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A Note from the Extension Office

Thank you!

Thank you Stearns County 4-H'ers, parents and volunteers!

What a wonderful summer we have all had, busy with 4-H activities! All of the hard work put into the various 4-H events and projects certainly does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. I feel that I am very lucky to be working with you all through the Stearns County 4-H Program and have had a fantastic summer! The fair, especially, wouldn't have been as successful without the help of everyone!

I know we are just wrapping up a very busy fair season with the MN State Fair concluding on September 7th, but just as 4-H'ers are heading into a new school year, we are also heading into a new 4-H year. Don’t forget to re-enroll the whole family, including volunteers. Re-enrollment will open on September 16th. How many new 4-H families can you recruit to your club this fall? Again, THANK YOU for all you do for and with Stearns County 4-H.

-Sara, Stearns County 4-H Program Coordinator

State Fair Results

Congratulations to the Stearns County 4-H members that exhibited at the MN State Fair during the Livestock Encampment August 26th - 30th! The group of 52 Livestock Exhibitors represented Stearns County well!

Good Luck to our 3 Llama Encampment participants September 2nd - 4th and our 48 General Exhibitors that will be judged September 5th - 7th!

A huge thank you to our chaperones!! Livestock- Tom S, Tom P, Erik J, Tammy F and Sally L. General- Vern H and Staci K.

4-H results and pictures from the 2015 MN State Fair can be found at:
http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/state-fair/ or "like" our Stearns County 4-H Facebook page at:
www.facebook.com/StearnsCounty4H. Not a Facebook member? That’s okay! The page is public so anyone can see it without logging in. Check the page often for updates on meetings, events and current happenings in Stearns County. We are now on Twitter! Visit:
www.twitter.com/Steams4H

Thank You for Fleet Farm T-shirts

For those of you that received a Fleet Farm t-shirt from attending the state fair, please send a thank you to:
Mills Fleet Farm Corporate Headquarters
512 Laurel Street
PO Box 5055
Brainerd MN 56401

State Fair Project Pick-Up

State Fair projects can be picked up as early as Wednesday, September 9th. Please have all State Fair projects picked up by September 21st. Any projects not picked up by that date will be tossed out or donated when possible.

Stearns Foodstand

We did it! Thank YOU for working a shift, an extra shift, picking up supplies, having a positive attitude, offering suggestions and waiting patiently for the schedule. Without each club’s dedication to making it happen, there would not have been a foodstand. A special thank you to Christine Jackson, Sally Larson and Hillary Zeppelin who stepped up and were the ones in charge of multiple shifts throughout the fair.

If you have any comments or suggestions about the foodstand, please send them to Sara at budde016@umn.edu.
Stearns County 4-H Federation Meeting

Monday, September 21st
7:30 p.m.
Holy Family School, Albany

Fall Federation Agenda Items:
* Enrollment Kick-off
* Election of Officers
* Records
* 2015-2016 Budget
* A representative from each club MUST be present!

The fall Federation Meeting is when clubs and independent members MUST pick up their New Member and Re-Enrollment Information. If your club is not represented at this meeting you must pick up your information at the Extension Office. No packets will be mailed out.

Reminder: County Records are DUE at the Fall Federation Meeting on September 21st!

Join the Stearns County Leadership Team! Federation Officer Nominations

Officer elections will take place at the September Federation Meeting. More nominations will be accepted during elections.

Those nominated for a 2015-2016 Federation Office are:

President: Hannah Kokett
Vice President: Emily Pratt, Cassie Czeck, Ashley Maus
Secretary: Kaylee Hechtel, Trish Loecken
Treasurer: Austin Schmitz
Adult Treasurer: Judy Loecken (1st term is up)
Historian: Emma Meyer
Area Representatives: will be elected by each area. Area Representatives to be elected:

Area 1: 2 year youth term 2 year adult term
Area 2: 2 year youth term 2 year adult term
Area 3: 2 year youth term
Area 4: 2 year youth term 2 year adult term
Area 5: 2 year youth term 2 year adult term
Area 1: Dusty Trails, Gopher Prairie, Northfork Livewires, Spring Hill Champs, Silver Spurs PC
Area 2: Adley Creek, Pelican Peak, Tel-Stars, Shooting Sports PC
Area 3: Albany Southsiders, Krain Town Kids, Lucky Spurs, Rocky Rangers, Explorers Exchange PC
Area 4: Cold Spring Flyers, Midnight Riders, Muddy Boots, Thundering Herd, Watnicks, Robot X PC
Area 5: Breezy Pines, Sartell Superstars, Sauk Valley, Spunk Creek Critters, 4 Paws PC

*Project Clubs were added to each area as “at large” members.

Our county is separated into 5 areas. Each area has 1 youth and 1 adult representative. 4-H members, parents and key leaders should contact their area representative with questions, concerns and success stories they would like shared at these meetings. This is the governing board for our local program and your input is important.

Outstanding Officers

Club officers may submit their record books to be judged for Outstanding Secretary, Outstanding Treasurer, Outstanding Historian, Outstanding Reporter, and Outstanding Junior Leaders Service Award. The deadline is November 1st and books with completed applications should be submitted to the Extension Office. Specific judging criteria and nomination forms will be included in the fall enrollment packets that are handed out at the September Federation meeting. Additional copies will be available at z.umn.edu/stearns4H.
Stearns County Scholarship Opportunities

Lenzmeier & Advisory Board

These scholarships are available to any Stearns County 4-H’er who has entered his/her first or second year of post high school education. The member must have been active in 4-H for at least five years. There are two $100 Advisory Board Scholarships awarded and a $75 Lenzmeier Scholarship awarded. For an application please visit z.umn.edu/stearns4h.

4-H Livestock Auction Scholarship

These scholarships are available to any Stearns County 4-H’er who are currently enrolled as an undergraduate in a university, college or technical school. Participation in the Stearns County Blue Ribbon Auction is preferred but not required. Up to six $250 scholarships will be awarded. For an application please visit z.umn.edu/stearns4h.

County Project Records

Members should have turned in their completed records to the club leader at their August meetings. The club leader will then review the records. Club records are due to the Extension Office or at the Federation meeting on Monday, September 21st. County record judging dates and locations are TBD.

Project record information and club leader forms can be found at: https://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/stearns/4-h/article/stearns-4-h-record-forms.

Livestock PDC & Auction Committee Meetings- New Committee Members Welcome!

Monday, September 14th
Hillcrest Restaurant, Albany
7:00 p.m.
Throughout the year the committees promote 4-H livestock projects by offering project days and promoting livestock events such as knowledge bowl and judging teams. The committees are responsible for planning successful livestock shows at the Stearns County Fair and Blue Ribbon Auction. Any youth or adult volunteers interested in joining the PDC are encouraged to contact Sara at the Extension office at 320-255-6169 or budde016@umn.edu.

Livestock Project Day- Save the Date!

Saturday, October 10th
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Albany (840 Lake Ave)
Time TBD
This fall Project Day will focus on information for beginners new to showing livestock. Volunteers will lead short sessions on what you need to know to get started with each specie. More information will be coming.

Stearns County 4-H Jr. Leader Meeting & Bonfire

Saturday, October 10th
4-H family home near Albany
6:30pm Meeting & Pot luck
Dark- Bonfire
Join the Jr. Leaders for a meeting and a bonfire to kick off the new year! 4-H’ers are asked to bring their calendar, a dish to share, their own beverage and a lawn chair. RSVP’s will be required by Friday, October 2nd by contacting Sara at the Extension office at 320-255-6169,
800-450-6171 or budde016@umn.edu. Those who have RSVP’d will be emailed directions the week of the event.

*All Stearns County 4-H’ers grades 7+ are welcome to attend.

4-H Re-Enrollment & Enrollment Process for 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. Remember to update your projects. Specific information is sent to members according to projects you are enrolled in.

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 the Extension office z.umn.edu/stearns4h.

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.

Message from Dorothy

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
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 Nov. 1, 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.

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 - 11 a.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.

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/.
Calendar

September
• 1-7 Live-streaming of 4-H State Arts-In Performance
• 2 Live-streaming of the 4-H Lama Costume Competition
• 5-7 Stearns General Encampment at the State Fair
• 7 Stearns Extension Office CLOSED
• 11-13 Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational
• 14 Stearns Livestock PDC (Project Development Committee) & Auction Meeting
• 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
• 21 Stearns Federation Meeting
• 21 Stearns Records due
• 26-27 Minnesota 4-H Dog Show

October
• 3-4 Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador training, Perham
• 4-10 National 4-H Week
• 10 Stearns Livestock Project Day
• 10 Stearns Jr. Leader Meeting and Bonfire
• 19 Stearns Federation Meeting

November
• 1 Club Charters DUE
• 1 Stearns Fall Club Packet Forms Due
• 1 Stearns Outstanding Officer Nominations Due
• 11 Stearns County Extension Office CLOSED
• 26-27 Stearns Extension Office CLOSED

December
• 24-25 Stearns Extension Office CLOSED

January
• 1 Stearns Extension Office CLOSED
• 18 Stearns Extension Office CLOSED
• 25 Stearns Federation Meeting