

MINNESOTA 4-H CLOVER UPDATE

NORTHEAST REGION -- NORTH ST. LOUIS COUNTY

DECEMBER 2014

 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION



Nico and Heather talk about their 4-H experiences at a St. Louis County Extension Committee meeting

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Calendar

DECEMBER

- 1 Fall Volunteer Training
- 2 Dog Training at the IRDTC (5:30 – 7:15)
- 8 County Ambassador Holiday Party!
(4-H Office, 6:30 – 8:00)
- 9 Dog Training at the IRDTC (5:30 – 7:15)
- 15 Federation Meeting (4-H Office, 6:30)

JANUARY

- 12 Photography Project Meeting (4-H
Office, 6:30)
- 13 Dog Training (5:30 – 7:30)
Thunderbird Mall
- 18 Jacque Hoyer Agility Seminar
(Thunderbird Mall) 12 – 4 tentative
time
- 19 Federation Meeting (4-H Office, 6:30)
- 20 Dog Training (5:30 – 7:30)
Thunderbird Mall
- 23-25 Minnesota 4-H State Horse Winter
Roundup
- 26 County Ambassador Meeting (4-H
Office, 6:30)
- 27 Dog Training (5:30 – 7:30)
Thunderbird Mall
- 31 – Feb 1 Leadership Retreat (I Falls for
6th grade and up)

FEBRUARY

- 1 Helping Hands Grants due to the 4-H
Foundation office

- 3 Dog Training (5:30 – 7:30)
Thunderbird Mall
- 9 Photography Project Meeting (4-H
Office, 6:30)
- 10 Dog Training (5:30 – 7:30)
Thunderbird Mall
- 16 Federation Meeting (4-H Office, 6:30)
- 17 Dog Training (5:30 – 7:30)
Thunderbird Mall
- 23 County Ambassador Meeting (4-H
Office, 6:30)
- 24 Dog Training (5:30 – 7:30)
Thunderbird Mall
- 28-Mar. 1 Northeast BLU, Duluth

MARCH

- 9 Photography Project Meeting (4-H
Office, 6:30)
- 21 Regional Project Bowl, Bemidji
- 16 Federation Meeting (4-H Office, 6:30)
- 23 County Ambassador Meeting (4-H
Office, 6:30)
- 28 Regional Project Bowl (snow date)

APRIL

- 6-11 National 4-H Conference

JUNE

- 18-19 Science of Agriculture Response
Challenge
- 20-27 Citizenship Washington Focus

Rally Dog Training

Have you ever thought about training your dog
and possibly entering them in the county fair?

If so, the Dog Project would like to invite you to attend our regular training sessions on Tuesday nights at the Iron Range Dog Training Club. We are currently working on “Rally” training, which is basically an obedience course set up that handler and dog must follow and do the appropriate task at each location.

Beginner handlers and pre-novice dogs start training at 5:30 while those in the Novice and above start at 6:15. We encourage the novice and above youth to come early and help the less experienced youth with the pre-novice class; likewise, we encourage the less experienced youth to stay and watch the novice and above kids work with their dogs.

Photography Project Starting!

We are starting a Photography Project Program in January. The group will be meeting once a month this winter and spring and will be covering the following topics:

- Landscape / Outdoor Photography
- Portraits
- Silhouettes
- Macro Photography
- Action Photography
- Editing / Presentation

One topic per month will be presented, and then youth will have the month to focus on that skill and bring a couple of pictures back to the group for critiquing. The group is also considering a “field trip” in early summer to really focus on outdoor photography.

The first meeting will be held on Monday, January 12th, from 6:30 – 8:00 at the 4-H Office in the Northland Office Center. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the 4-H office.

Project Bowl Teams Forming!

The dog project has started a senior and junior project bowl team for this upcoming year. They are practicing from 7 – 7:45 pm on Tuesday nights at the Iron Range Dog Training Club. We are always looking for more youth that are interested in getting involved with this fun program. We will be competing in the regional project bowl in Bemidji on March 21st. If you are interested in being a part of this year’s Project Bowl experience, give the office a call.

Obedience Dog Training Starting

We will be starting Obedience Dog Training on January 13th. We will follow the same format as we did with Rally Training, and that will be New Youth, New dog, and those at the Beginner A / Beginner B training level will meet at 5:30 and run till 6:15. At 6:15 we will transition into those youth at the Graduate Beginner and above training levels. As with Rally, beginners are welcome to stay and watch the more experienced dogs / youth and the more experienced youth are encourage to come early and help the new youth. The cost for this class is free for first time 4-H’ers participating in training at the Iron Range Dog Training Club, and \$10 for those that have already completed a class. Any questions, please give the 4-H office a call.

Fall Volunteer Training

This year’s Fall Volunteer Training was held on December 1st. There was a lot of information presented and resource materials handed out. If your club was unable to attend and pick up the packet of resources, please make arrangements to come into the office for about 30 minutes to get the materials and receive a short overview of the training. It is extremely important that ALL clubs receive this training and information that was presented.

County Ambassador Holiday Party!

The NSL County Ambassador Program is hosting a holiday party for all youth in the 7th grade and above. We will be meeting on Monday, December 8th from 6:30 – 8:00 in the 4-H Office. We are asking that each youth (family) bring a snack to pass, and the Ambie program will purchase some pizzas for the group. We will have a ton of fun, and also introduce you to the statewide pilot program we are participating in this year. There are a ton of Ambie programs coming up in the near future, so stop by and learn about some of the great activities that are happening this winter.

4-H BLU

The Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors are thrilled to announce this year's theme for the Building Leadership and Understanding (BLU) overnight leadership retreat: "4-H BLU: Tune Into You", which will focus on self-acceptance and acceptance of others. Youth in grades 6 through one year past high school are invited and volunteer chaperones will also be needed. Contact your PC if interested!

We will be participating in the BLU being held at the Inn on Lake Superior in Duluth February 28 – March 1. North St. Louis County will also be offering a scholarship again this year for those that are interested in attending. This year's conference fee is \$85, but our federation covers 25% of the cost, so your fee will only be \$63.75. If you would like a BLU T-Shirt there is an extra \$12 fee.

Last year we had 16 youth attend from North St. Louis County! Let's try and top that with at least 20 youth this year! Call the office for more information, or to sign up for this year's BLU!

Additional details are available online at: www.4-H.umn.edu/events/blu/!

Jacque Hoye Dog Agility Seminar in January for 4-H'ers!

The Iron Range Dog Training Club will be hosting Professional Agility Trainer Jacque Hoye on the weekend of January 17th and 18th. They are making a special class available for 4-H'ers on Sunday afternoon. The cost of the class is \$50, and limited to the first 10 youth signing up.

The class will consist of teaching 4-H youth how to handle their dogs, with focus on teaching contacts, jumps, tunnels, and the proper way to handle yourself while introducing your dog to new things. One of the highlights in last year's class was the chance to run other youth through the course, with the youth being able to give feedback on how the "handler" did during the course.

Class size is limited, so sign up today!

County Leadership Retreat

We will be joining Itasca and Koochiching County for a retreat to be held in International Falls the weekend of January 31 – February 1. This year's event will be similar to last year's Clue event. We are still in the planning process, but look for more information coming out mid-December!

Announcing the 2015 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge: Erase a Board!

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 erase a chalk or white board!

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.

Learn more here:

www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/events/engineering-design-challenge/index.html or contact the 4-H program coordinator in your county.

Message from Dorothy

Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

It's the holiday season, and time when many of us reflect and give thanks for all of the things that bring joy and meaning to our life. I am truly thankful that Extension 4-H is able to provide learning opportunities for youth across Minnesota. 4-H is an important part of the University's outreach mission. The goal is to provide positive learning experiences that prepare all youth in Minnesota to succeed.

The current edition of Extension's Source magazine is now available and includes a story about how 4-H is working to serve the diverse and changing populations of Minnesota youth. I hope you will read this story and share it with people in your community to help them understand the important role 4-H plays in preparing all youth in Minnesota to learn, lead, contribute, and help Minnesota communities thrive. You can find the article on Extension's web site here:

[http://www.extension.umn.edu/source/fall-winter-2014/4-h-opens-new-doors/.](http://www.extension.umn.edu/source/fall-winter-2014/4-h-opens-new-doors/)

I often reflect on how honored and humbled I am to be able to lead such an audacious program for young people. Thank each of you for being in the journey with me whether as a

youth, parent, volunteer, staff, or community supporter. I appreciate your engagement with the Minnesota 4-H program.

Sincerely,

Dorothy M. Freeman
Associate Dean and State 4-H Director

Helping Hands Grants: A great source of funding for your 4-H club

Approximately \$30,000 will be awarded to 4-H counties and clubs through the Helping Hands Grant program. Average grant awards are between \$200 and \$2,000. Multiple applicants from the same county are welcome and encouraged.

Applications are due to the 4-H Foundation office by Feb. 1, 2015 and can be downloaded from the Minnesota 4-H Foundation website (z.umn.edu/helping). Questions can be directed to Erin Kelly-Collins at (erinkc@umn.edu / 612.624.7667).