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Steele County 4-H Calendar

March 2016

1  St. Mary’s After School
2  Owatonna Library After School
3  Ellendale After School
6  Pasta Dinner/Silent Auction, 3:30-7 PM, OJHS
15  Shooting Sports Archery Kick Off, 6-7 PM, SCCC
16  4-H Staff Training Day (office open but 4-H staff out)
17  Livestock PDC meeting, 6:30 p.m., SCCC
18  HyVee Dinner - Fair Fundraiser
19  Volunteer Appreciation, 5-10 p.m.
21  4-Honline Club Leader Training, 5:30 p.m., Extension Office
21  4-H Club Council, 7 PM, Extension Office
22  State Horse PDC Webinar, 7 p.m.
22  Softball Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Extension Office

Did you know?

...our 4-H Calendar of events is posted on the Steele County Extension website? For a direct link to the calendar bookmark this link: http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/steele/4-h/article/steele-county-4-h-calendar. The website is updated on a regular basis. Check it out, you never know what you will learn!
Message from Dorothy

Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

Over the last few years, you may have heard or read about how youth need “social-emotional” or “soft” skills to succeed in learning, school, work and life. More and more, the value of these skills - including confidence, self-control, caring, and problem solving - is being examined to understand how they are acquired, and where and how they are being taught.

Youth learn these skills in a variety of environments – at school, in youth programs and at home.

The Search Institute recently released a study called, “Don't Forget the Families,” which highlights the power of family relationships as a critical, but often neglected, factor in developing these skills. A key finding is that parent-child relationships are 10 times more powerful than race, ethnicity, family composition, and family income in predicting whether children are developing these skills.

The Search Institute has created a useful booklet called “Bringing Developmental Relationships Home: Tips and Relationship Builders for Families,” with activities and tips that families can use to help youth develop these important skills and strengths: http://www.search-institute.org/downloadable/SearchInstitute-DontForgetFamilies-Activities-10-13-2015.pdf.

I encourage families to explore how you can help youth develop social emotional skills that will prepare them to succeed.

Sincerely,

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

2015-2016 4-H Enrollment

Hurry you don't want to MISS OUT!!! It is time for members and volunteers to enroll for the 2015-2016 4-H Year! If you have not enrolled or re-enrolled in your new project areas, you might be missing some important emails! So here are some things to help you through the enrollment process:

The website at which to enroll/re-enroll is https://mn.4honline.com. You’ll find Quick Start and Detailed Instructions there on how to enroll.

- If you have trouble re-enrolling, check your browser. You will need to use Internet Explorer 10 or higher, Chrome, Firefox, or Safari. If you still have trouble, call the Extension office at 444-7685 or complete a paper enrollment form available at the Extension office.

- Make sure you check the proper gender – male or female.

- Update your personal AND family profiles including street and email addresses. Most emails from the office are sent to family email addresses – make sure yours is correct.

- Update your project areas. The system will keep your old projects entered until you change them. We’ll be sending out livestock ID and project information soon so make sure you’re on the right lists.

- Be sure to work through each screen and complete all information.

- We no longer need a signed hard copy of the Authorization form BUT you must check and accept all items on that screen.

- If you have any questions about enrolling or re-enrolling, please call the Extension Office at 507-444-7685.
2016 4-H COUNTY FAIR REGISTRATION

NEW IN 2016 – County Fair Exhibit Registration will be an online process this year too! You will receive instructions in June when the system is fully set up and working…but for now...KEEP IN MIND, you will only be able to register for County Fair exhibits if you are already enrolled or re-enrolled in 4honline. See the instructions for re-enrollment in this newsletter under the '2015-2016 4-H Enrollment' article.

Cloverbud Adventures

Mark your calendar now for these Cloverbud Adventures for the year!

**April** – What’s your Project – Thursday, April 21, SCCC from 6-7 p.m.

**May** – Cloverbud Kickball - Sunday, May 22 at 1 p.m. on Diamond 1

**June** – Cloverbud Day Camp - Tuesday, June 28, SCCC from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Ambassadors

Upcoming Meetings:

**March**--Watch your email for the meeting announcement

**April 24**--Extension Office, 4-6 PM

**May 23**--SCCC, 6-7 PM

4-H Club Council

Steele County 4-H Club Council Meetings

4th Monday of each month at 7 PM at the Steele County Community Center (SCCC), unless announced otherwise.

NOTE: March Meeting is a week earlier ***

MARCH 21, 2016
Location: Extension Office
Roll Call: Where would you land after parachuting?
Program: Online Leader Training
Lunch: SRS

APRIL 25, 2016
Location: SCCC
Roll Call: If you could be any animal what would you be?
Program: R_E_S_P_E_C_T
Lunch: RB

MAY 23, 2016
Location: SCCC
Roll Call: What is your dream vehicle?
Program: Online Leader Training
Lunch: EH

Every Club should have at least one representative attend these meetings to bring information to Club Council and take information back to the club.

Leader Trainings Online

Did you know that all volunteers need to complete ONLINE VOLUNTEER TRAINING? Volunteers can easily access these trainings and get the support they need to make a difference in the lives of Minnesota youth through the 4honline website at https://mn.4honline.com. This series of dynamic, interactive 30-minute online training modules allows volunteers to build their volunteer skills and knowledge from home. Sign into your screen in 4honline and click on the Trainings tab to access the available sessions.

Leader Training - Monday, March 21 (5:30 Dinner-6:00 Training)

This training is for volunteers who have been designated on their 4-H club programs as club leaders. We will hold the training at the Extension Office where you will get hands on experience with the 4honline software. You will
learn how to run the reports your club needs so at least one leader from each club should attend this training. An email will be sent by March 1 to leaders with club logon authorization. This email will include your club logon information and a link to the 4honline Leader Guide. You can use this guide to explore leader report options prior to the training - bring any questions to the March 21 meeting.

Volunteer Training – Tuesday, April 19
(6:00 Dinner - 6:30 Training)

Everything a volunteer needs to know about keeping youth safe in this organization is in this training. Throughout this training you will work through some situations that happen in every 4-H club along with having all this vital information at your fingertips. At least one adult from your club needs to attend this risk management training.

Volunteer Training – Tuesday, May 17
Kitchen Connections
(6:00 Dinner - 6:30 Training)

Everything happens around the kitchen table right? Well this volunteer training will be happening around the kitchen table too. Again this year all volunteers need to complete an ONLINE VOLUNTEER TRAINING! So May 17 is that day. We will have several online trainings happening throughout the SCCC so you can choose just the right one. Remember that every screened volunteer needs to complete one of these trainings.

Volunteers can easily access these trainings and get the support they need to make a difference in the lives of Minnesota youth through the 4honline website at https://mn.4honline.com. This series of dynamic, interactive 30-minute online training modules allows volunteers to build their volunteer skills and knowledge from home.

PROJECT INFORMATION - ANIMAL SCIENCE:

PDC Plan for 2015-2016

The PDC (Project Development Committee) meetings are planned for the new 4-H year! Remember these meetings are open to all who would like to share in the planning, education, and rules review of each livestock species area. All meetings, except the October meeting, are held at the SCCC starting with food at 6:30 PM and lasting no later than 8:00 PM. This year, some new EDUCATIONAL pieces will be part of each PDC meeting. Here is our plan for the rest of 2016.

- Thursday, March 17 - SCCC – Tacos / Finalization of Fair Book Changes / Hollywood Squares
- Thursday, May 19 - SCCC – Pizza / Writing Bonus Trips / Wheel of Fortune
- Thursday, July 21 - SCCC – Subs / County Fair Planning / Telethon Call Night

Statewide PDC Livestock Webinar

There will be a statewide PDC Webinar on Thursday, April 7 at 7 p.m. at the Extension Office. This webinar will have information about Cloverbuds, the grievance policy and other statewide information. Come and hear it for yourself.

LQA&E Trainings

LQA&E (Livestock Quality Assurance & Ethics) training is already starting up for the upcoming fair season! Here are the local training dates for this year! Remember, if you have not taken LQA&E training, or if the last time you took it was 2013 or before, you must take the training this year to be eligible for State Fair Livestock Exhibition and/or to Market Your Swine.
**Project Animals.** You can check the date of your last LQA&E training in 4Honline.

* **Steele County:** Saturday, April 2, 9 AM-12 Noon - Call 444-7685 NOW to register - we are almost full!
* **Freeborn County:** Saturday, June 11, 9 AM-12 Noon - Call 377-5660 to register

**EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:**

**Pasta Dinner & Silent Auction**

– March 6

It's that time of year...time to "gear up" for our 12th Annual Fundraiser — the “4-H Pasta Dinner and Silent Auction”. This special event will be held from 3:30-7 PM at the Owatonna Junior High.

We ask that each 4-H family sell 10 tickets to the Pasta Dinner. All tickets are numbered and recorded; and you are responsible for the tickets given to you. By selling ALL 10 of your tickets, your family members qualify for 4-H activity discounts. Tickets have been sent out - if you have not received yours or if you need additional tickets, call or stop by the Extension Office. All money for sold tickets AND all unsold tickets should have been turned in to the Extension Office by Monday, February 22. If you have not yet returned all UNSOLD tickets AND all MONEY you collected for SOLD tickets to the Extension Office, please bring them to the Extension office now! **DO NOT THROW AWAY UNSOLD TICKETS!**

Your club leader also has a “volunteer worker” sign-up sheet. Please check your schedule and sign up for the time that works best for your family to help at this fundraiser. We need lots of “helping hands” to make this event run smoothly. The proceeds from this fundraiser support “4-H Summer Programming”. This means that the ENTIRE 4-H program will benefit from this event!

Let’s try to make it a HUGE Success and lots of FUN for everyone!

**Silent Auction baskets and items** are welcome as well. Each club is asked to donate a basket and if you, as a family would like to donate to the auction as well, please bring your donations to the Extension office by Friday, February 26 so they can be recorded prior to the auction.

**Softball**

Yes, it’s COLD outside ~ but we are talking **softball**! We are also looking for some new Committee Members. Our first committee meeting will be scheduled for mid to late March at the Extension Office. If we are to continue with the softball program, we need additional committee members! HELP us out with this! Let the Extension Office know of anyone interested.

Clubs should be thinking about their teams and their coaches NOW. Rosters were given out at the February Club Council meeting and are due back to the Extension office by April 15. Make sure all coach or team manager contact information is completed on the rosters too – name, address, phone etc. **Remember, all coaches must be “screened volunteers”**. If your coach has not yet submitted their volunteer paperwork, have them do it now!

We will be having a **Coach’s Meeting** on Tuesday, April 19 at 6 p.m. at the SCCC to review rules, teams and divisions! This is a mandated meeting because of new changes - someone from every team needs to be at this meeting. Call the Extension Office if you have any questions.

**Adult Volunteer Appreciation**

- Saturday, March 19

Do you help out at livestock ID at county fair? Do you coach softball? Are you a club leader or do you help out in your club? Are you on a county committee? Do you attend club council livestock PDCs, leader trainings or any other county event?
If so, the Adult Volunteer Appreciation Event is just for you! **So mark your calendar now for March 19, from 5-10 PM!!!!**

REMEMBER – This is open to all adult volunteers, not just the club leaders! Call the Extension office now to reserve your place.

**Shooting Sports & Wildlife**

**NOTE: Date has been changed from March 1 to March 15!**

We are ready to get started with archery as part of the 4-H Shooting Sports and Wildlife project! If you are currently in 4th grade or higher and are interested in archery, plan to attend the **Kick Off Night on Tuesday, March 15 at the Steele County Community Center from 6 – 7 p.m.** This night, you will be learning about archery basics, rules, and equipment.

**4-H Lock-in Date is set for Friday, April 8**

This event is back by popular demand! Location and times are yet to be determined, but put the date on your calendar. Watch for more details to come.

**4-H Family Movie Day – Sunday, April 17**

The 4-H Family Movie night that was cancelled in December has been rescheduled for April 17 as an afternoon matinee. The movie we plan to see is The Jungle Book. More information will be available in the upcoming newsletters.

**Summer Camp 2016 at Camp Patterson**

**NOTE: Camp dates have been changed since the last newsletter!**

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

**Youth Camp: Grades 3-6**
Session 2 - June 15-17: Freeborn, Mower, Rice, **Steele**, Waseca

**Teen Camp: Grades 6-8**
All Teens - June 22-24: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Nicollet, McLeod, Sibley, Carver, Scott, Freeborn, Mower, Rice, **Steele**, and Waseca.

Camp is located at Camp Patterson on Lake Washington in Madison Lake, MN. Camp registration forms will be posted to the Steele County Extension website in April or before. Save the date on your calendar and join us for summer camp!

**You should be a Camp Counselor!!**

Summer is right around the corner and it is time to think about being a 4-H Camp Counselor at Camp Patterson! If you are in ninth grade or older and want to develop your leadership skills, help campers have a great experience, make new friends from other counties, and have a whole lot of fun, then you should consider becoming a camp counselor. Camp dates are listed above. If you are interested, complete the Camp Counselor Application by the deadline of Friday, February 26, 2016. Sign up today!!!
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 are available online at www.4-h.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-certification/. Deadline to register is April 8, 2016. Disciplines fill quickly, so make sure registration forms are sent in early!

Scholarships for college-bound 4-H youth

Are you entering college this fall? Did you know that each year the Minnesota 4-H Foundation awards over $20,000 in scholarships to college-bound 4-H’ers? Applications are due April 15, 2016. Visit the Minnesota 4-H Foundation website (http://z.umn.edu/sga) to learn more. Direct questions to Erin Kelly-Collins (erinkc@umn.edu/612-624-7667)

Minnesota Alliance with Youth Red Wagon Awards: Due April 1

The Red Wagon Awards honor young people in grades 6-12 in Minnesota that have shown resilience and overcome obstacles to achieve academic gains, give back to their community and grow to become leaders among their peers.

In 2016, the Alliance will be honoring three Minnesota youth and one youth-led community service club, each nominated by caring adults, peers or partners in their local community. Each individual winner will receive a $500 education scholarship, and the winning youth service group will receive $500 to support the work of their group. Any young person or youth-led service group in grades 6-12 in Minnesota is eligible for nomination.

The nomination form is available online through April 1.

The award winners will be honored at the 2016 Alliance fundraiser and Red Wagon Awards celebration event on June 23 at Macalester College. For nomination criteria and additional information about the Red Wagon Awards, visit mnyouth.net/work/red-wagon-awards/.

Youth Day at the Capitol with Minnesota 4-H!

Enrolled Minnesota 4-H members are invited to attend a Youth Day at the Capitol (YDAC) event with the Minnesota Alliance with Youth from 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29, 2016! The YDAC will provide both training and engagement opportunities for youth in grades 6-12 to participate in the legislative process. Screened volunteer chaperones will also be needed. The application process will open on Feb. 18, and the deadline to apply is March 11. Additional details are available at 4-h.umn.edu/events/youth-day-at-the-capitol.
Presidential Inauguration Focus

Minnesota 4-H will be selecting a group of 50 youth from across the state to attend the 2017 presidential inauguration in January. The application material will be posted in early March and will be due in mid-April, with selection occurring in May. This will be a competitive application process, and open to Minnesota 4-H members in grades 9 through one year past high school, as of January 2017. More information will be posted Mar. 1 at http://z.umn.edu/cwfinauguration.

Calendar

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

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

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

JULY
2-9 Citizenship Washington Focus