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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 a 4-H State Arts-In performance.

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

- **Friday, Aug. 28, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.**: 4-H Dairy and Market Goat Show
- **Monday, Aug. 31, 5-5:30 p.m.**: 4-H State Arts-In performance
- **Wednesday, Sept. 2, 6-7 p.m.**: 4-H Lama Costume Competition

Watch the shows live here: [4-H.umn.edu/state-fair/4-h-live-cam/](4-H.umn.edu/state-fair/4-h-live-cam/)
A recording will be available on the 4-H State 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

Watonwan County 4-H Federation Constitution and Bylaws

Our new constitution and bylaws were introduced at our June Federation meeting. If you have any questions or would like to look at a copy please contact the Extension office. These will be voted on at the September 21st Federation Annual meeting. Please make sure your club is informed and has representation at this meeting. Any questions need to be addressed as soon as possible.

4-H Shooting Sports Program

We will be having 8 youth compete at the State Shoot this year. Cara Teigum, Clay Winrich, Michael Nett, Karsan Davis, and Alissa Voyles with Archery, Gabrielle Nett with 22 rifle, and Race & Walker Regier with Trap Shooting. Wish them luck!

County Fair

Michelle and I would like to say “THANK YOU” to our awesome county’s 4-H families. There is no way we can list names of everyone that went the extra mile for the fair, there is so many of you and I would not want to forget anyone. During the fair we have those that make sure the Exhibit building looks awesome, work the 4-H office and help record everything, help with Bingo, set up the photo area, picked up litter, make sure the livestock barns are okay and the shows are covered. Do you know that with everyone working together, we can tear down the arena, pens and have all the bedding pushed either to the middle of the barn, or hauled out, and the barns ready to be locked up for the year in an hour. Meanwhile up at the other end of the fairgrounds we have the group that is putting away the food stand and exhibit building. Special thank you to the food stand & bingo ladies!

State Fair Livestock Meeting

We need a family representative to attend this meeting.

Wednesday, August 12th at 8pm

Extension Office

Mark your calendars.

State Fair

If you have any questions about state fair call the office ASAP.

Don’t forget if Sue is taking your project to the state fair for registration, you need to bring it to the office with a picture on August 12th.

If you are doing Fashion Review, Demonstration, Potatoes, Vegetable, Flower, Indoor, or other Gardening you will be taking your project with you.

State Fair Travel-Livestock

Load livestock truck starting at noon on August 26th.

Please eat lunch before you come to the fairgrounds—or pack a lunch for the bus ride.
Bus will load as soon as truck is ready to depart.

Make sure you label all items—highly visible!

Dorm assignments won’t be complete until after final state fair registration closer to state fair.

You might want to get a battery operated fan.

**General Encampment – Busing (Travel with Martin County)**

**Sunday, August 30**

11:30 a.m.: Load bus at McDonalds in Fairmont
11:45 a.m.: Bus Departs
12:15 p.m.: Pick-Up at BP Gas Station in Madelia
3:45 p.m.: Bus Arrives at State Fair Grounds

**Tuesday, September 1**

3:15 p.m.: Bus loads on north side of 4-H Building on the State Fairgrounds, St. Paul
3:30 p.m.: Bus Departs
6:30 p.m.: Drop-off at BP Gas Station in Madelia
7:00 p.m.: Bus arrives at McDonalds in Fairmont

**4-H Year End**

Start thinking about the end of year 4-H jobs. Close all financial books by September 30th, and have them audited. Financial reports and Charters will be due at the Extension Office by October 20th.

**Plans for the New Year**

When you are planning your new club year, don’t forget to include ways to promote 4-H. You are the lifeblood of our county program—help us grow!

**4-H alumni at the Minnesota 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 z.umn.edu/4Halumni. We’d love to see you there!

**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:

- 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!
  - MN4HBeef
  - MN4HDairy
  - NEW: MN4HSheep
  - MN4HAnnounce 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.
General & livestock demonstrations

$30 awards 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!

For the livestock demonstration:

- 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 at Equimania@mnsstatefair.org or call 651-288-4480 today! More info at mnstatefair.org

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 at www.extension.umn.edu/youth/scholarships/.

Minnesota 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 4-H.umn.edu/projects/animal-science/lqae/index.html for training near you.

Minnesota 4-H Dairy Showcase: Honoring Blue Ribbon Kids

This event recognizes overall achievement of Minnesota 4-H Dairy Project exhibitors that
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 that exhibit at the Minnesota State Fair. Complete details and online portfolio are available at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/dairy-showcase.html.

**Minnesota 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 at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/poultry-prince-princess.html.

**Minnesota 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 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 -- but there will be 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 at www.4-h.umn.edu/state-fair/employment/.

**Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show**

Mark your calendar: The annual Minnesota 4-H Horse Show will be held September 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 September 26-27, 2015. Watch the Minnesota 4-H dog website for more details at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/state-dog-show.html.

**Premium book only available online**

The 4-H at the Minnesota State Fair premium book will only be available online! You can access it at www.4-H.umn.edu/state-fair/resources.html.

**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 at: 4-H.umn.edu/projects/shooting-sports/shooting-sports/

Applications for new Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassadors are due August 24, 2015.

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!

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 at 4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training/, 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:
• Creating a welcoming, engaging and encouraging environment for youth
• The 4-H learning environment
• 4-H project leaders: Where the action starts!
• 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 www.4honline.com/. A detailed user guide is available at www.4-h.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training. We’re striving for 25% of Minnesota 4-H volunteers to complete at least one online volunteer training module by September 30, 2015. Which one will you try?

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST
• 12 State Fair Livestock Meeting
• 26-30 State Fair Livestock
• 27-Sept 7 Minnesota State Fair
• 30-Sept 1 State Fair General

SEPTEMBER
• 11-13 Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational
• 18-21 State Horse
• 26-27 Minnesota 4-H Dog Show
• 30 End of 4-H Year

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