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Extension Office Relocation

The Stearns County Extension office has moved to a new space in Midtown Mall. You can now find us on the west side of Midtown in Suite 10, park in the west parking lot and enter the main doors by Midtown Fitness. Our office is the first one on your right as you enter.

Join Stearns Shooting Sports

February 7, 2016
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Albany (840 Lake Ave)
2pm
All are welcome to learn more about Shooting Sports

Do you think Shooting Sports and Wildlife are SUPER? Join us before the big game, Super Bowl Sunday, February 7th. We will be having a sign up/information meeting. Come to learn more about Shooting Sports.

We are also planning on going to the Raptor Center on Sunday, February 21st. More information at the meeting on the 7th.

Hope to see you there!

Market Beef and Dairy Steer ID Deadline

In 2016, families will again identify their Market Beef and Dairy Steer animals online. Since February 15 (Monday) is a holiday, all data must be entered online or the paper forms postmarked or submitted to the Stearns County Extension Office by midnight on February 16th.

Detailed information has been sent to 4-H members who are currently enrolled in the beef project. If you are intending to exhibit Market Beef or Dairy Steers and have not yet completed your enrollment in the Beef project, please visit http://mn.4honline.com to complete or update your enrollment, or contact the Stearns County Extension Office immediately so that the beef ID information can be sent to you. The information letter can also be found on our website at z.umn.edu/stearns4H.

Large ear tags are available for pick up and small ear tags will be available soon. Any unused ear tags are expected to be returned to the Stearns County Extension Office. Please call the office at (320) 255-6169, 800-450-6171 or email mnext-stearns@umn.edu to reserve your tags a day in advance so they are ready to be picked up. Please include your name, specie, number of tags per specie and when they will be picked up.

Please see the following website for more information on ID’ing and ear tags: www.4-h.umn.edu/animal-ID

The process that will be followed in 2016 is as follows:

1. 4-H Family picks up MN 4-H ear tags (and tag applicator, if needed) from the Stearns County Extension Office; (If you need an applicator, call order in a day in advance.. $20 deposit required for use of county supplies. Deposit will be returned upon return of county supplies.)
2. 4-H Family puts tag in animal’s ear by February 15 and completes the information worksheet (www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-ID).
3. 4-H Family self-enters information into 4HOnline and prints entry report for personal record. NOTE: Data entry must be completed by 11:59 pm, February 16, 2016; you will not be able complete identification after that point.
4. Family MUST return ALL unused and/or damaged ear tags to the Stearns Extension office by February 26, 2016.
4-H Summer Intern Positions-
Stearns & State-Wide

Application deadline: Feb. 15, 2016

Are you looking for work experience in the youth development field?

There will be county-based 4-H summer intern positions throughout the state of Minnesota, including Stearns County. Each internship will provide an excellent opportunity to learn more about University of Minnesota Extension and explore job opportunities in 4-H Youth Development. Most positions will be for ten or eleven weeks, with flexible starting dates.

Candidates must have a high school diploma, and at least two years of undergraduate study is preferred. Candidates must apply online through the University of Minnesota job site. The application materials will include a standard application, résumé, cover letter, list of three references and a college transcript. The summer intern positions will be posted soon at www.extension.umn.edu/about/employment/. The application deadline is Feb. 15.

For more information, please contact Michele VanDyke at mvandyke@umn.edu.

Exploring Agriculture Career Day

Monday, February 15, 2016 (President’s Day-no school)
8:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus- bus provided (or carpool option)
$15, includes lunch

An exciting opportunity is being offered for 4-H’ers in grades 8 – 12 to discover the vast array of careers available in the field of Agriculture! Come to “EXPLORING AGRICULTURE CAREER DAY”, on Monday, February 15th (Presidents Day) at the University of Minnesota. Check in starts at 8:45 a.m. and the day will end at 2:30 p.m. The event will be held at the North Star Ballroom located in the St. Paul Student Center. If there are enough youth and adult chaperones we will take a bus from western Stearns County and the St. Cloud area! Carpooling is encouraged if we don’t have enough for a bus.

Participants will do a career inventory, hear from panelist who work in various Ag fields, explore college options, learn about college financial planning, and take tours of the U of M campus. Don’t miss out on this exciting opportunity! Parents are welcome to attend as well with the cost of $5 for lunch. More information can be found on the flyer located on our website at z.umn.edu/stearns4H.

Stearns Dairy Project Updates

All 4-H’ers interested in learning more about dairy are invited to the following events:

The Dairy Judging team will have their first practice on Sunday, February 21st, 2 p.m. at Charlie’s Café in Freeport. More information can be found at: http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4H/events/animal-judging-contests/. Contact Sara at the Extension office (320-255-6169, budde016@umn.edu) or coach Tom Peterson (320-333-2207) for more information.

Dairy field trips will be held twice a year to learn more about the dairy industry. The first tour will be at Meadow Star Dairy near Willmar on a Saturday in April. More information to come.
4-H Unplugged! Winter Leadership Retreat

February 26-28, 2016
Chi Rho Retreat Center, Annandale
7 p.m. Friday - 11 a.m. Sunday
All youth grades 9+
$85, due Feb 19

Spend a weekend unplugged from your stress and technology learning winter survival skills, leadership skills, proper dinner etiquette and creating a clear vision for your young adult life! We’ll spend time just hanging out by the fire, playing broomball, and eating lots of food!!

Highlights include:
Survival Session with Expert Mason Grove
Etiquette Dinner
Living your dream keynote session with State 4-H Citizenship and Leadership Coordinator, Jacque Lonning
Lots of unplugged socializing with youth from across the state!

All the details and registration information can be found on our website z.umn.edu/stearns4H.

Stearns Livestock PDC (Project Development Committee) Meeting

Tuesday, March 8, 2016
Hillcrest Restaurant
7:00 p.m.

The committees are responsible for planning successful livestock shows at the Stearns County Fair and Blue Ribbon Auction. Throughout the year the committees promote the 4-H livestock area by offering project days and promoting livestock events such as knowledge bowl and judging teams. 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.

Stearns Clothing Camp- Save the Date

Friday & Saturday March 11-12, 2016
Friday: 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (bring your own supper, school is nut free)
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Holy Family School, Albany

NEW Friday night- Back to the Basics!

Participants will learn the basics of sewing and the sewing machine. The seamstresses will work with youth in small groups to learn how to begin with a pj shorts pattern (provided) and finish the evening with a completed project. Experienced youth will be sewing cancer caps for the community service project.

4-H Clothing Camp is a great opportunity to learn and grow in the clothing and textiles project area! Clothing Camp runs for two days, a Friday evening and Saturday morning and afternoon. This is not an overnight camp. During these two days youth will have the opportunity to sew, whether they are experienced in sewing or brand new to sewing. The 4-H Clothing Committee works hard to come up with projects that meet the skill levels of all participants as well as offer assistance to youth while working on their projects. Some sewing machines are provided for clothing camp so you don’t even need to own a sewing machine to attend. All Cloverbuds MUST have a designated helper with them at all times.

Brochures will be emailed out to 4-H members that signed up for the clothing project on 4HOnline and to those who attended last year. Information will also be posted on the county website z.umn.edu/stearns4H. If you have questions, please contact the Extension Office at 320-255-6169 or budde016@umn.edu.
Stearns County Share-The-Fun & Performing Arts Showcase

**Sunday April 3rd, 2016**
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Melrose High School Auditorium, Melrose

All **Performing Arts judging** (previously judged at the county fair) will take place during Share-The-Fun. Participants will receive a ribbon and State Fair line-up will be announced. Watch for more information about performances at the county fair. Be sure to add performing arts to your project list on 4HOnline today so you don’t miss out on important emails!

This is a great event for all 4-H families even if you are not participating in a skit or performing art, just come and enjoy the performances! **Registration is due March 2nd.** Registration forms for Share-the-Fun and Performing Arts are located in the club’s “Survival Guide”, which was mailed to club leaders.

Stearns County LQA&E Policy & Training

**Livestock Ethics Training  Level I and II**

All 4-H Youth, in grades 3 and above, planning to participate as a 4-H livestock exhibitor at the Stearns County or MN State Fair in beef, dairy, goat, llama, poultry, rabbit, sheep, and/or swine need to complete a Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics Workshop.

Certification is good for three sessions. The level of training required is determined by the grade of the youth at the time the training takes place.

**Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics Training Level I & II**
**Saturday, April 30th**
8:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Holy Family School, Albany
Register online: z.umn.edu/lqaeStearns
(Stearns date only)

A letter with additional information will be emailed out to those members that need to take the training or can be found at z.umn.edu/Stearns4H. If you cannot attend training in Stearns County you must attend in a different county to complete the required training. Visit z.umn.edu/lqae for a list of alternative locations. It is the 4-H’ers responsibility to pre-register for LQA&E and inform the Stearns County Extension office if attending a different county’s training.

**Stearns Winter Weather Notice**

As we embrace the cold winter months please be aware of Stearns County 4-H’s Winter Weather Policy.

The priority is the safety of our youth and families traveling. If the decision to cancel is made, you will be notified in the following ways:

- Email
- Announcements on KASM radio (1150 AM)
- Sara’s voicemail at the Extension office will be changed (320-255-6169 or toll-free 1-800-450-6171, ext. 2)
- It will be posted on the Stearns 4-H Facebook and Twitter pages- www.facebook.com/StearnsCounty4H and www.twitter.com/Stearns4H. You do not need to log into a Facebook or Twitter account to see the Stearns 4-H page.

Consider an event cancelled if at least one of the following is true:

If school is cancelled or closed early in the school district of the event

Stearns County is in a Winter Storm or Blizzard Warning

Most importantly, please use your best judgment. If an event is not cancelled, but you
are uncomfortable with the road conditions, do not attend.

Current road conditions can be found on the MnDOT website [www.511mn.org](http://www.511mn.org).

### Stearns County Summer Camp

**Who:** 4-H and Non-4-H members in grades 3-8 (grade completed)

**When:**
- 3-5 Graders Camp - June 13th – 15th (Camp I)
- 6-8 Graders Camp - June 15th – 17th (Camp II)

**Where:** Sand Dunes State Forest, Ann Lake, Zimmerman

**Cost:** $75

Come and explore what 4-H Camp is all about! Experience all the adventure and excitement we can pack into three days! You’ll be introduced to our camp traditions and favorite activities, including waterfront activities, crafts, games, challenge course and much more!

Bring a non-4-H friend with you or make new ones! Summer Camp is open to all 4-H’ers and non 4-H’ers that have completed grades 3-5 & 6-8. Flyers will be emailed out to 4-H members [z.umn.edu/Stearns4H](http://z.umn.edu/Stearns4H). Cost is $75 for 3 days/2nights.

### Stearns County Fair Dates

*See the full calendar for all summer event dates!

- **Fair Prep Day:** Monday, July 25th
- **Non-Livestock Entry Day:** Tuesday, July 26th
- **Stearns County Fair:** July 27th – 31st
- **Fair Clean-up Day:** Monday, August 1st

### Message from Dorothy

**Dear 4-H families and volunteers,**

This month, hundreds of 4-H’ers from around the state will participate in one of our five 4-H Building Leadership and Understanding (BLU) youth leadership conferences.

The annual regional youth conferences are planned and facilitated by our Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors. The ambassadors use a youth-teaching-youth approach to teach their peers about leadership and engage participants in hands-on activities, games, small group discussions, and a dance during each event. This year’s topic is called, "Find Your Element." The focus will help youth explore how they can live out the passions in their lives. The 4-H BLU conferences are one important way that we provide youth with hands-on opportunities to learn and practice leadership skills.

If you aren’t familiar with 4-H BLU, or the statewide 4-H Youth Exploring Leadership and Learning Outloud! (YELLO!) youth conference in June, I encourage you to explore these wonderful leadership opportunities for youth (and adult volunteers!)

Go to our web site at [www.4-H.umn.edu/events/blu/index.html](http://www.4-H.umn.edu/events/blu/index.html) and [www.4-H.umn.edu/events/yello/index.html](http://www.4-H.umn.edu/events/yello/index.html).

Sincerely,

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

### 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!

M4-HAVA 2016 Annual Conference

Please consider attending the 31st annual Minnesota 4-H Adult Volunteer Association Conference being held March 17-19 at the Bigwood Event Center/Best Western Inn in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. This year’s theme is Keen, Green, and Lean in 2016.

The M4-HAVA Conference is a great place for volunteers to learn about what is happening throughout the state and new trends going on in 4-H. You will meet other volunteers who are really excited about 4-H, leave with an arsenal of new activities and ideas from the 32 workshops offered to take back and share with your clubs and counties, and recognize outstanding volunteers and clubs during the annual banquet.

For more information on registration for the 2016 M4-HAVA Conference, Blue Ribbon Awards, and Membership visit www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/m4-hava/.

Judging 4-H Exhibits at Minnesota County Fairs

Minnesota 4-H depends on the skills, talents and dedication of hundreds of adults who judge 4-H projects at county fairs across Minnesota. In support of 4-H judges, Minnesota 4-H offers online training, toolkit resources and more. To learn more, or if interested in becoming a 4-H judge, visit www.4-H.umn.edu/county-fair/judges/.

2016 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge: Crush And Recycle A Can!

The 2016 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge is to create a machine that will crush an empty aluminum soft drink can and put it into a recycling container!

The third annual challenge asks teams of youth to design overly complex contraptions that accomplish this year’s designated task using everyday items that interact in a series of chain-reactions. Teams compete in contests at their county fair, and then will be eligible to compete at the Minnesota State Fair.

Teams are encouraged to register by May 15, 2016 and get started on their machines!

To learn more about the 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge and how to register, go to: www.4-h.umn.edu/events/engineering-design-challenge/index.html.

NOTE: No paper registration this year. Team leaders, members and youth coaches will sign up through 4HOnline accounts. Adult volunteer leaders must register before their team members can register.
What Do Minnesota 4-H First Year Member Parents Have To Say?

In October 2015, the first-year member parent survey was administered to parents of new members in the 2014-2015 program year. We do this survey annually to learn more about the experiences of our families new to the 4-H program. This survey asks parents to give feedback on items such as how welcoming their experience was, if their child had opportunities for learning, and if policies were challenging.

What did we learn this year?:

- Overall parents and youth feel welcomed into the program.
- A quarter of parents felt that enrollment and membership policies were challenging.
- 94% of parents said the topics their child worked on were of interest to them.
- 80% of parents agreed that their child became really good at something they worked on.
- We have a large number of youth who are experiencing 4-H for the first time in their family. Over 45% of our survey respondents had never had exposure to the 4-H program in their family history.

Currently teams of educators are looking at this information and thinking about how we can improve the 4-H program to help all our members.

Thank you first year member parents for responding to this survey!

Calendar

**February**

- 6-7 Central BLU, St. Cloud
- 7 Shooting Sports Meeting
- 15 Stearns County Extension Office Closed
- 15 Market Beef ID’s DUE
- 15 Application deadline for 4-H summer intern positions- Stearns too!
- 15 Youth application deadline for state 4-H beef committee
- 21 Dairy Judging- first practice
- 26-28 4-H Unplugged! Winter Leadership Retreat

**March**

- 2 Stearns Summer Camp Counselor Applications DUE
- 5 Regional Project Bowl, Foley
- 8 Livestock PDC Meeting
- 11-12 Stearns Clothing Camp
- 12 Regional Project Bowl, Hastings
- 17-19 M4-HAVA 2016 Annual Conference, Fergus Falls
- 19 Jr Leader’s serve meal at Ronald McDonald House
- 19 Regional Project Bowl, Bemidji
- 19 Regional Project Bowl, Redwood Falls
- 21 Stearns Advisory Board Meeting
- 29 Youth Day at the Capitol
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th>July</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2  Regional Project Bowl, Snow date</td>
<td>2-9 Citizenship Washington Focus</td>
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<td>3  Stearns Share-The-Fun &amp; Performing Arts Showcase</td>
<td>4  Stearns Extension Office CLOSED</td>
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<td>7  Livestock PDC Training Webinar</td>
<td>7  Stearns Day Camp- Cold Spring (tentative)</td>
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<td>9  Camp Counselor Training</td>
<td>12  Stearns Day Camp- Paynesville (tentative)</td>
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<td>16  State Project Bowl, Sauk Rapids</td>
<td>18  Stearns Livestock Fair Orientation for new families</td>
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<td>17  County livestock PDC training webinar</td>
<td>18  Stearns Foodstand Training</td>
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<td>23-24 4-H Shooting Sports &amp; Wildlife Leader Certification training, Mora</td>
<td>19-20  Stearns Arts-In Practice</td>
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<td>30  Stearns LQA&amp;E Training</td>
<td>25  Stearns Fair Prep Day</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>26  Stearns Non-Livestock Judging Day</td>
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<td>15  Livestock ID’s DUE</td>
<td>27-31  Stearns County Fair</td>
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<td>15  2016 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge registration due</td>
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<td>16  Stearns Federation Meeting</td>
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<td>30  Stearns Extension Office CLOSED</td>
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<td>June</td>
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<td>5  Stearns Softball Fun Day</td>
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<td>5  Stearns Camp Counselor Meeting (after softball)</td>
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<td>8-11  YELLO!</td>
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<td>13-15  Stearns Summer Camp- grades 3-5</td>
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<td>15-17  Stearns Summer Camp- grades 6-8</td>
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<td>15  Fair Project Registration Due (via FairEntry)</td>
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<td>22  Stearns Day Camp Counselor Training</td>
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<td>23  Stearns Favorite Foods Show &amp; Demonstration Day</td>
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<td>August</td>
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<td>1  Stearns Fair Clean-up Day</td>
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<td>9  Stearns Day Camp- Sauk Centre (tentative)</td>
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<td>11  Stearns Day Camp- Albany (tentative)</td>
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<td>24-28  MN State Fair Livestock Encampment</td>
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<td>25-9/5  MN State Fair</td>
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<td>September</td>
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<td>5  Stearns Extension Office CLOSED</td>
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<td>9-11  State Shooting Sports &amp; Wildlife Invitational</td>
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<td>16-19  State Horse Show</td>
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<td>19  Stearns Federation Meeting</td>
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<td>19  County Records Due</td>
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<td>October</td>
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<td>2-8  National 4-H Week</td>
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<td>17  Stearns Federation Meeting</td>
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