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Rice County Upcoming Events

March
1, 8&22 Horse Quiz Bowl Practice, 6:30 p.m.
4-5 Lock-In, 4H Building, see article for details
5 Rabbit Meeting, 4-H Building
7 Ambassador Meeting, 6:30 p.m., 4H Building
7 Exchange Meeting, 7:30 p.m, 4H Building
12 Clowning Workshop, 10-12 noon, 4H Building
12 Regional Quiz Bowl, Hastings
17-20 MAVA, Fergus Falls
19 Easter Egg Hunt, 10:30 a.m. opening activities, 11 a.m. egg hunt
21 Awards & Recognition Meeting, 6 p.m., 4H Building
21 Auction Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., 4H Building
22 Horse PDC Webinar, 7-8:30 p.m., 4-H Building

April
1 Horse Drill Team Planning Mtg, 6:30 p.m. at Gwen Werner’s Home, Faribault
2 LQA&E Certification, Steele County
2 Cold Storage Released, 8 a.m., Curtis Hall
4 Ambassador Meeting, 6:30 p.m., 4-H Building
4 Exchange Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 4-H Building
5 Dog Project Member Informational Meeting, 7 p.m., 4H Building
7 Livestock PDC Webinar, 7-8:30 a.m., 4-H Building
9 Dairy Workshop, 10 a.m., Mark Trcka Farm, Montgomery
9 Dog Rally Workshop, 4-H Building
10 Share-the-Fun, doors open 1 p.m., performances 2 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, Faribault
18 Executive Board, 6 p.m., 4H Building
18 PDC’s, 7 p.m., 4H Building
18 Volunteer Recognition, 7:30 p.m., 4H Building
18 Federation, 7:45 p.m., 4H Building – Host – Executive Board
20 Horse Kick-Off Informational Meeting, 6:30 p.m., 4-H Building
30 Rabbit Workshop, 9 a.m., 4H Building

2016 RICE COUNTY FAIR will be July 18-24!!!
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:


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

LQA&E

4-H members grade 6th and above in beef, dairy, goat, llama, poultry, rabbit and sheep; and members 3rd grade and above in swine need to have been LQA&E certified to participate at the State Fair prior to the 2016 Rice County Fair. Certification is good for three fairs. If you have not been certified or need to be re-certified for this upcoming fair season here are the Rochester West Region locations:

- April 2, 2016 - 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Steele County
- June 11, 2016 - 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Freeborn County

Pre-registration is required! Each session is limited to the first 100 registered participants. There is no cost to pre-registered 4-H members in Freeborn, Mower, Rice, Steele and Waseca counties. Members from counties other than the Rochester West Region will be $25. IF YOU DO NOT PRE-REGISTER AND IF THERE IS SPACE AVAILABLE A $25.00 registration fee will be assessed regardless of what county you are from. If you unable to attend one of the above sessions, it is your responsibility to check the State 4-H website for other locations at http://www1.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/events/LQAE-Training-Materials.html

LOCK-IN

Are you looking for a night of fun? And a way to include your friends who aren’t in 4-H? We have the solution! On Friday, March 4th Rice County 4-H will be hosting the 5th annual lock-in. From 6:00-8:00 p.m. youth in K-5th grades are invited to attend with a non 4-H friend for some games, fun and pizza supper. From 8:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning (March 5th), youth 6th grade and above are invited and encouraged to bring a non 4-H friend. You will be busy taking part in games, socializing and fun snacks will be provided. There is no cost to you, just a request that you register with
the Extension Office at 332-6109 by Monday, February 29th. This is a promotional activity so be sure to invite those friends who aren’t in 4-H and show them what a good time we can have! Non 4-H members will have to fill out an enrollment form due to the new “Safety of Minors” policy. Contact the office to get one. In order to carry on with this event, we are also in need of chaperones. Contact Kelly (332-6109) as soon as possible if you’re interested in being a chaperone.

RABBIT WORKSHOP
A Rabbit workshop will be held on Saturday, March 5th, 9-11 a.m. at the 4-H Building with the following topics: general rabbit care, nutrition, meat rabbits and breeding rabbits. We will have available a list of rabbit breeder contact information. Be sure to check out our Facebook group – Rice County 4-H Rabbit Project.

CLOWNING WORKSHOP
A Clowning workshop will be held on Saturday, March 12th at the 4-H Building. Working with make-up to apply your clown face will be 10-11 a.m. and how to make figure balloons will be 11-12 noon. Call the Extension Office by Wednesday, March 2nd to register for one or both of the workshops.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS...
watch upcoming newsletter for details.

EASTER EGG HUNT/INFORMATION DAY
On Saturday, March 19th the Ambassadors will host our 5th Easter Egg Hunt for kids age 2 to 5th grade at the 4H Building. We will offer hands-on activities and a question/answer table for new families currently in the program or looking to join. Visit with ambassadors about various project areas and activities such as camps. This is an excellent opportunity to get answers to your unanswered questions, ideas/tips for fair projects and have fun. This is a free event open to the public. You can also enjoy a cup of hot chocolate or lemonade before leaving. Hands-on activities will begin at 10:30 a.m. and the egg hunt will start at 11 a.m. We will sort groups more this year with youngest group at 10:45; K-2 at 11 and 3-5 at 11:15 a.m.

SHARE-THE-FUN
Share-The-Fun will be held Sunday, April 10th, doors open 1 p.m., performances 2 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, Faribault. Talk with your club leader for more details.

DOG INFORMATIONAL MEETING
On Tuesday, April 5th, 6:30 p.m. at the 4-H Building there will be a Dog Informational Meeting to start off the 2015 Dog Training year. Do not bring your dog to this meeting! This meeting is mandatory for everyone that is interested in participating in the dog project this year. Members will be able to sign up for classes in agility, rally, obedience and showmanship. Dog project members will receive additional information in the mail the end of March. If you do not receive the information in the mail, contact the office at 332-6162 immediately to have it mailed to you.
HORSE KICK-OFF MEETING

The Horse Kick-Off meeting will be held in April 20th at the 4-H Building. A letter necessary forms will be sent out to each family in the horse project. The Horse PDC will go over key information and guidelines for 2016, clinic topics, a vet will briefly go over medical items and have a question/answer time. Bring fee per member and the signed “Guidelines for 2016” and the “State Horse Show Trip Selection Point System” forms to this meeting. The Stalling Agreement needs to be turned in by June 27th.

WE WANT YOUR SHOES!

Your gently worn shoes, that is! If you’re like most people, your closet’s probably home to multiple pairs of shoes you no longer wear. Here’s your chance to dust them off and put them to good use. When you drop off your gently worn shoes, you’ll be helping Rice County 4-H Exchange raise needed funds as well as people less fortunate throughout the world.

Drop off location: 4-H Building on the Rice County Fairgrounds, 1900 Fairgrounds Drive, Faribault, MN.

SUMMER CAMP 2016 AT CAMP PATTERSON!!!!

It is hard to believe that we are already thinking camp! Bring on the warm weather, the swim suits, the campfire songs and the sun!! This will be three days of action packed fun! Meet new friends, learn new skills, and make great memories. The 2016 4-H Summer Camp is set for the following counties: (Note: If the date of your county camp does not work, you can always attend a different session but you are responsible for your own transportation).

Youth Camp Sessions (Grades 3-6):
- June 15-17: Freeborn, Mower, Rice, Steele, Waseca

Teen camp Session (Grades 6-8):

NOTE: At the 6th grade level, a 4-H member may attend only one camp session – either Youth Camp or Teen Camp, but not both. Camp is located at Camp Patterson on Lake Washington in Madison Lake, MN. New this year each camper must pay the full registration fee and submit for reimbursement which will be paid after the event.

Thank you to all youth and adults who played a role in Project LOVE! Due to your time and generosity, we sewed 107 bags, stuffed them with books and bears and then donated to the youth clients of the Rice County Public Health and Social Services.
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/. 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/.
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 Feb. 18, and the deadline to apply is 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.

Calendar

MARCH
5 Regional Project Bowl, Foley
11 Youth Day at the Capitol application deadline
12 Regional Project Bowl, Hastings
17-19 M4-HAVA 2016 Annual Conference, Fergus Falls
19 Regional Project Bowl, Bemidji
19 Regional Project Bowl, Redwood Falls
29 Youth Day at the Capitol

APRIL
1 Minnesota Alliance with Youth Red Wagon Award nomination deadline
2 Regional Project Bowl, Snow date
7 County livestock PDC training webinar
15 Minnesota 4-H Foundation college scholarship applications due
16 State Project Bowl, Sauk Rapids
9-14 National 4-H Conference, Washington, D.C.
23-24 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification training, Mora and Worthington

MAY
15 Animal ID deadline
15 2016 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge registration due

JULY
2-9 Citizenship Washington Focus