

MINNESOTA 4-H CLOVER UPDATE

BRAINERD REGIONAL OFFICE / MILLE LACS COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2013

 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION



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Thank You!

I would like to thank each and every youth and adult volunteer who helped out at the 2013 Mille Lacs County Fair. As my first county fair, I can say that I owe a lot to everyone who helped out with the immense amount of, planning, and preparation that made the county fair a success. I cannot thank everyone enough for all the hard work and dedication you have put into this program not only for county fair, but throughout the whole year. Your knowledge, enthusiasm, and dedication are essential to making the county fair possible and I would not be able to do it without your help!

I also would like to extend a special thank you to all the individuals who volunteered to be barn superintendents, show superintendents, and everyone else who helped make each show possible. Though I thank everyone deeply for their time and commitment to the 4-H program, I would like to shout out to a few people who really helped me out personally throughout the fair. I would like to thank Marty Grimm for being a huge help on EVERYTHING! He was always willing to help out in whatever area he was needed.

- Laura Pipenhagen, for helping organize and recruit judges for the Round Robin Showmanship competition.
- Judy Hible, for all the hard work and dedication she puts into running the little farm hands.
- Tammy Stobb, for being a huge help at the 4-H desk when Crystal and I needed assistance.
- Brian Santema and Judy Trosper, for being awesome foodstand managers!
- And finally, thank you to Laurie Nelson for helping Crystal and I out at the 4-H desk with data entry and making all of the 4-H livestock show programs.

Though I can't list them all, there are countless other people that I could thank for their help, dedication, and wisdom. Thank you again!

My apologies for not mentioning more people by name! Mille Lacs County has an amazing group of members and leaders.

Thank you all again for an amazing first County Fair experience. I am looking forward to what the next year will bring!

Hannah Wall

Little Farm Hands Thank You

A huge thank you goes out to all of the 4-H youth who helped out and volunteered their time working at Little Farm Hands during the county fair. Your efforts did not go unnoticed. We received numerous comments from impressed parents on how wonderful they thought the youth that helped out were. Thank you for representing Mille Lacs County 4-H in such a wonderful and positive way!

Day Care Day Thank You

I would like to thank the Mille Lacs County 4-H Ambassadors for taking on DayCare Day at the County Fair this year. Your hard work and dedication made this event a success! Also, a special thanks to the Moller family for putting together a fun scavenger hunt around the 4-H buildings for the daycare kids. They absolutely loved it!

A Note from Crystal

My last day with the Mille Lacs County 4-H Extension office is going to be Wednesday, September 4th. I will be graduating with my degree in Human Resources in just a couple of weeks, and was offered a great opportunity working in the HR office at Fairview Northland.

Thank you for the opportunity to get to know all of you, it has been a pleasure to work with such a talented group of youth and volunteers.

Sincerely,

Crystal Rowland

Fall Enrollment

4-H enrollment for the 2013-2014 4-H year will be opening September 15th. You can log into your account at www.4honline.com and do those re-enrollments at your convenience. You will be using the log-in and password that you set up last year to enroll. If you need help please contact the 4-H office.

We will have computers with internet access at the Extension Office available for this process. If you need access past 4:30 pm during the week just contact Hannah to work out a time.

Annual Federation Meeting

Annual Federation meeting will be held on Monday, September 16th at 7 p.m. at the Mille Lacs County Courthouse upper level boardroom. Everyone is encouraged to attend as the Federation elects new officers for the 2013-2014 4-H year. We will be electing President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary and District Representatives. If you are interest in running for office, but cannot attend please contact the Extension Office.

Auction Committee

The Auction Committee will be holding an end of the County Fair meeting soon. Please watch for an email with more details. Please plan on attending this meeting if you are interested in joining the committee.

Auction Reminder

Reminder to all auction participants that you will not receive your auction premium until the Extension Office has received your thank you notes. If you have not completed your thank you notes please complete them and send them to the Extension Office as soon as possible. If you need a reminder of how many or whom they need to go to we will gladly help you out!

Award Winners

Congratulations to everyone who received an award at the 4-H award ceremony! Be sure to thank the generous donors who helped to make the trophies possible. If you would like to thank a donor but are unsure of whom the donor was just contact Hannah at the Extension Office.

Mille Lacs County at the State Fair

Once again Mille Lacs County was wonderfully represented at the Minnesota State Fair. Congratulations to all the State Fair trip winners of 2013!

Record Time

Once again it is time to polish off those records and add the final touches. Records are due on October 1st to the Extension Office. Remember that records are a great learning piece. It is a great way to keep track of things like project expenses, accomplishments and things learned during the year. The records also give you a reference for future projects. Of course, many of you started your records to be eligible for state events so be sure to wrap them up and turn them in. If you have any questions about project records be sure to talk with your club leader or the Extension Office.

Window/Lawn Displays

National 4-H Week is just around the corner. Once again during National 4-H week we encourage 4-H clubs to participate in the window or lawn display competition. Win prizes, share your 4-H enthusiasm with your community, recruit new families to 4-H, and work with your fellow club members! During National 4-H week, October 6-12, Mille Lacs County will be holding a window display and lawn display contest. All lawn displays should

submit a photo for judging and window displays will be visited by a judge. Please contact the Extension Office if your club is interested in participating this year!

Leadership Retreat

More information about the 2013 Leadership Retreat (originally called the Ambassador Retreat) is to come. Watch for an email for more information. At this event we will do many teambuilding exercises and talk about leadership opportunities in the communities. This is a regional event and will be a great time to meet new people.

Club Treasurer's books

All club treasurer books, registers and bank statements should be turned into the Extension Office by November 1st for auditing.

Holiday Workshop

The General Projects PDC is once again planning a Holiday Workshop. In years past youth have made a wide variety of really amazing projects. So mark your calendar for Saturday, November 23rd for the workshop. The 23rd is the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Be sure to join us and maybe even make some homemade and heartfelt holiday gifts. If you would like to instruct an activity or know of something fun to do please contact the Extension Office.

Message from Dorothy

Dear 4-H Families and Volunteers,

It's September and we're coming to a close of another wonderful 4-H program year. We had the opportunity to celebrate the learning and accomplishments of some of our 4-H'ers at the county and State fairs this summer. But we know that more than 70,000 youth participate

in 4-H every year, and I want to encourage you to find ways to celebrate their learning and accomplishments as well.

National 4-H Week is October 6-12, and many of you will celebrate 4-H at events in your county. During 4-H Week, Minnesota 4-H'ers will join millions of young people to become scientists for the day in the sixth annual ***4-H National Youth Science Experiment on October 9, 2013***. The theme of this year's 4-H National Science Experiment will be 4-H Maps & Apps! The purpose is to help young people become geospatial thinkers as they design and map their ideal park, use GIS mapping to solve community problems and contribute data about their community to the United States Geological Survey.

I hope you take advantage of these and other opportunities to recognize the 4-H'ers in your county and their accomplishments from the past year, and encourage and support them as they set their goals for the coming year.

Sincerely,

Dorothy M. Freeman,

Associate Dean and State 4-H Director

Annual Fall Volunteer Training

Adult volunteers and youth leaders are encouraged to attend the 2013-2014 annual volunteer training, which will use the North Central Region 4-H Volunteer e-Forums broadcast to local county training sites. Join with other 4-H volunteers in your community and across the 12-state North Central Region to learn cutting edge information that will help you work effectively with 4-H members. You will benefit from the feedback and discussion of other state 4-H programs and develop new skills for facilitating learning experiences and for applying this in your work with youth in 4-H projects, clubs, and activities.

- Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2013
- Location: Mille Lacs County Courthouse

- Time: 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Topic: Engaging Teens/Old Youth in the 4-H

This time and date don't work for you? Visit the following website to find other trainings near you: www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/training-2013.

For more information or to register, please contact: Pine County Extension Office at 320-591-1650.

Managing 4-H Clubs - Online 4-H Volunteer Training

Fall marks the start of the 4-H year. Get ready for your job as a club leader by watching "Managing 4-H clubs: A guide for 4-H club leaders." As a club leader you are a mentor and a motivator for young people, an organizer and coordinator with other adults in your club and a liaison with the larger 4-H organization in your area. Whether this is your first year as a club leader or you've been in the role for a while, this module can help you with some of the typical management issues in 4-H clubs.

The training is part of a series of dynamic, interactive 30-minute online training modules to help volunteers build their volunteer skills and knowledge from home. These trainings are available to all adult screened volunteers, through mn.4honline.com/. Check out other online volunteer training topics:

- Creating a welcoming, engaging and encouraging environment for youth
- 4-H project leaders: Where the action starts
- The 4-H learning environment

To get a preview of each of the trainings, visit: www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training/.

Minnesota Youth Beef Experience Program

The Minnesota Youth Beef Experience Program (MYBEP) is intended to inspire youth interested in entering the beef cattle industry. Through the generous donations of successful cattlemen industry professionals, qualified youth will be awarded a beef heifer to raise and care for during the year. Applications are available for the 2013 Minnesota Youth Beef Experience Program. Please visit www.mnbeefexpo.com for an application and more information. The application deadline is *September 9th*.

New Code of Conduct

Minnesota 4-H strives to be a quality youth development experience for all young people! A standard of behavior for all individuals involved in a program is one of the key components for creating a welcoming and safe learning environment. The Minnesota 4-H Youth Development program outlines expected standards of behavior in the Minnesota 4-H Code of Conduct.

This fall all youth, parents, and volunteers will be asked to review and commit to the new Minnesota 4-H Code of Conduct through the enrollment/re-enrollment process. This code of conduct may be viewed at: www.4-H.umn.edu/policies.

4-H Independent Membership

Minnesota 4-H is excited to announce that the guidelines and procedures for independent membership have been revised to strengthen the independent 4-H member's experience. Youth grade six and older who have had at least two years of 4-H club experience may choose to enroll as independent members. (Current independent members may enroll as independent members regardless of age or years with club experience.)

An independent member's work is self-directed with the guidance and support of a mentor and parent(s) or guardian(s). Prior 4-H club/group experience helps ensure a basic understanding of 4-H, connections to peers and adults, and skills from being engaged in group learning and decision-making. The minimum age requirement is important as youth at this age are better able to begin to seek out resources for individual learning.

An information packet supports independent members and their mentors. The member agreement form and a yearly progress form are designed to strengthen the partnership between the independent 4-H member and his/her mentor.

When enrollment opens **September 15**, the revised independent membership information will be at www.4-H.umn.edu.

State Horse Show

The annual Minnesota 4-H Horse Show will be held September 13-16, 2013 at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Watch the Minnesota 4-H Horse Website for more information at www.4-H.umn.edu/projects/animal-science/horse.

State Dog Show

The Minnesota 4-H State Dog Show will be held September 21-22, 2013 at the State Fairgrounds in St. Paul. Watch the Minnesota 4-H Dog website for more details: www.4-H.umn.edu/events/state-dog-show.html.

Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification Training

Get trained for the new 4-H year on **October 12-13th** at **Camp Wilderness Boy Scout Camp in Park Rapids, MN**, 17 miles north of Park Rapids. Registration and complete details are available on the Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader

Certification website: www.4-H.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-certification/. Deadline for registration will be **September 27th** but don't wait to sign up - *disciplines have maximum numbers we can register and **disciplines that don't meet their minimum numbers will be cancelled on Sept 27th**.*

Minnesota 4-H Foundation Golf Tournament

The Minnesota 4-H Foundation is excited to announce a new event! We'll be hosting a late-season golf tournament at beautiful **Dacotah Ridge Golf Club** outside **Redwood Falls** on **Friday, September 20**.

We invite all 4-H friends, supporters and volunteers from across the area to come together for a day of golf. Registration and details are online at www.4hfoundation.umn.edu under "events". Our goal is to give 4-H supporters across southwest and south-central Minnesota an opportunity to network and learn how 4-H continues to impact their communities. The tournament will be a best-ball scramble.

Contact Brad Starbuck with questions at [\(320\) 441-9499](tel:3204419499) or bstarbuc@umn.edu. Proceeds benefit the efforts of the 4-H Foundation to raise funds that strengthen local 4-H programs.

Smithsonian Collecting Agriculture Stories

The Smithsonian is asking the public to help preserve the recent history of farming and ranching by sharing stories about the technologies and innovations in agriculture in the Agriculture Innovation and Heritage Archive. The archive stories and artifacts will be used for Smithsonian exhibitions like American Enterprise, which will open in May 2015.

Here is the project's home page: americanenterprise.si.edu/introduction/agricultural-innovation-and-heritage-archive/. There is a link on that page where people can submit their stories.

National 4-H Salute to Excellence Award

Volunteers are the heart and soul of 4-H. In an age when time is at a premium, 4-H Salute to Excellence Awards are an opportunity to acknowledge our volunteers' unwavering dedication to the 4-H Youth Development Movement. Research shows that volunteers are the key to positive youth development because of their longtime mentorship of 4-H youth.

- Each year, state 4-H programs are invited to nominate two outstanding individual volunteers--one in each of two categories:
 - The **Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer Award** is given to an individual who has spent 10 or more years volunteering for 4-H.
 - The **Volunteer of the Year Award** is given to an individual who has volunteered for 4-H less than 10 years.

Nominations for MN volunteers are due October 1, 2013 to Brenda Shafer, Program Leader, Youth Development: shafe006@umn.edu. Complete information on the award, nomination guidelines and process can be found at www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/salute-to-excellence.

National 4-H Science Experiment

Each year Minnesota 4-H participates in the National Youth Science Experiment (NYSE) on October 9th. In this year's experiment, 4-H Maps & Apps, young people will become geospatial thinkers as they design and map their ideal park, use GIS mapping to solve community problems and contribute data about their

community to the United States Geological Survey.

Your club can use the NYSE guide during club meetings and to create project day or 4-H promotional experiences! To learn more and express interest, check out the NYSE website at: www.4-h.org/4-h-national-youth-science-day/science-experiments-projects/geographic-information-systems-4-h-maps-and-apps/ and talk to your county office. You can order a kit from the 4-H Mall by going to: www.4-hmall.org and typing "NYS" into the search.

National 4-H Conference

Dates for the 2014 National 4-H Conference in *Washington D.C.* are **April 5 - April 10** (not including travel dates). The application and selection process will take place this fall. Beginning in the middle of September, new and updated conference information, application criteria and logistics will be found on the Minnesota 4-H events website: www.4-H.umn.edu/events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Labor Day – Office Closed – Sept. 2
- Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational, Alexandria – Sept. 6-8
- Application Deadline for Minnesota Youth Beef Experience Program – Sept. 9
- State Horse Show – Sept. 13-16
- NE 4-H Livestock Show – Sept. 14-15
- Enrollment Opens for 4-H Independent Membership – Sept. 15
- Annual Federation Meeting – Sept. 16
- Minnesota 4-H Foundation Golf Tournament, Redwood Falls – Sept. 20
- State Dog Show – Sept. 21-22

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- Registration Deadline for Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification Training – Sept. 27
- Nominations due for 4-H Salute to Excellence Awards – Oct. 1
- Records Due – Oct. 1
- National 4-H Week – Oct. 6-12
- National Youth Science Experiment (NYSE) – Oct. 9
- Shooting Sports & Wildlife leader certification training – Oct. 12-13
- Club Treasurer's Books Due – Nov. 1
- Holiday Workshop – Nov. 23
- National 4-H Conference, Washington, D.C. – April 5-10, 2014