

MINNESOTA 4-H CLOVER UPDATE

Northwest Region / Polk County

December, 2015



December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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Calendar of Events

Looking Ahead

- Planning Meeting 4H Awards Banquet / December 15th / Crookston
- Office Closed / December 24th / Christmas Eve
- Office Closed / December 25th / Christmas Day
- Office Closed / December 31st / New Year's Eve
- Office Closed / January 1st / New Year's Day
- Office Closed / January 18th / Martin Luther King Holiday
- Northern MN 4H Project Bowl Invitation / February 13th / UMC
- 4-H Federation Meeting / February 22nd / UMC

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Happy Holidays!



From Polk County Extension Office

BLU

February 20-21, 2015
Detroit Lakes MN

4-H Building Leadership & Understanding (BLU) is a youth leadership workshop that brings together youth from across the region to engage in activities, leadership lessons, and meet youth from across the region. All activities are planned by the Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors, and will focus this year on exploring your passions to **"Find your Element,"** and envision how you can live out your passion in your life.

All youth enrolled in grades 6-12 and college first year students are welcome to attend. Non-4-H youth are encouraged to participate

FEE: The fee to participate in the Northwest BLU is \$100 for all youth participants and adult chaperones. This covers all meals, lodging, activities, supplies, and an event t-shirt. **Polk County 4-H Federation will cover ½ of the registration fee.**

Contact the Polk County Extension Office if you are interested in attending this event. Or you can register at the 4-H BLU website at www.4-h.umn.edu/events/blu

4H Banquet Planning Meeting

We will hold a meeting on Tuesday, December 15th in Crookston to talk about holding a 4-H Awards Banquet. More information will be emailed regarding place and time. If you would like to be a part of the planning committee please contact the Extension Office.

5th Annual Northern MN 4-H Project Bowl Invitational

Saturday, February 13, 2016
Registration 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Orientation: 10:00 a.m.
\$ 20.00 per team (up to 6 members per Team)
University of Minnesota Crookston Campus.

This is a round robin tournament. Ties will be broken by total points. Each team must provide one responsible youth or adult to assist with scorekeeping or timekeeping during the matches that your team participates in.

Each team participating needs to supply (31) questions and answers with the resource and page # each was pull from. These will then be divided up equally among all of the rounds.

Registrations and questions need to be sent in by January 29th. The "make-up storm date" in case of a blizzard Feb. 13th, will be Saturday, Feb. 27th.

UMC will be offering a meal at the contest again this year; they will have pizza, soup and salad bar for approximately \$6.00 with beverage included. (Bringing your own lunch is still an option).

Close to 30 teams participated in it last year and expect more this year. The Invitational has a Facebook page now for more info as well: <https://www.facebook.com/northernmn4hprojectbowl/invitational>

Contact the Polk County Extension Office if you are interested in attending this event or for more information.

Message from Dorothy



Dorothy M. Freeman
State 4-H Program Leader

Dear 4-H families and Volunteers:

December is one of my favorite months of the year. We take time to be with friends and family, and to reflect on and give thanks for all the things we have to be grateful for over the past year.

The most important thing Minnesota 4-H has to be thankful for is the volunteers who contribute the gifts of their time and talent to provide learning experiences for youth. The gift of your service makes it possible for 4-H to support positive youth development in Minnesota.

One example of how volunteers give to 4-H is highlighted in the current edition of Extension's Source magazine, which includes a story about the 4-H Youth Teaching Youth and State Ambassador programs. These wonderful young adults are guiding younger 4-H'ers in learning to make good choices and be responsible citizens. I encourage you to read and share this story about how 4-H'ers are giving back and helping Minnesota's young people thrive. You can find the article on Extension's web site here: www.extension.umn.edu/source/.

I want to thank all of our parents and volunteers for the many valuable ways you give to 4-H. I hope that in return, 4-H has also given back to you, either by providing you with your own learning experiences and opportunities to grow as you engage with young people, or by helping young people in your lives learn and lead.

Have a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

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

2016 SS&W Spring Leader Certification training

The Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Program Development Committee invites you to attend a 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification! The committee recommends that leaders attend the entire certification weekend every five years. Now is your chance to attend!

The training is designed for adults and youth (9th grade and older) that lead or would like to lead training in shooting sports or wildlife. Classes will be offered in the disciplines of coordinator, archery, rifle/pistol, shotgun, muzzleloading, and wildlife. This training meets the 4-H project leaders' requirements for certification and recertification. Although there is range time allocated in the schedule, the majority of the training is classroom work to become an effective instructor, not to practice your own shooting skills.

The training will take place **April 22-24, 2016** at the Kanabec Conservation Club in Mora.

Registration materials will be available Feb. 1 and posted here: www.4-H.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-certification/

The deadline to register is **April 8, 2016**. Disciplines fill quickly, so make sure registration forms are sent in early! All volunteers **MUST** have successfully completed the background screening process through their county extension office before participating in the training.

4-H summer intern positions

Are you looking for work experience in the youth development field?

Once again this year, there will be county-based 4-H summer intern positions throughout the state of Minnesota. Each internship will provide

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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 on-line through the University of Minnesota job site. The application materials will include a standard application, résumé, cover letter, list of three references and a college transcript. The summer intern positions will be posted soon at www.extension.umn.edu/about/employment/. The application deadline is **Feb. 15**.

For more information, please contact Michele VanDyke at mvandyke@umn.edu.

2016 Project Bowls

Project Bowls are just around the corner! It is that time of year again when project bowl teams will begin practicing for the regional contests in March. There are opportunities for teams to form in dairy, dog, general livestock, horse, poultry, rabbit and wildlife. Again in 2016, we will be offering lama bowl at the State Bowl! Two team contests are held - Junior (grades 3-8) and Senior (grades 4-12+). Check out the 4-H Project Bowl website at: www.4-h.umn.edu/events/project-bowl/ for rules, resources, and more information on the 2016 bowls. If you would like to coach, help coach or participate in any of these teams, please call your Extension office.

Regional Bowl dates and locations are:

- **March 5:** Foley
- **March 12:** Hastings
- **March 19:** Bemidji
- **March 19:** Redwood Falls
- **April 2:** Snow Date
- **April 16:** State Bowl (Sauk Rapids)

Re-enroll in 4-H now

Act today and join the 16,000 other 4-H youth and adult volunteers who have re-enrolled for the 2015-16 4-H year. Not only is active enrollment required for all youth (and adult volunteers) participating in county, regional or state 4-H events, active enrollment ensures that you'll get the latest and correct information from 4-H staff.

For more information and user guides go to www.4-H.umn.edu/4honline. If internet access is not available, a paper based re-enrollment option is available by contacting your county extension staff.

4-H BLU registration opens Nov. 23!

The Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors invite all youth in 6th grade and above to the 2016 4-H Building Leadership and Understanding (BLU) events! BLU is a youth leadership retreat where participants learn about a leadership topic and participate in fun activities led by the State Ambassadors. This year's topic will focus on exploring your passions to "Find your Element", and envision how you can live out your passion in your life. Five different BLUs will be held in **February 2016**, at locations around the state. For more information, contact your county Extension office, or visit the 4-H BLU website at www.4-h.umn.edu/events/blu.

Clovermart winter sale - 2015

The Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors are pleased to announce a winter offering of Clovermart items! If you didn't get a chance to view the products at the Minnesota State Fair, now is your chance! A limited number of products are available, and sales will be honored first paid, first served. Products will be posted **Nov. 23** and the sale will close on **Dec. 11**. See a list of products by going to

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z.umn.edu/clovermartwintersale2015.

Clovermart is an effort of the Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors to promote Minnesota 4-H, learn customer service and entrepreneurship skills, and raise funds for citizenship and leadership activities for Minnesota youth.

4-H volunteer corner

4HOnline training: A Wealth of Knowledge at your fingertips

4-H volunteers have a tremendous opportunity to positively influence the lives of young people. Volunteers serve as club leaders, project leaders, mentors and role models. These caring adults create an environment that fosters learning and fun that shapes a lifetime. Training is one of the key components for creating a positive learning environment. The 30-minute training modules available in 4HOnline offer a wealth of knowledge at your fingertips from the comforts of your home. Topics include managing 4-H clubs, creating a learning environment, keeping youth in 4-H, serving as a 4-H project leader and much more. To view the full menu of online training modules visit www.4-h.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training/. Remember, every young person deserves a trained volunteer!