federation Meeting, 6:30 pm, location TBD
- June 23rd / Milk Moustache Contest, Valley Dairy Grand Forks, 3-6 pm
- June 27th / NW MN Dairy Days, Pennington County Fairgrounds
- June 20-27th / Washington Focus
- July 30-31st / 4-H Shooting Sports and Wildlife Camp / Lake Bronson

Fair Reminders ..........

- **July 5th**: Fair Clean up/set up day with cookout to follow, 2:00 pm Fairgrounds

Polk County Fair - July 8-12, 2015
Hello everyone! By now you should have received your Polk County Fair Registration forms either in the mail, or from a club leader. These will have a list of all the projects you have signed up for on the left hand side and will need to be returned to the Extension Office no later than June 12th indicating which projects you will be bringing to the fair. Remember you can bring up to 7 general projects in each area and up to 2 animals per class. You will need to use the premium book to help you with this form and the book can be found at: http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/polk/4-h under the "Downloads" section of the website. If you have any questions or need assistance with this process please call 218-563-2465 or email joh04412@umn.edu and we will be happy to assist you!

If anyone would like to help with a booth during the annual Milk Moustache Contest on Tuesday July 23rd from 3-6 pm at Valley Dairy in Grand Forks please let me know! This is a fun event for all ages with carnival style games, live animals, bike drawings, demonstrations and more! Polk County 4-H will have a booth that not only promotes 4-H but also animals and how to care for them. If you have an animal you would like to bring with (rabbits, cats, dog, cows, pigs etc) they are welcome too!

Alumni Wanted!!

We are working hard to compile a list of all Polk County 4-H alumni to keep them in the loop with current events, and also seek their help in raising money for the Polk County 4-H program. If you know someone who used to be a member of Polk County 4-H please pass their name along to either myself or a club leader so we can get in contact with them! Thank you!

From Kristie ……

Message from Dorothy ….

Dear 4-H Families and Volunteers,

Summer is here and with summer comes an opportunity for communities around the state to attend their county fairs and see the learning and accomplishments that 4-H'ers have achieved this year! 4-H'ers have been working hard on their projects and exploring topics they are passionate about, such as animal science, robotics, creative arts, wildlife biology, performing arts and photography. Through this hands-on learning, 4-H'ers learn 21st Century skills such as communications, problem solving, decision making and critical thinking that will support their success throughout their lives.

One of the highlights you’ll see again this year at county and state fairs is the 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge. Based on Rube Goldberg machines, teams of 4-H youth design overly complex contraptions that can do a simple task using everyday items in whimsical ways that interact in a series of chain-reactions. This year’s challenge is to design a machine that will put toothpaste on a toothbrush.

At the state fair, highlights will include great hands-on STEM activities for visitors to the 4-H Building, and presentations from the 4-H Science of Agriculture Challenge, in which we asked teams of youth to identify ag-related issues and come up with science-based solutions.

I hope that each of you embrace all that 4-H has to offer you this summer. I also hope that you encourage your friends, your family members, and your neighbors to experience 4-H too by going to your county fair so they can see how 4-H youth are making a difference in their community.

I look forward to another great summer seeing all the great projects from 4-H'ers throughout the state, and learning from them. If you see me
at the state fair, please stop and say hello. Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

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

Safety of Minors training required for volunteers by July 1

In May, 4-H families and volunteers were reminded of the Safety of Minors policy adopted by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents last fall, which made all volunteers and employees of the University who work with young people mandated reporters. We also shared the link to the required Safety of Minors training. As a reminder, all 4-H volunteers must complete this training before the July 1 deadline. Those individuals who have not completed the training by the deadline will not be allowed to volunteer until they have completed the training.

We are pleased to share that as of Friday, March 15 1,136 volunteers have completed the training out of 7,244. This is good progress, though we still have a long ways to go in order to be in compliance. We need your help to make sure we’re doing everything possible to ensure the safety of young people in 4-H. If you have not yet completed the Safety of Minors training, you may do so in one of the following ways:

1. Through 4HOnline. Please note this is our preferred option and the quickest way for your completion of the training to be recognized.
2. By viewing the training online at www.4-H.umn.edu/som. Be sure to complete the Qualtrics survey afterwards.
3. By viewing it in a group setting and completing the sign-off sheet. Check with your county program coordinator to see when group viewings are scheduled.
4. By viewing it on the DVD available at your county Extension office and completing the sign-off sheet or the Qualtrics survey.
5. By reading the PDF and completing the Qualtrics link or the sign-off sheet.

Thank you to all Minnesota 4-H volunteers for doing their part to help us keep youth safe by completing this required training in a timely fashion. Your service and dedication to Minnesota’s young people is appreciated!

Updates on 4-H Poultry Projects at county & state fairs

On May 15, the Minnesota Board of Animal Health issued a directive cancelling all poultry shows and exhibitions at county fairs, the State Fair, and other public gatherings of birds effective through the end of 2015. The decision was made as part of efforts to minimize the risk of potential further spread of the avian flu virus.

Minnesota 4-H will still offer 4-H Poultry Project opportunities at county and state fairs, and will have more information available soon for 4-H Poultry Project members.

4-H has also extended the May 15 animal ID deadline to May 29 for 4-H Poultry families only who may be interested in selecting and identifying 4-H project animals from other species to exhibit at the upcoming county and/or state fair. All poultry families choosing to utilize this extension must have their ID worksheets for the animal species that they intend to exhibit (excluding market beef animals) turned into their county Extension Office by closing time on May 29.

Updates for 4-H Poultry Project opportunities at both county fairs and the Minnesota State Fair will be shared on the 4-H state fair participant resources web page (general information tab) here:
June 15: Updates and information about 4-H Poultry Project opportunities at county fairs
July 1: Updates and information about 4-H Poultry Project opportunities at the Minnesota State Fair

Contact your County 4-H Program coordinator with any questions.

Sign up for the 2015 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge!

If you haven’t signed up already, get your 4-H team together and sign up for the 2015 4-H Rube Goldberg Design Challenge!

This year’s task is to build a machine that puts toothpaste on a toothbrush! Teams of 4-H’ers are already signing up so they have more time to design, build, test and improve their machines before they compete at the county fair.

Complete information about registration and participation can be found in the rulebook available at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/engineering-design-challenge/index.html.

Contact the 4-H program coordinator in your county with any questions.

Put your 4-H history on the map!

Ever wonder about where the first 4-H club or camp in your county or state was located? Or what communities in your state are home to celebrities who were 4-H members? Or if elected officials in your state or national government were members of 4-H in your state? Then head to the "Map Your 4-H History" website: 4-hhistorypreservation.com/History_Map/.

On April 28, 2015, "Map Your 4-H History" went live with an internet-based national atlas of sites that are historically significant to 4-H families. We hope that every 4-H club will ask the question, “Do we have a historically significant site in our county or state that should be nominated for the National 4-H map/atlas?” All 4-H members, staff, volunteers, alumni and supporters are encouraged to nominate locations that are significant to the 4-H history of your county, state or the nation.

What type of sites are we looking for to be nominated for the National 4-H map? Some of our pilot test team members who have helped develop the National 4-H map project suggested the following sites – among others – as being historically significant:

- 4-H history museums
- 4-H camps
- 4-H fair grounds
- Locations of the first 4-H club in your state
- The longest continuous 4-H club in your state
- The first club of its type in your state
- Famous 4-H alumni in your county or state

Want to help youth make good decisions?

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 to pay the bills. The media, peer pressure, the need to fit in – all these factors play major roles in the decisions that youth make. Can we add your name to the list?

Minnesota 4-H is recruiting volunteers interested in mentoring youth as they learn 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 with youth from anywhere and at any time,
through the convenience of your mobile device or home internet connection.

How does it work? Each week, youth will learn about finances and consumerism, review a scenario, and compare products to make informed decisions. Youth post their decision process and decision. Mentors go online to respond to questions and provide feedback. Youth learn through your feedback to critique their decisions, reflect on their values and give feedback to their peers.

If you are interested in mentoring youth to become savvy consumers and build financial intelligence, or would like more information on this opportunity, contact Carrie Olson (320-589-1711,olson166@umn.edu) today.

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.

Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational Sept. 11-13

The 2015 Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational will be held in Douglas County (Alexandria) Sept. 11-13. 4-H members who are involved in their county 4-H Shooting Sports and Wildlife Program will participate in a variety of events such as BB gun, archery, air rifle, air pistol, trap, .22 rifle, black powder and wildlife events. In order to participate, members must work with a certified 4-H instructor and complete 15 hours of training in a discipline and 8 hours of wildlife education.

The state 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational is a great way to demonstrate the skills learned in a safe environment. Come to the Alexandria Shooting Park (located on Interstate 94 – Alexandria exit 103) Sept. 11-13 to see the 4-H members in action. To learn more about the 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Program, or to see the rules and registration information, contact your Extension office or visit the website at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-invitational/. Registrations will be due to your county Extension office on Monday, July 20 or a date pre-determined by your county.

4-H volunteer corner

The 4-H learning environment

’Tis the season of county fair and 4-H conference judging.

When young people join a 4-H program, they embark on a journey of fun and personal development. School teachers will often comment that they can identify the “4-H kids” in
the classroom based on their communication skills. 4-H youth are known for their public presentation skills, their ability to convey information and engage in a conversation. Not surprisingly, 4-H members have a distinct advantage when participating in interviews for scholarships or job interviews.

One of the highly visible learning opportunities in the 4-H Youth Development program is 4-H project judging at the county and state fair. Fair project conference judging is just one of the methods incorporated by the Minnesota 4-H Program to develop communication and life skills in young people. In conference judging, the ribbon placing on the project is based 50% on the project, and 50% on the knowledge of the exhibitor. Conference judging consists of a conversation or “mini interview” between the 4-H member and the judge. During the judging process a 4-H member shares their knowledge and work on the project. The judge asks questions that help the 4-H member reflect on their learning experiences and celebrate their accomplishments. 4-H members exhibit fair projects because they are fun, but learning is the real take-away. Conference judging is just one example of how the Minnesota 4-H program creates non-formal learning opportunities for youth.

To learn more, view the 30-minute 4HOnline Training module: “The 4-H learning environment”, available at www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training.