UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

MURRAY COUNTY 4-H
NEW MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

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County Fair is Approaching!

The countdown has begun! Everyone in the Murray County Extension Office is working hard to prepare for the Murray County Fair already! August will be here before we know it! We want this to be a successful fair for every single one of our 4-H member and their families. Preparation for the County Fair can be overwhelming, and especially for new families like you. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask your 4-H Club Leader or 4-H Staff! I know this newsletter may seem a little long but there is a lot of information that comes with county fair and activities this summer!

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LQA

What is LQA and why do I need to know about it? Livestock Quality Assurance training helps youth provide excellent care for their food animals and ensure a high level of food safety to consumers. We designed it to enhance the educational experience of 4-H animal science projects.

All youth participating as a State Fair 4-H livestock exhibitor in beef, dairy, sheep, swine, poultry, rabbits, meat goat, dairy goat, and llama - alpaca must have completed a livestock quality assurance training in which there are two training options.

1) a 3 hour in-person workshop (LQA&E)
    a. **This option is valid for three fair seasons.**
        i. *Murray County will be offering a free in person class on Thursday June 8, 2023, from 6-9 p.m. at the Murray County 4-H Building.*
2) a 1-hour on-line training (YQCA).
    a. **This option is valid for one fair season**.

Youth completing either quality assurance training option will receive a certificate of completion.

Certification is required for state fair grade/age eligible youth prior to their home county fair qualifying show (deadline for certification set by county of enrollment). Murray County's deadline is you must have it completed a week prior to the County Fair

The training accommodates multi-levels of learning for all ages. The level of training required is determined by the grade/age of the youth at the time the training takes place.

Counties that have a swine marketing agreement with a packer that requires livestock quality assurance certification may require swine members (grade 3-13) to certify.

Minnesota 4-H youth are required to participate in one of two training options to be eligible for participation in the Minnesota 4-H State Fair shows. Participation in the training will promote responsible care of animals, help youth make informed decisions in animal care, and ensure that 4-H members understand the commitment to providing safe food products to consumers.

For the full LQA&E policy please visit their website

What Types of Exhibits Can I Bring to the Fair?

An exhibit is an example of the learning the 4-H member completed in their 4-H project area throughout the year. The type of exhibit you can bring to the County Fair is endless! That is one of the highlights of 4-H you can cater your 4-H projects and exhibits to something that really interests you, something you want to learn more about, or something you've never even heard of!

You don't even have to make new projects just to bring to the fair! Did you make a cool art project in school? Did you take a woods class and make a woods project? If yes, awesome you bring that to the County Fair as projects. You are still more than welcome to make new projects to bring to the County Fair but don't forget to consider bringing the ones you may have made during that school year!

While there are still several general rules and guidelines that apply to all projects, including maximum size specifications for posters, displays and floor-sized exhibits, you are now able to exhibit almost anything that reflects your learning in a particular project area for the year.

The Minnesota 4-H website offers a wealth of knowledge about 4-H Projects and Resources. You can find that website here: https://extension.umn.edu/ways-participate/projects-and-more

The Murray County Fair 4-H Premium Book is another great place you will find information on what projects you can bring to fair and what the requirements are in each category. The premium book will come out sometime in the next few weeks so be on the lookout for that in your email and in the newsletter on where you can get a copy of one.

4-H Livestock Projects

4-H Livestock Projects are a lot of work, but even more fun! They are a great tool for teaching youth responsibility, decision-making, record keeping, and so much more. Perhaps you already own animals and are wondering how to exhibit them in 4-H. Maybe you don't have animals and aren't sure if you want to commit to caring for an animal year-round. For information about each species please visit https://extension.umn.edu/projects-and-more/4-h-animal-id or contact the extension office. Or if you if want to look into start showing livestock but don't know where to start, please also contact us and we will be able to help you get started.

We have an important Livestock deadline coming up on May 15. All animals being shown by 4-H members in grades 3+ MUST be I'd in 4HOnline by May 15. A letter outlining identification requirements and how to complete identification was mailed to all project members. They are also posted on our website. If you plan to exhibit livestock at the County Fair and have questions about this deadline, please contact our office.

Pre-Fair Events

Competitive events that are judged prior to the County Fair, and are eligible for awards, premiums, and State Fair trips. Some events require the project to be displayed at the County Fair in order to receive premium dollars.

Clothing & Presentation Day (typically held a week before fair)

Food Review: is designed to help provide members with experience planning, preparing, and serving food as part of a meal or snack. Members will select a favorite recipe they would like to make. They will then plan a menu around that dish and decide on a theme. For judging day, youth bring one dish, and a table setting for one person. Youth will also bring the menu and main dish recipe on an 8.5 x 11 or 8 x 10 posters that will be free-standing or fit in picture frames. During judging, youth will be asked to talk about food knowledge, management of time and meal preparation, nutrition knowledge, and more! Youth are encouraged to be creative with the theme and have fun!

Demonstrations: are a lot like show and tell. Demonstrations can be done individually or two 4-H members may work together as team presenters. Presentation types:

- **Illustrated Presentation:** Oral presentation that presents an idea, concept, viewpoint or experience in an educational or informative format. Most often consists of interaction with supporting visuals (i.e., PowerPoint, models, and posters).
- **Demonstration:** Oral presentation that includes demonstrating the hands-on steps required to accomplish a task or process. Should be a finished product upon conclusion.
- **Youth in Action:** Interactive, continuous presentations. Youth are actively teaching the audience through hands-on instruction. More time is allowed for audience involvement and interaction.

Demonstration and illustrated presentation tips:

- Introduction: Interesting, short, complete, and attention-getting! It should include who you are, what your presentation is about, and why you feel it is important.
- Topic: Related to a project, interest or activity.
- Appearance: Dress appropriate; well-groomed; good posture; feet together; and smile!
- Presentation: Voice natural; words distinct; poised; friendly; confident; convincing; well organized; originality shown.
- Subject Matter: Emphasize important points. Information accurate, complete, usable.
- Workmanship: Skillful; good teamwork, if a team; time and materials well used; work and speech coordinated; table neat and orderly with visuals easily viewable by audience.
- Equipment: Suitable for demonstration or illustrated presentation. Good visual aids if needed.
- Conclusion: Stress important points in summary. Show finished product if there is one. Definite closing (be creative, tie it in with the introduction); questions answered satisfactorily.

Additional information on demonstrations is available on the Murray County 4-H website at z.umn.edu/demoguide

Performing Arts allows youth to showcase their talents in the areas of vocal, dance, instrumental, speech, and more! This live on-stage performance allows youth to strengthen their confidence while doing something they love! There will also be a conference judging part to the event where the judge will ask about why they chose the performance they did, if they faced any challenges, if they learned anything from the experience and more!

Clothing & Fashion Revue gives youth a chance to take a stroll down the fashion runway! Whether you enjoy sewing your own clothing, or prefer to shop at a store, you can create an outfit and showcase it at our County Fashion Review Showcase! Outfits are judged prior to the public showcase. Constructed garments will be judged on construction, the overall outfit and how it works with their wardrobe, and the youth's overall learning experience with the project. Purchased garments will be judged on selection of the outfit in relation to factors like fabrics, design, and fit, how the outfit fit into their budget, how it fits into their wardrobe, the overall outfit that was put together, and the youth's overall learning experience with the project.

THE 4-H PRE-FAIR CONFERENCE JUDGING EXPERIENCE

4-H provides many opportunities for youth involved to learn and grow. While participation in these events is certainly not a requirement of membership, it is a wonderful way for young people to showcase and receive feedback and recognition for their work. Murray County General Exhibit judging occurs on the Monday of fair week.

4-H Pre-Fair Events are Judged in a Conference

Conference judging is a conversation between the judge and the 4-H'er. It is a chance for youth to explain to a judge what they have learned from their project experience. It allows time to ask a judge questions that they may have about the project.

What to Expect During Conference Judging?

The interview is as important as the exhibit itself: an equal "weight" is given on the actual exhibit and on the conference—50/50.
The judge, who is knowledgeable in the project area, determines the ribbon placing.
Judges will observe, question, listen and challenge youth
Judges offer encouraging and constructive feedback, as well as suggestions on how to further explore the project area.

How are Cloverbuds Judged?

The judge will ask youth to tell them about their project.
The judge will ask you questions about the project and may give ideas for next year's project.
Youth will receive a recognition ribbon for Cloverbuds.
The Cloverbud program provides youth in K - 2nd grade the opportunity to explore and actively learn in a noncompetitive environment. Developmental research supports noncompetitive activities and participation recognition for youth in this age division.

Once again, we would like to welcome you to Murray County 4-H!! We are so happy to have you join us and be a part of this amazing organization. Please contact us if you have any questions!

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