



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

# MONROE COUNTY 4-H CLOVERLINK

THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

Monroe County Extension Office, 206 South K St, Sparta, WI 54656  
Phone: (608) 269-8722  
Website: <https://monroe.extension.wisc.edu>

## DECEMBER 2023

### SHINING STARS

#### Season's Greetings Monroe County 4-H Families,

As the enrollment season is wrapping up, we would like to give a warm welcome to our new 4-H families! We hope our newly enrolled cloverbuds and members have an amazing 4-H experience this year. Welcome to the 4-H community!

As of today in Monroe County, we are 66 clever cloverbuds, 209 mighty members, and 72 valuable volunteers strong! We are excited about our upcoming events and the future of 4-H in Wisconsin. Together, we will thrive!

We want to give a huge shout-out to our wonderful families who took the time to attend and make a delicious spread of food to share at our recent Family Celebration. We had a fantastic turnout! For our new families and families who had other obligations, we hope to see you there next year.

From the Family Celebration, we would like to recognize the following Special & Top Awards Recipients:

- **Volunteer Award:** Barb Ornes (Norwalk Clovers & Exec. Board Treasurer) 45 years of Leadership!
- **Alumni Award:** Jackie Menn (Norwalk Clovers) 11 years as Extension Agent & 37 years of Leadership!
- **Friend of 4-H Award:** Monroe County Dairy Promotions Committee.
- **Key Award Winners:** Breeze Bunker (Leon Livewires) and Kyle Menn (Norwalk Clovers).
- **I Dare You Awards:** Zaida Carpenter (Norwalk Clovers) and Nyla Dilley (Leon Livewires).

- **Treasurer's Book Top Awards:** Brennan O'Rourke (Stepping Stones) and Tenley Jilek (Tunnel Lites).
- **Secretary's Book Top Awards:** Emma Selbrede (Leon Livewires) and Mariah Semann (Norwalk Clovers).
- **Senior Record Book Top Awards:** Brady Wells (Leon Livewires) and Nyla Dilley (Leon Livewires).
- **Intermediate Record Books Top Awards:** Jay Ottum (Hill-N-Valley) and Alivia Paulson (Leon Livewires).
- **Junior Record Books Top Awards:** Nathan Wells (Leon Livewires) and Maci Weiker (Leon Livewires).

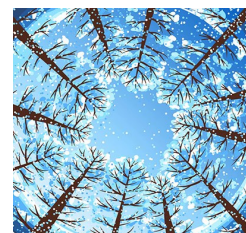
In addition, there were 39 Outstanding Record Book recipients this year! Exceptional work to all members who submitted their books.

We are beyond inspired by the outstanding work and dedication of all our leaders, volunteers, and members. We only wish we could list you all for your past year's efforts and accomplishments. You are all shining stars in a bright 4-H sky!

We wish families a happy and safe holiday season, enjoy time with family and friends, and have fun participating in the exciting seasonal activities and upcoming projects with your clubs!

Keep 4-H Growing Strong,

*Jason Hornickel*  
4-H Program Educator



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#### FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- Monthly 4-H Newsletter information is due on the **20<sup>th</sup>**.
- Please keep your mailing and email addresses current in 4-H Online.
- If you plan to un-enroll from 4-H, please contact the office so we can remove you from the system.



If your club or group has events you would like on this calendar, please email information to [Jason.hornickel@wisc.edu](mailto:Jason.hornickel@wisc.edu)

## Calendar of Events

### DECEMBER

**Mon., Dec. 18, 2023**

**4-H Executive Board Meeting, 7 p.m.**

**WHERE:** Leon Community Center

**Mon., & Tues., Dec. 25 & 26, 2023**

**Extension Office Closed for Holiday**

**Thurs., Dec. 28, 2023**

**December Project Day, 9:30 a.m. registration**

**WHERE:** The Sparrow's Nest at the Abbey

**Thurs., Dec. 28, 2023**

**Mandatory Educational Program for Adult Leaders, 4 p.m.**

**WHERE:** The Sparrow's Nest at the Abbey

### JANUARY

**Mon., January 1, 2024**

**Extension Office Closed for Holiday**



## 4-H Club News

### Dragonflies

This month's Dragonflies 4-H meeting occurred on Sunday, November 12, at 4:00pm at The Angelo Town Hall in Sparta, WI.

Payton and AJ Viann led the Pledge of Allegiance and the 4-H pledge. It was a normal monthly meeting and potluck. The club gained some new members so leader, Amanda Henthorne, talked about record books and how to complete them. Record books are done by 4-H members to keep track of their progress and projects throughout the year.

Jyllian Kirchhoff and Addison Henthorne talked about what occurred at the family celebration on November 4th. The family celebration is a potluck gathering for members who completed their year in record books. There are awards given for best record books, as well as awards for outstanding 4-H work.

The next 4-H Project day is set for December 28th at Sparrow's Nest in Sparta. 4H Project day is for members in grades 3-6 to sign up for different projects allowing them to make new crafts and learn new skills.

The Dragonflies participated in The Rails To Trails marathon on October 1st. Members Vanessa Ornes and Seth McKenna reported they ran a First Aid stop along the trail where they handed out drinks and snacks to runners. Kari McKenna led a project on how to make an airplane piggy bank. The meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Submitted by Seth McKenna

### **2023 - 2024 District Responsibilities**

**Northwest:** Denim N' Dust; Dragonflies, Way Finders

**Clean Food Stand Before Tractor Pull**

**Southwest:** Jolly Joiners; Leon Livewires, Sparta Sprockets

**Clean Food Stand After Tractor Pull**

**Northeast:** Clovers & Cranberries; La Grange Tunnel-Lites; Valle Ville

**Clean Exhibit Hall Before County Fair**

**Southeast:** Hill-N-Valley; Norwalk Clovers; Stepping Stones

**Family Celebration**

**Clean Food Stand After County Fair**



## Project News & Information



### Scholarship Opportunity

**WI Pork Assoc. Pig Project**—4-H and FFA youth are eligible to apply for a \$100 scholarship used to offset costs associated with their 2024 pig project. Interested youth may download the application form from the WPA website at [www.wppa.org/youth-pig-project/](http://www.wppa.org/youth-pig-project/) Applications must be postmarked no later than Feb. 1, 2024.

### Jr. Livestock 2024 Committee Meetings

January 9, 2024 – Brookwood  
April 9, 2024 – Tomah  
June 11, 2024 – Sparta  
September 10, 2024 - Brookwood



### Leader’s Mandatory Educational Program

We are having the mandatory educational program for adult leaders on December 28th, at 4 p.m. Each club should send their club leader, or designate another certified adult volunteer to attend. This is a required part of being a chartered club.



**SAVE THESE DATES!!**

- > **Mandatory Educational Program** for club leaders, Thursday, December 28, The Sparrow’s Nest at the Abbey, @ 4 p.m.
- > **Festival of Arts**, Saturday, March 2, 2024, Meadowview School
- > **Fur, Fin & Feather**, April 27, 2024
- > **Upham Woods Summer Camp**, July 31 - August 2, 2024

### Jr. Leaders Activity

The Jr. Leaders will be gathering on Friday, December 8th at the Extension office at 5:30 p.m. for a meeting and pizza. Anyone who is interested in being an officer should contact Kennedy or Josh. Elections will be held at this meeting. At 6:30 p.m. we will walk to Evans Bosshard Park to work the gate and concession stand from 7-9 p.m. Anyone who is interested in being a Jr. Leader for the 2023-2024 year and is in grades 6th & up can attend.



## Project News & Information



### Jr. Leaders Overnight

The Jr. Leader (6th-12th grade) overnight will be Friday, February 23, 2024 at The Sparrow's Nest at the Abbey, 17304 Havenwood Rd, Sparta, starting at 5 p.m., or whenever you get there! We'll have some fun and be finalizing plans for the youth who attend Clover College the next day.

### KITS (Kids Inspired to Try Stuff)

It's become a tradition! KITS is back again this year. As a reminder, the program is to try different 4-H projects to see if you want to enroll in them. It comes in a package with all the materials and instructions on how to complete a project. You can add projects to your enrollment until April 1, 2024.

KITS will be available to pick up at the office or you can pay an extra \$10 for them to be mailed to you. If you want to participate in this year's program **please sign up by December 22nd at: <https://forms.gle/XoZb6KzDyVSsqHMQ6>**

We will have KITS for 3 months, January to March 2024. The cost will be \$10 per child. Please send your payment to the Extension Office, 206 South K Street, Sparta, WI 54656. Checks should be made out to Monroe County 4-H, or credit card payments can be made thru PayPal at [mocowi4H@gmail.com](mailto:mocowi4H@gmail.com).

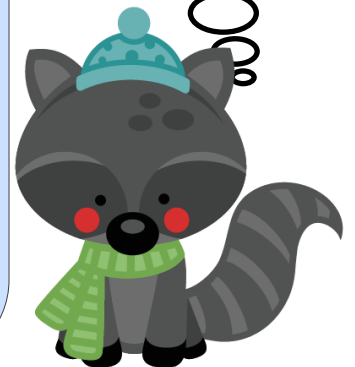
### Clover College

Clover College will be on Saturday, February 24th, 2024 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at The Sparrow's Nest. Youth in Grades 1-3 are invited to come join in the fun! There will be crafts, science lessons and a snack provided.

You can register by going to:

<https://forms.gle/erHQVnwY7VJEXfB2A>

Fee is only \$15 per child, maximum of \$30 per family. Make check payable to: Monroe Co. 4-H Jr. Leaders and mail to the Extension office.



### Volunteers in Preparation (VIP) Training

Our State 4-H Volunteer Specialist, Dawn Vandevort, is offering more VIP trainings online in December. Sessions fill up fast!

- December 7 - - 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**
- December 9 - - 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**
- December 11 - - 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.**
- December 19 - - 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
- December 28 - - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.**



Please register at: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/resources/volunteer-resources/4-h-foundations/volunteers-in-preparation/> as soon as you decide on a date. They fill up fast. If you don't see a date listed, the session is full. Once you sign up, you will receive the Zoom link to be able to participate.

## Project News & Information



### December Project Day



Come join us for December Project Day! Youth in Grades 3 + are invited to this super fun day on Thursday, December 28th at The Sparrow's Nest at the Abbey. The kids will be on winter break so this is a great opportunity to be with friends and make some really cool projects. Cost will be \$15 per member. If your family needs financial assistance, please contact the office. All requests will be kept confidential. Register by going to: <https://forms.gle/cwhbTbHeH8pqzq1x8>

Class spots are limited and will be filled on a first come first serve basis. **Deadline to register is December 19th.**



**9:30 a.m.—10 a.m. - Arrive & Register**

10 a.m.—11 a.m.

11 a.m.—12 Noon

**Noon—1 p.m. LUNCH & BREAK**

**(we may go outside to play, so wear appropriate clothes)**

1 p.m.—2 p.m.

2 p.m.—3 p.m.

3:00 p.m.—Clean Up & Release



**Sewing** - Learn how to sew a fleece hat, pillow or tote /grocery bag. Each session will sew a different item. You'll be able to choose your color and prints on the registration form. Limit 6 members per session.

**Woodworking Workshop**— Learn fundamental woodworking skills and practice workshop safety while constructing your very own handmade wooden game. Limit 10 members per session.

**Crafts 101** - You can choose which crafts you want to make in this session. A variety will be offered - rubber stamping cards, yarn hats, ripped cloth candy canes, ribbon tree Christmas ornament, felt flowers, button trees, bird seed ornaments or sun catchers! All of these items have a fair category associated with them. Limit 15 members per session.

**Leather Craft** - Join us to learn the basics of leather craft. Everyone will be able to personalize their own bracelet or key chain using embossing tools and dye. Limit 8 members per session.

**Photography** - Members will need to bring a camera with you to this session. Kids will focus on taking portraits using window light. Using window light is a fun and easy way to create beautiful, well lit portraits. You'll learn: how to pick the perfect window; how to position your subject in relation to the light; and how to make your subject's eyes sparkle! Limit 5 members per session.

**Ceramic Pendant** - Tiffany's Ceramics & Pottery from Tomah will be on hand to help you paint and assemble a pendant that you can wear home! Limit 10 members per session.

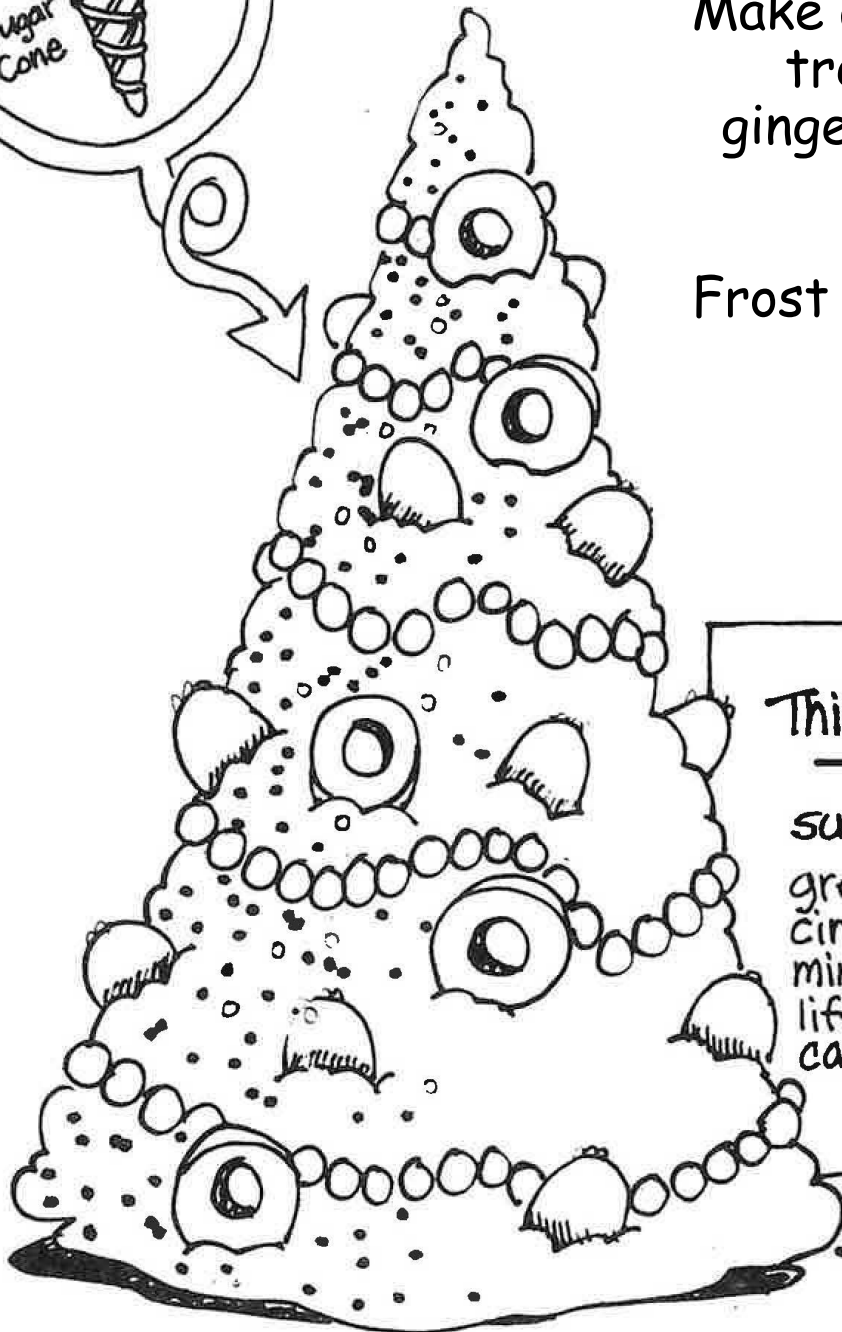
**Cookie Decorating**- In this session you will be learning and getting pro tips on how to artistically frost and decorate cookies from an experienced artisan baker. Limit 10 members per session.

# Sweet tree



Make a sugar-coated tree for your gingerbread house "yard".

Frost and add candy.



## Things I need:

- sugar cone
- green frosting
- cinnamon red hots
- mini gumdrops
- life savers
- candy sprinkles

# Monroe County 4-H Festival of Arts

March 2, 2024

Meadowview Middle School

PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US TO SHOWCASE YOUR TALENTS AND SKILLS

PURPOSE of the 4-H Festival of Arts is to provide the opportunity:

- For 4-H members and Cloverbuds to share their skills and talents with others.
- For 4-H members and Cloverbuds to further develop their skills in communicating through the arts with constructive feedback on their efforts.
- To share with the public the Arts and Communication Projects of the Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development program.
- To discover additional arts ideas from others in the area.
- To observe and support others as they perform or display their talents.

Area of entry include:

## • COMMUNICATION ARTS

- Memorized Selection
- Story Telling
- Play Reading
- Original Speech
- Prose Reading
- Poetry Reading

## • ARTS AND CRAFTS, PHOTOGRAPHY, MARKETING

- Registrations should be sent directly to Club Leader

## • DEMONSTRATION, ILLUSTRATED TALK, ACTION CENTER

- Individual
- Team

## • MUSIC

- Solo
- Duet
- Group

## • DRAMA

- Group Drama
- Group Play Reading
- Mini-Drama

Register for the Festival of Arts, using this link:

<https://forms.gle/J94cUpHo9og8BuGf8>



## GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL AREAS

1. Participants will introduce themselves to the judges before performing. Include your name, age or grade, name of 4-H club, title of performance. You may include an interesting fact, or something unique about your performance.
2. Throughout the program, participants and others will not leave or enter the auditorium while a group or individual is performing.
3. Please respect the time guidelines in each category.
4. Please respect the scheduled performance times. Groups are expected to perform at scheduled times.
5. All festival participants must be enrolled 4-H members.
6. All participants will be awarded a ribbon.
7. Merit winners will receive a merit ribbon. Merit awards will be based on quality of the performance/exhibit and age of participant. Only those who follow the guidelines will be eligible for merit awards.
8. When selecting material for presentations, please keep in mind that 4-H is a family organization. Presentations should be appropriate for audiences of all ages.
9. Performances will take place on the stage. Performers will use a microphone. The following will be available for use: piano, music stand, chair(s), sound system, demonstration table with mirror.

## COMMUNICATION ARTS



Description - The following categories must have 1 or 2 readers.

**Memorized Selection:** Prose, poetry or any other piece; must be memorized. No notes allowed.

**Prose-reading:** include stories, narratives, anything not written as a poem; should be presented as a reading. No props.

**Poetry-reading:** may be original poem or a selection written by someone else, either in verse form or open-ended; should be presented as a reading. No props.

**Original Speeches:** A speech written by the speaker on any subject, preferably one pertaining to his/her 4-H project work. Notes permitted.

**Storytelling:** Original or from a book, told as if to younger children. No poetry allowed. Presented without using a book or notes; costumes or props are encouraged, and facial expression and gestures are allowed.

**Play Reading:** 1 or 2 readers are to make their selection "come alive" without the use of costumes and props. Hand movements and facial expressions acceptable; movement around stage unacceptable. A play reading should be presented as a reading.

Time Guidelines - Maximum time for above categories: 5 minutes.

## DEMONSTRATIONS, ILLUSTRATED TALKS



Description - May be individual or in teams.

**Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks:** either teach someone how or show and tell how to do something.

- Consists of 4 parts - a) introduction, b) body, c) conclusion, and d) questions from audience.

- Visuals such as maps, charts, posters, graphs, pictures, slides or models can be used to explain what you're saying.

**Action Center (informal):** a show and tell with an emphasis on showing.

- Presenter(s) carry on conversation with passersby (no seated audience)
- People watching take part by - a) watching and listening, b) talking with demonstrator, c) trying things with senses, d) judging things, e) asking questions
- Handouts may be used (instructions, directions, recipes)
- Posters or pictures can be used to show key steps or to show a close-up view.

Time Guidelines: 15 minute maximum for demonstrations; b) 15-30 minutes for action center.

## MUSIC: SOLO, DUET and GROUP

Description

- Define Group - 3 or more members.
- Categories include instrumental, vocal, dance or novelty (e.g. variety, lip sync).
- Lip sync will be judged separately from dance, vocal, etc.
- If media accompaniments are used, only instrumental accompaniment media are permitted. Vocal media will be allowed for lip sync or dance numbers only.
- No open flames, hay, straw, cornstalks, shavings or sawdust may be used.
- No directing is permitted from the audience or in front of the stage.

Time Guidelines - The maximum performance time limit is 12 minutes. Clock starts at beginning of performance. No minimum time limit.



## GROUP DRAMA

Description - Groups must consist of three or more members.

- One Act Play, commercial or original drama.
- No open flames, hay, straw, cornstalks, shavings or sawdust may be used.
- No directing is permitted from the audience or in front of the stage.



Time Guidelines - The maximum performance time limit is 30 minutes: opening curtain to final curtain. No minimum time limits.

## GROUP MINI-DRAMA

Description - Groups must consist of three or more members.

- Produced with minimal props (no special lighting, hay, straw, candles or open flames) and costumes, they may be performed in a classroom. Examples include skits, puppetry, or creative dramatics.

Time Guidelines - A maximum time limit of 15 minutes, including set-up and take down.

## GROUP PLAY READING

Description - Groups must consist of three or more members.

- Readers are to make their selection “come alive” without the use of costumes and props.
- Hand movements and facial expressions are acceptable. Movement around the performance area is not acceptable.
- Presented without a microphone or artificial devices.
- Scripts are to be used.

Time Guidelines - Maximum time limit of 12 minutes.

## ARTS & CRAFTS



Description - Youth may bring a maximum of 4 items to display and discuss.

- Entry Labeling - All Art & Craft items must have a 3” x 5” index card listing: name, club, grade, date completed, and title. Attach cards securely on the front of the exhibit in such a way that it is easily read and minimizes distracting from or covering the appearance of the article.
- Please call Club Leader to reserve space for exhibits. Club Leaders are responsible to reserve space for the entire club.
- Any article that has been made after April 1 of the previous year will be accepted.
- All articles will be judged by face-to-face judging. Items will be released after the awards program. Exhibitors are responsible for the removal of their exhibits.
- Evaluation - Articles will be evaluated on quality of exhibit, age of participant and answers to interview questions. Evaluation criteria include: 1) originality / creativity, 2) neatness, 3) artistic merit, and 4) appropriate finishing.

If a youth is unable to make it to the Festival of Arts they will be required to write a statement answering the 5 or 6 questions listed in the Face to Face Judging Guidelines and attach it to the exhibit.

# MARKETING



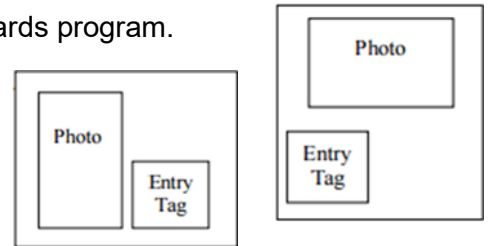
- Entry Labeling - All Marketing items must have a 3" x 5" index card listing: name, club, grade, date completed, and title. Also, describe how the marketing item is used. Writing must be legible or deduction to placing may occur. Attach cards securely on the front of the exhibit in such a way that it is easily read and minimizes distracting from or covering the appearance of the article.
- Description - All items submitted will be displayed together. Any item is acceptable that can be used for promotion of 4-H. All entries must have at least one green clover with the four H's. Examples would include posters, placemats, tabletop design, sweatshirts, etc. that promote 4-H visually.

If a youth is unable to make it to the Festival of Arts they will be required to write a statement answering the 5 or 6 questions listed in the Face to Face Judging Guidelines and attach it to the exhibit.

# PHOTOGRAPHY



- Entry Labeling - All photographs must have a 3" x 5" index card listing: name, club, grade, category, and title of photo. Writing must be legible or deduction to placing may occur. Attach cards securely on the front of the exhibit in such a way that it is easily read and minimizes distracting from or covering the photo.
- Description - All photos must be 4 x 6 or 5 x 7 only.
- All photos must be mounted on an 8 x 9 or a 9 x 8 tag board ONLY. Vertical photos will be mounted on the left side, leaving room for the entry tag, and horizontal photos will be mounted on the top. See diagram.
- Photos may be color or black & white, standard or digital, and any appropriate subject.
- Categories include: Animals, People, Still Life, Scenes, Flowers & Plants
- Quotas / Entry Requirements - Limit of two (2) photos per category per exhibitor, with a limit of eight (8) total entries.
- All photos will be judged face-to-face. Items will be released after the awards program. Exhibitors are responsible for the removal of their exhibits.



*The UW-Extension Staff  
would like to wish  
everyone a Merry  
Christmas and a Happy  
New Year!*

*April*

*Jason*

*Vicky*

