In This Issue:

Message from Dorothy ........................................................................................................... 2
Summer Camp – DATE CHANGE ......................................................................................... 2
Camp Counselors Note: DATE CHANGE FOR CAMP .................................................... 2
Re-Enroll in 4-H - IMPORTANT ............................................................................................ 3
Club Visits .............................................................................................................................. 3
Ambassadors .......................................................................................................................... 3
2016 Livestock Project Meeting ............................................................................................ 3
Shooting Sports ....................................................................................................................... 3
Dog PDC Meetings .................................................................................................................. 4
Pancake Breakfast – Mar. 12 ................................................................................................. 4
Fruit Sales ............................................................................................................................... 4
Youth Day at the Capitol ......................................................................................................... 4
Minnesota Alliance with Youth Red Wagon Awards – Due 4/1/16 ........................................... 4
Share the Fun & Performing Arts Judging – Apr. 12 .............................................................. 4
Scholarships for college-bound 4-H youth – due Apr. 15 ......................................................... 4
2016 SS&W Spring Leader Certification Training – 2 Sites! ................................................... 5
Horse PDC Meetings ................................................................................................................ 5
Demonstration & Rube Goldberg Judging – Date Change ...................................................... 5
Presidential Inauguration Focus ............................................................................................. 6
4-H Family Center Use .......................................................................................................... 6
Le Sueur County Facebook Page ............................................................................................ 6
Did you Know? ........................................................................................................................ 6
Have you Changed your Email Address ................................................................................ 6
Winter Weather Cancellation Update ..................................................................................... 6
4-H Volunteer Corner .............................................................................................................. 7
Upcoming Events .................................................................................................................. 7

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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

DATE CHANGE!! Summer Camp 2016 at Camp Patterson!!!!

The 2016 4-H Summer Camp dates have been changed! We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused!!

(Note: If the date of your county camp does not work, you can always attend a different session).

Youth Camp: Grades 3-6
June 13-15: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Nicollet
June 15-17: Freeborn, Mower, Rice, Steele, Waseca
June 20-22: Carver, Scott, McLeod, Sibley

Teen Camp Grades 6-8
June 22-24: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Nicollet, McLeod, Sibley, Carver, Scott, Freeborn, Mower, Rice, Steele, and Waseca.

You won't want to miss out on camp 2016! It will be three packed days full of fun activities and adventures! Camp is located at Camp Patterson on Lake Washington in Madison Lake, MN. Save the date on your calendar and join us for summer camp! For registration information:

Youth Camp Flyer
Teen Camp Flyer

CAMP COUNSELORS – DATE CHANGE FOR CAMP PATTERSON

If you applied to be a camp counselor please note the date change.

Youth Camp: Grades 3-6
June 13-15: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Nicollet
June 15-17: Freeborn, Mower, Rice, Steele, Waseca
June 20-22: Carver, Scott, McLeod, Sibley
Teen Camp Grades 6-8
June 22-24: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Nicollet, McLeod, Sibley, Carver, Scott, Freeborn, Mower, Rice, Steele, and Waseca.

If you have problems with these dates please contact your local Extension office.

Re-Enroll in 4-H- IMPORTANT

If you have not yet re-enrolled in 4-H, please do this today! All members, club leaders, and anyone who might be interested in chaperoning 4-H events or working with the youth must be enrolled/screened as a volunteer. If you are not re-enrolled in 4-H, you will not receive any updates or information on 4-H events.
REMINDER: All 4-H members must be enrolled via 4-H Online to avoid consequences at the County Fair.

Club Visits

I encourage every club to invite me to one of your upcoming meetings. I would be happy to join your 4-H club for a meeting and do a fun activity! Are you interested in a new project? Does your club need a team building activity? The choice is yours! Contact David at djfoley@umn.edu to discuss more.

Community Service Challenge

During the month of March, 4-H members and clubs are encouraged to participate in a new community service project! Be sure to take pictures and send them into David so we can showcase your hard work!

Ambassadors

Reminder to Ambassadors: Be sure to print off the new calendar of events that was emailed to you from David. The first event that the ambassadors will be helping with is the pancake breakfast and the youth activity table that will be set up during breakfast hours. Please remember to schedule time to work the activity table outside of when your club is working in the kitchen.

2016 Livestock Project Meeting

The 2016 Livestock Meeting was held on February 9th where ID’s, Deadlines, Specie Plans, and Fair Entry were discussed. The new Fair Entry system will affect everyone this year, so please keep an eye out for more information as time moves closer to the summer months. Many Le Sueur County 4-H’ers need to take LQA&E this year to be eligible for the State Fair, please see David if you are unsure of your status.

Shooting Sports

Shooting Sports is continuing their practice on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at Cannon River Archery in Waterville. Archery begins at 4:00 PM, and BB Gun/Air Rifle begins at 5:30 PM. The group also has an exciting wildlife event coming up on Sunday, March 6th. Everyone will be meeting at the Ney Nature Center in Henderson at 1:00 PM where there will be a short program provided by the Center’s staff focusing around Maple Syrup. There may be some organized time after the program, but everyone is free to go cross country skiing and snow-shoeing on their miles of trails. Snow Shoe rental is $5.00 if you are interested, a limited
amount of skiis are also available at the center free of charge.

Dog PDC Meetings

**March 7th, April 4th, and June 6th**

Advisory Board meets at 6:00 PM, PDC Meeting Starts at 6:30 PM.

Pancake Breakfast

A reminder that the 2016 Le Sueur County 4-H Pancake Breakfast will be held on **March 12th from 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Le Center**. Please continue to promote this event by hanging flyers in your community, sharing the Facebook event, and spreading the word to your family and friends. See you there!

Fruit Sales!

The Dog PDC and Horse PDC are selling fruit as a fundraiser! Money is collected at the time of sale, not delivery. If you are interested in buying fruit, contact the Extension Office or someone involved in the Dog or Horse Project. The delivery date is set for April 2nd.

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](http://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/](http://mnyouth.net/work/red-wagon-awards/).

Share the Fun & Performing Arts Judging

**Share the Fun and Performing Arts will be judged on April 12th!**

Mark your calendars and get practicing! Share the Fun judging AND Performing Arts judging has been set for April 12th at the Waterville-Elysian-Morristown School Auditorium located in Waterville. Time is tentatively set to begin at 5:00 PM. We may need to adjust depending on the amount of acts. Please pass the word to your club members and friends. Each club is encouraged to have a Share the Fun act!
**Share the Fun Acts and Performing Arts**

Participants MUST Register by April 1st

**Share the Fun** info needed: Club, title of skit, adult(s) in charge

**Performing Arts** info needed: Name, grade, title, type of performance

To register contact Nancy at 507-357-8230 or domon002@umn.edu

**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)

**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/](http://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!

**Horse PDC Meetings**

May 9th, July 25th, October 24th

Advisory Board meets at 6:30 PM, PDC Meeting Starts at 7:00 PM

**Demonstration Day & Rube Goldberg Challenge Judging**

Demonstration & Rube Goldberg Judging is set for Thursday, June 30th! This year's Rube Goldberg challenge is to **crush an empty aluminum soft drink can and put it into a recycling container**. For more information on Rube Goldberg, see the website here: [http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/events/engineering-design-challenge/](http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/events/engineering-design-challenge/)

To register for the Rube Goldberg Challenge, follow the link above and register your team by May 15th via 4-HOnline. You must also email Nancy at domon002@umn.edu and provide your team name, list of team members, and team coach(s).

To register for a demonstration, contact Nancy at domon002@umn.edu and provide the following information: Name(s), Type of Demonstration (General, Youth in Action,
Illustrated, or Livestock), Single or Team Demonstration, Topic Area, and Special Equipment Needed.

**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://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/lesueur](http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/lesueur).

**4-H Family Center Use**

The 4-H Family Center will be off limits for meetings, events, and rentals due to Courthouse Remodeling. Le Sueur County will be remodeling the basement of the Historic Courthouse and will be utilizing the 4-H Family Center for office space during this time.

The estimated timeline of use is from November-Early June. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this time.

**Le Sueur County Facebook Page**

Our county has a facebook page! Be sure to Like us for updates, information, and fun pictures! The web address is: [http://www.facebook.com/UmnExtensionLeSueurCounty4H](http://www.facebook.com/UmnExtensionLeSueurCounty4H)

**Did you Know?!**

Le Sueur County 4-H has a webpage! Check it out for important dates and deadlines. You will also find helpful forms and publications, as well as newsletters and event postings. You can visit Le Sueur County 4-H at [http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/lesueur](http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/lesueur).

**Have you Changed your Email Address?**

In an attempt to make better use of email for 4-H communication, we want to make sure that we’ve got your correct email address(es). Please let us know if you’ve changed your address recently. You can contact David or Nancy at 507-357-8230 or [djfoley@umn.edu; domon002@umn.edu](mailto:djfoley@umn.edu;domon002@umn.edu) with any updates. With access to 4HOnline, you can also update your email address there.

**Winter Weather Cancellation Update:**

We will follow these cancellation policies for countywide events. If you would like to adapt these to fit your club, please do so.

- Temperature or wind chill is -20˚ or lower at the time of the meeting or activity
- Snow accumulation makes for unsafe driving conditions
- Area schools release students early or close for the day because of inclement weather

Meetings/activities may also be cancelled due to wind, drifting snow, icy roads, predicted storm, or weather advisory. If you are unsure about a meeting, please call the Extension Office or check the Le Sueur County 4-H Facebook Page!
4-H Volunteer Corner

Have a passion for 4-H? Become a 4-H volunteer!

Please contact the Extension Office at 507-357-8525 to find out how you can share your time and passion by becoming a volunteer with Le Sueur County 4-H. We look forward to hearing from you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH
5 Regional Project Bowl, Foley
7 Dog PDC Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Courthouse
11 Pancake Breakfast Set-Up
11 Youth Day at the Capitol application deadline
12 Regional Project Bowl, Hastings
12 Pancake Breakfast, 8 a.m. – Noon, St. Mary’s Church, Le Center (CHANGED DATE)
17-19 M4-HAVA 2016 Annual Conference, Fergus Falls
19 Regional Project Bowl, Bemidji
19 Regional Project Bowl, Redwood Falls
21 Ambassador Bowling Meeting/Outing
29 Youth Day at the Capitol

APRIL
1 Minnesota Alliance with Youth Red Wagon Award nomination deadline
2 Camp Counselor Training, 9-3, Mankato
2 Regional Project Bowl, Snow date
4 Dog PDC Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Courthouse
12 Share the Fun and Performing Arts Judging.
15 Minnesota 4-H Foundation college scholarship applications due
16 Traditions Ambassador Bingo/Dog PDC Visit
16 State Project Bowl, Sauk Rapids

9-14 National 4-H Conference, Washington, D. C.
17 County livestock PDC training webinar
19 Federation Meeting, 7 p.m., Courthouse
23 Regional Science of Ag Competition (SOAR)
23-24 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification training, Mora & Worthington
30 LQA&E Training, SCALE Training Center, Jordan

MAY
9 Horse PDC Meeting: Advisory Board 6:30 p.m.; PDC meeting 7:00 p.m.
15 Animal ID Deadline
15 2016 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge registration due

JUNE
6 Dog PDC Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
8-11 YELLO
13-15 4-H Camp Session I – DATE CHANGED
15-17 4-H Camp Session II – DATE CHANGED
20-22 4-H Camp Session III – DATE CHANGED
22-24 4-H Teen Camp – DATE CHANGED
30 Demonstration & Rube Goldberg Judging (date changed from 21st to 30th)

JULY
2-9 Citizenship Washington Focus
25 Horse PDC meeting

AUGUST
18-21 Le Sueur County Fair
24 Livestock entry – MN State Fair
25-28 Livestock Encampment – State Fair
25-Sept 5 Minnesota State Fair