



4-H Clover Update newsletter

January statewide articles

The following articles will be sent to 4-H youth, families and volunteers via 4-H Online on **Friday, Dec. 29**. You can also share, adapt with local registration information (e.g., scholarships, transportation), and promote these articles locally.

The 4-H Clover Update newsletter features news about Minnesota 4-H. Check your inbox or mailbox for local 4-H news, events, and opportunities.

New club resources

Need activity ideas for your 4-H club? Check out the new resources in our [YD curriculum library](#)! We have over 100 resources, including individual lessons, activity ideas, independent guides for youth, sample themed 4-H agendas, and more! More content is added every month.

Here are some of our newest:

- [Arrival Activities for K-2](#)
- [Attention-getters for K-2](#)
- 13 new lessons on [including youth of all abilities](#)
- Updated [Geology Exploration Guide](#)
- [Discover Horses](#) series
- [Mental Wellbeing](#) series
- [Backyard Adventures](#) series
- [Straw Painting](#) independent learning guide
- [Illusions](#) themed 4-H agenda
- [Winter Fruit Drinks](#) themed 4-H agenda
- [Tech in Agriculture - Tractors](#)

If you have specific content you'd like to see, contact Jessica Russo at pier0239@umn.edu.

We're hiring 4-H interns for summer 2024!

Do you know a college student looking for work experience in the youth development field? We have 4-H summer intern positions available throughout the state of Minnesota for summer, 2024. These positions are designed to provide meaningful professional youth development work experience for the student intern working alongside an Extension educator. Positions will begin in mid-May to early June and range from 8-13 weeks. **Application deadline: Jan. 17.** We'll continue to review applications until all positions are filled. For more information, please contact Stephanie Grimes, Youth Development hiring coordinator at sagrimes@umn.edu. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Last chance to nominate volunteers for Northern Lights!

Northern Lights is a statewide volunteer recognition opportunity designed to celebrate volunteer impact in key priority areas. The nomination process can be completed in about 15 minutes and all eligible Northern Lights nominees will also be considered for the *National 4-H Salute to Excellence Award*. Nominate a volunteer or group of volunteers who bring light to their local program and community today!

Nominations are due Jan. 8. [Learn more and nominate a volunteer.](#)

Register now for 4-H for all abilities: Minnesota 4-H deep dive volunteer development webinar series

Minnesota 4-H is committed to creating inclusive learning environments for all youth. Attend one or more of three [deep dive volunteer webinars](#) to explore a focused topic and continue to build your comfort level in working with people with disabilities. Webinars will take place **Jan. 11, Feb. 27 and March 21**. [Learn more](#) and [register](#).

Congratulations 2023 - 2024 Minnesota 4-H Food Partner Challenge award recipients!

The Food Partner Challenge award provides funds to 4-H clubs and county/tribal 4-H programs to partner with a local food shelf or nutrition organization to organize a healthy food or essential supply drive in their community. Each 4-H group is provided with \$500 to plan and conduct a youth-led service project that must be completed by **March 31, 2024**. Of the applications we received, 31 projects totaling \$15,500 were awarded to 4-H clubs and groups in multiple counties across the state. [View the summary of 2023-2024 Minnesota 4-H Food Partner Challenge award recipients](#). Thanks to all the 4-H'ers for submitting their projects and serving their communities! [Learn more](#).

2024 Helping Hands Award application now available: Apply by Feb. 15

The Helping Hands Award funds project ideas that are led by 4-H youth in partnership with supportive adults, local businesses, and non-profit organizations. There were 24 projects selected in 2023 with average awards between \$300 and \$2,000. 4-H club and group projects can focus on STEM, agriscience, healthy living, outdoor adventures, equity, leadership, global connection, social inclusion, the arts, creative writing, and photography. Funds can also be used for skillbuilding, for example, a group training on building inclusiveness skills that can be applied to making club activities more inclusive. The 2024 Helping Hands Award application is available until **Feb. 15**. Questions? Contact Fun Fun Cheng at chen0169@umn.edu (preferred), 612-624-8132. [Learn more and apply](#).

Multiple 2024 Minnesota 4-H scholarships available

Extension Development and Minnesota 4-H offer several scholarships for college-bound 4-H youth, as well as a workforce training scholarship for an adult 4-H alumni or volunteer. Over \$20,000 is awarded

annually through a competitive application process. Minnesota 4-H scholarship online applications are now available and should be submitted by **April 1**. Applications require two letters of recommendation, with one being from an Extension educator. Please encourage interested 4-H youth and adult alumni or volunteers in your county to visit the [4-H scholarship web page](#) for detailed information about the various scholarships available and online applications. Questions can be directed to Fun Fun Cheng, chen0169@umn.edu, 612-624-8132. [Learn more and apply](#).

January Minnesota 4-H State Ambassador update

State Ambassador Tyler shares about National 4-H Congress, upcoming leadership workshops BLU and TEEL, and Winter Roundup! [Learn more](#).

Register for Intro to Filmmaking!

This awesome online filmmaking workshop is designed especially for beginners! If you have an interest in learning how to make and edit great videos, be sure to sign up for this program. Open to grades 3+, our fun and interactive 'Intro to Filmmaking' will teach you how to get the best angles for your film and focus on storytelling. And, you'll meet other youth filmmakers from across Minnesota - invite your friends!

Registration deadline: Jan. 17. [Learn more](#) and [register](#).

4-H Horseless Horse Round Up virtual series

Interested in learning more about horses? Back by popular demand, we're excited to offer this online series for horse enthusiasts in grades 3+ to learn more about horses. We'll meet once a week in a virtual setting, and supplemental material will be provided for youth to further explore each topic. Topics will include horse basics, horse care, nutrition, health, and more! New for 2024 - we'll offer a Level 1 series for any participants, with a Level 2 series available for participants continuing their learning from last year! Sessions will run **Feb. 5 - March 11**. **Registration deadline: Jan. 25.** [Learn more and register](#).

4-H volunteer livestock PDC webinar

Are you part of your county's livestock PDC? If so, join the state animal science team on **Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m.** to review purpose, educational resources available, and connect with other volunteers from across the state. [Learn more and register](#).

Minnesota 4-H livestock in a box series

There's still time to secure the sheep and swine livestock in a box! A set of hands-on lessons and activities are designed for youth in grades 4-7 to explore with little to no adult assistance! Boxes are \$25 each and are shipped directly to your house. [Learn more and register](#).

4-H Animal Discovery: Dairy cattle and goat

Registration is open for the 4-H Animal Discovery series on dairy cattle and goat! This is an exciting opportunity for youth in grades 3+ to explore these two species in a 5-session virtual series. There will be live virtual sessions and at-home self guided learning activities to complete! [Learn more and register.](#)

4-H Explorers in Ag Around the World

Youth in grades 6-8 are invited to join us as we explore agriculture around the world. You aren't going to want to miss this agriculture exploration as we travel virtually to three countries in this self-guided program with opportunities to connect with people in other countries. A kick-off event will be held via Zoom on **Monday, Feb. 19 at 8 p.m.** From there, you'll be given access to a Google site to explore a country each week. A guide will be provided to help you explore a farming practice within each country. 4-H Ag Ambassadors will check in weekly to discuss what you're learning along the way. This year guest speakers will share more about agriculture in the countries participants are exploring. More info will be sent out upon registration. All guest speakers will be recorded for later viewing. **Registration deadline: Feb. 12.** [Learn more and register.](#)

Date set for 2024 4-H/FFA crop scouting contest, begin forming your teams today!

Take on this challenge and form a 4-H/FFA crop scouting team! Teams can be made up of youth in grades 6+ from one or multiple counties. We'll offer another division to give youth in grades 3-5 an opportunity to participate. Contact your local Extension office if you want help finding a team. If you don't have a team but still want to participate, we have coaches ready to coach youth across Minnesota who don't have anyone else participating in their county (this includes both the plant science project bowl and crop scouting). If you're not sure what crop scouting is, or if you want to gather a team, we encourage you to participate in virtual 4-H plant science trivia nights, and the 4-H plant science project bowl on **April 6**. 4-H/FFA crop scouting registration opens on **May 1** and the state event will take place **Friday, July 26** at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus. [Learn more about 4-H plant science virtual teams.](#) [Learn more and sign up for crop scouting.](#)

Winter wonders: Explore plant growth and roots with 4-H Science Sprouts!

Discover how gravity influences plant growth and observe roots in action! Join us for an exciting winter series of 4-H Science Sprouts. This opportunity is open to youth in grades 3+ who are interested in plants and science. Online sessions will take place **Jan. 22, Feb. 26, and March 25 from 5 to 5:30 p.m.** Throughout this series, we'll explore how gravity affects plant life and delve into the fascinating world of root growth. We'll cover agronomy and horticulture topics tailored to the season using STEM. While there's no cost for the program, we'll share a list of optional supplies for those who want to try hands-on experiments at home. We'll send the list out a week before each gathering. Let's explore the wonders of science together in this engaging winter series! [Learn more and register.](#)

Virtual plant science trivia nights are back!

Do you love plants and want to have some fun? Join us for virtual plant science trivia nights starting in January! Every second week we have different days scheduled, so you have multiple options if a specific date doesn't work. Our first session is scheduled for **Thursday, Jan. 11, from 7:30 to 8 p.m.** – test your plant knowledge and learn new facts while playing interactive games. No experience is necessary, just bring your curiosity and enthusiasm! [Learn more and register](#).