

MINNESOTA 4-H CLOVER UPDATE

NORTHEAST REGION -- NORTH ST. LOUIS COUNTY

MAY 2015

 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION



Ely #1, 3rd place team at the State Project Bowl!

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Calendar

MAY

2-3 Dog agility judges seminar, Rice County Fairgrounds, Faribault

3 4-H Dog Alumni Fun Match, Rice County Fairgrounds, Faribault

5 Dog Agility Training (Iron Range Dog Training, 5:30 – 7:30)

9 4-H lama clinic, Lyon County Fairgrounds, Marshall

10 4-H lama judge training clinic, Lyon County Fairgrounds, Marshall

11 Photography Project Meeting (4-H Office, 6:30)

12 Dog Agility Training (Iron Range Dog Training, 5:30 – 7:30) last session

15 4-H animal ID deadline

15 Deadline to sign up for the 2015 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge

15 Minnesota 4-H State Ambassador application deadline

17 4-H Western Heritage Safety Clinic, Al & Kelly Jones Arena, rural Pipestone

18 Federation Meeting (6:30 at the Northland Office Center)

JUNE

10-13 YELLO! (State Fair Grounds)

13-14 Dog Supersession, Redwood County Fairgrounds, Redwood Falls

15 Federation Meeting (6:30 at the Northland Office Center)

18-19 Science of Agriculture Response Challenge

20-27 Citizenship Washington Focus

28 Southwest Regional Western Heritage Competition, Al & Kelly Jones Arena, rural Pipestone

JULY

1 Safety of Minors training completion deadline for all Minnesota 4-H volunteers

17 Fair Registration forms due to the County 4-H Office

AUGUST

12 – 16 North St. Louis County Fair!

Photography Project!

Our photography project group is up and running! We have been working with photographers Cathy Kishel, and Paul and Liz Pluskwick to provide instruction and critique of 4-H photographs.

We are going to try something new with the photography project. We have started a North St. Louis 4-H Photography Project Facebook Page. This will be a closed group and only open to members of the Photography Project. We may have a weekly theme or challenge, and youth are encouraged to post a picture on the site for both peer and professional critique.

If you are not a member of Facebook, you can have a parent post, or email the office a copy and we can post it for you, then send you back some of the feedback you receive.

[Photography Project Page](#)

Project Bowl Teams Compete at State!

North St. Louis County was very well represented at the State Project Bowl held in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota on Saturday April 11th. We had 3 Junior Dog Bowl teams, and 1 Senior

Dog Bowl teams that had qualified at various regional competitions in March.

Then junior teams were very competitive with Ely #1, finishing in 3rd Place, and 4-Paws finishing in 4th Place, and Ely #2 finishing in 8th place. The senior team finished a very respectable 6th place. Statewide there were 22 teams competing in the junior dog bowl, and 18 teams competing in the senior project bowl.

Plans are underway for competing again in 2016! If you are interested, please contact the office for more information, and watch the Clover Update for practice times when they start up again in late fall.

We Need your VOTE to approve the NEW North Saint Louis County Federation Constitution/By-Law Changes!

When: June 15th

Where: Federation Meeting at the Northland Office Center

Time: 6:30 pm

All Minnesota 4-H Organizations are covered under a federal Group Exemption Number (GEN) that was granted to the Regents of the University of Minnesota by the IRS in August 2013. This group exemption status allows Minnesota 4-H federations/councils who have been successfully chartered the authority to use the 4-H name and emblem and to operate as a tax exempt organization which can accept donations and carry out fundraising activities as a non-profit. As a part of the commitment Minnesota 4-H made to secure the GEN, all 4-H Federations/Councils must, by law, adopt and operate under this model constitution/by-laws.

A sub-committee consisting of youth and adult volunteers from North Saint Louis County have

been working diligently to make the new changes. All of the changes have met the guidelines laid out by Minnesota 4-H and it is time for the new documents to be presented and voted on for approval by the North Saint Louis County 4-H Federation.

We are asking all eligible voting members of the Federation to attend the meeting on June 15th as they will be presented at this time. Eligible voting members include all 4-H members and registered adult volunteers. In order for the new constitution/by-laws to be approved we must have a quorum. A quorum in North Saint Louis County is 8 members and at least 3 clubs.

A copy of the "New" constitution/by-laws is posted on the county website [NSL Constitution and By-Laws](#) for your review before the meeting. If you would like to request a printed copy or have any questions, please contact Wade Herbranson, County 4-H Program Coordinator at 218-749-7120 or wherbran@umn.edu

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

County Fair 2015!

This year's St. Louis County Fair will be held August 12 - 16th in Chisholm. Entry day, where projects are brought to the fair and judged will be on Tuesday, August 11th. The 4-H County Fair book will be in your club leader's hands by June 1st, with the Fair Registration Form due to the office by July 17th. Look for more information coming out soon.

YELLO!

If you are in the 6th grade or above, mark your calendars from June 10th - 13th, so you can attend YELLO! YELLO! Is state wide youth leadership program similar to BLU, but is longer and held in the 4-H building at the State Fair Grounds. This year's format will look a little different as the State Ambassadors are asking

for your help in identifying our “Day on the Town” theme, as well as the type of service project that will be incorporated into this year’s event. The cost for this event is \$200, but North St. Louis County offers at 25% scholarship, so youth from our county can attend for \$150. Please contact the office ASAP. Registration deadline is May 1.

Shooting Sports and Wildlife Program!

Keep your eyes open for the start of our Archery Program! We have sent instructors to class, and are in the process of ordering equipment! If you are interested in joining the archery program, please make sure that you enroll in the Shooting Sports and wildlife / Archery project. That way you will get the most up to date information as we roll out this fun new program!

Rube Goldberg Machine Forming!

The 4-H Rube Goldberg Machine Challenge is back again this year! The task for 2015 is to design and build a Rube Goldberg Machine that can put toothpaste on a toothbrush!

Rube Goldberg Machines are overly complex contraptions that do simple tasks, often using everyday items in whimsical ways that interact in a series of chain-reactions (the game Mouse Trap is a great example.)

Teams of 3-10 youth in grades 3-8 led by at least one adult volunteer leader can participate. Teams that complete the online requirements can compete at their county fair, and will be eligible to compete at the Minnesota State Fair.

We are in the process of forming a team to explore this challenge and have a machine at both the county fair as well as the state fair! We are in the process of forming a team to explore

this challenge and have a machine at both the county fair as well as the state fair! Dave Saranen has volunteered to work with our team. Please contact the office if you are interested in participating.

Complete information about registration and participation can be found in the rulebook available at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/engineering-design-challenge/index.html.

Celebrating Service: National Volunteer Week

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University of Minnesota Extension salutes its nearly 7,000 adult volunteers who serve the 4-H Youth Development Program in every county in Minnesota. During April, we celebrated **National Volunteer Week, (April 12-18, 2015). In that week and beyond, we thank** all of you hard-working dedicated volunteers who symbolize the week's theme of "*Celebrate Service.*"

Our volunteers contribute to the 4-H program in multiple ways: direct service to youth; advising program direction; and sharing resources, including telephone calls and emails, miles traveled in personal vehicles and personal dollars spent for program supplies and donations.

Special thanks to 4-H volunteers across northeast Minnesota who tirelessly share their time, talents, and resources to help youth develop into caring, competent, and contributing adults. We thank you for taking action and bettering your communities on behalf of youth.

Message from Dorothy

Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

The Minnesota 4-H Foundation recently announced the recipients of the 2015 Helping Hands Grants. A total of \$25,000 was awarded to 30 4-H youth and projects across the state. One of 4-H's goals is to support the positive development of youth by providing hands-on leadership and learning opportunities. The Helping Hands Grants help 4-H achieve that goal by providing financial support for youth to use to develop and implement a service project that they are passionate about and make a positive impact in their community.

I encourage you read about the 2015 Helping Hands Grants awardees and the wonderful range of projects that will happen this year at <http://z.umn.edu/helping>.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these projects or how you can contribute to support these efforts, please contact Erin Kelly-Collins, Minnesota 4-H Foundation alumni coordinator and county development liaison, at erinkc@umn.edu.

Sincerely,

Dorothy M. Freeman
Associate dean and state 4-H director

NEW: Safety of Minors training required for volunteers by July 1

Last fall, 4-H families and volunteers were notified that the University of Minnesota Board of Regents had recently adopted a policy to ensure the safety of youth under eighteen who participate in University of Minnesota sponsored programming including 4-H Youth Development programs. Because the University recognized that we in 4-H are diligent about the

safety of our youth and adult participants, they adopted many of the existing practices of 4-H. Overall, the new policy minimally changes the day-to-day operations of our program; however, please note the following significant changes.

Under the new policy, adult volunteers (like paid employees) are required reporters in suspected instances of child abuse and neglect. Previously, volunteers were told to report concerns to staff; now, volunteers will report directly to local law enforcement or the appropriate social service agency.

Additionally, the University has developed a 10-minute video that explains the role of staff and volunteers in keeping minors safe while participating in University-sponsored programs.

- New Minnesota 4-H volunteers will complete this training as part of their screening process.
- Current Minnesota 4-H volunteers may complete this training independently online or as a group through locally scheduled offerings. **All current Volunteers must complete this by July 1 in order to continue volunteering.**
- Minnesota 4-H volunteers who continue their service will complete this training approximately every 3 years.

4HOnline will be used to track this training. **Those who do not complete this training by the July 1, 2015 deadline will not be allowed to continue volunteering until they've met this University requirement.**

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

Information regarding the Safety of Minors training can be found online at: www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/safety-of-minors

2015 Helping Hands Grants announced!

The Minnesota 4-H Foundation is happy to announce that Helping Hands grants totaling \$25,000 were awarded to 30 worthy applicants. A full list of recipients can be found at <http://z.umn.edu/helping>. Our selection decisions were difficult to make and we are grateful to all who applied.

2015-16 Minnesota 4-H State Ambassador applications open!

Applications to join the 2015-16 Minnesota 4-H State Ambassador team became available on April 20, 2015! Approximately 25 Ambassadors will be selected from across the state to work at the Minnesota State Fair, plan the 4-H Building Leadership & Understanding (BLU), and Youth Exploring Leadership & Learning Outloud! (YELLO!) events, and represent 4-H at a variety of functions throughout the year! Applications are due **May 15**, and consist of a written application form, a reference form from a 4-H staff or adult volunteer, and an oral interview/presentation if you are selected as a semi-finalist. More details are available online at <http://4-h.umn.edu/ambassadors>.

4-H volunteer corner

Keeping Youth in 4-H: The power of 4-H projects and fair conference judging

Can you name the three key factors why youth stay involved in the 4-H program? If you answered *relationships, projects and fun*, you received a perfect score! We know from research that these are the main factors for program retention. Club involvement fosters positive relationships with adults and peers. Members experience skill building through project involvement and growth. These items

are reinforced by fun, and these three factors together are a powerful combination for keeping youth involved in 4-H.

As we approach the fair season let's discuss skill building through project involvement, specifically fair conference judging. Participation in fair conference judging consists of a "mini interview" between the judge and the 4-H member pertaining to a fair project. The judge asks questions to help youth reflect on their learning and celebrate their accomplishments. Past 4-Hers have attributed their career choices and life-long interest to their 4-H projects. 4-H Clubs can play a pivotal role in supporting project skill development. Youth leaders and adult volunteers can provide mentoring, project training and encouragement to enter fair projects and participate in fair conference judging.

To learn more about keeping youth involved in the 4-H Program, view the 4-H online training *Keeping Youth in 4-H* at www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training.