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Exploring Agriculture Career Day

Monday, February 15, 2016; 9:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.

University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus –
North Star Ballroom in Student Center

Registration Deadline is Monday, February 8th

4-H youth in grades 8 and up are invited to attend an exciting day at the University of Minnesota! It’s time to discover the opportunities awaiting you in the world of agriculture! From finance, advertising, teaching to engineering...these jobs and many more are waiting for future employees just like you! Come discover your interests, hear from panelists working in agriculture positions, take a short tour, enjoy a mini career fair, and learn what you should do to prepare yourself for college. There will be a college financial planning presentation at 1:30 p.m. in North Star. Parents are welcome to attend.

Registrations forms are available online and will be sent to club Key Leaders.

4-H Summer Intern Positions

Deadline to apply: February 15

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

Once again this year, there will be county-based 4-H summer intern positions throughout the state of Minnesota. 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 on-line 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/.

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

Market Beef ID Deadline –
FEBRUARY 16

Beef project members, remember this important deadline! All market beef ID’s must be completed on 4Honline.com no later than February 16. This is a strict Minnesota 4-H deadline. Any market beef animals ID’ed after the deadline will not be eligible State Fair trips. 4-H ear tags, which will be needed for this process are available for $2.00 each in the Wright County Extension Office. Please have members contact us if they have any questions, or if they did not receive ID information in the mail.

Citizenship Washington Focus

Registration starts February 16, 2016

Conference dates are July 2-July 9 2016

Thousands of young people from across the United States come to the National 4-H Youth Conference Center every summer to participate in CWF, a citizenship and leadership program held in Washington, DC. Through a series of speakers, committee work, field trips and social events, participants learn the importance of citizenship and social responsibility and are given the opportunity to explore, develop, and refine skills needed to be an outstanding leader on both a local and national level.
Share-the-Fun & Cabin Fever Fun Events

February 20th at St. John's Lutheran Church, Buffalo

8:30 AM – Practices & Member Activities begin; 1:00 PM – Showcase begins

Registration Due: February 15th.

Share-the-Fun is coming up quickly! Make sure to begin planning for your club skit or individual performance. At Share-the-Fun, clubs present a short skit (less than six minutes). The club decides the theme. The first-place club receives the opportunity to perform at the 2016 Minnesota State Fair! Other prizes are awarded as well!

We also welcome any individual or small-group talent acts to perform between club skits. Think of it as the dry run for your County Fair performances with the chance of a prize! Registrations will be sent to club Key Leaders.

**New** Games and project activities will be going on in other areas of the building so you will be entertained all morning! Even if you aren't performing in the skit, please join us for a day filled with service projects and community bonding.

Unplugged Winter Camp

February 26–28, Chi Rho Retreat Center, Annandale

Registration Deadline: Feb 19

All youth in grades 9+ are invited to spend a weekend unplugged from stress and technology learning winter survival skills, leadership skills, proper dinner etiquette and having fun! After January 15 cost is $85 - deadline to register is 4:30 pm Friday, February 19. Information was sent out to members in the Clover Express. Full information can also be found on our Extension website.

Cloverbud Day

March 13th at Zion Lutheran Church; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Cloverbud Day is an event offered each year for youth under 3rd grade. It’s hosted by the Wright County Ambassadors who are planning tons of fun crafts, games, and activities targeted for our Cloverbuds. A flyer will be emailed to age eligible members soon!

Science & Engineering Exploration (SEE) Day – The Science of Star Wars

March 13th at Zion Lutheran Church; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Do you like science? Do you want to learn how an Engineer thinks & designs? Join us for Science & Engineering Exploration Day (SEE). Youth 3rd – 6th grade will have an opportunity to have hands-on fun with science, engineering, technology & math. SEE Day will be held Sunday, March 13 at Zion Church in Buffalo from 1-4pm. This year’s theme is the Science of Star Wars. Learn about robots, electromagnets, floating vehicles and much more. Sessions will be led by 4-H youth and adult volunteers on the STEM Team. Check out the March Clover Update for more information. Come and SEE what the fun is all about!

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/.

Federation Meeting
March 28, Wright County Gov’t Center, Room 120, 7:00 p.m. (6:15 p.m. Advisory Council)

What do you know about 4-H on the county level? Do you know the regional and state events coming up? What are other clubs in the county doing? Come to a Federation meeting!

All parents, leaders and youth leaders are invited to attend the 4-H Federation meeting as voting members. The Federation generally meets on the fourth Monday of the month. Policies and financial decisions which affect county programs are determined by the Federation. Some clubs even assign 4-H members to attend and report back to the club. Most Federation meetings begin at 7 p.m. in Wright County Government Center Room 120. The Advisory Council meets at 6:15 p.m.

- March Host Clubs: Wright Explorers, Roaming Buffalo, Albion Aces
- March Showcase Club: Chatham Climbers
- April Host Clubs: Woodland Woodettes, Chatham Climbers, & Lucky Loons
- April Showcase Club: Albion Aces

Wright-Hennepin Annual Meeting Fundraiser
March 31 3:00 PM – 7:30 PM, Wright-Hennepin Building
6800 Electric Drive, Rockford, MN 55373

Save the date for the annual Wright-Hennepin Meeting fundraiser – it is the afternoon and evening of Thursday, March 31! Look for more information about the fundraiser coming soon.

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!

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 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!

Winter Event Cancellation Policy

In case of last-minute inclement weather, we will post cancellation notices on Wright County 4-H’s Facebook site: http://z.umn.edu/wrightcounty. Please check the site if the weather is questionable. You do not need to be a Facebook member to view our page.

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 and www.4-H.umn.edu/events/yello/index.html.

Sincerely,

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

Calendar

February
• 1 Residence Camp Counselor Applications Due, Extension Office, 4:30 PM
• 6-7 4-H Central Region Building Leadership & Understanding, St. Cloud Holiday Inn & Suites
• 7 Ambassador Meeting, Wright County Government Center, 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM
• 15 Extension Office Closed – President’s Day
• 15 Application deadline for 4-H summer intern positions
• 15 Youth application deadline for state 4-H beef committee
• 15 Exploring Agriculture Career Day – University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus, 8:45 – 2:30 PM
• 15-22 Residence Camp Counselor Interviews
• 16 Market Beef & Dairy Steer Animal ID Deadline, Extension Office, 4:30 PM
• 20 Share-the-Fun & Cabin Fever Fun Event, St. John’s Lutheran Church, 8:30 practice, 1:00 show
• 26-28 Regional Winter Camp Retreat, Camp Chi Rho, Annandale, MN, 7 pm – 11 am

March
• 5 Regional Project Bowl, Foley
• 7 Ambassador Meeting, Corinna Township Hall, 5:00 – 7:00 PM
• 10 Horse Project Committee Meeting, Gov’t Center, Room 120, 7:00 PM
• 12 Regional Project Bowl, Hastings
• 13 Cloverbud Day, Zion Lutheran Church, 1:00-4:00 PM
• 13 Science & Engineering Day, Zion Lutheran Church, 1:00-4:00 PM
• 17-19 M4-HAVA 2016 Annual Conference, Fergus Falls
• 19 Regional Project Bowl, Bemidji
• 19 Regional Project Bowl, Redwood Falls
• 20 Tentative Residence Camp Counselor Meeting
• 28 Advisory & Federation Meeting, Gov’t Center Rm 120, 7:00 PM (Advisory at 6:15 PM)
• 29 Youth Day at the Capitol
• 31 Wright Hennepin Electric Annual Meeting Fundraiser

April
• 2 Regional Project Bowl, Snow date
• 3 Tentative Residence Camp Counselor Meeting
• 7 County livestock PDC training webinar
• 9 Regional Residence Camp Counselor Training
• 9-14 National 4-H Conference, Washington, D.C.
• 10 Ambassador Meeting, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
• 16 State Project Bowl, Sauk Rapids
• 17 Tentative Residence Camp Counselor Meeting
• 18 Rube Goldberg Kick-Off Meeting, Gov’t Center, 5:00 – 7:00 PM
• 18 Advisory & Federation Meeting, Gov’t Center Rm 120, 7:00 PM (Advisory at 6:15 PM)
• 18 Foodstand Committee Meeting, following Federation meeting
• 23-24 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification training, Mora and Worthington
• 30 Communication Contest, Zion Lutheran Church, Buffalo, 10:00 – 4:00 PM
• TBA Shooting Sports & Wildlife Program Kick-Off
• TBA Dog Training & Vaccination Clinic

May
• 1 Tentative Residence Camp Counselor Meeting, 3:30 – 5:30 PM
• 1 Ambassador Meeting, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
• 6 4-5-6 Night, Salem Lutheran Church, Greenfield, 6:00 – 9:00 PM
• 12 Horse Project Committee Meeting, Gov’t Center, 7:00 PM
• 15 Tentative Residence Camp Counselor Meeting, 3:30 – 5:30 PM
• 15 2016 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge registration due
• 16 Animal ID Deadline, Extension Office, 4:30 PM
• 16 New Member & Club Dues Deadline, Extension Office, 4:30 PM
• 16 New 4-H Family Night, Wright County Fairgrounds, Howard Lake, MN, 6:30 – 8:00 PM
• 30 Extension Office Closed – Memorial Day
• TBA LQA&E Training
• TBA Wildlife Day

June
• 2 Livestock PDC Meeting, Gov’t Center Rm 120, 6:30 PM
• 3-4 Tentative Overnight Residence Camp Counselor Training, Lake Ann Day Camp
• 16 Ambassador Meeting, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
• 19-24 Wright County Residence Camp, Lake Ann Day Camp
• 27 Advisory & Federation Meeting, Gov’t Center, 7:00 PM (Advisory meets at 6:15 PM)
• 28-30 Science Camp, Gov’t Center, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
• TBA Foodstand Meeting
• TBA Horse, Rabbit, Dog Project Clinics

July
• 1 County Fair and State Shoot Registration Deadline
• 2-9 Citizenship Washington Focus
• 4 Extension Office Closed – Independence Day
• 15 Participation Summaries Due to Key Leaders
• 18 Advisory & Federation Meeting, Fairgrounds, 7:00 PM (Advisory meets at 6:15 PM)
• 18 Foodstand Meeting, following the Federation meeting
• 19 Ambassador Meeting, 4:00 – 6:00 PM
• 26 Wright County Fair Entry Day
• 27-31 Wright County Fair

August
• 14 Year End Ambassador Party, 1:00 PM