



Meeker County 4-H Messenger

July 2025

Check out what is happening in Meeker County 4-H!

Important dates

July

- 1:** County fair registration deadline
- 4:** Office closed
- 10:** Show It Off Day - *formerly Presentation Day (Demonstrations, Fashion Revue, Food Review, Performing Arts, Share the Fun)*
- 10:** Dish It Up: 4-H foodstand challenge, 6 p.m., First Lutheran Church, Litchfield
- 14:** 4-H obedience & rally dog show, Meeker County Fairgrounds
- 16:** 4-H agility & showmanship dog show, Meeker County Fairgrounds
- 21:** County fair cleanup night, 5-7 p.m., Meeker County Fairgrounds
- 21:** Federation meeting, 7 p.m., Meeker County Fairgrounds
- 21:** Ambassador meeting, 7:30 p.m., Meeker County Fairgrounds
- 27:** 4-H horse show, 9 a.m., Meeker County Fairgrounds
- 29:** 4-H general project judging day, Meeker County Fairgrounds
- 30:** Livestock entry day, Meeker County Fairgrounds
- 31-Aug. 3:** Meeker County Fair, Meeker County Fairgrounds

August

- Jul. 31-Aug. 3:** Meeker County Fair, Meeker County Fairgrounds
- 4:** Post-fair exhibit building cleanup, Meeker County Fairgrounds

20 - 24: Minnesota State Fair Livestock Encampment

21 - Sept 1: Minnesota State Fair

28-30: Minnesota State Fair General Encampment

September

Aug. 21 - Sept 1: Minnesota State Fair

1: Office closed

5-9: Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show - Part 1, Simons Arena, Cannon Falls
(Games, pleasures, equitation, horsemanship, trail, training)

5-7: Minnesota 4-H State Shooting Sports and Wildlife Invitational

13-14: Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show - Part 2, Location TBD (Hippology, horse judging, speech and demo, miniature horse and drill team)

15: Ambassador meeting/kick off, 6 p.m., Meeker County Fairgrounds

20-21: Minnesota 4-H State Dog Show

22: Foodstand meeting, 6 p.m., Meeker County Fairgrounds

22: Exhibit building meeting, 6 p.m., Meeker County Fairgrounds

22: Federation meeting, 7 p.m., Meeker County Fairgrounds

For a complete calendar of 4-H events in Meeker County, please see our Google Calendar at z.umn.edu/meeker4hcalendar



County meeting schedule

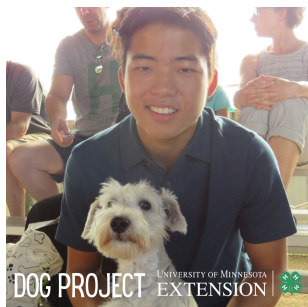


July 21 at 7 p.m. - Federation meeting

July 21 at 7:30 p.m. - Ambassador meeting

For meeting agendas, minutes, and more details, please visit z.umn.edu/meekerm meetings

Dog Project Update



Summer practices are held at the Meeker County Fairgrounds starting at 6 p.m.

Advanced members will practice on Monday evenings and **beginner** members will practice on Thursday evenings.

- June 30 (Advanced)
- July 7 (Advanced)

[Join the dog GroupMe](#) chat group to stay updated on all 4-H dog project and practice notifications.

Mark your calendars - The 2025 Meeker County 4-H dog show dates have been set.

Monday, July 14, starting at 6 p.m.: Obedience & rally show

Wednesday, July 16, starting at 6 p.m.: Agility & showmanship show



Horse Project Update



Arena nights will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Meeker County Fairground. Check out the summer arena night schedule:

- July 1
- July 8
- July 15
- July 22
- August 12
- August 19
- August 26
- September 2

[Join the horse GroupMe](#) chat to stay updated on all 4-H horse project and practice notifications.

Mark your calendars - The 2025 Meeker County 4-H horse show has been set for **Sunday, July 27 starting at 9 a.m.**

Shooting Sports Project Update



Shooting sports practices will be held at the [Eden Valley range](#) (59471 380th Street, Eden Valley, MN 55329) this year. Check out the summer practice schedule:

- June 29: 6:30-8:30 p.m.*
- July 1: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- July 10: 6:30-8:30 p.m.*
- July 13: 6:30-8:30 p.m.*
- July 17: 6:30-8:30 p.m.*
- July 20: 6:30-8:30 p.m.*
- July 22: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- August 7: 6:30-8:30 p.m.*
- August 10: 6:30-8:30 p.m.*

*Practice dates with an * will have shotgun available.*

Age Requirements

- Wildlife (All ages)
- BB gun (3rd grade+)
- Archery (3rd grade+, 4th grade+ for state shoot)



- Air rifle and air pistol (4th grade+)
- .22 rifle and .22 pistol (6th grade+)
- Muzzleloading (6th grade+)
- Shotgun (6th grade+, 7th grade+ for state shoot)

[Join the shooting sports GroupMe](#) chat group to stay updated on all 4-H shooting sports project and practice notifications.

Club spotlight



Danielson Hustlers 4-H Club: May 2025

Danielson Hustlers' May 4-H meeting was on May 18 at Windmill Park. We did clean up at Windmill Park for our community pride project and had pizza and cupcakes after. We discussed where we are going for are farm tours, which will be held at CoJo Dairy with Joe Jans and Matt Chase. Then talked about some of the parades coming up. We ended by asking people to sign up for some club projects and a project talk by Mason.

Heidi Anderson, Danielson Hustlers Reporter

Danielson Hustlers 4-H Club: June 2025

Danilson Hustlers 4-H June meeting was at Co-Jo Dairy. We got a tour of their farm where they milk all their cows, then saw Matt Chase's milk truck. Later we went to see the baby calves. After the tour we went to the Grove City Community Center for hot dogs and a quick meeting. At the meeting we talked about upcoming parades and getting all ready for the fair. We asked people to sign up for our club projects and we welcomed in some new families. The Danielson Hustlers' next meeting is July 13.

Heidi Anderson, Danielson Hustlers Reporter

Dassel Lamplighters 4-H Club: June 2025

The June Meeting of the Dassel Lamplighters was held on June 1st at Breed's Park. We voted to paint 2 barrels for the fair this year as a club project. These barrels will be used as garbage containers at the Meeker County Fair. A club community service project will be to plant and care



for the Community Garden at the St. John's Ed Center. The Bohnsack family will host a club tour on July 6th, our next meeting. Club members are encouraged to bring projects for show and tell. July 21st is pre-fair clean up night. Our club is assigned the food stand. Also, July 6th is story hour at the Dassel Library, and members are welcome to attend and help the kids make "seed bombs" for pollinators. After the meeting, we enjoyed brownies and did sidewalk chalk and bubbles. Our next meeting is on July 6th, at 4:00 at Bohnsack's House. Roll Call is "What are you excited to bring to the fair?" We will each bring our own projects that we are done with or are working on. The meeting was adjourned.

Betty Bohnsack, Dassel Lamplighters Reporter

Kimball Kruisers 4-H Club: April 2025

The Kimball Kruisers had their monthly meeting on May 4, 2025, at the Kimball High School. During the meeting, our roll call question was, "What is your Star Wars name?" We discussed the volunteer appreciation letters from the Meeker County Ambassadors. We also brainstormed volunteer opportunities in our community. Our club was approved for a Helping Hands Grant. We will be working with the Kimball food shelf in September to use our grant money. Our club will be doing a Club Tour on June 29. More information will be sent to club members as it gets closer.

Our next 4-H meeting will be in the Kimball High School cafeteria at 6:00 pm on September 7th. We are always looking for new members to join us!

Henry Gottschalk, Kimball Kruisers Reporter

Koronis Eager Beavers 4-H Club: May 2025

The June meeting of the Koronis Eager Beavers was held on Monday, June 2, 2025, at the Evangelical Free Church in Paynesville, Minnesota. President Claudia F. called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m., and pledges were said. This month's roll call question was, "What is your favorite summer activity?". Secretary Mikyla G. gave the minutes of the last meeting. An update was given about information from the Food Stand and exhibit meetings. Families present signed up for their food stand shifts during the Fair. The location for the club tour has been finalized. We will be touring NexGen Dairy, followed by a potluck and meeting. Moving on to new business, the Fair project entry deadline is July 1st. Check for any animal ID for any mistakes. Make sure you have finished your LQA&E training; the in person version is June 24th, which is good for three years, whereas the online version is only worth one year. A reminder and update was given about the club projects for the County Fair. Mikyla G. brought in ducklings as her project talk. President Claudia F. adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m. The next meeting of the Koronis Eager Beavers will be held on June 30th at 6:30 p.m., at NexGen Dairy with a potluck and meeting to follow.

Audrey Frenchick, Koronis Eager Beavers Reporter

Submit your monthly club reports to mehuhn@umn.edu to be included!



Other program updates

4-H fair registration now open in FairEntry

[Fair registration](#) is now open and the [2025 Meeker County 4-H premium book](#) has been released. Printed copies are available at the Extension Office.

All registrations are due by July 1. Any entries not submitted by 11:59 p.m. on July 1 will have to be submitted to the Extension Office and will not be eligible for placement higher than a blue or eligible for the state fair. If you do not have access to a computer and the internet, please contact the Extension Office at 320-693-5275, and we will assist you.

To register online, visit meekerfaireentry.com and log in with your family's 4-H Online account information.

Again, this year the system will require you to link all livestock exhibits (excluding Cloverbuds and poultry) with an animal that you have ID'd in 4HOnline for each entry. Please try and link these entries with the animal that you feel most likely to bring, but please know that the animal CAN be changed during check-in.

If you are planning to exhibit in any classes with more than one animal linked to the entry, you should link multiple animals to that one entry. Please do **not** register for more exhibits than you plan to bring, just to link the animal to them. Please contact Kayla at 320-693-5275 or mehuhn@umn.edu with questions on this.

Please reference the [user guide](#) for detailed instructions on registering. We recommend that you do not wait until the last minute to register!

If you have any questions, please contact the Extension office at 320-693-5275 or Kayla Huhn at mehuhn@umn.edu.

Show It Off Day!

This year's judging event will be held on Thursday, July 10, at First Lutheran Church (703 S Sibley Ave, Litchfield, MN 55355). starting at 2:00 p.m. This event will feature judging for the following projects:

- Fashion revue
- Food revue
- Performing arts
- Public presentations
- Share the fun

Registration will be done online through [FairEntry](#) along with all of your other 4-H fair registrations. **The deadline for registration is July 1.**



General exhibit judging: July 29

This year's 4-H general project judging is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 29**.

4-H'ers need to register with 4-H staff or volunteers in the 4-H office prior to judging to receive their project exhibit tags.

Schedule

1:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Judges assistant registration
1:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Judges assistant training
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Judges assistant judging
2:30 – 7:00 p.m.	4-H member registration
3:00 – 7:30 pm	4-H member judging
5:30 p.m.	Club exhibits due (excluding scrapbooks & community pride)
6:30 p.m.	4-H pet show

Please call the Extension Office should you have any questions about this day. Oversized exhibits are permitted, but we would like to know about them ahead of time! Please let us know by July 14 at 320-693-5275 or mnext-meeker@umn.edu if you plan to bring an oversized exhibit. They must also be in place at the 4-H Building by 2:00 p.m. on general judging day.

County Fair Survival Guide

Please watch for this year's survival guide, which will be emailed directly to families in July. This is a very important newsletter that contains essential county fair information. Please make sure to read it!

Project Records

Records are available to download at z.umn.edu/4-hrecords.

Check out the [Meeker County Project Awards and Recognition page](#) for more details on records judging. The county records policy is clearly explained on this page. Records will once again be a requirement of pin awards. If you have any questions, please contact the Extension Office at 320-693-5275 or mnext-meeker@umn.edu.

State Fair Update

State fair livestock weekend is August 21 – 24 (leaving on August 20)

General encampment for Meeker County is scheduled for August 28-30

Busing and livestock transportation will be available for livestock encampment.

Busing for general encampment will also be available this year.



It is not too early to begin thinking about chaperones. MALE and FEMALE chaperones must be screened volunteers. Youth will not be able to stay overnight at the State Fair without chaperones. If we have more people interested in chaperoning than needed, staff will draw names during the county fair from those interested to determine who will chaperone.

County fair judging assistants

Here is your chance to get involved and help make 4-H exhibits at the Meeker County Fair really shine! The role of a judge's assistant is so important. We need adults and 4-H'ers in grades 6+ to help our judges and with registration.

Judge's assistants will be able to judge their projects from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Please keep in mind, if you have a large number of projects you will need to judge, this may not be a good role for you!

Your role will be to ensure that the exhibit tag is on the project, help with recording the placings, and arrange them in a meaningful and attractive order. This is also a great opportunity to learn more about what judges look for within specific project areas!

[Sign up to help](#) on general judging day or call the Extension Office at 320-693-5275.

Federation meeting & county fair cleanup

Building power washing

Club in charge: Koronis Eager Beavers

This needs to be completed by July 19. You'll need to supply your own pressure washer and hose.

Contact the Extension Office to schedule a time at 320-693-5275.

Pre-fair cleanup

Please plan ahead and save **Monday, July 21, at 5:00 p.m.** for the cleanup night. Following cleanup, short Federation and Ambassador meetings will be held. Please note the minimum number of members requested from each club. More workers are always welcome!

4-H exhibit building

(3 adults and 3 youth per club)

- Exhibit Building Committee members
- Cosmos Comet
- Forest City Livewires
- Kimball Kruisers
- Valley Victors



4-H Foodstand

(4 adults and 2 youth per club)

- Foodstand Committee Members
- Danielson Hustlers
- Dassel Lamplighters
- Koronis Eager Beavers
- Litchfield Satellites

Post-fair cleanup

Sunday, August 3, from 6 - 7 p.m.

4-H exhibit building

(3 adults and 3 youth, ages 16+, per club)

- Forest City Livewires
- Litchfield Satellites
- Valley Victors

Monday, August 4, 9:30 a.m.

4-H exhibit building

- Exhibit Building Committee members or one member from each club

County 4-H volunteer connection

Being a 4-H club or group leader can be a challenging (and rewarding!) job. Join other leaders in McLeod, Meeker, Stearns, Sherburne, & Wright for a series of calls where we will talk about timely subjects and have time for questions.

All calls will take place on Zoom from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

[September 25, 2025: Planning for the new year](#)

- Club charters
- Shared leadership strategies & succession planning

Have a question that's not about the planned topics? That's okay! Bring whatever questions you may have!

Register for sessions individually by following the links above for each session.

Congratulations Meeker County 4-H High School Graduates!

Congratulations to the following 4-H members who have graduated from high school this spring. We wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors!

Dakota Bulger
William Carlson

Ellie Donnay
Eric Fester



Gina Frederickson
Claudia Frenchick
Edwyn Gonzales
Riley Joyer
Elexis Klapotz
Henry Lemke
Mitchell Lipinski
Jayden Long
Treyce Ludwig

Asher Lund
Hank Meyer
Chelsea Neuman
Mason Overson
Brooke Polzin
Grace Roberg
Kaylee Thompson
Elizabeth Thyen
Gabriel Yanish

Please remember to notify the Extension office if you plan to graduate from the Meeker County 4-H program this fall. In order to receive a graduation medallion, members must have been enrolled in 4-H for at least 5 years and graduated from high school. Those who do not have 5 years of membership will receive a 4-H graduation certificate.

Save the Date: Ambassador Test Drive

Calling all youth going into grades 6-12 this fall! Join us on **September 15, 2025** from 6-7:30 p.m. for an Ambassador Test Drive! Join us for pizza and fun to learn more about the Meeker County 4-H Ambassador Program. More details and registration information will be coming soon. Save the date!

Save the Date: Meeker County 4-H Awards Banquet

Mark your calendars for **October 25, 2025**, for our annual 4-H awards banquet. This year's event will be held at the Church of St. Philip (821 E 5th Street, Litchfield, MN 55355) and will include a meal option, along with the awards program.

Watch for more information to come!

Central region event opportunities

Check out the [Central Region catalog of opportunities](#) for fun opportunities available for 4-H youth across the Central Region.