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Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

Summer is here and with summer comes an opportunity for communities around the state to attend their county fairs and see the learning and accomplishments that 4-H'ers have achieved this year! 4-H'ers have been working hard on their projects and exploring topics they are passionate about, such as animal science, robotics, creative arts, wildlife biology, performing arts and photography. Through this hands-on learning, 4-H'ers learn 21st Century skills such as communications, problem solving, decision making and critical thinking that will support their success throughout their lives.

One of the highlights you’ll see again this year at county and state fairs is the 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge. Based on Rube Goldberg machines, teams of 4-H youth design overly complex contraptions that can do a simple task using everyday items in whimsical ways that interact in a series of chain-reactions. This year’s challenge is to design a machine that will put toothpaste on a toothbrush.

At the state fair, highlights will include great hands-on STEM activities for visitors to the 4-H Building, and presentations from the 4-H Science of Agriculture Challenge, in which we asked teams of youth to identify ag-related issues and come up with science-based solutions.

I hope that each of you embrace all that 4-H has to offer you this summer. I also hope that you encourage your friends, your family members and your neighbors to experience 4-H too by going to your county fair so they can see how 4-H youth are making a difference in their community.

I look forward to another summer seeing all the great projects from 4-H'ers throughout the state, and learning from them. If you see me at the state fair, please stop and say hello. Have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,
Dorothy M. Freeman
Associate Dean and State 4-H Director
East Otter Tail

County Fair Registration Premium Book

New for 2015: To save postage and paper; the county fair registration premium booklet (this is the book with all the codes for the county fair exhibits) can be retrieved from the East Otter Tail County extension web page.

The county fair registration forms were sent to the club leaders in hopes that at the June club meeting new families that may not be familiar with this county fair exhibit registration would be informed how to do the process.

If, for some reason, 4-H families are unable to retrieve the premium book from the web page please contact the office for a hard copy.

Junior Camp

Junior Camp - "4-H: A Passport to Adventure" will be held on June 7-9 at Northern Pines Assembly Grounds, Park Rapids. If you are interested in attending this camp please contact Janet at 218-385-5424. The 4-H camp counselors have some great around-the-world actives planned. Make new friends, enjoy the outdoors, and engage in fun learn by doing activities, come join us at camp.

Sew Fun Project Day

Sew Fun Project Day has been set for June 11, 9-4 at the New York Mills School. This event is for youth grades 3 and above in the Clothing Project, and is available to youth in surrounding counties.

Demonstration Day & Food Review Date Change

Thanks to the ADA reinstating their sponsorship for 4-H demonstrations that promote June dairy month by doing a 4-H demonstration promoting dairy products/industry will receive a gift from the ADA. Demonstration Day & Food Review Day have been changed to June 25. Demonstrations that promote June Dairy Month, dairy projects and the dairy industry will receive a gift from the ADA.

Livestock Committee Meeting

The next Livestock committee meeting will be held on June 15, 7pm. Committee members are asked to complete your volunteer application process, if you have not already done so.

Afterschool Volunteers

The 4-H Afterschool volunteers will meet on June 16, 5pm at Zorbaz on Otter Tail Lake. They will evaluate the past year’s programing and create a list of new ideas for the 2015-16 school year. Volunteers are asked to RSVP to Janet at malon034@umn.edu.

Ambassador/Jr Leaders Meeting

The next Ambassador/Jr. Leaders meeting will be on June 22, 5:30pm at the extension office.

Volunteer Required Training

The “Safety of Minors” video will follow the Ambassador/Jr Leaders meeting and begin at 6:30pm. All adult volunteers are required to either watch this at 4-H Online or attend this opportunity to view it with a group of volunteers; this must be completed by July 1 to be in compliance with the MN 4-H volunteer policies. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated in this matter of keeping minors safe within the 4-H program. Along with viewing the “Safety of Minors” the “Keeping Youth in 4-H” video will be viewed, as 25% of volunteers are required to view these online trainings, and EOT 4-H volunteers have not met this goal.

Federation Meeting

The Federation meeting will begin around 7:30pm, at the conclusion of the 4-H volunteer trainings.
EOT County 4-H Day Camps

Day camps will be held this summer for youth participants. Each day camp will have a $15 program fee payable to EOT 4-H. Contact Janet malon034@umn.edu to register for any of the following day camps.

- Amazing Pets: **July 30**, 9-3pm for youth grades 3-6 at the 4-H Food Stand (Perham). Participants will explore how fun animals are to have as pets and the responsibility of caring for pets. Special guest speaker **Buck Hamlett**, snake owner, wildlife educator and retired zookeeper will be sharing about his favorite pets snakes. Watch a dog agility demonstration and make and take pet projects. Youth are to bring their lunch.

- Kid’s in the Kitchen: **August 4**, 9-3pm at the New York Mills School for youth grades 3-6. Participants will explore dinner preparations, table setting, minding your manner activities and engage in cooking and baking projects. Youth will make their lunch.

- Around the World Clover Bud Camp: **August 6**, 10-2pm at the New York Mills School. Clover Bud camp will be a discovery learning day for youth grades K-3. Youth will explore the global world through food, fun and games. Youth are to bring their lunch.

- Gizmo’s and Gadgets: **August 11**, 9-3pm at the Parkers Prairie Elementary School. Youth grades 2-6 will experience and explore make and take projects (yo-yo, oscillating woodpecker and catapult). Engage in creative thinking, encounter problem-solving and learn the benefits of team work. Youth are to bring their lunch.

Thank you

Thank you to all the club representatives and members that attended the annual volunteer appreciation night and the federation meeting; nine clubs were represented. Also, congratulations to the Country Side Corners Club coming in with the high score for the Minute to Win It trivia game from the online training “Creating a Welcoming Environment”. The goal for the Federation meeting on **June 22** will be to have all 11 clubs around the decision-making table. Please mark your calendars.

**Wilkin**

**2015 4-H Day Camp**

LEGO Mindstorm Robotics is for youth grades 3-6. Experience hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) using the LEGO NXT Mindstorm robot. During this day camp youth will build a robot from a LEGO kit, use a laptop computer to tell the robot what to do (programming), and make the robot move to solve challenges. You will be required to work in pairs using one robot kit. A pizza lunch will be provided at noon.

**Location:** Welles Memorial Park, 4-H Exhibit Building

**Class I Date:** **June 8**, 9am to 3pm

**Class II Date:** **June 11**, 9am to 3pm

**Class Limit:** 16 per class

**Fee:** $15.00

The Space Age Camp is for youth grades K-6. Model Rockets provide the excitement of full-scale rocket launches. No matter what your age, you will enjoy building your own flyable model rocket. Youth will learn the basic parts of a rocket, how to prepare a model rocket for launching, how to launch a rocket safely. Each youth will have the opportunity to launch the rocket they have built and take them home.

**Location:** Welles Memorial Park, 4-H Exhibit Building

**Date:** **June 15** – there will be 2 classes; **Class I** held from 9am to noon and **Class II** held from 1pm to 4pm
The Woodworking Day Camp is for youth grades 3-6. They will be making a beanbag game board for tailgating or backyard contests and get ready for a “hole” lot of fun. Learn basic woodworking skills and the proper use of hand tools to hone your craft while building this wood project. Class fee includes all materials to build the project.

Location: Welles Memorial Park, 4-H Exhibit Building

Class I Date: July 7, 9am to noon
Class II Date: July 9, 9am to noon

Thank you

Wilkin County 4-H participated in hosting a bike rodeo in Rothsay. 4-H was responsible for setting up the skills riding course and monitoring the skill stations. There were 74 participants ranging in age from 3 to 12 years. The turnout for the bike rodeo was so successful that they ran out of bike helmets. More helmets were ordered so all participants received a free bike helmet. Four bicycles were given away at the end of the evening activities. West Central Initiative provided a grant to cover the expenses. Other organizations involved with the bike rodeo were the Rothsay School, Rothsay Fire Department, Wilkin County Sherriff’s Department and PartnerSHIP 4 Health. Thank you to Lucas Simmer for assisting with the bike rodeo.

West Otter Tail

Welcome Back to our Summer Assistant

Sarah Ukkelberg, daughter of Todd and Liz Ukkelberg of Battle Lake. Sarah just graduated with a degree in Math Education from NDSU. She was a member of Eagle Lake 4-H for 13 years. Sarah’s responsibilities will be coordinating Jr. Camp, fashion revue and helping with the County and State Fair.

WOT/Wilkin County Shooting Sports

All activities will be from 9am - noon

- **May 30** - West Otter Tail 4-H Range, Amor
- **June 13** - Head of the Red Trap Club, Breckenridge
- **June 27** - West Otter Tail 4-H Range, Amor
- **July 10-11** - Shooting Sports/Wildlife Camp, Glendalough State Park
- **August 8-9** - Hankinson Sandhills 3D Archery Shoot

Practice for all youth attending the State Shoot will be scheduled at a later date.

- **September TBD** - 4-H State Shoot

County Fair Packets

Your county fair packets (large envelope) will be mailed out in early June. New this year is online
fair registration in Fair Entry (more information will be included in packet). This is a very important mailing and you need to read and return all forms and get your fair registration entered in Fair Entry by July 6.

**Junior Camp**

**Date:**  **August 17-18**

**Where:** Faith Haven Camp, Eagle Lake

New dates have been set for the Junior Camp, “Explore the Wild Side” is our theme this year. Youth grades 3-6 are welcome to attend. Buck Hamlett, former zoo keeper and wildlife educator will be at there with collection of non-venomous snakes. Flyers with more information will be included in your fair packet.

**Share the Fun and Performing Arts**

The Share the Fun and Performing Arts competition will be held **July 7** at the Kennedy Secondary School in Fergus Falls starting at 7pm.

**4-H Softball**

If anyone is interested in organizing a 4-H softball tournament contact Tammy at the extension office.

**4-H Dog Training**

4-H Dog Training started on May 26 at the WOT County Fairgrounds. Thank you to Janelle Hawkinson, Melissa Wiezorek and Brianna Carter for volunteering to teach dog training in West Otter Tail County. Call /text or email Janelle at 218-205-2904 or janellehawkinson@gmail.com if you have questions.

**Thank you**

You did it! West Otter Tail 4-H now has around 995 animals identified in 4-H Online. Looks like another fantastic fair coming up. THANKS!!  
*Tammy and Sharon*

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**State News and Events**

**Safety of Minors training required for volunteers**

In May, 4-H families and volunteers were reminded of the Safety of Minors policy adopted by the University Of Minnesota Board Of Regents last fall, which made all volunteers and employees of the University who work with young people mandated reporters. We also shared the link to the required Safety of Minors training. As a reminder, all 4-H volunteers **must complete this training before the July 1 deadline.** Those individuals who have not completed the training by the deadline will not be allowed to volunteer until they have completed the training.

We are pleased to share that as of May 15 1,136 volunteers have completed the training out of 7,244. This is good progress, though we still have a long way to be in compliance. We need your help to ensure the safety of young people in 4-H. If you have not yet completed the Safety of Minors training, you may do so in one of the following ways:

1. Through 4-H Online. Please note this is our preferred option and the quickest way for your completion of the training to be recognized.
2. By viewing the training online. Be sure to complete the Qualtrics survey afterwards.
3. By viewing it in a group setting and completing the sign-off sheet. Check with your county program coordinator to see when group viewings are scheduled.
4. By viewing it on the DVD available at your county Extension office and completing the sign-off sheet or the Qualtrics survey.
5. By reading the PDF and completing the Qualtrics link or the sign-off sheet.

Thank you to all Minnesota 4-H volunteers for doing their part to help us keep youth safe by completing this required training in a timely fashion. Your service and dedication to Minnesota’s young people is appreciated.

Updates on 4-H Poultry Projects at County & State Fairs

On May 15, the Minnesota Board of Animal Health issued a directive cancelling all poultry shows and exhibitions at county fairs, the State Fair and other public gatherings of birds effective through the end of 2015. The decision was made as part of efforts to minimize the risk of potential further spread of the avian flu virus.

Minnesota 4-H will still offer 4-H Poultry Project opportunities at county and state fairs, and will have more information available soon for 4-H Poultry Project members.

4-H has also extended the May 15 animal ID deadline to May 29 for 4-H Poultry families only who may be interested in selecting and identifying 4-H project animals from other species to exhibit at the upcoming county and/or state fair. All poultry families choosing to utilize this extension must have their ID worksheets for the animal species that they intend to exhibit (excluding market beef animals) turned into their county extension office by closing time on May 29.

Updates for 4-H Poultry Project opportunities at both county fairs and the Minnesota State Fair will be shared on the 4-H state fair participant resources web page.

- June 15: Updates and information about 4-H Poultry Project opportunities at county fairs
- July 1: Updates and information about 4-H Poultry Project opportunities at the Minnesota State Fair

Contact your County 4-H Program coordinator with any questions.

Put your 4-H History on the Map

Ever wonder about where the first 4-H club or camp in your county or state was located? Or what communities in your state are home to celebrities who were 4-H members? Or if elected officials in your state or national government were members of 4-H in your state? Then head to the "Map Your 4-H History" website.

On April 28, “Map Your 4-H History” went live with an internet-based national atlas of sites that are historically significant to 4-H families. We hope that every 4-H club will ask the question, “Do we have a historically significant site in our county or state that should be nominated for the National 4-H map/atlas?” All 4-H members, staff, volunteers, alumni and supporters are encouraged to nominate locations that are significant to the 4-H history of your county, state or the nation.

What type of sites are we looking for to be nominated for the National 4-H map? Some of our pilot test team members who have helped develop the National 4-H map project suggested the following sites – among others – as being historically significant:

- 4-H history museums
- 4-H camps
- 4-H fair grounds
- Locations of the first 4-H club in your state
- The longest continuous 4-H club in your state
- The first club of its type in your state
- Famous 4-H alumni in your county or state
Help Youth Make Good Decisions

How do you decide which entrée to order? What shoes to buy? What vacation to plan? It’s a tough job, but someone needs to make the decision. And someone needs to pay the bills. The media, peer pressure, the need to fit in – all these factors play major roles in the decisions that youth make. Can we add your name to the list of volunteers willing to mentor these youth?

Minnesota 4-H is recruiting volunteers interested in mentoring youth as they learn to make wise consumer decisions in a new online version of our Consumer Decision-Making Project. The online nature of this project means you can work with youth from anywhere and at any time, through the convenience of your mobile device or home internet connection.

How does it work? Each week, youth will learn about finances and consumerism, review a scenario, and compare products to make informed decisions. Youth post their decision process and decision. Mentors go online to respond to questions and provide feedback. Youth learn through your feedback to critique their decisions, reflect on their values and give feedback to their peers.

If you are interested in mentoring youth to become savvy consumers and build financial intelligence, or would like more information on this opportunity, contact Carrie Olson (320-589-1711,olson166@umn.edu) today.

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.
- MN 4-H Beef
- MN 4-H Dairy
- NEW: MN 4-H Sheep
- MN 4-H Announce 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.

2015 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge Sign-up

If you haven’t signed up already, get your 4-H team together and sign up for the 2015 4-H Rube Goldberg Design Challenge.

This year’s task is to build a machine that puts toothpaste on a toothbrush. Teams of 4-H’ers are already signing up so they have more time to design, build, test and improve their machines before they compete at the county fair.

Complete information about registration and participation can be found in the rulebook.

Contact the 4-H program coordinator in your county with any questions.
4-H Volunteer Corner

The 4-H learning environment

‘Tis the season of county fair and 4-H conference judging.

When young people join a 4-H program, they embark on a journey of fun and personal development. School teachers will often comment that they can identify the “4-H kids” in the classroom based on their communication skills. 4-H youth are known for their public presentation skills, their ability to convey information and engage in a conversation. Not surprisingly, 4-H members have a distinct advantage when participating in interviews for scholarships or job interviews.

One of the highly visible learning opportunities in the 4-H Youth Development program is 4-H project judging at the county and state fair. Fair project conference judging is just one of the methods incorporated by the Minnesota 4-H Program to develop communication and life skills in young people. In conference judging, the ribbon placing on the project is based 50% on the project, and 50% on the knowledge of the exhibitor. Conference judging consists of a conversation or “mini interview” between the 4-H member and the judge. During the judging process a 4-H member shares their knowledge and work on the project. The judge asks questions that help the 4-H member reflect on their learning experiences and celebrate their accomplishments. 4-H members exhibit fair projects because they are fun, but learning is the real take-away. Conference judging is just one example of how the Minnesota 4-H program creates non-formal learning opportunities for youth.

To learn more, view the 30-minute 4-H Online Training module: "The 4-H learning environment".

Calendar of Events

June

10-13 YELLO
13-14 Dog Supersession, Redwood Co. Fairgrounds, Redwood Falls
18-19 Science of Agriculture Response Challenge
20-27 Citizenship Washington Focus
22-25 4-H Regional Camp – UM Morris
28 SW Regional Western Heritage Competition, Al & Kelly Jones Arena, Pipestone
29 WOT Pre-Fair Meeting
30 WOT Food Revue, Pioneer Retirement Home, Fergus Falls

July

1 Deadline for Volunteers to complete Safety of Minors training
7 WOT Fashion Revue, Kennedy School, Fergus Falls
14 WOT County Fair Entry Day
15-18 WOT County Fair
20 Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational registration due
25 WOT 4-H Dog Show

August

3 LQA&E Training
17-18 Junior Camp
27-9/7 MN State Fair

September

11-13 MN 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational