Going the Extra Mile — by Dorothy Freeman, State 4-H Director

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!

In This Issue:

A New Year Begins........................................................................................................... 2
Highlights of the Month................................................................................................ 3
Across the County......................................................................................................... 4-5
4-H and You: Statewide............................................................................................... 5-8
Calendar and Deadlines............................................................................................... 8
A New Year Begins

Families across the county are making the transition from summer to fall, from days on the lake to days in the classroom. Fall also marks the changeover into a new 4-H year! I am excited for our 4-H program to grow on the successes of the past year, and hope to see some new things emerge in 2015-2016. Please pay special attention to this newsletter as it highlights some important things coming up as we transition into a new 4-H year, starting with getting your family/kids re-enrolled!

Online enrollment for 4-H 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.

A note about projects: By signing up for a project in 4HOnline you are not committing to doing the project. Our office uses these lists to communicate to each group. If you think you might be interested, sign up!

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 your local Extension office.

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.

Minnesotta 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. 30, 2105.

Open House

I am looking for 4-H youth that would be willing to showcase a project you love on Monday, October 5th from 6:30-8:00 pm. We will be having the Open House at the Chisago Lakes Area Library.

Pick a project that you know well and set up a display that has some hands on activities for kids to do. Or set up a display about camp, ambassadors, Project Bowls, etc. This is a great event that draws in new 4-H members for our program. Your presence shows the community that 4-H is a valuable program!

Sign up online or contact the Extension Office.

DON’T FORGET TO INVITE SOME NEW FRIENDS OR FAMILIES
Highlights of the Month

Awards Banquet - September 29, Reception begins at 6:30 pm

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1000 South Jay Ave, Rush City

The 4-H year is coming to a close which means it is time to think about nominating a 4-H member or volunteer to receive an award at the Awards Banquet. If you did not get an Awards Packet they are available online. Nominations are due to the Extension Office by September 8.

This year the North Stars 4-H Club will be hosting the event in Rush City and we will be inviting local partners, commissioners, and contributors to join us. Along with handing out awards we will be recapping the year with stories and a photo slideshow! Don’t miss it! Please bring a dish or dessert to share.

Fall Harvest Festival

I am inviting help from across the County to help make the North Branch Harvest Festival on September 26 a strong marketing event. Please sign up online in the available times. I would like at least 3 people signed up to be at each time.

I will update the sign up as it gets filled in so people can know how many spaces are available.

SIGN UP HERE to man the booth and share about 4-H in Chisago County.

What is already provided?

There will be general information to hand out to people you meet about 4-H in our County as well as invitations to the upcoming Open House. We will also be looking to have some hands on interactive activities for kids to do.

What should you bring?

Please plan on bringing your own food and water. If you have things that highlight something specific in your club/project area bring it to display or share with others. The more diverse representation we can show the more people we can draw in!

Fall Project Day – Nov 7

After seeing a great increase in attendance at the Project Workshop Day in January 2014 we are looking at holding a Fall Workshop Day to kick off the 4-H year. This workshop day will be a mini-version of Project Workshop Day but will still give 4-H members and interested members a chance to try out something new.

If you have a passion you would like to share at Fall Project Day contact the Extension Office. We are looking to fill 15 different sessions. This would be a great event to make holiday themed projects for Thanksgiving or Christmas gifts. The date is November 7, 2015 from 9-12:30.
Across the County

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.

Fall Volunteer Training – October 24

“All together, Not all the same”

How well do you know the stories of your fellow 4-Hers? Where are they from? What’s their family background? We each have different experiences, backgrounds, values and beliefs that make us who we are.

This fall we have crafted a great training to help us grow closer as a 4-H community by celebrating our uniqueness through understanding our differences.

Learning objectives include:

- Recognizing your own cultural lens and how that lens impacts your relationships with others.
- Learning strategies and gaining tools and skills to implement when working across difference in the 4-H program.

This training will provide you the opportunity to integrate principles of positive youth development with diversity and inclusion practices that can be applied to the 4-H program that you serve. You’ll leave with a new perspective as well as resources, activities and lessons you can use with your club, project, or any other context.

The Fall Volunteer training this year will be done in partnership with Isanti County. We invite each club to send a team of adult and youth leaders to attend this great training experience. The event is scheduled from 10:00-1:30 pm with lunch included. Location TBD

Youth Officer Training – October 24

Do you have new youth officers who are unsure of their responsibilities or returning officers who would benefit from some leadership development? Join us in the fall for a Youth Officer Training. This will be a half-day training which will focus on developing leadership skills and highlighting the important aspects and responsibilities of being a Youth Officer. Breakout sessions will allow specific roles a chance to share together the things they have learned and brainstorm new ways of doing things. We will also spend time doing various team-building activities.

The Youth Officer Training will be held following the Fall Volunteer Training on October 24th – more details will be coming in the upcoming newsletters and will be posted online.

Ambassador Applications Now Available

Are you looking for ways to improve your leadership skills or share what 4-H means to you with local communities? Do you like to work with younger kids or organize and plan events? Then the Chisago County Ambassador Program is for you. The ambassador program is open from anyone from 9-12 grade that has been in 4-H for at least one year. The ambassadors meet once a month and plan activities such as Project Workshop Day, Open House, and other leadership events. They also have a lot of fun doing team building activities, and spending time with other 4-H’ers.

Applications will be due to the Extension Office on September 15. Download an application on our website or contact the Extension Office.
Getting in Gear with Robotics

The Chisago County 4-H Robotics teams are set to begin another great year. We have had great interest and will be expanding our teams. Practices will start in September at 6:30-8:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Saint Paul Lutheran in Wyoming. New robotics members should make sure they enroll after September 16.

Cottontails: Hop in to year 2

Interested in rabbits? The Chisago County Cottontails has a place for YOU!

The Cottontails will meet Monday, September 14th at the Chisago Lakes Library and then afterwards will meet monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. For more information contact the Extension Office or Sheila Hoff at houseofhoff@yahoo.com

Dairy Opportunities Begin

4-H members who are looking to learn more about the dairy project are invited to attend monthly meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month starting at 6:30 pm. Contact Ana Zack for information: anachristinezack@gmail.com. Let Ana know if you want to help volunteer!

Horse Project Events

There will be no horse project meetings September – February. Be on the lookout for workshops and events to attend including:

- **September 16th-21st** - State 4-H Horse Show- please come down to cheer on your fellow 4-Hers. We will be having a pizza lunch on Saturday and more info will come out soon.

- **October 10th** - Regional PDC Committee Meeting

- **October 11th** - Sunday- Chisago County Horse Project Trail Ride & Potluck (11:00 am trail ride & 3:00 pm potluck at the trail center). You are welcome to camp over the weekend and must reserve your spots ASAP.

- **November 12th** - NEW PDC COMMITTEE MEETING 6:00 PM Almelund Town Hall*. This will be for those youth and adults interested in joining the PDC. You must be present at the meeting to be accepted into the committee (see more details on page 6)

December 10th- PDC COMMITTEE MEETING 6:00 PM Almelund Town Hall

For more information on the Horse Project contact the Extension Office or Tara Jacobson at t.l.w.2604@hotmail.com

Photography Contest

All entries from the Photography Contest this year will be entered into a raffle prize drawing to win a $20 Gift card to Shutterfly. Be on the lookout for a new contest starting in October that will include a separate entry for adults!

The July/August winning photo was taken by Cadence Eischens who is a member of the Northern Lights and Soaring Eagles 4-H club.

Management Board Meeting

The management board will next meet on September 15, at 7:00 pm at the Lake State Credit Union. Newly elected officers will begin their terms.

Budget Proposals

As we look to create plans for the 2015-2016 4-H year I am asking that project groups please submit budget proposals to the Extension Office by September 1st. Please be as detailed as possible in your calculations so that the Management Board can review these and fit them into the overall 4-H budget.
Asset Inventory

We are also asking that project groups who have inventory that belong to 4-H please complete or update a new inventory of items that can be included in our Asset Inventory. Please contact Jeremy if you have questions or need a form to use for this purpose.

Run Wild 5K Committee

The Run Wild 5K Committee team will begin meeting this fall to plan out next year’s 5K Fundraising event. If you are interested in helping us put on this race, or have suggestions on how we can do things better please join us! Contact the Extension Office. We will plan to meet 4-6 times between now and the June race. Stay tuned to the website for details.

Cafeteria Committee

We will also be organizing a Cafeteria Committee to consider long term improvements of our Cafeteria and make improvements from our current operation at the County Fair. Contact the Extension Office if you are interested.

Horse Project Development Committee (PDC)

PDC Committee meeting: November 12: 6:00 pm

For the next few months we will be looking for new PDC members as this is the year we will take on new members for 2016. For those who don’t know what the PDC is it is the Horse Project Development Committee. We will be looking for 5 adults (including 2 leaders) and 5 youth to be the representatives or voice of our horse project. The people on this committee will in turn eventually be the decision makers for our project to help grow and make the best decisions for our youth and project. Below are just a few of the requirements/things needed out of these members:

MN 4-H Horse Project Development Purpose

1. Oversee the development, planning, promoting and implementation of educational programs and events in the area of horse science for Minnesota 4-H youth, their families and leaders.

2. Stimulate interest in and promote 4-H youth programs with horses through effective communications with all partners – members, families, leaders, staff and other partners.

Qualifications:

1. Have a strong desire to nurture positive youth development utilizing research-based youth development principles in horse subject matter resources.

2. Be familiar with and understand project materials and forms available in the horse project.

3. Ability to effectively communicate with individuals and groups.

4. Be familiar with and understand how strong committees work and be willing to implement those guiding principles.

5. Attend most if not ALL County, Regional, and State PDC meetings.

Please contact Tara Jacobson if you are interested in joining into this team.

Extension Committee

This committee provides an opportunity to serve a county-wide role to help with Extension program development and evaluation, advocating for the annual Extension budget, and providing advice on the selection and evaluation of county Extension staff. The Extension Committee serves as an advisory committee to the Chisago County Board. More information and applications can be found HERE. Current vacancy is in Commissioner Districts #3.
4-H and You: Statewide

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.

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.

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 October 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!

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.

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 – Stay connected by following the Chisago County Calendar of events online! Bookmark this website to have instant access to all of the meetings and events: Chisago County 4-H Calendar

SEPTEMBER

• 11-13 Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational

• 15 Management Board Meeting, 7:00 pm @ Lake State Credit Union (see page 5)

• 15 Chisago County 4-H Ambassador Applications Due (see page 4)

• 18-21 Minnesota 4-H Horse Show

• 26-27 Minnesota 4-H Dog Show

• 26 North Branch Harvest Festival, 9-5, North Branch Central Park (see page 3)

• 28 Chisago County 4-H Ambassador Orientation (TBA)

• 29 Awards Banquet, 6:30 pm @ First Evangelical Lutheran, 1000 South Jay Ave, Rush City

OCTOBER

• 3-4 Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador training, Perham

• 5 Open House, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm @ Chisago Lakes Area Library (see page 2)

• 11 Horse Trail Ride and Potluck, 11:00 am at Wild River State Park (see page 5)

• 24 Fall Volunteer Leaders Training, 10:00 am, Location TBA (see page 4)

• 24 Fall Youth Officer Training, 2:00 pm, Location TBA (see page 4)