Above: Emily Baraga from the Wilpen 4-H Club receives the Outstanding Volunteer Award for the St. Louis County Fair.

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Stay up-to-date with NSL 4-H
There is always a lot going on in north St. Louis County 4-H. Stay up-to-date by:
- Accessing the County 4-H Calendar - http://z.umn.edu/1czk
- Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/North-St-Louis-County-4-H
- Follow us on Twitter @nstlouiscount4H
- Follow us on Instagram @northstlouiscounty4-H

4-H Horse Ambassadors
All youth in grades 6+ are invited to a 4-H Horse Ambassador meeting on Thursday, December 5th from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. The group will meet at the Cherry School. Youth will be planning horse related events for the 2019-2020 program year.

4-H Project Bowl
Patterned after the golden-oldie television show "College Bowl", it challenges teams of 3-6 youth on their knowledge of the 4-H dog project area. There are four Regional Project Bowls, followed by the State Project Bowl. Each has two divisions: Junior (grades 3 - 8) and Senior (grades 4 - 4-H graduation). Regional winners advance to the State Project Bowl and state winners in dairy, general livestock, horse, poultry and wildlife go on to national contests.

Horse Bowl – meets on Thursday nights from 6:00-7:00 pm. The group meets at the Cherry School.
Rabbit Bowl – will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 6:00-8:00 pm. The group will meet at the Lindula home-9487 Allavus Road Iron, MN 55751.

4-H ARCO Coffee Packing
This year the 4-H Federation has decided to sell ARCO coffee again. Your help is needed to pack the bags of coffee on Monday Dec. 30th from 2-4pm at the ARCO facility in Superior WI.

TO RSVP: Contact Amanda Issacs at 218-428-4409 or isaagirl@yahoo.com by Monday Dec. 23rd 2019. Transportation will be provided.

NSL 4-H Fundraisers
Help spread the word and sell items for the NSL 4-H Fundraisers:
ARCO Coffee- 12oz bags of delicious ARCO coffee are for sale. The cost is $10 a bag. The following varieties are available:
- Balanced Blend
- Bavarian Chocolate Raspberry
- Chocolate Caramel Delight
- French Caramel
- French Roast
- Mocha Mint
- Norseman Grog
- Swiss Chocolate Almond
- Traditional Roast.
Large bag clips- are for sale $12 each. Bag clips can hold and carry up to 50lbs. Great for:
- Dog and cat food
- Potting soil
- Side walk salt
- Feed bags
- And more!

Proceeds go to the NSL 4-H program which provides scholarships to leadership conferences, State Fair, and other regional and state competitions.

All products are on hand. Please contact the office for more information 218-749-7120 or email vande422@umn.edu.

**4-H Winter Round Up**

Winter Roundup is an exciting three day, two night conference focused on adult and youth horse project leadership and activities in the 4-H Horse Project.

The conference includes speakers and educational workshops with many hands-on activities. Topic areas include leadership skills, horse care and management, horse project activities such as horse judging, safety, hippology, Dan Patch and Youth Leadership Programs, Speech and Demonstrations, and much more.

In addition to gaining information and activities to use there are opportunities to share information, network with other horse project leaders and youth, make new friends and having fun!

This conference is geared towards adult horse project leaders and youth leaders 6th grade and above. Mark your calendars now and join us for a weekend you will remember!

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January 24-26, 2019 – Green Lake Bible Camp, Spicer, MN

For more information visit- [https://z.umn.edu/504z](https://z.umn.edu/504z)

**4-H BLU Registration Now Open!**

4-H BLU is open to all youth of 4-H eligibility in 6th grade and above. The 4-H Building Leadership and Understanding (BLU) program is an exciting and fun leadership adventure, hosted by the Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors, that brings together youth from across the state of Minnesota in a leadership workshop. Each retreat uses a youth-teaching-youth model to teach a leadership topic, participate in team-building activities, and meet other youth from their region.

The NE BLU will begin at 1pm on Saturday February 8th and conclude by 11:30am on Sunday February 9th. It will be held at the Long Lake Conservation Center.

The registration fee of $95.00 includes activity materials, an event long-sleeve t-shirt, meals and snacks, and housing.

Registration is now open at [http://4-honline.com](http://4-honline.com). The deadline to register is Thursday Feb. 1st

For more information go to [https://z.umn.edu/504w](https://z.umn.edu/504w)
Winter Cancellation Policy for 4-H Events

Keep the winter cancellation policy in mind as you get ready for 4-H winter fun. 4-H events will be cancelled if:

• St Louis County Schools are closed for the day or close early due to bad weather

• Temperature is at least -30 F and/or wind chill is -50 F or more

• Travel is not advised due to hazardous driving conditions

Remember that this policy is for meetings and events that will be held indoors. If you or your club are planning an outdoor event, please use your best judgement.

If a county event is canceled we will send out an email to all families and post on Facebook and the website about the cancellation as well. If you have questions about practice/events, call your coach, leader, or the 4-H office. The safety of the participants should always come first!

Winter Activities Insurance

All 4-H Club activities that include, downhill skiing, snowboarding, sledding and other downhill winter sports will need to file for additional insurance coverage.

The date of the event, type of event and number of participants is required. The rate for this coverage is $0.30 per person with a minimum rate of $8.00.

These activities by nature are higher risk activities. As with all your activities be sure to follow all safety measures communicated by rules and regulations posted at the facility being used.

If you are in need of extra insurance please contact the office at 218-749-7120 at least 2 weeks prior to your event.

St. Louis County Fair board Junior Membership

The St. Louis County Fair board now offers a Junior Membership for youth 17 years or under. To be a Junior Member you must have exhibited in at least 2 of the last 5 fairs, volunteered, or been employed by the association. The cost for a junior membership is $10.00 with annual dues of $2.50. Applications can be found on our website at https://z.umn.edu/504v

2020 Minnesota 4-H Engineering Design Challenge!

The 2020 Minnesota 4-H Engineering Design Challenge is here! This year’s theme, Mission to Mars, is sure to be a fun and challenging opportunity for youth to apply engineering design practices, develop their teamwork and communications skills, address an issue and design a solution.

What is the Engineering Design Challenge?

In the Minnesota 4-H Engineering Design Challenge, youth not only employ physics and engineering, but humor and storytelling, to create a Rube Goldberg™ type of machine. A Rube Goldberg™ machine is an overly complex
contraption that uses everyday items in a fun or amusing way to complete a task.
The 4-H Engineering Design Challenge offers a Level 1 experience for youth in grades 3 - 8 who create a machine that uses a series of simple machines (inclined plane, screw, wedge, level, wheel and axle, pulley) to accomplish the task theme.
In Level 2, youth in grades 7 – 12 incorporate four categories of engineering in their machines to accomplish the task: mechanical, chemical, electrical and fluid power. Teams that build a machine can demonstrate their machine at their county fair, the Engineering Design Challenge State Showcase, the Minnesota State Fair Showcase and anywhere they would like to share their learning.

Want to join a team?
NSL 4-H is looking for both youth participants and volunteer adult coaches to help with this year’s Engineering Design Challenge. If you are interested in being a part of team please contact Nicole Kudrle at 218-749-7120 or vande422@umn.edu

Upcoming NSL 4-H Events Save the Date
- 4-H Winter Horse Round Up - Jan. 24-26
- 4-H BLU Registration Deadline - Feb. 1
- 4-H Animal ID Deadline - Market Beef and Dairy Steers - Feb. 15th
- 4-H Outdoor Skills Day - Sunday March 8th at Bear Head Lake State park
- 4-H Project Fun Day - May 2nd at Messiah Lutheran Church Mountain Iron
- NSL 4-H Federation Meeting - May 6th
- 4-H Animal ID Deadline - May 15th
- Central Area 4-H Horse Camp - May 29-31
- YELLO! - June 9-12
- MQHA Boot Camp - June 16-18
- 4-H County Fair Judging Clinic - July 15th
- St. Louis County Fair - Aug. 5-9

Register today for a summer 4-H trip to Washington, DC!
In the summer of 2020, Minnesota 4-H will bring youth and adult volunteer chaperones to the National 4-H Conference Center to participate in the Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) conference.

CWF engages youth in learning how to be citizen leaders and make a difference in their communities while exploring landmarks and monuments important to US history. Youth participate in workshops and group activities, visit elected officials from Minnesota, listen to nationally-recognized speakers, and build relationships with others from across Minnesota and other states!

This experience is open to youth members who are at least 14 years old and have finished 9th grade by the time of the trip.

Registration is first-come, first-serve, and will close by Dec. 10, or when the spots are filled. Interested participants are encouraged to register early.

Two trips
This year, we are offering two trip dates. Each trip must have at least 26 youth registered or it will be canceled. Youth will be able to indicate their interest and preference on their application.
• June 21 - 27 (+ one day for travel on both ends)
• July 12 - 18 (+ one day for travel on both ends)

Chaperones
Chaperone positions are also open to volunteers who are at least 25 years of age. See the website for further details.

Learn more and apply.

Save the date: Animal science PDC webinar Dec. 10
What exactly is the role of a project development committee (PDC)? How does it support the mission of the Minnesota 4-H program and the local county 4-H program? How do we structure our committee? How do finances work? Who gets to make the rules and policies?

Join us for an informational webinar to help kick off your animal science PDC work for the year!

Animal science PDC kickoff webinar
Dec. 10, 7 - 8 p.m.
Join the webinar at umn.zoom.us/j/104943833.

The webinar will be recorded and made available for those unable to attend.

Sign up for 4-H agronomy related project areas!
This is a great time of year to sign up for 4-H projects that have an agronomy connection. Crops science, plants, soil science, vegetable gardening and even potatoes have some kind of connection to agronomy!

Watch for opportunities coming your way in 2020
If you are enrolled in a project area that is related to agronomy, more information will be sent to you directly regarding new opportunities.

Now is also a great time to start setting project specific goals
Think about growing plants and what it takes to produce a successful county fair exhibit. Take time to start planning what can happen in your specific project area!

Apply to be a Minnesota 4-H Agriculture Ambassador
The Minnesota 4-H Agriculture Ambassador program is a new opportunity for youth in 4-H livestock and agronomy related project areas. Minnesota 4-H Agriculture Ambassadors will serve as youth spokespeople for agriculture arenas that connect to the Minnesota 4-H Youth Development program.

Youth will have the opportunity to apply for:
• Five positions that are one year in length.
• Five positions that are two years in length.
• Two positions that are for youth in their 13th year of 4-H.

The application process will open Jan. 1 and close Feb. 3 at 4:30 p.m. Selected applicants will be interviewed and selected through the interview process.
Questions about Minnesota 4-H Agriculture Ambassadors and the application process may be directed to:

- Brian McNeill, Extension educator, mcnei006@umn.edu.
- Blaine Novak, Extension educator, bnovak@umn.edu.

**Sign-up for the 2020 Minnesota 4-H Science of Agriculture Challenge!**

Calling all Minnesota 4-H’ers! We need your help. We are looking for youth in grades 6-12 who would like to participate in the Science of Agriculture Challenge.

**What is the Science of Agriculture Challenge?**

In this challenge, teams of 2-5 youth work with an adult volunteer coach and mentor to:

- Create a project that identifies an agriculture issue in their community.
- Develop an idea for a solution.
- Share their project with the local community.

Teams can explore any topic connected to agriculture such as technology, animal science, the environment, food and energy, business, and more!

**State competition and showcase event**

Each summer, teams present their ideas to industry experts at a state competition and showcase event held on the University of Minnesota campus. Top scoring teams have the opportunity for each member to earn a scholarship ranging from $400 to $1,000 to use at the university, college or trade school of their choice. At the showcase, youth teams share their projects with each other, explore careers in agriculture, participate in hands-on activities and more.

**Make a difference**

The challenge is a great way for 4-H’ers to work together and make a difference in their communities and across Minnesota. Youth develop communication, problem solving, decision making and teamwork skills while learning about careers connected to agriculture, building their resume, and more!

**Interested in learning more or starting a team?**

Find all the details on the Science of Agriculture Challenge website. If you need ideas on how to start a team in your county or tribal nation, reach out to your local 4-H educator. For all other questions, contact Michael Compton (mcompton@umn.edu).

**The deadline for teams to register is Monday, March 2, 2020.**

You do not have to wait for the deadline to get started. Join us to discover issues, explore solutions and communicate your ideas today!

**Keep your 4-H teams safe**

Minnesota 4-H supports a number of youth teams, including project bowl, judging, science of agriculture, and engineering design. Before teams meet or practice, a couple of items must be in place to provide a safe and supportive environment for both youth and adults.

- A minimum of two active Minnesota 4-H volunteers must be designated to lead the team.
• At least one of the volunteers must serve as the coach.
• All youth must be enrolled 4-H members before attending practice.

We have provided user guides for club leaders and project leaders to verify volunteer and youth enrollment.

**Learn while exploring job opportunities as a Minnesota 4-H summer intern**

We are offering county-based 4-H summer intern positions throughout the state of Minnesota. Each internship will provide an excellent opportunity to learn more about University of Minnesota Extension and explore job opportunities in 4-H Youth Development. Most positions will be for ten or eleven weeks, with flexible starting dates.

Candidates must have a high school diploma, and at least two years of undergraduate study is preferred. Candidates must apply online through the University of Minnesota employment site. Application materials will include a standard application, résumé, cover letter, list of three references and a college transcript. A link will be provided listing which counties have open positions and allowing you to select your preferences.

To apply, access the summer intern position at extension.umn.edu/home/careers.

The application deadline is open until positions are filled with a preference for candidates who apply by Jan. 10, 2020.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Grimes at summerintern4-h@umn.edu.

**Check out these tools to support new 4-H families**

First year 4-H families have told us what they wished they would have known to navigate their entry into the 4-H program. In addition, a Minnesota 4-H survey also revealed that new families were less satisfied with their first year 4-H experience.

Minnesota’s 4-H program is rolling out new resources to make sure new 4-H families and volunteers are welcomed, develop a sense of belonging and have their questions answered during their first year in the 4-H program.

4-H Clubs may want to use one of these four volunteer roles to support new families:

- A mentor family.
- A new family navigator.
- A welcoming committee consisting of a team of youth and adults.
- A new family coordinator to organize the club’s efforts.

The **Welcoming and supporting new 4-H families: Conversation guide** is designed to support new 4-H families through their first program year and can be adapted to meet local program and family needs.

Download the guide or ask your local 4-H staff for a copy.