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

Lego Robotics: 2015 Trash Trek Challenge

Mon, August 31, 7 pm: Kick-off Meeting
Sept 3: Registration Deadline
Sept 5, & weekly Saturdays, 1-3 pm;

We’re gearing up for our fourth year of 4-H Lego Robotics! Based on the First Lego League rules, Lego Robotics is for youth ages 9-14. Registration forms are due to our office Sept 3. We need 2 adult volunteers per team, and thank Randy Berghorst & Jason Braucht for volunteering to coach a team! Their team will be a competitive team whose goal is to participate in the First Lego League Robotics competition in South Dakota. If more youth are interested, another team could be formed to learn, practice, and provide competition within our county (and maybe with neighboring counties). Depending on the amount of interest, teams will be filled by previous participants, then by age and then in the order registrations are received.

Minnesota State Fair, State Shoot, State Horse, State Dog

Congratulations to all those chosen to attend Minnesota State Events. Rock County 4-H is proud to have you represent us! Livestock Encampment was August 26-30, and General Encampment for our county is over Labor Day Weekend, Sept 5-7. The State Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational is Sept. 12-13, the State Horse Show is Sept. 18-21, and the State Dog Show is Sept. 26-27. We will have more information on State Events next month. If you are exhibiting at General Encampment be sure you know your judging time!! If you are riding the bus, it will leave the Shopko Luverne parking lot at 11 am on Sat. Sept 5, and return between 7:30 -8:30 pm on Monday Sept 7th.

Congrats State Ambassador: Thea Richards!

Congratulations to Thea Richards on being selected as a MN 4H State Ambassador! Andrea will be serving as a state Ambassador at this year’s State Fair activities and in the upcoming year by helping at leadership events like BLU and YELLO! Last year was the first time in many years that Rock County had a state Ambie, and now we’ve done it two years in a row! Did you see Thea “working” during your state fair experiences??
Participate & Share Your Ideas

Federation Meeting

Sept 14, 7:30 pm Federation Extension Meeting Room

Come share your thoughts and opinions at our County Federation meetings. Rock County 4-H is YOUR organization—let us hear from you! All 4-H’ers & parents are welcome to attend Federation, (while the Executive Board consists of elected representatives). On September 14 we will start planning for the upcoming year and evaluate the past year to see what we would like to do differently! In September & October we will continue with fall and Roundup planning, hold county officer elections, look ahead to Santa’s workshop and winter events, and MAY even include supper as part of our program! Hope to see you there!

Evaluations

Please take time at your club meetings to evaluate all the summer events we had, just as we will do at our Federation meeting. We need input to determine if things can be improved in any way. Please share your thoughts and opinions! Is there a volunteer who could develop an online survey for us??

Executive Committee Meeting

Sept 14, 6:30 pm (before Fed meeting)
Oct 8, 7:45 pm (after Open House)

In September we need to review our expenses from the past year, and plan our budget for the upcoming year. If you are a member of the Executive Committee please plan to attend this budget meeting. The Executive committee consists of all Federation Youth Officers and the 8 Adult Representatives from the clubs. In October the Executive Committee will meet to determine Outstanding Youth Leader and other Round-up award recipients.

Prepare for “New Year”

Sept 14: Exec (6:30) & Federation (7:30)
Sept 14: Records Due to Club
Oct 1: Record Judging: County 8 am–9 pm
Oct 5: Club Leader & Treasurer mtg 6:30 pm
Oct 5: Federation – officer elections 7:30 pm
Oct 8: Enrollment Open House 6:30 pm
Oct 8: Executive Committee 7:45 pm
Nov 5: Officer Training 7 pm
Nov 23: Fall Volunteer Training 6:30 pm

It’s already time to be thinking about our upcoming year! Clubs and the County Federation will be choosing new officers. Clubs may be getting new leaders. Budgets need to be planned and Charters will need to be completed. Start thinking NOW about where YOU (both youth & adults) can share your talents and interests!

Time to (Re)enroll in 4-H!

Sept 16: online re-enrollment begins
Oct 8, 6:30 – 7:30 pm: Enrollment Open House for new / potential members

It’s that time of year to start planning the activities you would like to be involved in next year in 4-H. There will be an online enrollment process again this year with families able to re-enroll all family members at the same time. More information will be coming in September. Age Guidelines: Anyone in Kindergarten through second grade can be a member of Cloverbuds. Anyone in 3rd grade through one year past high school can be in 4-H.
4-H Records!

We all know how nice it is to sit back and relax now that Fair is over. But those projects aren’t REALLY done until the project record is done too. 4-H records used to be a very precise booklet with a specific number of pages, a specific number of pictures and definitely nothing else added -- Well that isn’t true anymore!

Today, 4-H records are meant to be a way of keeping track of what you have learned and done in 4-H, and a way to save great memories for the years to come. You can go online, download, and type your records on the computer OR you can fill out the colored paper record pages you received. On the website, go to the left side under 4-H, then to Downloads, then be sure to click SEE ALL: www.extension.umn.edu/county/rock/4-h/downloads/

I know that filling out records is not the highlight of the 4-H year. However, it is a part of life that we keep some sort of records. Just think, we keep records for sports competitions, for taxes, for balancing your checkbook, and so on. By keeping 4-H records you can practice those record keeping skills, win awards at Round Up, and save memories for years to come.

Records Deadlines

Sept 14 - Records due to Club Leaders
Sept 14- Sept 28 – Club Record Judging
Sept 28 (or sooner if possible!!) - Deadline for all Roundup Forms

From clubs:

- Record Nominations form (plus ALL record books) from clubs/leaders - including:
  - Outstanding Youth Leader, 4-H Alumni and Honorary 4-Her
  - Active Club Award

From Members:

- Clover Power (1st / 2nd year 4-H members)
- Fantastic 15 4-H Members (grades 3-6)
- Fab 15 4-H Members (grades 7 and up)
- Key Award (completed sophomore year of HS, completed 5 years of 4-H, & 3 years as youth leader)
- Achievement Award application
- Ambassador application
- 4-H Graduation
- Golla Award

October 1 – County Record Judging – open house 9 am – 9 pm

November 7 - Round Up Awards Banquet

What Records do I need?

All 4-H members should complete the participation record - (the green sheet) - and clubs get credit for the % of their members that complete participation records! Individual project records (yellow, blue, pink, beige) should be completed for every project in which you are enrolled if you wish to be judged for project awards, AND to provide those great memories in the years to come (and to be eligible for scholarships). These project records are judged first at your club level and then at the county level, where the best qualifying records are awarded project discs. (Cloverbuds are not required to fill out project records for judging, but certainly may complete them if they wish. Those photos from the very beginning will be priceless in years to come!)

Project Record Award Discs:

These are awarded at our year-end Round-Up awards night. They are awarded to those records that most completely tell the story of the member’s project. A member cannot receive a disc in the same project area two years in a row in order to give
others a better chance. Discs are given in every project area. The number of discs awarded is based on the number of members enrolled in the project area. Some projects with many project members have 4 or 5 discs given each year - those project areas with fewer members may only award one disc per year.

Records are judged on:
- Complete and thorough responses (depends on the age)
- Member should have given a project talk or demonstration (any area)
- Member should have exhibited a project in that area at county fair in current year

Record is better if it includes:
- Pictures showing member working on project
- Member attended a project meeting in that area if available

**Project Achievement Awards:**
These are also awarded at year-end Round-Up, and recognize members for significant achievements, learning, and SHARING in a specific project area. They are awarded to members who have shown growth in a project area, and who have taken their knowledge and growth and SHARED it with others. Achievement awards are only given once to a 4-H member in each project area, and that member is generally in high school or beyond. Only about 4-6 Achievement awards are given out each year. Members who feel they meet the qualifications must fill out an application form to be considered for an achievement award. Achievement Award Applications can be turned in to your club with your records or may be turned directly into the office.

**4-Her MUST have:**
- Been in the project area for at least 4 years
- Completed Project Records in the project area consistently
- Have given demonstrations or project talks (better if in that area)
- Consistently Exhibited in the project area -usually at county fair
- Shared learning/knowledge/skills in project area with others (led or assisted with project meetings, camp learning sessions, etc)
- Done a demonstration or project talk at a club meeting (any area, any year)

**4-Her SHOULD have:**
- Completed 9th grade or higher
- Included photos showing the 4-H member working on/in project area with records
- Attended project meetings or other learning opportunities in the project area
- Done a demonstration or project talk at a club meeting in the area (any year).

**Golla Award**
The Golla award is sponsored in memory of George Golla and is open to any current Rock County 4-H member – regardless of age. It is given annually to a 4-H member who has demonstrated an extra-ordinary display of 4-H quality and spirit. The deadline is Sept 28. We have some wonderfully devoted 4-H members – let’s hear from you!

**County-wide Record Judging**

**Thursday October 1, 9 a.m. – 9 pm**
**Extension Meeting Room**

Remember that all records that are chosen at club judging to advance to county level judging are due in the office by - or before
- September 28. **County Record Judging is Thursday October 1**, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the meeting room next to the Extension Office. Each club should have a minimum of **TWO** people that help for a minimum of **TWO hours each**, to help determine the award winners for Round-Up. Older youth leaders are also welcome. This is always a BIG job, and more people help it get done faster, so please join us on Thursday if you can. We have an “open house” judging so those helping can come at a convenient time for them!!

**Round Up - Year End Awards!**

**Saturday Nov 7**  
**Luverne School Commons Area**

Do we want potluck again? Or a dessert bar? Or pie & ice cream? Or a “post football” party? Or something different?

In addition to the awards for project records, top county 4-H’ers, most active clubs, and more, we need nominations for **Outstanding Youth Leader**, **4-H Alumni** and **Honorary 4-Her** awards. If anyone has ideas about who should receive these awards this year, please call 283-1302 or send an e-mail (sanda009@umn.edu). Thanks.

**National 4-H Week & Promos**

**October 4-10**

YOU are the best promotional tool we have; so share your enthusiasm with others. Personal invitations are the best way to bring in new members. I challenge EVERY member to invite someone new to join 4-H this year! The first full week in October is set aside to promote 4-H, the largest out-of-school youth organization in the United States!

**Promotions**

We had a promotional table at the **Luverne Elementary Open House** (**Thanks Teresa Kinsinger & others**) and a display at HBC Elementary conferences (**Thanks Sheila**). Keep telling others about how much fun you have and the great experiences 4-H has to offer, and encourage them to join!

Your **Club Poster Banners** can be used to promote 4-H this fall and throughout National 4-H week. Most local businesses are willing to display your poster if you ask them! Please **stop by the office and pick yours up** and display it in a local business with contact info about your club.

**Yard Signs** are another promotional tool that clubs should display throughout the county, to help encourage new members to join 4-H! Clubs might still have their signs from a couple years ago, so check those garages and dust off those signs!

**Calling for Rock County 4-H Ambassadors**

- Are you in 9th grade or higher?
- Have you got good ideas on how things could be different?
- Have you always wanted to do more fun things in 4-H?
- Do you like helping younger 4-H members?
- Would you like to be up front, on the microphone, emceeing a show or event?
- Do you like to organize things?

If you answered YES to some of these questions you might be the perfect candidate to become a Rock County 4-H Ambassador. Your time and energy are
needed to make 4-H in Rock County the best it can be! If you are a youth leader and have completed 8th grade, please fill out an Ambie application, and join our great team of Rock County Ambassadors! Ambies help plan and carry out activities like day camp, project days, and Round-up. They are Rock County’s fun group of “on-call” youth leaders. Ambie applications can be found on the website under Downloads.

Volunteer & Officer Trainings

Thursday, Nov 5: Officer Training 7 pm
Monday, Nov 23: Volunteer Training 6:30 pm

Traditionally Rock County holds these trainings in the fall, after clubs have selected their (new) leaders and officers. Mark your calendars now!

County Fair Follow up

Wow! Another great fair! Even though the exhibit building was hot for Monday’s judging, the weather improved during the rest of the week!

The Foodstand had another good year - thanks to everyone who took their turn working. The profit we make goes toward all our 4-H activities throughout the year.

The Exhibit Building was full of great projects - we added several card tables to really showcase the foods review place settings.

The Livestock Auction had twelve more 4-Her’s participating; the same number buyers; and total amounts a bit higher than last year at $19,700. Some businesses choose to donate directly, and those donations were similar to last year at approximately $3,250.

The Marcel Reisch Scholarship Fund

Auction took place again this year, and raised about $3400! Buyers received a small wooden perpetual calendar & thanks for their donations. Thanks to: Exchange State Bank, Luverne Farm Store, Minnwest Bank, First Farmers and Merchants Bank, Richters Manure Hauling, Eastern Farmers Elevator-Garretson, First Bank & Trust, LD Farms, Schuneman Implement, Garretson Food Center, Reisch Livestock, Making Memories Last Retreat Center, and Overgaard Farm/Seeds for participating and providing our 4-H members with more scholarship opportunities. We also thank Bryan Fodness for his wonderful leadership of this event!

Several items from Chainsaw Woodcarving that were presenting during the fair were also auctioned off, and 4-H will receive a percentage from those items. Thanks to the Ag Society/Fairboard for sharing the proceeds with us, and to purchasers Mike Stroh, Fodness Auction, Isaac DeBoer, Rock County Ag Society, and Landrover Ltd/Mike & Nancy Sandager.

Once again, the Fashion Review Show was held during the fair – under the tent by the Exhibit Building - and it went very well. Cloverbuds Kailee Sandbulte and Klarissa Burkman along with many Clothing project members presented a nice show to an appreciative audience. The Court of Honor was comprised of Mary Christian, Krista Burkman, Sarah Stegenga, Jo-Hannah Ladd, Elisabeth Kelm, Gabi Ferrell-Johnson, Alexis Ferrell-Johnson, Elise Ferrell-Johnson, and Hallie Bork. Alexis Ferrell-Johnson received top honors for Constructed Garments & Mary Christian received top honors for Purchased Clothing.
😊 Suggestions from you are requested! Do you have any ideas to make our fair better? Suggestions of equipment or improvements needed? Last year we added more new clothing stands and a few glass sided exhibit display cases. This year we got a new sink, a new freezer, and some equipment in the foodstand. Let us hear your ideas!! Some suggestions must be forwarded on to the Fairboard, but some we can do through 4-H.

😊 Remember: save your premium books for ideas all year long!

😊 Compliments that we heard about:
- The quality of our General Projects, and the preparedness of our youth during conference judging and premiere showmanship!
- The willingness & great work ethic of our 4-H families at cleanup, in the foodstand, and wherever else help was needed.
- How great it was that previous 4-H families and others were willing to step up and help.
- The fun Photo backdrops and other Community Pride projects that improve our Fairgrounds.

Problems we heard about:
- Short-handed Foodstand Shifts! Reminder: those members who don't work a foodstand shift are not eligible for any Rock County 4-H financial benefits – including auction monies. (Thanks very much to those who stayed longer, worked a 2nd shift, and/or recruited friends and past 4-H families to help!)
- Foul language and harsh treatment of animals in the barns by youth & ADULTS! Remember, for many people, 4-H & fairs may be their only exposure to the livestock and ag industries, and everyone's behavior needs to be positive!
- Poor Herdsmanship efforts by a few, &/or parents doing the work for the youth. (Again, 4-H often is the “Face of Ag” for many people, and animals without water or in messy pens don’t leave a very good impression.)
- Disrespect for Volunteers, Equipment, & things belonging to others.

If you have any more compliments or problems, please either call the office at 283-1302, or email Nancy at sanda009@umn.edu.

County Fair Thanks to:
- The Livewires Club for more new Clothing display stands, the newly painted arena photo backdrop, and for the variety of thank-you cards that members can use for trophy sponsors and auction buyers!
- The Fairboard for installing the new sink and new freezer in the foodstand, and for removing the old counter.
- The Willing Workers Club for the tire planter display.
- Clean-up helpers - all the 4-H members and parents who turned out for either the pre-fair or post-fair cleanups. Your work was greatly appreciated!
- Foodstand - to new manager Gayle Wenzel and mentor Karla Kvaale for a great year; and to everyone that helped in the foodstand;
- Judges Helpers & Show Helpers - to those youth leaders and parents
who helped on either of our judging days &/or with all the livestock shows. We couldn’t do it without you!

- **Livestock Superintendents & Species events** - for helping with each of your species’ shows – everything flowed along very smoothly. Also thanks to Harlan Stueven for maintaining the horse arena

- **Fair Veterinarian** – Jason Johnson of Rock Vet – for making sure our livestock started out and stayed healthy.

- **Century Business Products** for the use of a printer/copy machine in the 4-H fairgrounds office.

- **Ambassadors & other Extension Staff** - for helping whenever & wherever you were asked and doing a fantastic job!

- **Fairboard** - for all their help with the barns, the pens, the arena, and more.

- And to all the other people too numerous to mention who should be thanked because they set up, picked up, put away, helped out, or lent a hand.

THANKS very much!!!!!!

### Club News

At the Livewires July 19 meeting, Roll Call was the # of projects that you were bringing to the fair. We worked on the picture backdrop and on our banner for the state fair, and discussed the scarecrow. We met on Monday July 20th and finished working on our scarecrow and finished working on the backdrop and cloth stands and finished working on community pride.

We won’t have an official August meeting, but the “mom’s meeting” will be August 17 at 6:30 for a potluck at Nancy Popkes. Next meeting will be September 21 at 7:00 at Eastern Farmers in Magnolia.

**Other Reporters: What are your clubs doing??????**

### Announcements

#### Office Hours

The Extension Office is open Monday - Thursday only; we are closed on Fridays! Please plan accordingly - and remember you can leave papers in the black drop box right outside our door!

“Like” our Rock County 4-H Facebook page!

Find photos of Rock County 4-H events and get information on our Facebook page. Find us on Facebook by searching for “Rock County 4-H” or visiting our page at http://www.facebook.com/pages/Rock-County-4-H/130324652287

**Social Media (Facebook) Policies/Standards**

The University of MN Extension/MN 4-H has recently released standards and policies for all 4-H social media. One of the most important policies is designed to keep our children safe. Posted photos should never include a child's last name and there should be NO “tagging” of photos. If your club has a Facebook or other social media page, please remind our youth that their safety is one of our top concerns and ask them not to “tag” the photos on 4-H pages.

**Volunteer Screening & Training**

Please complete any adult volunteer screening or re-screening you receive from
the Regional or State offices. PLEASE follow their directions to fill it out, sign it, return it, do it online, or whatever is requested at your individual levels. By doing it now you will be saving me (and our county) the time & expense of further follow-ups!! Adults who are having direct contact with our 4-H youth need to be properly screened to keep BOTH our youth and adults safe! Thanks for your prompt attention to this. Nancy

Attendance Policy and Consequences

The county policy on meeting attendance is: In order to be eligible for any ribbon/award higher than a blue ribbon, and to be eligible for any county financial funding, members must attend at least 2 club meetings and 2 club or county activities during the current 4-H year, and must work at the Fair Foodstand/Popstop. Post-high school members or anyone whose primary residence is at least 75 miles away must attend at least 1 club meeting and 1 club or county activity and work at the Foodstand. County financial funding would cover such things as ribbon auction funds, state fair registrations fees, camp or other event “bring it back report” refunds, youth leader trip funds, etc.

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, 2015.

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

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](http://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](http://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](http://www.4-H.umn.edu/policy) or by contacting your local Extension office ([www.extension.umn.edu/county/](http://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](http://www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/#application).

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](http://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](mailto:erinkc@umn.edu).

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.

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.

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/

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!

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

Calendar

AUGUST
• 27 - Sept. 7 Minnesota State Fair
• 31 Lego Robotics Kickoff

SEPTEMBER
• 3 Lego Registration Deadline
• 5-7 State Fair General Encampment for Rock County
• 11-13 Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational
• 14 Executive Board 6:30 pm & Federation 7:30 pm Meetings
• 14 Records Due to Clubs
• 14-28 Club Records Judging
• 16 Online enrollment for the new 4-H year begins
• 18-21 Minnesota 4-H Horse Show
• 19 Celebrate Ag & Food Day at the Minnesota Gopher football game
• 26-27 Minnesota 4-H Dog Show
• 28 4-H Records Club Nominations Due
• 28 Achievement Applications Due
• 28 Round-Up Forms Due

OCTOBER
• 1 Record Judging at County 9 am – 9 pm
• 3-4 Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador training, Perham
• 4-10 National 4-H Week & Promos
• 5 Treasurer/Leader meeting 6:30 pm
• 5 Federation annual meeting with officer elections 7:30 pm
• 8 Ambie meeting 5:45 pm
• 8 Enrollment Open House 6:30 pm
• 8 Executive Committee Meeting 7:45 pm
• 30 Club charters due to county Extension offices

NOVEMBER
• 5 Officer Training, 7 pm
• 7 Round Up Awards Banquet
• 23 Fall Volunteer Training, 6:30 pm

DECEMBER
• 5 Santa’s Workshop/Winterfest