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Kandiyohi County Share-the-Fun & Performing Arts Showcase

Friday, April 15 6:30 p.m. at Bethesda Pleasant View Nursing Home. All Performing Arts judging will take place during Share-the-Fun. Participants will receive a ribbon and state fair line-up will be announced. Watch for more information about performances at the county fair. Be sure to add performing arts to your project list on 4HOnline today so you don't miss out on important emails! This is a great event for all 4-H families even if you are not participating in a skit or performing art, just come and enjoy the performances! Registration is due April 9. Registration forms for Share-the-Fun/Performing Arts were emailed to adult leaders.

4-H Regional & State Project Bowls

The second most attended event during the 4-H year is the Project Bowl competition. Patterned after the golden-oldie television show "College Bowl", it challenges teams of 3-6 youth on their knowledge of 4-H project areas: Dairy, Dog, General Livestock, Horse, Lama, Poultry, Rabbit, Wildlife. There are four Regional Project Bowls, followed by the State Project Bowl. Each has two divisions: Junior (grades 3 - 8) and Senior (grades 4 - 4-H graduation). Regional winners advance to the State Project Bowl and state winners in dairy, general livestock, horse, poultry and...
wildlife go on to national contests. Get your friends together, recruit a coach, study hard, and ... most of all HAVE FUN during the Project Bowl season!

Regional Project Bowls

- **March 5, 2016** - Foley
- **March 12, 2016** - Hastings
- **March 19, 2016** - Bemidji
- **March 19, 2015** - Redwood Falls
- **April 2, 2016** - Snow date (in case of cancellations)
- Regional Registration Due - postmarked no later than February 1, 2016
- Mail the forms and payment to the host regional office for your site

*Reminder: if your team qualifies for the State Project Bowl, you must register BEFORE you leave the Regional Project Bowl. If you do not register before you leave the Regional Project Bowl site, you will forfeit your state trip.*

**LQA&E Training**

**Minnesota 4-H Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics 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 (LQA&E) 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.

Note: Since 2006, pre-state fair age 4-H'ers are recommended to be certified.

Some counties do, however, require certification of swine members (grades 3-13) due to packer requirements at county fair.

See the [LQA&E webpage](#) for these upcoming trainings and further information:

We have added a regional LQA&E Training. It will on Tuesday, June 14 in Olivia from 12:30-4:30 p.m. for both levels 1 and 2.

**State Dairy judging contest update**

The Minnesota 4-H Dairy PDC has voted to move the state contest to 4-H livestock weekend. In 2016 it will be held on the Thursday of 4-H livestock weekend (the first day of the state fair) instead of the previous date of the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. These changes are made to increase participation, particularly in the northern part of the state. Please watch for further details to come to Dairy Project Members.

**Livestock Identification (ID) deadline approaching**

Don't wait too long... it will be May before you know it. Just a reminder that ear tags for swine, sheep, goats, lama, and breeding beef must be purchased from the county extension office for $2.50 each. The deadline for livestock identification is **May 16 by 11:59 p.m.** For more information or assistance with tagging or the identification process check out [4-H animal ID process and information webpage](#).

**As always**

Add/Drop projects, change contact info: [https://mn.4honline.com](https://mn.4honline.com)

MN 4-H Website & 4-H Project Information: [www.fourh.umn.edu](http://www.fourh.umn.edu)
Weather cancellations: Q102-102.5FM or KWLM 1340AM radio stations.
Send .jpeg club photos to: slink@umn.edu

Newsletter deadline is the 15th of each month to post in the next newsletter.

Minnesota Lifts Ban on Poultry Exhibitions

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health announced on November 30 that it will be lifting the ban placed on poultry exhibitions and other gatherings of birds beginning December 1, 2015. Birds will be permitted at fairs, swap meets, exotic sales, petting zoos and other events where birds are gathered or commingled. The directive to prohibit birds from exhibition was made on May 15, 2015 in the midst of the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The ban was put into place to minimize spread of HPAI and protect the state’s domestic bird population. Lifting the poultry exhibition ban comes as a result of no new cases of HPAI in Minnesota since June 5, 2015. During the spring 2015 outbreak, 108 farms spanning 23 counties were infected with HPAI in Minnesota. All infected farms have completed cleaning and disinfection of their facilities as of November 13, 2015, and 104 farms have been cleared to restock their barns with birds. For additional information on Minnesota’s response to HPAI, visit www.mnairesponse.info. For information on livestock exhibition requirements in Minnesota, visit www.bah.state.mn.us/exhibitions

Kandiyohi County Ambassadors

We are looking for a new adult leader for our Kandiyohi County Ambassador group. This leader would help lead the group and plan activities. The Ambassadors meet once per month, usually on a Saturday.

Qualifications:
- Need to be graduated out of 4-H, if an older youth or an adult.
- Need to be a screened volunteer. For more information on being a volunteer, and becoming one see the Volunteering with 4-H webpage.
- Desire to improve the leadership of upcoming youth Ambassadors in Kandiyohi County.
- Passion for youth development.
- Ability to communicate with youth.

Ambassadors are meeting on Saturday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Location:
University of MN Regional Office
1802 18th St NE
Willmar

Interested in Becoming a 4-H Judge?

We want you!
Kandiyohi County has 4-H judge openings for all areas at the 2016 Kandiyohi County Fair. Share your skills, talents and expertise!

For more information or to register, contact the extension office at 320-231-7890 and/or check out the link: http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/county-fair/judges/

Dog PDC updates:

Dog training will begin May 3 at the Kandiyohi County Fairgrounds. Agility will begin at 6:30 p.m. and Obedience, Showmanship and Rally will begin training at 7:30 p.m. The next Dog Project organizational meeting will take place April 26 starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Health and Human Services Building, in the basement conference room. Please contact Katie Eggert at egger183@umn.edu with any questions about the dog project!
Scholarships
Check out the link for information on possible college scholarships for upcoming freshman! Deadlines for many scholarships are coming up in March, so start your college financial planning now.

Online enrollment for 4-H families
Remember all members and volunteers need to re-enroll each year!

Enrollment for the new 4-H year is now open and Minnesota 4-H families are reminded and encouraged to go to 4HOnline 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. Re-enrolling 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.

Youth, their parents and adult volunteers, as part of enrolling or re-enrolling, will all be agreeing to the Minnesota 4-H code of conduct, which is available for review, along with other policy and authorization statements or by contacting the Extension office.

If you are not yet an adult volunteer, but 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.

All returning 4-H members and volunteers will re-enroll online by May 15. User guides and information are available online. This is statewide.

New Members: Youth new to 4-H can join at any time throughout the year!

Re-enrollment deadline for receiving county scholarships: January 1 - NEW IN 2016!

Re-enrollment deadline: May 15

Animal Science ID deadline: The Animal Science ID deadlines are February 16 (for market beef) and May 16 (for all others) to the Extension Office. These are strict MN 4-H deadlines, and the consequence below applies.

If a member is already enrolled and wants to add or drop projects, then he/she should go online and make their changes by May 16.

If enrollments are not received by the May 15 deadline, the participant can still exhibit at county fair, participate in the auction and receive premiums, but will receive no ribbon placing higher than a blue (including champions and reserve champions) and will not be eligible for state trips.

Next Leader’s Council meeting
Our next Leader’s Council meeting will be on April 21, 7 p.m. Also meeting that night is the Food Stand Committee, Livestock and Auction committees.

All together, not all the same
SW Region Live Webinar
March 17, 6:30 p.m.
MN 4-H Fall Volunteer Training

What’s your history? What’s the story of your name? We each have different experiences, backgrounds, values and beliefs that make us who we are. If your club has not had someone attend the Volunteer Training “All together, Not all the same” or you heard about the training and would like first-hand experience, plan to join this live SW Region online training on Thursday, March 17 from 6:30-8 p.m. We have received great feedback on this training designed to help us grow closer as a 4-H community by celebrating our uniqueness through understanding our differences.
Learning objectives include:

- Recognizing your own cultural lens and how that lens impacts your relationships with others.
- Learning strategies and gaining tools and skills to implement when working across difference in the 4-H program.

This training will provide you the opportunity to integrate principles of positive youth development with diversity and inclusion practices that can be applied to the 4-H program that you serve. You’ll leave with a new perspective as well as resources, activities and lessons you can use with your club, project, or any other context. Please RSVP to receive webinar details by contacting Carrie Olson, Extension Educator working with Volunteer Systems at olson166@umn.edu.

**Making Clubs Better**

High quality youth programs are related to having a positive impact on the development of young people. Quality is one of the most important issues in youth programs, and 4-H clubs and activities have a great responsibility for experiences they provide.

The Pyramid of Youth Program Quality has four parts. In a **supportive environment** youth are actively engaged, the atmosphere is welcoming, and youth build skills. Are there encouraging questions and comments being used during skill building activities such as “tell me about how you put that together” or “where did you get your idea?” Does the session or activity have a feeling of positive energy—handling conflict as it arises and youth being engaged with both the program and the group?

4-H clubs can improve the quality of the experience for youth by focusing on just one or two areas! Please look over the pyramid and refer to it before, during and after your 4-H club meets!

**STATE ARTICLES**

**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:

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 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.

Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF)

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.

Dates
- **July 2, 2016**: A.M. Required pre-conference workshop then depart for Washington D.C.
- **July 9, 2016**: Arrive Back in Minnesota in P.M.

Application
- **Feb. 16, 2016**: CWF full application materials accessed on website. With a postmark date beginning Feb. 16, all required application materials and $700 down payment due.
- Check with your county 4-H program coordinator if there are other requirements for participation.

Additional information: [www.4-h.umn.edu/events/citizenship-washington-focus/index.html](http://www.4-h.umn.edu/events/citizenship-washington-focus/index.html)

Contact: Judith A. Conway, conw0076@umn.edu

National 4-H Conference

It is never too early to start thinking about your Minnesota 4-H older youth that would be a great youth delegate for the 2017 National 4-H Conference. Be thinking about this experience for 2017. Check out the 2016 National 4-H Conference url below to learn more. (Please note that dates, age requirements, and post-conference expectations will change for 2017)

[www.4-h.umn.edu/events/national-conference/index.html](http://www.4-h.umn.edu/events/national-conference/index.html)

Updated material for 2017 National 4-H Conference will be on this website beginning in September 2016.

Contact: Judith A. Conway, conw0076@umn.edu
Livestock volunteers are invited!

Mark your calendars for the county livestock PDC (project development committee) training webinar on April 7, 2016. More details to come.

Attention Minnesota 4-H dairy families!

Four reminders Minnesota 4-H dairy project members will want to keep in mind for 2016:

1. All animals must be owned or leased AND identified (data entered into 4HOnline or an ID worksheet submitted to the Extension office) before the animal's first freshening. If you want to ID a first calf heifer for the first time, please note this must be done BEFORE she calves.

2. All other ID'ing for dairy project animals must be completed by May 15. You will receive details from your county office.

3. All leased animals need a lease agreement resigned/renewed each year. To renew leases, download last year's lease agreement OR obtain a copy from the Extension office. Obtain the appropriate signatures to renew and, if need be, update the agreement. Finally scan and email the updated lease agreement to the Extension office OR take it to the Extension office. The deadline for this is May 15. Remember, all lease forms need to be completed and uploaded prior to the animals first freshening.

4. If your "family unit" includes someone who has graduated out of 4-H or is not enrolling in dairy this year AND ID'ed in their name last year, you will want to reassign those animals to another family member. The exception is animals shown by this past dairy project member AFTER freshening. Those animals are not eligible to be shown by another 4-Her.

Complete details are available on the Dairy Information Sheet, which is posted at www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-id.
Calendar

March
5 Regional Project Bowl, Foley
6 Snow tubing at Powder Ridge
11 Youth Day at the Capitol application deadline
12 Regional Project Bowl, Hastings
17 All together, not all the same volunteer webinar
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
2 Ambassadors meeting
7 County livestock PDC training webinar
9 Kandiyohi County Share-the-Fun & Performing Arts Showcase
15 Share the Fun, Bethesda Pleasant View, Willmar, 6:30 p.m.
15 Minnesota 4-H Foundation college scholarship applications due
16 State Project Bowl, Sauk Rapids
19-14 National 4-H Conference, Washington, D.C.
21 Leader’s Council meeting
23-24 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification training, Mora.

May
3 Dog training begins
16 Animal ID deadline
15 2016 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge registration due

June
14 State Dairy judging contest update
15 Food Revue/Demonstration Day, Glen Oaks, New London, 6 p.m.
21-23 4-H Camp, University of Minnesota, Morris

July
2-9 Citizenship Washington Focus
19 Fashion Revue, Willmar