



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

MONROE COUNTY 4-H CLOVERLINK

THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

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MARCH 2024

LUCKY 4-H CLOVERS

Greetings, Monroe County 4-H Families!

Spring is just around the corner, and with it comes a season filled with new growth, rejuvenation, and celebration of all things green, clovers, and being lucky!

The clover itself is a sign of hope, and the rare four leaf clover, like the 4-H emblem, is a symbol of good luck. We wear the 4-H emblem proudly, and say the 4-H pledge at the start of every meeting, but did you know that the 4-H clover, is also a symbol recognized worldwide, represents four essential qualities: Head, Heart, Hands, and Health? Each leaf embodies a core value that guides 4-H members on their journey of learning and growth.

Just like the four leaves of the clover coming together to form a strong symbol, 4-H encourages us to develop these qualities to become well-rounded individuals and positive forces in the world.

As 4-H members, we create our own good luck through hard work, dedication, and perseverance. We strive to learn, grow, and make a positive impact on our communities, just like the four leaves of the clover working together for a greater purpose.

In the past month, I have been lucky to visit eight of the twelve clubs so far, and each visit has made me very grateful to be part of such an amazing organization and county.

On one particularly nice Sunday, I visited the Jolly Joiners, and got to see their cloverbuds making Valentine's Day cards for an assisted living facility, and also a ceramics project where they made mugs, bowls, animals, and other creative pieces like a cell phone holder!

I made my way across the county, enjoying the beautiful landscape, and then went to the Hill-N-Valley meeting. where I got to be one of the judges for a grilled cheese competition. It was the first time I tried a grilled cheese crusted in spicy Cheetos, and one of the cheesiest sandwiches I've ever had made with goat butter made by the 4-H member chef. All the sandwiches were delicious! It was a great day "living in clover", or being fortunate.

We also just completed our Junior Leader Overnight Lock-in, where fourteen members had a great night of team -building, laughing, and staying up late! They also prepared hands-on learning projects that they led the next day for our Clover College. Both events were a great success, and Jr. Leaders, Cloverbuds, and chaperones all left at the end of the day exhausted from all the fun activities!

Archery and Air Rifle started last week, and it is not easy to coordinate and run safe sessions with nearly thirty participants. Our shooting instructors and members did amazing the first night. We also have our Festival of Arts on Saturday, March 2nd, and Spring Project Day on Thursday, March 28th. As we head into our busiest months of Spring and Summer, there are always opportunities to become involved. I hope to see you at our upcoming events!

Let's embrace the positive energy of spring, celebrate the symbolism of the lucky 4-H clover, and wear green with pride as we embark on another exciting month of learning and growth together!

Wishing you a shamrockin' March!

Jason Hornickel
4-H Program Educator



CONTENTS

- Pg 1 Lucky 4-H Clovers
- Pg 2 Calendar of Events / District Responsibilities / Club News
- Pg 3 Scholarship Opportunity / Jr. Livestock Information / Pop Tabs
- Pg 4 New District Reps / Save the Date / Intern Position / Fur, Fin & Feather
- Pg 5 March Project Day
- Pg 6 Cloverbud Corner



FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- Monthly 4-H Newsletter information is due on the **20th**.
- 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

Calendar of Events

MARCH

Sun., March 17, 2024
St. Patrick's Day



Mon., March 18, 2024
4-H Executive Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
WHERE: Leon Community Center

Fri., March 29, 2024
Spring Holiday, Extension Office Closed

Sun., March 31, 2024
HAPPY EASTER



APRIL

Tues. April 9, 2024
Jr. Livestock Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.
WHERE: Tomah

Mon., April 15, 2024
4-H Leaders Association, 7 p.m.
WHERE: Norwalk Library (tentatively)

Sat., April 27, 2024
Fur, Fin & Feather Show
WHERE: Sparta Barney Center

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

4-H Club News

Jolly Joiners

At 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 4th the majority of the 4H club members met early to do a ceramics craft led by Tiffany's Ceramics of Tomah. Members had an amazing time modeling clay into mugs, silverware, animals and gnomes. Then after the official meeting they returned to the craft by painting their clay models. Tiffany then had to take the models to her kiln to be cooked, and they will be returned to the 4Hers next meeting. Thank you!

At 2:10 p.m. the official meeting was called to order. In old business discussed was a recap of the Three Bears Waterpark activity from January. The members reported that they really enjoyed the swimming and waterpark. I personally enjoyed the hot tub!

A report from the club treasurer showed that the concession stand for the Cashton girls' basketball games has been bringing in an amazing amount of profits. Members were also reminded that the last two games that the club signed up for are coming up fast.

Members were also reminded that the Jolly Joiners' Community Appreciation Dinner, and the soups were finalized: cheeseburger, taco and chili. 4Hers were encouraged to invite members of the community who have been supportive of the club, and were also involved after the meeting in composing invitations to be sent out.

It was decided that the Jolly Joiners' March meeting will be held at a bowling alley, to be determined. And after that, the February meeting was adjourned. Club members enjoyed a delicious snack while painting their clay models.

Submitted by Cyprian Klein



Photo by: Clement Klein

Project News & Information

Scholarship Opportunities

> **Western Wisconsin Beef Producers Scholarship**
 - Applications are due April 1, 2024. The \$300 scholarship is available to any graduating high school senior attending or planning to attend a College, Vocational School, Technical School, Agriculture Short Course, or any other institution of higher learning. For an application, go to: https://monroe.extension.wisc.edu/files/2023/02/WWBP-Scholarship-Form_2023.pdf

> **Monroe County Farm Progress Days -**
 Applications are due April 1, 2024. The \$250 scholarship is available to a high school senior living in Monroe County or have lived in Monroe County at the time of graduation from high school. Must be enrolled in a post high school agricultural short course or vocational-technical college program that will not result in a baccalaureate degree. Must be under 23 years of age as of January 1st of the application year. For an application, go to: <https://monroe.extension.wisc.edu/files/2022/02/2022-monroe-county-farm-progress-days-scholarship-application.pdf>

> **WI Towns Association** - Applications are due May 24, 2024. The \$1,000 scholarship is available to students who are graduating from a Wisconsin public or private high school and will be attending a Wisconsin public or private college or university in the fall of that year. Proof of enrollment in college is required. Details and application are found at: <https://www.wisctowns.com/resources/scholarship/>



Pop Tabs

We are collecting Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities. Your club collections of pop tabs need to be in the Extension office by 4:30 p.m. on May 1st. We will weigh each club's collection to find who has bragging rights for 2024!

The tabs are in support of Ronald McDonald House. RMH provides a place to stay when families have children hospitalized. Let's see which club can bring in the most pop tabs!



Jr. Livestock IDs



Reminder that market swine, sheep and goat IDs are due online by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 13, 2024. Here is the link to the online self ID form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqCjiQ-K40d8nS3j3BmkOxanW4MhyBOswtNHQ5CKoB6gunnA/viewform>



Sheep Weigh-In

Sheep exhibitors that want to enter into the rate of gain contest will need to attend the Sheep Weigh-In on Wednesday, May 8th. The event will be at the Cashton High School Ag Lab from 5-7 p.m. Please park behind the school and come up the side of the building by the greenhouse. This counts as your Pre-ID and you do not need to submit an online form if you attend this event with your animal.

2024 Fair Dates

Wednesday, July 24 – Sunday, July 28



Project News & Information

District Representatives and Executive Board Members

Elections were held on January 15th at the 4-H Leaders Association Meeting. Below are the results. We still need a NW District Representative. If you are interested, please contact the office. Thank you for volunteering for these important positions. Congratulations to all!

V. President: Danielle Peterson (2024-2026)

NW District Rep: VACANT (2024-2026)

SW District Rep: Kim Flock (2024-2026)

SAVE THESE DATES!!

> **Jr. Livestock Committee meeting,** April 9, 2024

> **Fur, Fin & Feather,** April 27, 2024

> **Upham Woods Summer Camp,** July 31 - August 2, 2024



Summer Intern Position



The Extension Office is looking for an Assistant for Summer 2024. This position works with the 4-H Educator and will help create, lead and evaluate programs for 4-H youth. Scheduling is flexible and would be for up to 10, 40-hour weeks through the summer. Please contact the office at 608-269-8722 if interested.



This small animal show will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at the Sparta Barney Community Center and is open to all youth in grades 3-13. There are some classes available for K-2nd. The show gives our youth the opportunity to show their rabbits, poultry, cats and small pets with face-to-face judging. They receive pointers and learn hands-on about their animal and how to improve when showing at the fair. In addition to the animals, there will also be a poster and an animal photography show. Join us for educational sessions, a poster exhibition, and raffle. Lunch will be available for purchase.



Entry forms for the show and show bill can be found at: <https://monroe.extension.wisc.edu/files/2024/01/2024-Fur-Fin-Feather-Show-Bill.pdf>

Deadline to register for the show is Wednesday, April 24th, 2024.

Project News & Information

March Project Day

Come join us for March Project Day! Youth in Grades 3 + are invited to this super fun day on **Thursday, March 28th** at **Leon Community Center**. The kids will be on spring 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/GXC6Pmxrzpf6yzbe9>

Class spots are limited and will be filled on a first come first serve basis.
Deadline to register is March 22nd



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 p.m.—Clean Up & Release

Woodworking - Learn fundamental woodworking skills and practice workshop safety while constructing your very own bird house. *This is a two hour session in the afternoon.* Limit 8 members per session.

Crafts 101 - You can choose which crafts you want to make in this session. A variety will be offered - decoupage vases, watercolor painting, beaded bracelet, string egg. All of these items have a fair category associated with them. Limit 15 members per session.

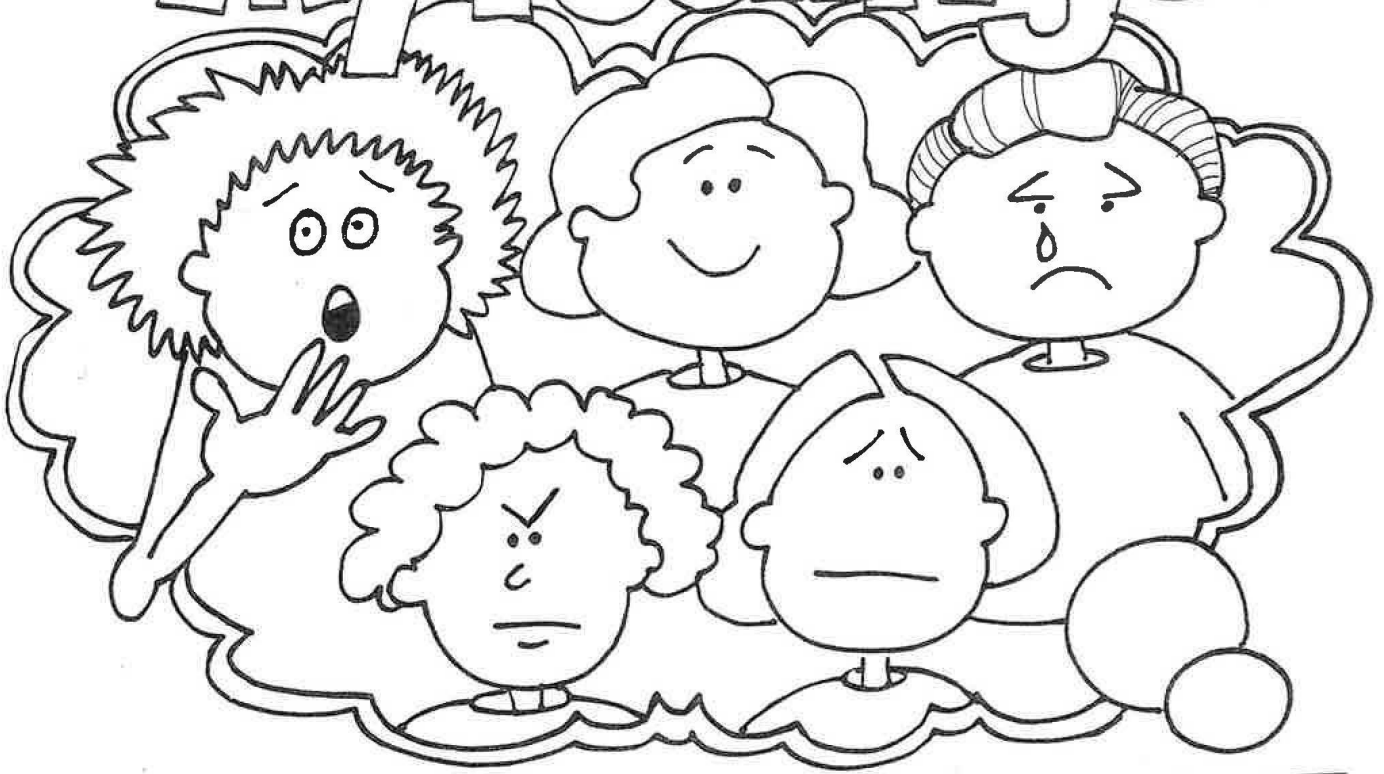
Photography - Members will need to bring a camera with you to this session. Kids will focus on taking portraits creative tricks to make special effects and innovative images. Limit 5 members per session.

Ceramics - Tiffany's Ceramics & Pottery from Tomah will be on hand to help you paint and assemble a ceramic art piece to take home! Limit 10 members per session.

Fun with Foods - In this session you will be making the lunch for today's program and putting your own creative touch frosting cupcakes. *This is a two hour session in the morning.* Limit 10 members per session.

Basket Weaving - You will be making "where ever you go" baskets. *This is a four hour session and will take the whole day to complete.* Limit 8 members per session.

My Feelings



Sometimes I feel confused.

Yes No

I feel most confused when _____

Sometimes I get angry with people.

Yes No

I get the most angry when _____

I'm happy

all of the time.

most of the time.

never.

What makes me happiest is _____

Sometimes I feel scared.

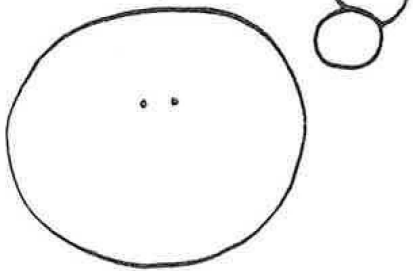
Yes No

When I'm scared, I _____

Sometimes I cry.

Yes No

I feel saddest when _____



Right now I feel:
(Finish the face)