



# Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

**3A**  
Agenda Item #

**Requested Meeting Date:** June 24

**Title of Item:** Aitkin County 4-H Program Update

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



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# Aitkin County 4-H Program Update 2025

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





**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



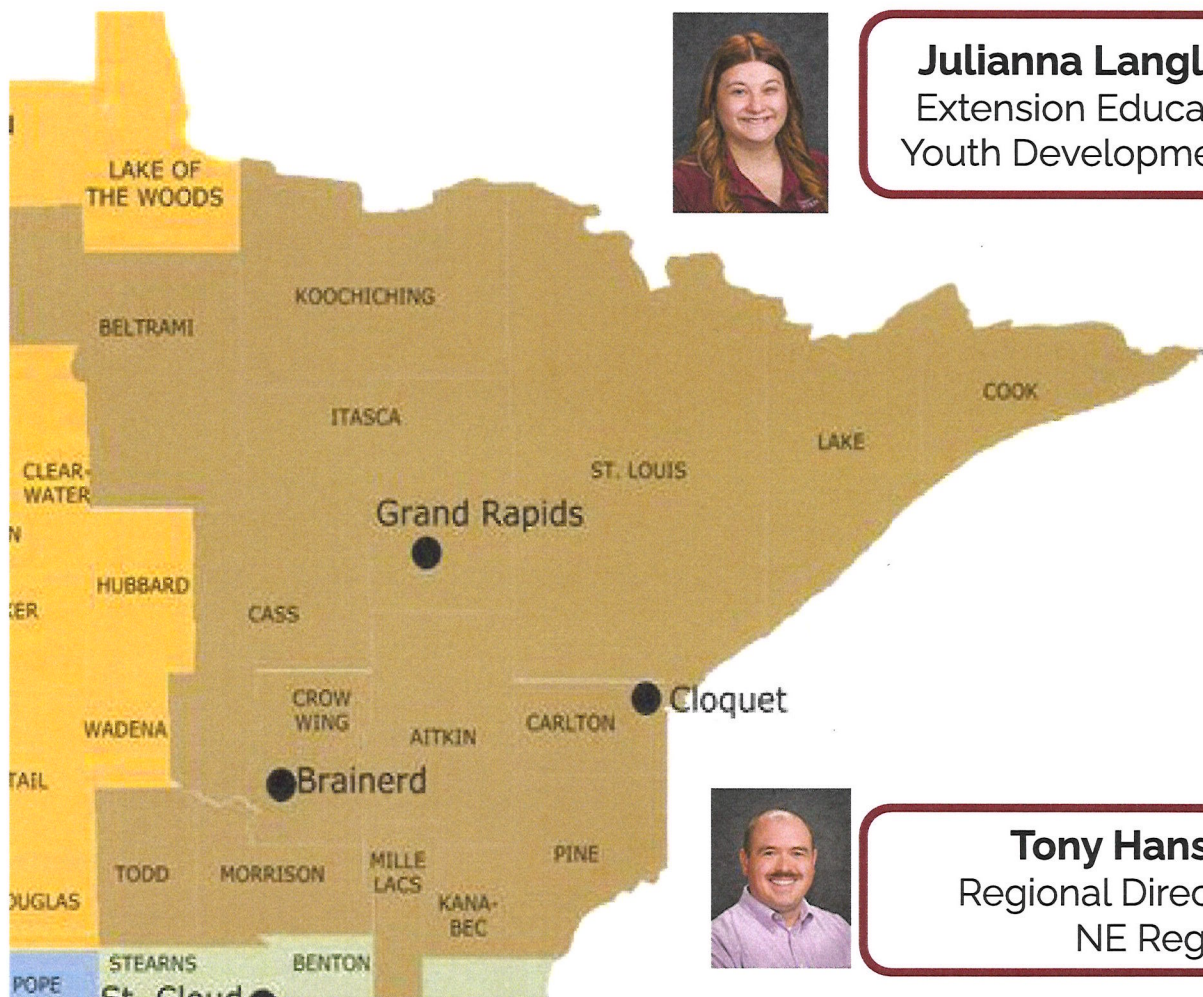
**Jan Derdowski**

NE Program Leader, Youth  
Development



**Julianna Langlois**

Extension Educator,  
Youth Development



**Tony Hansen**

Regional Director  
NE Region



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# 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

**191** youth in Aitkin County

**52** adult volunteers in  
Aitkin County

**41,580** youth across MN

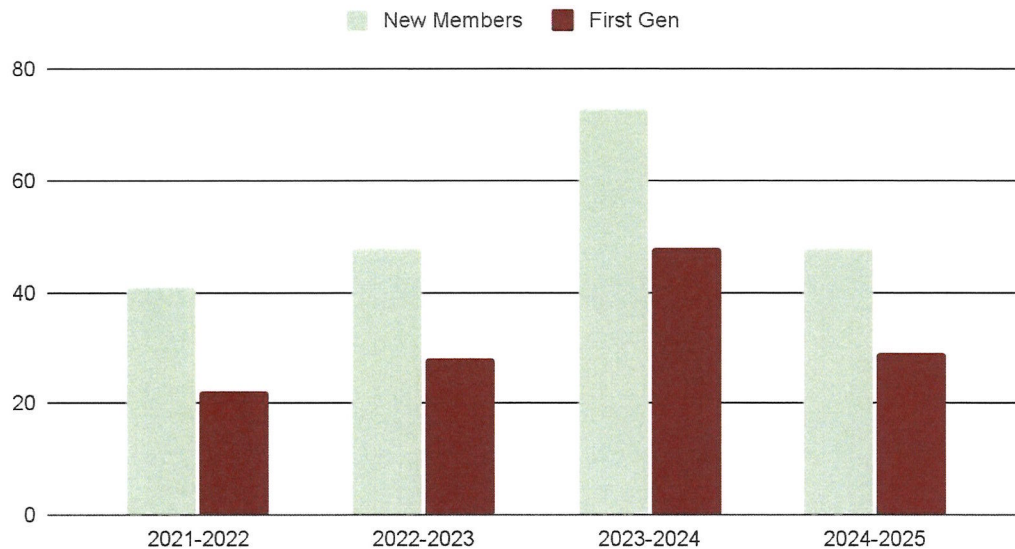


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# Reaching new audiences

Aitkin 4-H Youth Enrollment



## 2021-2022

- 41 new members

## 2022-2023

- 48 new members

## 2023-2024

- 73 new members

## 2024-2025

- 48 new members





# Learning Before the Showcase

## Project Bowl

- 4 adult volunteers
- 8 youth

## Fruit Sale

- 53 families

## Spring Fling

- 20 volunteers
- 22 youth

## AYC Partnership

- 15 youth

## LQA&E

- certified 12 youth

## Project Practices

- Horse, Dog, Shooting Sports, Rabbit Agility

## Cloverbud Project Club

- 8 youth

## Regional & State Youth Leadership Events

## BLU

- 2 youth

## YELLO

- 2 youth



What is participating in these learning activities  
and events like for the youth?

Ask our youth!

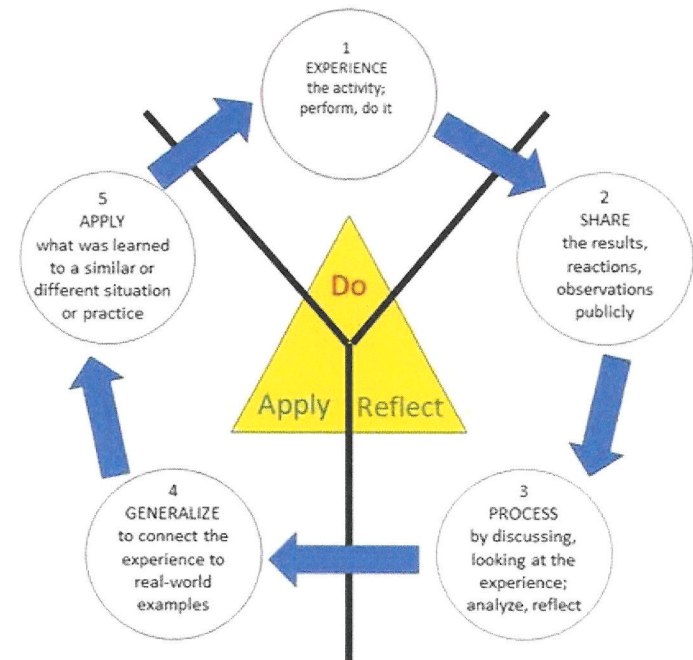




# Why do we offer showcases?

Do, reflect, apply

- Skill building
- Communication skills
- Continued learning



# Aitkin County Showcases - Local Events

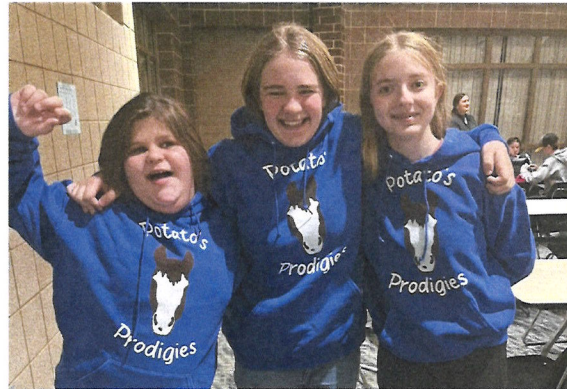
## Aitkin County Fair

- 132 youth with entries



## Aitkin County Dog Show

- 10 youth in training



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# How can you support Aitkin 4-H Showcases?



## Judge Costume Class Showcase!

Thursday, July 10th  
6:30 p.m.  
Livestock Arena  
All Species!



## Grab Ice Cream at the Malt Wagon!

Open Wednesday through  
Saturday served by 4-H  
members!



## Attend the 4-H Blue Ribbon Auction!

Friday, July 11th  
6:00 p.m.  
Livestock Arena  
Bring Bidders!



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## Program Highlights - Aitkin County 4-H

### Overview

In 4-H, youth engage in a learn-by-doing model that teaches youth essential, transferable skills that they'll use throughout their lives, such as problem solving, decision making, coping, communicating, and responding to the needs of others. 4-H supports youth in kindergarten through one year past high school. Youth meet regularly to learn through hands-on projects, perform community service, and develop leadership skills. **In the current 2024-2025 program year, Aitkin County 4-H actively serves 191 youth.**



### 4-H Partnership Programs

The 4-H program this spring created a partnership with the newly opened Aitkin Youth Center to reach teens in the community and provide quality out-of-school time programming. This partnership allowed Aitkin 4-H to connect with teens in grades 6 through 12. **The partnership lasted for 3 months and 4-H connected with 15 youth in grades 6 through 9.** By connecting with youth through strategic programming by allowing youth to voice and choose programming topics, 4-H partnerships provided means for teens to experience program opportunities and one participant from the partnership enrolled in the Aitkin 4-H program.



### 4-H Spring Fling Project Exploration Day

Aitkin 4-H Spring Fling Project Exploration Day is a one day event that brings in volunteer teachers that help youth explore different project areas in 4-H. Teachers offer different, 45 minute classes in an effort to introduce topics and opportunities to youth that they might not explore on their own. In the past, previous classes have included flower gardening, baking, making posters, trapping, STEM, performing arts, beekeeping, cake decorating, and woodworking. Youth explore about 4-5 classes in groups with peers similar in age with a break for lunch in the middle of the day. This year, 22 youth and 22 volunteers and teachers gathered at Long Lake Conservation Center in early April to explore photography, upcycled clothing, small livestock, wildlife biology, and archery.



### 4-H Community & Project Specific Clubs

4-H clubs are a great way to get connected to 4-H. Groups of youth meet regularly to work on 4-H projects, perform community service, develop leadership skills and learn to work together. Guided by caring adult volunteers, In Aitkin County there are **7 clubs** that serve **182 youth**.





### 4-H Cloverbud Project Club

Aitkin County 4-H Cloverbud Project Club provides learning opportunities for youth in grades K-2 to explore project areas, meet new friends, and showcase their learning. On the second Saturday of the month between November and April, Cloverbuds (youth in grades K-2) gathered at the Courthouse and met virtually with other youth through the Northeast Region. Between the meetings offered for Cloverbud Club, **8 youth in Aitkin 4-H participated.** This program is a great entry point to Aitkin 4-H for younger 4-H'ers. Many families have continued their 4-H experience year-round by joining other 4-H programs and getting more involved with opportunities offered county-wide.



### 4-H Youth Leadership Programs

The 4-H Building Leadership and Understanding (BLU) program is an exciting and fun leadership adventure that brings together youth from across Minnesota. Hosted by the Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors, each retreat uses a youth-teaching-youth model to teach a leadership topic, participate in team-building activities, and meet other youth from their region. **This year, we had 2 youth attend BLU in February at Deep Portage.**

The Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors additionally host Youth Exploring Leadership and Learning Opportunities (YELLO). YELLO is a 4-H leadership conference for youth in grade 7+ that prepares youth to learn and lead in their communities. The statewide leadership conference includes educational workshops, group networking experiences, inspiring messages from nationally-recognized speakers, field trips, and opportunities to contribute to the local community through service projects. **This year, we had 2 youth attend YELLO in June at University of Minnesota Morris.**

### Conclusion

Through these 4-H experiences, Aitkin County 4-H is able to provide opportunities for youth to practice skills, meet new friends, and showcase their learning. These experiences are valued by participants, families, partners, and the community and will continue to provide quality programming for Aitkin County youth.

