Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

It is fair season again, and I know many of you are preparing to participate in 4-H at your county fairs this summer. I know you, like I, enjoy seeing the wonderful accomplishments of our youth.

For the third year, we will be live-streaming some of our 4-H events at the Minnesota State Fair. Our goal is to provide a way for 4-H families and friends who are unable to come to the fair to see some of the 4-H fun from home. The livestream is provided on the internet, so you can watch from computers, laptops, smart phones or any mobile device with internet service.

We're live-streaming three 4-H events at the fair this year: the 4-H Lama Costume Competition, 4-H Dairy and Market Goat Show and the 4-H Performing Arts.

The 2015 4-H at the Minnesota State Fair live-streaming schedule is:

- **August 28**, 8am-2pm: 4-H Dairy Goat Show
- **September 2**, 6-7pm: 4-H Lama Costume Competition
- **August 26 - September 7**, 9am-9pm: 4-H Performing Arts in the 4-H Building

Watch the shows live [here](#).

A recording will be available on the 4-H Arts-In, llama, and goat project pages of the Minnesota 4-H web site after the fair.

I hope those of you who can’t join us in person enjoy seeing some of our wonderful 4-H’ers who are sharing their learning and accomplishments at the Minnesota State Fair this year.

Sincerely,

Dorothy M. Freeman

Associate Dean and State 4-H Director
State News and Events

Get the app! 4-H at the Minnesota State Fair

If you have a smart phone and you’re going to the state fair, you should download our free app. It combines all of our state fair communications into one place:

- NEW: MN 4-H Sheep
- Judging results
- Public schedule
- Interactive map
- Livestock shows and general projects announcements in real time - switch on the alerts function, and you won’t even need to open the app.
- MN 4-H Beef
- MN 4-H Dairy
- MN 4-H Announce for all other projects

State fair winners and families, volunteers, staff and all fairgoers interested in 4-H will find it useful. Download it from the iTunes or Google Play store.

If you don’t have a smart phone, you can receive these messages on your cell phone by texting “Follow MN4HAnnounce” to 40404. Text “STOP” when you want them to stop. These accounts are active during the state fair.

To join a conversation about 4-H, use the Twitter app and follow MN4H.

4-H alumni at the State Fair

Do you plan on visiting the state fair this summer? The Minnesota 4-H alumni & friends community is looking for alumni who can volunteer a few hours during the fair. Volunteers who fill a 3-hour shift in either the 4-H building or the 4-H livestock areas will receive a complimentary gate ticket and alumni t-shirt (must be 19 years or older). To learn more, visit this site. We’d love to see you there.

General & livestock demonstrations

Awards of $30 will be given to all 4-Hers who complete a 4-H demonstration during general encampment and livestock encampment. This includes livestock & general encampment, illustrated talks, and Youth in Action presentations.

New in 2015; 4-Hers doing Avian Flu demonstrations at the county fair will receive a $30 cash incentive. This includes 4-Hers who are not yet state-fair eligible. There will be an additional $50 award for Avian Flu demonstrations at the state fair.

Livestock Demonstrations:

- Each county is allowed one additional state fair livestock trip for a livestock demonstration exhibitor.
- All livestock demonstrations must incorporate a live animal into the demonstration.
- The 4-Her must demonstrate on livestock weekend and can also participate in all other species activities (show, interviews, showmanship).
- Counties may add one additional state fair trip in the species area of the demonstration.
EquiMania

Do you love being around people at the state fair? Want a free ticket and a cool t-shirt? Volunteer for two hours at the award-winning EquiMania exhibit in the horse barn. Horse knowledge is not required - the exhibit activities are easy and fun for guests. EquiMania is a great opportunity for families, friends, 4-H clubs, small group and individuals to participate at the fair and have a great time doing it. The Minnesota State Fair is just around the corner...and is very much in need of volunteers for this year’s fair. Please consider volunteering for a short two-hour shift. We welcome all volunteers, so please be sure to share this fantastic opportunity with your friends, families and colleagues. Email us or call 651-288-4480 today. More info available on the MN State Fair website.

4-H Scholarship opportunities

High school seniors and college students - check out the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association Scholarship (MLBA) and Minnesota State Fair Scholarship Program (formally known as Hallberg Scholarship) opportunities online.

4-H Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics (LQA&E) Policy

All youth participating as a state fair 4-H livestock exhibitor in beef, dairy, sheep, swine, poultry, rabbits, meat and dairy goat and lama must have completed the Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics Workshop. Certification is required prior to the county fair qualifying show and is good for three fair seasons. The level of training required is determined by the grade of the youth at the time the training takes place.

Please contact your local extension office or visit our animal science site for training near you.

4-H Dairy Showcase: Honoring Blue Ribbon Kids

This event recognizes overall achievement of Minnesota 4-H Dairy Project exhibitors who have demonstrated year-round participation within 4-H and the dairy industry including:

- success with the animal
- knowledge of the dairy project and industry
- involvement within 4-H and dairy communities
- activities in school, church and community

The Minnesota 4-H Dairy Showcase will recognize the top 25 4-H Dairy Project members who exhibit at the Minnesota State Fair. Details and online portfolio are available at online.

MN 4-H Poultry Prince & Princess Contest

The Minnesota 4-H Poultry Prince & Princess Contest is a scholarship program offered by Minnesota 4-H and Gold’n Plump. The Poultry Prince & Princess Contest details are available online.

4-H is again hosting Chef for a Day Cook-Off

The Chef for a Day Cook-Off will be held during all state fair encampments and is open to all 4-H state fair exhibitors. Each county will provide a team of 3-5 exhibitors for a two-hour program during livestock encampment and every general encampment. The first hour will include an educational activity, and the second hour will be the Chef for a Day Cook-Off. All equipment will be supplied as well as all of the meat, and some possible ingredients. Teams may bring additional ingredients but note that no refrigeration is
supplied. There will be no morning assignments and will be awarded prizes.

**4-H Summer Employment opportunities**

A variety of employment opportunities are available at 4-H state-level summer events. Applications are accepted up to five working days prior to the event. Additional details are available online.

**Share the Fun**

State fair Share the Fun nominations/applications were available as of June 1. Rehearsal times are assigned on a first come, first-served basis upon receipt of the nomination/application forms. More information can be found here.

**Premium book only available online**

The 4-H at the Minnesota State Fair premium book will only be available online. You can access it through this link.

**MN 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational**

The 2015 Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational will be held in Douglas County (Alexandria) **September 11-13**. 4-H members who are involved in their county 4-H Shooting Sports and Wildlife Program will participate in a variety of events such as BB gun, archery, air rifle, air pistol, trap, .22 rifle, black powder and wildlife events. In order to participate, members must work with a certified 4-H instructor and complete 15 hours of training in a discipline and 8 hours of wildlife education.

The state 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational is a great way to demonstrate the skills learned in a safe environment. Come to the Alexandria Shooting Park (located on Interstate 94 - Alexandria exit 103) **September 11-13** to see the 4-H members in action. To learn more about the 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Program, or to see the rules and registration information, contact your Extension office or visit the website. Registrations will be due to your county Extension office on **July 20** or a date pre-determined by your county.

**MN 4-H State Horse Show**

Mark your calendar: The annual Minnesota 4-H Horse Show will be held **September 18-21**. Watch the Minnesota 4-H Horse website for more information.

**Minnesota 4-H Dog Show**

Mark your calendar: The Minnesota 4-H Dog Show will be held **September 26-27**. Watch the Minnesota 4-H Dog website for more details.

**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 **October 3-4** training in Perham.

Program information, application, and reference forms can be found online.

Applications for new Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassadors are due **August 24**.
4-H Volunteer Corner

4-H chaperones and the Minnesota State Fair

In the Minnesota 4-H program the state fair is recognized as the grand finale of the summer. Each year “The Great Minnesota Get-Together” provides over 6,500 4-H members with the opportunity to showcase their projects at the state level. This would not be possible without 4-H chaperones. Serving as a 4-H chaperone is an important responsibility. Prior to chaperoning any 4-H program, including the state fair, training is required. The training modules cover roles, expectations and best practices to help ensure youth have a quality educational experience. Serving as chaperones provides a valuable service and enables caring adults the opportunity to positively shape the life experiences of many young people.

The online training, 4-H chaperone policies: A guide for 4-H adult chaperones, found online. It offers valuable information to help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for the youth and the adult chaperones.

4-H Volunteer Training 24/7

4-H has a comprehensive and multi-format system of training and support for the thousands of volunteers who deliver 4-H youth development programs to young people across the state. Much of that training is provided face-to-face. But we know that providing some training opportunities online will help our volunteers more easily access the training and resources they need, when they need it. Minnesota 4-H offers a series of dynamic, interactive 30-minute online training modules to help volunteers build their skills and knowledge from home at any time of the day or night. Check out current online volunteer training topics:

- Managing 4-H clubs: A guide for 4-H club leaders
- 4-H financial management
- Ensuring a safe 4-H environment
- Chaperone training
- Keeping youth in 4-H

Training modules for individual viewing can be accessed through any adult volunteer account on 4-H Online. A detailed user guide is available online. We’re striving for 25% of Minnesota 4-H volunteers to complete at least one online volunteer training module by September 30. Which one will you try?

Reward yourself! For each module you complete, your name will be put in a regional drawing for a 4-H Mall gift certificate. Four names will be drawn on October 1. Congratulations to our latest winners: Marcy Holl (Douglas County), Julie Leitch (West Otter Tail County), Kathryn Hill (Hubbard County) and Jennifer Floding (Douglas County).

Calendar of Events

August

24 Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador applications due
27-9/7 MN State Fair
28 Live-streaming of the 4-H Dairy Goat Show
31 Live-streaming of 4-H State Arts-In Performance

September

2 Live-streaming of the 4-H Lama Costume Competition
11-13 MN 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational
18-21 MN4-H Horse Show
26-27 MN 4-H Dog Show
October

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