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THANK YOU

-To Stephanie LaMotte who chaperoned BLU. Washington County had 12 youth delegates attend this leadership weekend.

-To Dan Rydeen, and Brad Bowman for tagging the market beef and dairy steers. Thank you for your time traveling around the county to take care of this important task.

-To Samantha Mehta and Kyeana Cormier for sharing information on Horse Hippology at the January Federation Meeting.

-Avis Peters for her hard work coordinating One Act Play and the Performing Arts Festival. So much fun for everyone involved and a great start to our always successful Performing Arts Season!!

- Caitlin Rademacher and Megan Slater for being outstanding emcees at our One Act Play and Performing Arts Night
CONGRATULATIONS

Hippology Results

Washington County’s Intermediate Hippology team took 1st place at Nationals! The National contest was held at the Black Hills Stock Show in Rapid City South Dakota. The team consisted of; Meghan Walsh, Teresa Stanislaw, Bridget Kaari and Grace Knowlan.

Theresa Stanislaw placed 3rd place overall as an individual – there was a 3-way tie for first place. There were 3 girls who received 195 out of a possible 200 points. The tie was broken by scores for stations. Congratulations Theresa!

The team won 1st place overall for Hippology and 1st place for quiz bowl! Way to go! Special thanks to Peggy Walsh for making the trip with the team and Ivy Cormier for coaching the team!

2016 Foods Revue Results

On February 6th, over 34 4-H members participated in our Annual Food Revue Day. Everyone did a great job! Hennepin and Ramsey Counties joined us once again for this fun event. Thank you parents for helping your 4-H’ers learn these life long skills.

Sr. Grand Champion: Kit Bitner
Sr. Reserve Champion: Lucas Bertram
Sr. Honorable Mention: Carly Abelson, Tracey Nelson, Megan Nelson
Jr. Grand Champion: Grant Abelson
Jr. Reserve Champion: Kendall Tinklenberg
Jr. Honorable Mention: Carolyn Wohlers and Justice Egler

Also many thanks for Kim Bjerke and club members for setting up the tables and preparing the space for us at Valley Creek Mall Friday night. A fun and educational day was held by all.

Explore Ag Career Day

Explore Ag Career Day was a huge success! Thank you to the youth from Washington County who participated in this event. There were over 200 youth and adults who joined us for this career exploration event at the U of M. Dean Durgan started the day by welcoming the 4-H’ers to campus, and applauding them on their commitment to exploring higher education and considering career paths in agriculture. The rest of the day included a panel discussion with agriculture professionals who shared their backgrounds and their career paths. There were also 4 tour options of the U campus, along with a Student Panel discussion focusing on ‘life as a college student.’ The day also included a college fair and a session on financial planning.

One Act Play and Performing Arts Festival Results

The Performing Arts PDC held their first event of the year with the One Act Play and Performing Arts Festival on Feb. 19th at Stillwater Jr. High. The evening was filled with bouts of laughter and well deserved applause. The St. Croix Clovers club was our only One Act Play this year and they were OUTSTANDING. We hope they will join us to perform at the Share the Fun competition.

The Performing Arts awards were presented to:
Caroline Allessi, vocal solo, 1st place
Allison Belter, vocals, 2nd place
Andrew Pearson, viola, 3rd place

The first two of our talented winners will be invited to perform their presentation at the county fair.

HEALTHY LIVING TIPS

One of our initiatives in the 4-H program is to promote Healthy Living. Every month we will include a Healthy Living Tip in the Clover Update. Every 35 days, your skin replaces itself. Your liver, about a month. Your body makes these new cells from the food you eat. What you eat literally becomes you. You have a choice in what you're made of. You are what you eat.
NEW MEMBER 4-H TIPS

- You need to have your child enrolled in 4-H before they can participate in 4-H activities or identify their Animal Science projects! Enroll at: www.4-H.umn.edu/4honline
- Invite a friend to join 4-H!
- Some fun and educational events are coming up for all ages of 4-H members! Read about them in this Clover Update!
- Check out the calendar (in the back of the Update) for spring and summer events as they become available.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Project Pursuit – Saturday, March 12th

This spring project pursuit is going to be a wonderful time filled with ideas and activities geared towards preparing you for the fast approaching fair season. Don’t miss out on this great opportunity to learn more about your projects from professionals within our community! Join us for learning more about the Shooting Sports and Wildlife projects, or learn to make Origami. Try your hand at building an edible arrangement and learn about Food and Nutrition, or explore other cultures with our Global Connections project. Hands on learning at its finest - all 4-H members are invited to attend on Saturday, March 12th at Hooley Hall on the fairgrounds. Project Pursuit begins at 9:00 a.m. and will end at 12:00 p.m. Pizza will be provided! Cost is $5/child before March 4th, $10 after the deadline. Pre-registration is needed for this event as we can only take a certain amount of youth in each project area. You must be enrolled in 4-H to attend this event. Registration forms are found HERE. Please call the office with any questions – 651-430-6800.

Creative Arts Day – Saturday, April 23rd

The all popular Creative Arts Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd for youth in grades 4 and up. This event takes place at Hooley Hall on the Fairgrounds. Youth will select from a variety of classes related to fine arts and crafts. Registration material will be posted on the website.

Cloverbud Learning Day – Saturday, April 30th

This year’s Cloverbud Learning Day is on April 30th from 9am-12pm at Hooley Hall. We will be hosting a nature themed day filled with learning, games, songs and activities! Have your Cloverbud come enjoy a day run by our Ambassadors. Other activities will give your Cloverbud the chance to make new friends through activities involving cooperation and teamwork. At the end of the day, we will have lunch and send them home to you with lots of new stories, friends, and ideas to bring to the fair! Registration forms are due April 10th and can be found HERE!

INFORMATION UPDATE

4-H Re-Enrollment – TIME TO RE-ENROLL for the 2016 4-H year!

Enrollment for the new 4-H year is now open 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. Reenrolling 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. 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 the Washington County Extension office.

Washington County Enrollment Fee

The $45/member enrollment fee (including Cloverbuds) should be collected at the club level. The enrollment fee should be paid to your local club. The Extension Office will in turn bill each club for the total number of members enrolled at the end of December and again after the May
15th enrollment deadline. If your family has a need for scholarship money to join 4-H, please go to our website, download the scholarship form and return it to our office.

**How to become a Screened Adult Volunteer**

If you are a club leader, project leader, project bowl coach, instructor, etc. you must be screened! If you 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](http://www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/#application), beginning the selection process.

**New Family Mentorship Program – Looking for new and experienced 4-H families!**

Washington County 4-H is very excited to announce a New Family Mentorship program for the new 4-H year! We are looking for experienced families to mentor new families from the same 4-H clubs. The goals of the mentorship program are to create a welcoming and supportive environment for new 4-H families and to increase their awareness of all the opportunities that 4-H can offer. Mentor and mentee families will be provided with activities that allow the families to get to know each other along with different topics areas to discuss regularly during the program year such as projects, county and state fair, and other opportunities within 4-H. If you are a new or an experienced 4-H family and are interested in the mentorship program or have any questions please contact Alyssa, kruze008@umn.edu.

**Display your 4-H projects at the Washington County Libraries!**

The Washington County Library system is looking for 4-H projects to display at their libraries. If you are interested in displaying your 4-H projects reach out to Alyssa, kruze008@umn.edu or 651-430-6807.

**Champion Program**

Would you like to submit a quote for the Summer 2016 Champion t-shirt? Here is your opportunity! The Grand Champion Program Team will begin the quote selection process soon. First, we would like you to have an opportunity to submit your favorite quotes. All you need to do is send your idea(s) via email to jhnsn7440@msn.com on or before **April 1, 2016**.

The quote...

- must promote the best ideals 4-H offers (standards, ethics, morals),
- must be anonymous or original (it should not be attributed to anyone famous or otherwise),
- must be appropriate for male and female,
- must be of reasonable length to fit neatly on the back of a youth large t-shirt (6-18 words).

Submit your ideas to the Champion Program Team at [jhnsn7440@msn.com](mailto:jhnsn7440@msn.com). You can send them within the email text or as an attachment. If you have thoughts for t-shirt colors you can include those as well. All ideas will be added to the quote list anonymously prior to the committee.

**What is your passion?**

We are looking for adult volunteers to help work with 4-H youth on project specific areas. Would you be willing to donate one hour or more to working with 4-H youth who have the same interests as you? You don't need to be an expert - do you have interests in horses, shop, foods, photography, the environment? You choose the amount of time that works into your schedule, one hour, or a series of workshops. If you have a hobby, skill, or talent that you would like to share, please reach out to us at the Extension office to help get you started. You can contact Ann at churc109@umn.edu.
MN Zoo Farm Volunteer Opportunity

Do you love talking to people and being outdoors? Would you like to share fun facts about, pigs, sheep, goats, chickens, dairy cows, horses and rabbits and provide an opportunity to touch some of these animals? Would it be fun to explain how to feed, groom and take care of a goat? The Wells Fargo Family Farm at the Minnesota Zoo is an exciting place where guests have the opportunity to interact with farm animals and the zoo is looking for people who want to provide guests with a fun and educational farm experience to become Family Farm volunteers. Volunteering is not only fun, it can provide valuable experience when applying for an internship or first job. Volunteers must be 17 years or older. Your time commitment includes one shift per week for 14 weeks of summer with missing no more than 2 dates. Applications are being accepted now. After receiving your application, you will be sent an email that includes a link to sign up for an information session which includes a 5 minute interview. Acceptance into the program requires 2 training days, passing a child protection background check and reading the farm volunteer manual and completing a farm animal quiz packet. For more information about the program, training dates or to apply, visit mnzoo.org or use this link Volunteering at Minnesota Zoo

Shooting Sports Training

Shooting Sports training areas are as follows: BB gun, Pellet Rifle/Pistol, DNR Safety Class, .22 Rifle, Shot Gun and Archery. There is a $20 per person with a $40 dollar family cap to help cover costs of the supplies – sign up night was on January 19th. If you missed Orientation night, you will find the Registration form on our website, or call the office for information. All equipment is supplied except eye and hearing protection. The winter training sessions will be held at Hooley Hall. The remaining dates are as follows; March 8th, 15th, and 22nd. The DNR Firearm Safety class will be 6:30 to 8:30 PM on April 5th, 12th, 19th (@ Gov’t Center), 26th, May 3rd and 10th.

The goal will be to prepare 4-H members to compete in the State Shoot in September. To accomplish this, we will offer 15 hours of training time on the firing line for each area and 8 hours of Wildlife training. This is a state requirement. For more details, contact Tim Warmka at warmka@comcast.net, (651) 501-9757 (evenings only).

As the Shooting Sports Program continues to grow, we are always in need of additional volunteers. If you would like more information about the possibilities, please contact Tim Warmka at; 651-491-9327 or warmka@comcast.net

Summer Resident Camp

We have partnered with Dakota County to offer an amazing overnight camp experience this summer! We could not be more excited about the activities that will be offered and the wonderful experiences we know your youth will have. Camp fills up QUICKLY, and there are only a certain amount of spots available, so make sure that you go HERE right away and get your registration in to Dakota County. Please sign up for the second offered session - June 27-30 as that is when Washington County will be joining the fun.

PROJECT & EVENT INFORMATION

2016 Fashion Revue – Save the Date!

Mark your calendars now for the 2016 Fashion Revue that is scheduled for Thursday, June 23, 2016. As the date is a few weeks earlier this year, it may be wise to shop for your fabric or purchase that special outfit over Spring Break! Don’t wait until school is out to start sewing! The event will be held at the Woodbury Stafford Library and Amphitheater. Judging will take place during the day – there will be an evening show this year. Watch for more information to come.

2016 Shooting Sports Training
Performing Arts Update - Arts-In

We are happy to announce that Bobby Ragoonanan will be the Director and choir director this summer. Arts-In information is now up online and all necessary forms can be accessed HERE! Please be aware that Student Director applications are posted and are due to the office NO LATER than March 25th! Should anyone have any comments, suggestions, ideas, or input for the upcoming year’s Arts-In production, please email them to Emily at Emily.fulton-fischer@co.washington.mn.us.

Now is the time to start thinking about Share the Fun! Share the Fun is a 7 minute skit that clubs put together to perform. It is a fantastic way to build public speaking, teamwork, and acting skills. Registrations are available online now and are due April 13th! Please go HERE for registration forms. Contact Emily Fulton-Fischer for more information.

ANIMAL SCIENCE PROJECTS

***ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION***

All 4-H project animals (dairy, beef, sheep, swine, poultry, goat, rabbit, lama, horse and dog) all need to be IDENTIFIED. Watch for all animal identification information to be e-mailed directly to 4-H members' homes who are “enrolled” in these projects. All animals (except market beef and dairy steers which were identified by Feb. 16th) need to be identified by May 15th.

Rabbit Workshops

Rabbit project members will have the opportunity to participate in county wide rabbit workshops this spring and summer. Watch for more information to come...

Required LQA&E Training (Livestock Quality Assurance & Ethics Training)

Youth participating in the Livestock Projects of Dairy, Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goat, Lama, Rabbit and Poultry are required to attend Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics Training every three years in order to exhibit at the Minnesota State Fair. Youth in grades 3 – 6 normally attend Level I Training, while youth in grades 6 and up attend Level II Training.

-A training date for Washington County’s LQA & E Training has not yet been determined. Once that information is available, it will be found in the monthly Clover Updates

There will be many opportunities for you to attend the required training throughout the State. See the link to the State 4-H website that lists various dates and locations at: http://www1.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/events/LQAE-Training-Materials.html

You have the option of attending any counties LQA&E training. Verification of attendance must be sent to the office.

Livestock PDC

The mission statement of the Washington County Livestock PDC is...To engage youth, in partnership with adults, in quality learning opportunities through their livestock projects that enable them to shape and reach their potential. Through these experiences the young people develop life skills, responsibility, competition, financial management, and lifelong commitments.

The next Livestock PDC meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20th at the Fairgrounds. Part of the agenda will include doing a walk through of fairgrounds to determine needs that will enhance the county fair experience for the livestock members.
Horse PDC (Project Development Committee)

The next Horse PDC meeting will be on March 14th beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Stillwater Gov’t Center. Come get involved and help plan educational activities for our 4-H youth! New members (adults and youth) are always welcome!!

Horse Project Pursuit Day

Plan to attend Horse Project Pursuit Day being held on Saturday, March 19th at Hooley Hall on the Washington County Fairgrounds. We will meet from 9:00 a.m. - noon (check in 8:45 a.m.). There is a new twist to the previously held Horse Project Day’s. There will be various hands-on learning activities for 4-H members to participate in and you will have an opportunity to ask questions about the Horse Project. There will not be a guest speaker. This is a great opportunity to connect with other horse members! Registration is required, the form can be found HERE. Call Barbara at 763-234-2457 or Gail at 651-336-5474 with questions.

Dog Training Orientation – Sign Up Night

Dog Orientation night is scheduled for Monday, April 11th at Hooley Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m. All dog project members and a parent are expected to attend this orientation, even if you have participated in previous years. Please bring updated Dog Forms if you have them as staff will be there to collect them. Information that will be covered will include resources within the project as well as volunteer opportunities. We will have a dog training demonstration day the following Monday, April 18th at Hooley Hall that we encourage you to attend as well to get more of a feel regarding what the classes actually are. The schedule will be explained more fully at orientation, but obedience, showmanship, and rally will be on Tuesday evenings, and agility on Monday and Thursday evenings. Once confirmed, the training dates will be posted on the Dog Project schedule found at http://washingtoncountydog.org.

Dog Project

Welcome to mid-winter, the time of year when we all start looking to spring and the excitement it holds! Dog training is just around the corner and is time to think about making sure your dogs’ shots are up to date and getting your health forms in order to sign up for the Dog Project. I cannot stress enough the importance of ensuring your dogs are up to date, as you cannot start training without proof of those shots. I am ready for another fun filled year with obedience, rally, showmanship and agility – are you?

We are looking to you to help us improve the program, and welcome any and all feedback you have for us to help keep our enrollment numbers up. If you are interested in taking a larger role in the dog project, please contact us for information on how to join the PDC. For more information go to our web site at http://www.washingtoncountydog.org.

The Dog PDC will be having a meeting soon, look to the web site calendar for date and time. Should you have any questions about the dog program, how to get your family pet and youth involved, please feel free to contact me, or Emily Fulton-Fischer at the office – 651-430-6805.

Karl Reimer
651-472-3522

Lama Project Bowl team

Anyone interested in being on a lama project bowl team should contact Shannon Klindt at; shannonklint98@gmail.com. Lama teams will compete at the state level on Saturday, April 16 at Sauk Rapids-Rice High School.
Answer to Last Month’s Question:

Figure 1 Balloon in Bottle

The physics behind trying to inflate a balloon in a bottle is based on pressure. Fig 1a shows the balloon before it is attached to the bottle. Everything is at atmospheric pressure. Once the balloon is attached to the bottle, shown in Fig 1b, everything is still at atmospheric pressure because the balloon will deform slightly to equalize the pressure difference within the balloon and the bottle. Blowing into the balloon, seen in Figure 1c, produces a higher pressure in the balloon. But the flexible balloon adjusts until the pressure in the bottle and the balloon are the same and are both slightly greater than atmospheric pressure. The increase in pressure in the bottle is due to a slight compression of the air that was in the bottle. Since the highest pressure that a person can produce by blowing is around 2.0 psi, and atmospheric pressure is about 14.7 psi, it would be very difficult to compress the remainder of the air in the bottle to blow up the balloon.

However, if a small hole is made in the bottom of the bottle the air will leave the bottle as air is forced into the balloon and the balloon will expand.

In the News. While you are walking, running or even sleeping you move. What if the energy from these movements could be “harvested” and used to power wearable and portable electronics? A person’s phone, watch, or tablet might be powered by such motion. Scientists at MIT have been working on how to gather that energy using chemistry to convert this mechanical energy into electricity.

Their invention is similar in configuration to a battery. A battery has two electrodes made from different materials. Between the electrodes is a liquid or solid material called an “electrolyte”. When the battery is connected to an electric circuit, a reaction inside the electrolyte creates molecules with an electrical charge, called “ions” that can move through the electrolyte from one electrode to the other, and also produces electrons that can move through the attached circuit.

In the MIT device, both of the electrodes are made of the same flexible material, a mixture of lithium and silicon. An electrolyte is sandwiched between them. As this “sandwich” bends, it compresses the electrode on one side while stretching the other electrode. The uneven stresses make ions flow through the electrolyte. The lithium separates into an electron and a positive lithium ion with the ions moving from the compressed electrode to the stretched electrode.

The process leaves a lot of negative electrons that want to reattach to the positively charged ions. However, these can’t move through the electrolyte. Instead, the electrons flow through the wires that connect the electrode on one side to the electrode on the other side, producing an electric current that can power a circuit. When the electrons reach the other electrode, they recombine with the lithium ions, resulting in neutral lithium atoms. When the device unbends this process reverses itself. Since the ions move relatively slowly this concept works best with bending actions that take place more slowly, something like walking at a rate of two steps per second.

This new technology still needs some additional engineering before it can become practical; however, the output seen from small prototypes has been enough to light a typical LED light bulb.
Upcoming STEM Events: The next STEM meeting will be held March 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Washington County Government Center. Planning will continue for a Junior Lego League day in April and for STEM Day at the County Fair. We need help with staffing these two sessions, so any volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

Science in Life. Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) - we see them everywhere, but how do they work? If we think about an older incandescent bulb an electric current runs through a wire filament and heats it until it glows white-hot (about 4,000 degrees F). But only 5 - 10 percent of the energy into the bulb goes towards making light, the rest is heat. However, CFLs produce light differently. An electric current is driven through a tube containing argon and a small amount of mercury vapor. There is an integrated ballast to initiate this current by producing a high voltage between the electrodes, which is necessary to initially ionization the gas, which then produces ultraviolet (UV) light. Once the lamp starts operating, the current and light output can be maintained using a much lower voltage. When the UV light hits the mixture of phosphors coated on the inside of the tube, the materials glow to produce visible light. Each phosphor emits a band of color with some bands still in the ultraviolet range. To reduce eye damage, additional UV filtering is required. Modern phosphor designs balance the emitted light color, energy efficiency, and cost. Every extra phosphor added to the coating mix improves color rendering but decreases efficiency and increases cost. Good quality CFLs use three or four phosphors to achieve a “white” light.

The reason for the spiral of some of the CFL lamps is that long, thin tubes are needed to generate light while using the least amount of electricity. To fit the CFL lamp into a lighting fixture designed for older incandescent lamps, the long, thin tube must be coiled into a spiral.

Due to their much better efficiency in converting electricity to light, which is about 40 to 50%, a CFL that produces the same amount of light as an incandescent lamp consumes two-thirds less power.

Problem of the Month: If a cork is put into a glass of water, the cork will almost always drift to the side of the glass (why?). There is one simple way, however, to get the cork to float in the center of the glass (the horizontal not the vertical center).

Rube Goldberg Team
A machine built in the spirit of a Rube Goldberg design (RGD) is an overly complex contraption that does a simple task. The best ones use everyday items in a whimsical way to interact as a series of chain-reaction steps to accomplish the simple task. In the contest, youth not only employ physics and engineering, but humor and storytelling as they work as a team to create their RGDs.

The goal of this challenge is to encourage critical thinking, creativity, innovation and problem solving in a non-traditional learning event and have fun at the same time. All youth in grades 3-8 are invited to participate. This year’s challenge is to build a machine that crushes an aluminum can and puts it in a recycling can.

Teams must sign up by May 15th. If you are interested in forming a team, or for more information, please contact Emily Fulton-Fischer at fult0053@umn.edu or 651-430-6805

YOUTH LEADERSHIP
Youth Teaching Youth Update
Youth Teaching Youth is well underway; with Washington County teens in grades 9-12 entering elementary classrooms to teach three one-hour sessions that cover topics such as: Character Building, Internet Safety, Bullying Prevention, and Alcohol and Tobacco Decision Making. Over 40 teachers have been trained in the curriculum and the basics of classroom management. If you would like to become a Teen Teacher or would like information on how to get Youth Teaching Youth in your School District, contact our office at; 651-430-6800. You can find a teen teacher application here: Teen Teacher Application
Ambassador Update from Sam…

We had our last ambassador meeting on January 24th, we broke into committees and discussed the coming months. Our social committee talked about a tubing day on March 5th at Green Acres, as long as there's snow. Our service learning committee decided that we would have a day to make a meal and serve it at the Dorothy Day Center. They also decided to put together birthday boxes for those who are less fortunate that contain cake mix, balloons, presents, etc. Our Project Pursuit committee began to brainstorm topics. The daycamp will consist of a shooting sports session, a crafts and fine arts session, a global connections session and a foods and nutrition session. Kids will be able to pick two of these sessions. Project Pursuit will be at Hooley Hall on March 12th. Our Cloverbud daycamp committee decided on a nature theme for the day. They have a bunch of fun crafts, games and activities planned for the day. The cloverbud daycamp will be at Baytown Community Center on April 16th. Our next meeting will be February 27th.

CLUB CORNERS

Country Cousins

The Country Cousins met on January 8th. Meeting was called to order, secretaries and treasurer’s reports were read and approved. Members were reminded about Shooting Sports registration, Sam Verdict talked about Food Revue. Leader Tim Anderson discussed the upcoming Career Ag day. Respectfully Submitted, Christian Meyer

Forest Lake Rangers

This month our club took a tour of the Team Vantage facility. It’s a manufacturing plant that makes plastic parts for various fields. Our group had a blast learning about the process and getting to see what different career options are out there! We also had a demo by one of our new members, Mason Anderson. He showed us how to tie a lure onto fishing line. It was nice seeing new members take initiative! One of our senior members, Andrea Dunrud, also shared with us some of the amazing articles of clothing she has made throughout her 4-H career. Our club got to hear all about Andrea’s wool contest and her experiences participating in the clothing project. Respectfully Submitted, Zoey Anderson

Homeschool Howlers.

The business meeting went without incident. Another member gave a notice on a local science fair. I am considering entering myself. The activity was friendship bracelets. Afterwards, the t-shirts were distributed. Respectful submitted, Catsi Miller

Lucky Aces

The Lucky Aces 4-H club met together on President’s Day, 2016. We did roll call to the question “Who was your favorite president?” We had a fun rock, paper, scissors competition, that we plan to do again at the county fair. The cloverbuds made Valentine’s cards. We will have no meeting in March, so we are planning a club outing. For our next meeting in April, we will be collecting items for the Tubman Foundation. Respectfully submitted, Miranda Johnson

The Lucky Clovers

The Lucky Clovers met on Monday, January 25th at 6 pm. The meeting was called to order with each person sharing what their favorite holiday was. We discussed future service project ideas and talked about doing participating in “Share the Fun”. We ended the meeting with Hattie doing a demonstration on “How to make Flubber”. Very interesting and fun demonstration!
Respectfully Submitted, Molly Graber
Have You Changed Your E-mail or Your Address?

Please update your e-mail address through your 4HOnline Family Account! We get several e-mails that bounce back and you are missing out on information. Our primary source of communication is e-mail. All 4-H correspondence goes to the e-mail address that you have submitted when you enrolled online. If you have entered your child’s e-mail when enrolling, all correspondence will go to that e-mail. Changes to your family account can be made at any time just by logging in. If you are unable to make changes online, PLEASE inform the office by emailing mnext-washington@umn.edu or calling 651-430-6800.

Meeting Cancellations

Washington County Extension staff will cancel scheduled meetings or events when any of the following occur:

- Temperature of minus 30 degrees or lower at the time of the meeting/event.
- Snow accumulations exceed five inches.
- Area schools release students early or close for the day because of inclement weather.
- Meetings may also be cancelled due to wind, drifting snow, icy roads or a predicted storm or weather advisory. If you are unsure about a meeting, there will be a recorded message on either Ann’s phone – 651-430-6809 or Emily’s phone – 651-430-6805 after 4:30 p.m. about the meeting’s status.

STATE INFORMATION

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)

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
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 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!

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. to 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.

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/.

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.

Have you enrolled in 4-H for the 2015-2016 year?

www.4-H.umn.edu/4honline
MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MARCH
8     Shooting Sports Training
12    Regional Project Bowl, Hastings
12    Project Pursuit
14    Horse PDC Meeting
15    Shooting Sports Training
19    Horse Project Pursuit Day
22    Shooting Sports Training
28    Executive Board Meeting
28    Ambassador Meeting
28    STEM Meeting

APRIL
5     Shooting Sports Training
7     County livestock PDC training webinar
11    Dog Training Orientation
9-14  National 4-H Conference, Washington, D.C.
12    Shooting Sports Training
13    Share the Fun Registration Due
15    Minnesota 4-H Foundation college scholarship applications due
16    State Project Bowl
18    Dog Training Demo Night
19    Shooting Sports Training @ Gov't Center
20    Livestock PDC Meeting @ Fairgrounds
22    Share the Fun
23    Creative Arts Day
23-24 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification training, Mora and Worthington
25    Dog Training Begins – Obedience, Rally, Showmanship (Tentative)
26    Shooting Sports Training
26    Dog Training Begins – Agility (Tentative)
25    Federation Meeting
25    Ambassador Meeting
25    STEM Meeting
30    Cloverbud Day

MAY
15    Animal ID deadline
15    2016 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge registrations due
Federation Meeting Presentation

Jr. Hippology Team

Hippology Team