



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

3A
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: October 28, 2025

Title of Item: Aitkin County 4-H Program Update

☒ REGULAR AGENDA ☐ CONSENT AGENDA	Action Requested: ☐ Approve/Deny Motion ☐ Adopt Resolution (attach draft) ☐ Hold Public Hearing <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	☐ Direction Requested ☐ Discussion Item ☒ Information Only
Submitted by: Tony Hansen, Extension Regional Director		Department: Extension
Presenter (Name and Title): Julianna Langlois, 4-H Youth Development Educator, Tony Hansen, Regional Director		Estimated Time Needed: 20 Minutes
Summary of Issue: Providing an update from the Aitkin County 4-H program.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments: N/A		
Recommended Action/Motion: N/A		
Financial Impact: <i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i> ☐ Yes ☒ No <i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</i> <i>Is this budgeted?</i> ☐ Yes ☒ No <i>Please Explain:</i>		



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Aitkin County 4-H Program Update October 2025



Julianna Langlois, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development
Tony Hansen, Regional Director, NE Region

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MINNESOTA: ENVIRONMENT + FOOD & AGRICULTURE + COMMUNITIES + FAMILIES + YOUTH



Jenna Claypool
Regional Extension Educator,
Volunteer Systems



David Foley
Regional Extension Educator,
Animal Science



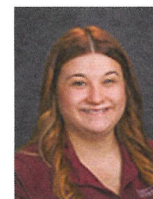
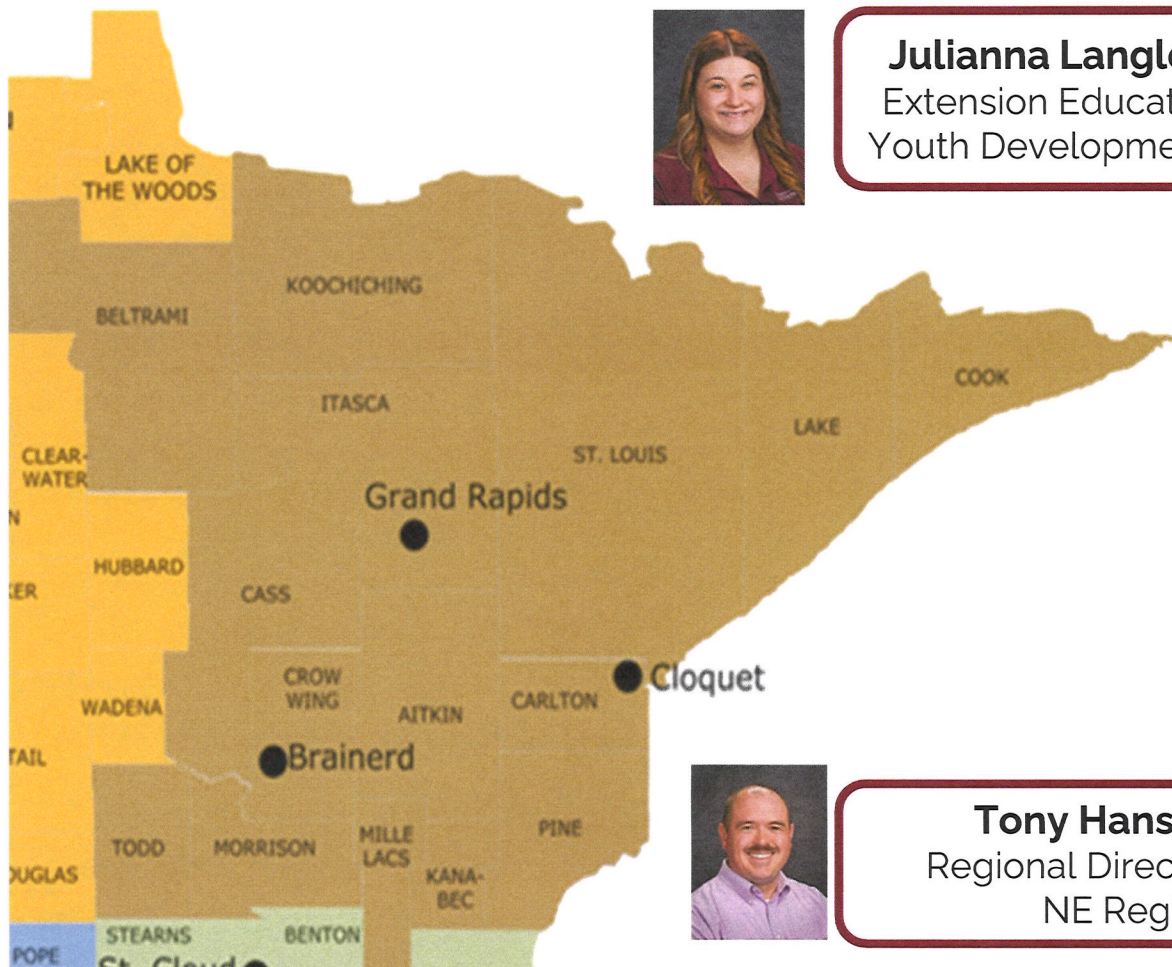
Cassie Girling
Regional Extension Educator,
Civic Engagement & Leadership



Lori Hall
Regional Extension Educator,
Operations



Jan Derdowski
NE Program Leader, Youth
Development



Julianna Langlois
Extension Educator,
Youth Development



Tony Hansen
Regional Director
NE Region





Positive youth development in 4-H:

- builds skills in young people so they are able to learn and lead in a global society
- educates adults to work effectively with youth
- partners with communities to create supportive social environments that help youth thrive



4-H is thriving in our community and across Minnesota

193 youth in Aitkin County

51 adult volunteers in
Aitkin County

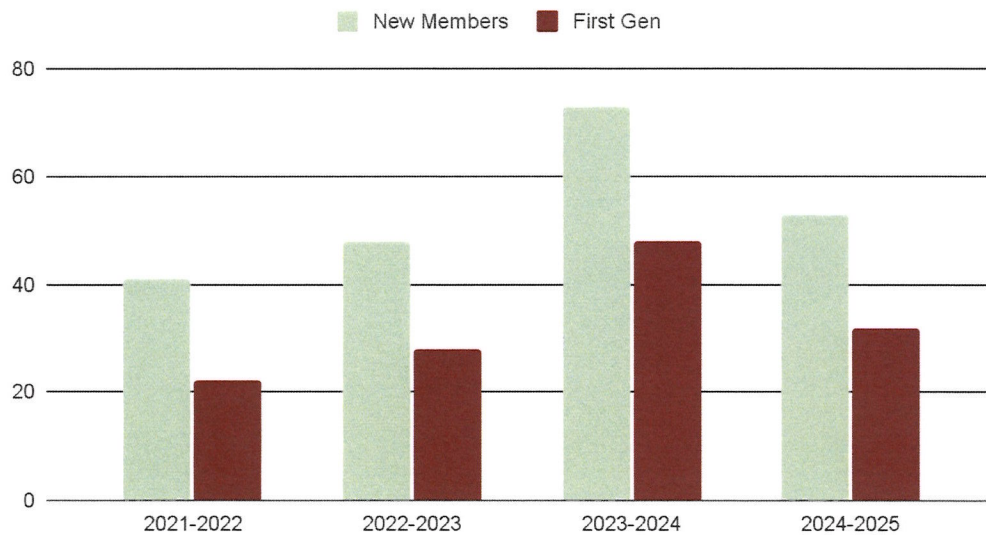


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Reaching new audiences

Aitkin 4-H Youth Enrollment



2021-2022

- 41 new members

2022-2023

- 48 new members

2023-2024

- 73 new members

2024-2025

- 53 new members



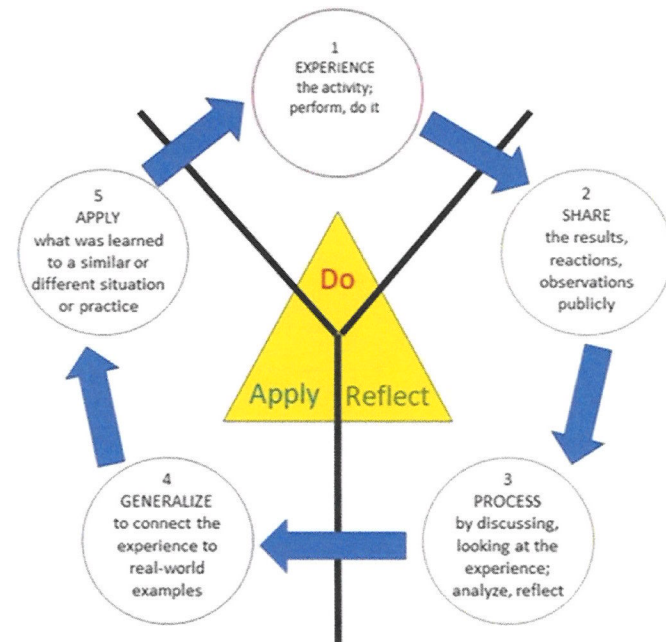
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Why do we offer showcases?

Do, reflect, apply

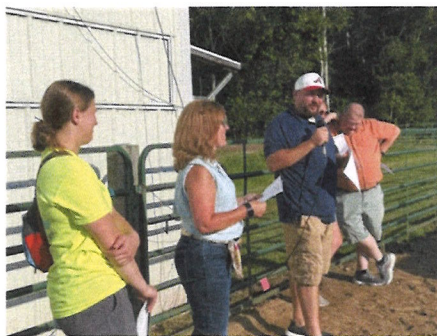
- Skill building
- Communication skills
- Continued learning



Aitkin County Showcases - Local Events

Aitkin County Fair

- 128 youth
- 6 clubs



Aitkin County Dog Show

- 8 youth



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Regional & State Showcase Participation

State Fair

- Livestock - 11 youth & 4 chaperones
- General - 8 youth

Northeast Livestock Show

- 12 youth

State Shoot

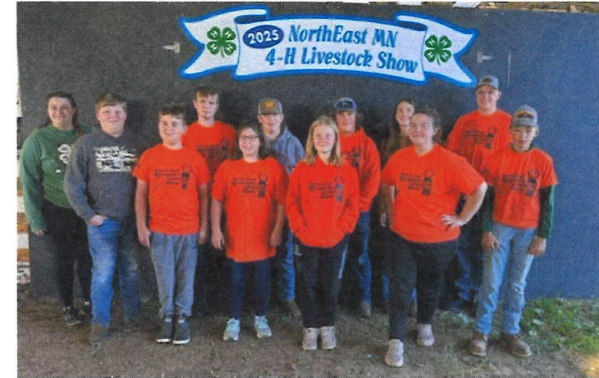
- 14 youth

State Horse

- 7 youth

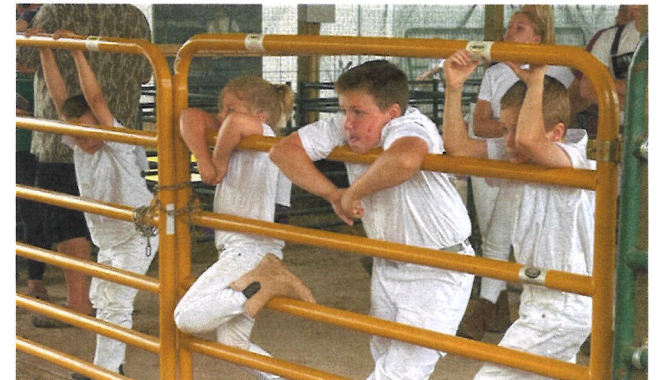
State Dog

- 1 youth

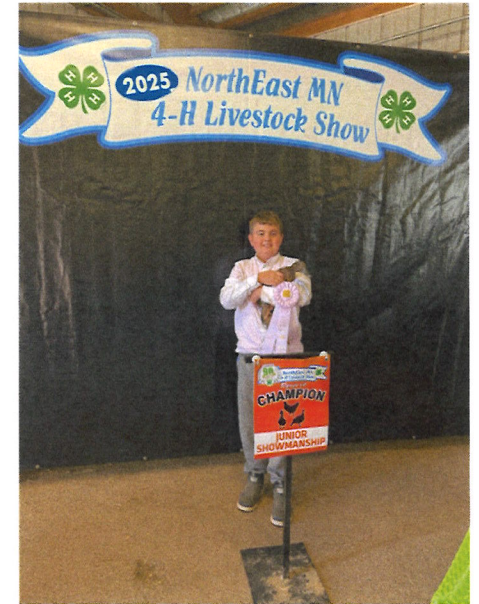


Youth Outcome Survey

- What is the most important thing you learned in 4-H this year?
 - That 4-H and the fair is fun!
 - Listen and participate in my surroundings
 - How to be a better rider and expand my riding knowledge
 - Leadership
 - How to speak up at club meetings
 - How to help with younger members
 - How to stay connected to my community while being away
 - To have friends
 - How to work in a group / team work
 - To keep trying
 - It's good to learn new things
 - How much of an impact I have on others
 - I learned I can be a writer / author
 - How to make a motion
 - Never to give up
 - How to use the center of thirds on pictures
 - To do your best doesn't mean to overdo yourself



**What is participating in these learning activities
and events like for the youth?
Ask our youth!**



What's next in the 4-H year?



Celebration of Achievement

- An event to celebrate youth and volunteer accomplishments & kick off the new 4-H year!



Trainings

- Annual Volunteer Training
- Club Leader Training
- Youth Officer Training



Programming & Fundraisers

- Project Bowl
- Cloverbud Project Club
- Fruit Sale
- Spring Fling





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Thank you for your time and support!

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Aitkin County Showcase Data

October 1st, 2025

Local Showcases

Aitkin County Fair

This year at the Aitkin County Fair, the 4-H program had many youth participate. In total, 4-H'ers had almost 1,300 entries in both livestock projects and general projects. There were 128 youth that participated and 6 clubs that participated in the showcase. New additions from 2024 that continued into 2025 included an exhibitor connection night in which youth and families were invited to play games, meet fairboard members and superintendents, and review the rules of the grounds. A general project celebration at the Windy River Stage was held in which all youth that received Grand, Reserve, and Blue champion awards were recognized. The costume classes for youth exhibiting livestock were an exciting continuation. Thank you to Commissioner Travis

Leiviska, State Representative Ron Kresha and his wife Wendy, County Auditor Kathleen Ryan, Soil and Water Employee Ellie Joing, and all for judging the costume classes for us! To learn more about 4-H at the Aitkin County Fair and local showcases, you can view the Aitkin County Fair 2025 presentation slides at z.umn.edu/ACF2025.



Aitkin County 4-H Dog Show

This year at the Aitkin County 4-H Dog Show, we had 8 youth participate. Of the 8 youth, one youth was a Cloverbud. Cloverbuds in the 4-H program are youth in grades K-2 and the focus of Cloverbuds is learning their interests and participation to start to gain knowledge and skills. Competition isn't introduced to these youth until grade 3 with competition increasing at grade 6 with additional opportunities to be eligible for some state events and programs. The Aitkin County 4-H Dog Show held 4 different classes: agility, obedience, showmanship, and rally.

Regional Showcases

Regional Project Bowl Competition

Two teams of youth decided to adventure into the world of Project Bowl. Each project area that a team wishes to compete in is given specific resources to study from, quizzed on their knowledge of the 4-H project area, and compete in a double elimination bracket against other teams. Aitkin's teams, the Lippity Lops (rabbit) & Potatoes Prodigies (horse), competed at the regional competition in Bemidji in early April. The Lippity Lops were the Grand Champions of the Junior Rabbit Division while Potato's Prodigies were the Reserve Champions of the Junior Horse Division and both advanced to the State Competition.



Northeast Livestock Show

The Northeast Livestock Show is an additional opportunity for youth in the Northeast Region to compete in the livestock project areas 4-H offers. To qualify to compete at the show, youth must have earned a blue ribbon with their animal at the county fair 4-H showcase. This year was the 90th annual show and 11 youth from Aitkin County 4-H participated with champions in the rabbit and poultry projects. Livestock projects represented by Aitkin 4-H included 3 beef, 1 sheep, 3 poultry, and 4 rabbit. Complete results have yet to be announced so stay tuned on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AitkinCounty4H>) for the latest results!



State Showcases

State Project Bowl

At the State Competition, The Mighty Mighty Thumpers placed 7th in their division and are planning for next year's practices, team names, mascot, and matching outfits!

Aitkin County 4-H at the Minnesota State Fair 2025

State Fair - Livestock Encampment

The first 4 days of the Minnesota State Fair are dedicated to the 4-H Livestock Encampment. This year the Aitkin 4-H program sent a delegation of 11 youth and 4 volunteers with the following species: 3 beef, 2 dairy, 1 swine, 2 rabbit, 1 meat goat, and 2 dairy goats. In addition to showing their livestock projects, youth also participate in herdsmanship, interviews, and Speaking Up for Animal Agriculture which is an event in which youth educate the public about their livestock project and animal agriculture. Aitkin represented themselves well and had the following results:

Youth Results

Beef

- Jace N. - Red Angus Cow Calf Pair - 4th & Green in Showmanship
- Nathan T. - Commercial Cow Calf Pair - 4th & Green in Showmanship
- Garrett T. - Prospect Steer Calf - 5th & Green in Showmanship

Dairy Goat

- Owen C. - 3-4yr old Milking Doe - Nigerian Dwarf - 2nd & Showmanship - Blue
- RaeLynne R. - Junior Doe Kid - Nigerian Dwarf - 4th & Showmanship - Blue

Meat Goat

- Ellie D. - Senior Breeding Doe Kid - Green & Showmanship - Green

Swine

- Noelan J. - Registered Market Barrow - Green

Dairy

- Lily J. - Ayrshire Junior Yearling - 7th - Red
- Elsie S. - Jersey Junior Yearling - 6th - Blue

Rabbits

- Cami M. - Mini Rex Junior Doe - Blue - 2nd
- Henry N. - Polish Senior Buck - Blue - 5th

Rabbit Poster

- Jerome J. - Rabbit Poster - Blue



Herdsmanship Awards

- Beef - 1st Place
- Goat - 1st Place
- Dairy - 2nd Place
- Swine - 2nd Place

Livestock Interviews

- Camille M. - Rabbit Interview Finalist

Speaking Up for Animal Agriculture

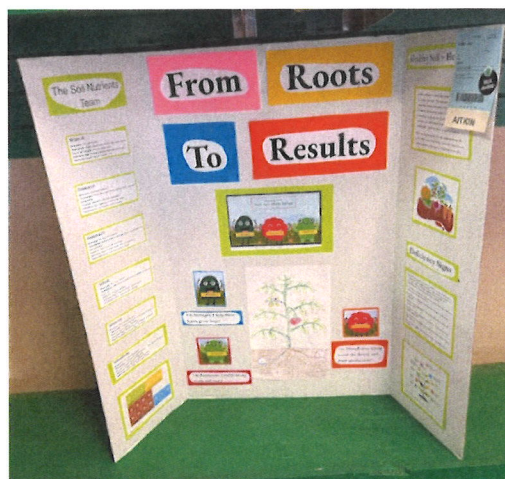
- Aitkin Beef Youth - 3rd Place



State Fair - General Encampment

After the livestock encampment, 8 youth and 2 clubs also attended the Minnesota State Fair with their general projects such as: club banners, foods & nutrition, needle arts, child & family development, crafts, photography, plant & soil science. Below are the results:

- Busy Beavers Club Banner - Blue
- Cedarbrook Club Banner - Blue
- Hannah B. - Food Preservation - Red
- Gwen V. - Food Preservation - Blue
- Claire H. - Foods - Red
- Norah R. - Needle Arts - Purple
- Ellie D. - Child & Family Development - Blue
- Jerome J. - Crafts - Blue
- Zoey H. - Photography - Blue
- Jack V. - Plant & Soil Science - Blue



State Shoot

Throughout the summer, we have practices for our shooting sports program. These practices are led by screened and certified instructors that not only help youth perfect their marksmanship skills, but also encourages them to be stewards of the land. Aitkin 4-H has seen a rapid growth in youth that are participating in the program and have certified more volunteers to be able to offer the following disciplines: archery, trap, air rifle/air pistol, and muzzleloading. To be eligible to participate in the State Shoot event, youth must complete 15 hours of practice and 8 hours of wildlife education. This year, Aitkin sent a delegation of 14 youth to the state shoot event. Below are the results

Teams

JR Teams

- Archery Compound Team - 15th place

INT Teams

- .22 Target Grade - 6th place
- 3-Position Air - 13th place
- Air Pistol 1 Hand - 3rd place
- Archery Compound - 18th place

SR Teams

- Archery Compound - 7th place
- Trap - 16th place

- Cami M. - 73rd place
- Henry N. - 95th place
- Isabel M. - 101st place

SR Class C Archery

- Reese W. - 8th place
- Owen C. - 16th place

3D Archery JR Class C

- Kortney K. - 46th place
- Zackery K. - 50th place

Archery - Individual

JR Class C Archery

- Aurora P. - 59th place
- Gwen V. - 72nd place
- Emilee H. - 83rd place
- Zackery K. - 100th place
- Kortney K. - 101st place

INT Class C Archery

- Levi M. - 60th place

Trap - Individual

Intermediate Trap

- Hunter V. - 5th place
- Jack V. - 71st place

Senior Trap

- Reese W. - 21st place
- Josie O. - 40th place

3 Position Air Rifle / Air Pistol 2 hands

INT 3 Position Air Rifle

- Isabel M. - 52nd place

JR Air Pistol

- Kortney K. - 2nd place - 1 hand
- Kortney K. - 16th place - 2 hand
- Zackery K. - 37th place - 2 hand

INT Air Pistol

State Horse

This year, the Aitkin 4-H program had a delegation of 7 youth that attended the State Horse Show. Youth must show at a local showcase and earn points to be awarded a State Horse Show trip. Additionally, youth may only exhibit in the classes that they received a blue ribbon in at the county level at the state level. Due to renovations to the Lee Warner Coliseum, the State Horse Show was held on two separate weekends. This year, two youth from Aitkin County 4-H participated in the Miniature Horse show. The following are the results from the Aitkin delegation at the State Horse Show:

Horse Riding Classes:

Auli V.

- 4th Place in Barrels

Audrianna S.

- 4th Place in Poles

Ava M.

- 9th Place in Key Race

Lindan K.

- 9th Place in Showmanship

- Cami M. - 9th place - 1 hand

INT .22 Rifle

- Levi M. - 23rd place - Field Grade
- Henry N. - 25th place - Field Grade
- Cami M. - 25th place - Target Grade



Isabella S.

Miniature Horse Classes:

Camille M.

- 9th Place in Costume Class

Dixie R.



State Dog

Youth in the Dog Project worked all summer with their dogs to compete at the Aitkin County 4-H Dog Show. At the State Dog Show, 1 youth and 2 dogs represented the local program in the following classes: obedience, agility, jumpers, showmanship, and rally. To qualify for the State Dog Show, you must have obtained a blue ribbon in the class at the county level. Below are the results from the State Dog Show:

Camille M., Gretta, & Carmen

- Open Showmanship - Blue
- Beginner Rally - Blue
- Graduate Beginner Obedience - Blue
- Agility Jumpers 1A - Red
- Elementary Agility - White



Looking Ahead

As we move into October, the next 4-H year starts! Our next event is our Celebration of Achievement and Council meeting in which we elect new youth officers for the year and celebrate all of the accomplishments of youth in the previous 4-H year. Youth are also looking forward to the results on their project records and program participation resume records to learn more about what they can improve on for next year and how to deepen their exploration of their interests.

Thank you!

The youth, volunteers, families, and local extension educator thank you for your support of Aitkin County 4-H. We invite you to stay connected with us via our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AitkinCounty4H>), our instagram page (<https://www.instagram.com/aitkin4h>), or directly with the local Extension Educator, Julianna Langlois, at 218-927-2538 or langl148@umn.edu.

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