



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>

FEBRUARY 2025

THE POWER OF KINDNESS

Winter Greetings to our Wonderful 4-H Families,

Where has this year gone? We are already six months into the 4-H year and just five months away from the kickoff of the 2025 Monroe County Fair! I know you are all working hard on your projects, and I cannot wait to see what you have created!

The end of 2024 and the start of 2025 have been particularly tough for many families in our community and for the Extension Office staff. We've faced challenges such as illness and the loss of loved ones, just like many others in Monroe and neighboring counties.

Our Leader's Association strives to send memorial cards and donations to families when our annual budget allows. However, due to the unexpected tragedies this year—one affecting a member of our own group—we would like to initiate a 4-H fundraising effort to support families in our surrounding communities who have experienced such losses.

The entire 4-H organization, nationwide, aims to support all members, whether current or former, as well as those who are not 4-H members. Helping, caring, and being active citizens in our community is what we do best. If any clubs, families, or members are interested in brainstorming ways we can fundraise before summer, please let us know if you'd like to help.

One of the best gifts we can give doesn't cost a dime. It is the gift of performing a random act of kindness. This can take the form of a gesture, compliment, or small act of selflessness. It's a way to say, "I want to make a difference in the world, starting by brightening your day."

The power of kindness is immeasurable, and its impact is contagious. Just taking a moment to think of someone else and doing one selfless act can create a ripple effect of kindness.

In 4-H, our dream is to envision a world without tragedy, pain, sadness, or loss. While that may not be the reality we live in, I find solace in the supportive environment of 4-H and among kind, caring, and compassionate members and families.

On January 20th, we celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. In my old classroom, we would watch Dr. King's powerful "I Have a Dream" speech together, then write our own speeches about how we envision a perfect world. I challenge you to do the same.

Start your speech with "I have a dream..." and describe how you wish the world could change for the better. If you send your "I Have a Dream" speeches to the office, we will submit them to the newspaper and include them in next month's Cloverlink!

We hope to see you all soon; hopefully at a club meeting, or one of our many upcoming countywide programs, under the light of the moon. I would like to send you all on your way and for you to say, my favorite quote, for you all to gloat. It is by Dr. Seuss, and here we go, nice and slow: "Kid, You'll Move Mountains! Today is Your Day! Your Mountain is Waiting, So Get on Your Way!"

Until next month, spread kindness and love,

Jason & Vicki

Monroe County Extension Staff



CONTENTS

- Pg 1 The Power of Kindness
- Pg 2 Calendar of Events / District Responsibilities / Club News / 4-H Facebook Page / Jibbitz
- Pg 3 Shooting Sports / Clover College / Spring Project Day / Scholarship Opportunities
- Pg 4 Family Celebration Highlights
- Pg 5 Summer Camp / Beef Weigh-In / 4-H ArtBEAT!
- Pg 6-9 Festival of Arts
- Pg 9 Monroe County 4-H Fur, Fin & Feather Fun Show
- Pg 10 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

FEBRUARY

Sat., Feb. 15, 2025

Beef Weigh-In, 9-11 am

WHERE: Equity in Sparta
(snow date, Sun., Feb. 16, same time & place)

Mon., Feb. 17, 2025

**** Jr. Leaders Meeting, 6 pm ****

4-H Exec. Leader's Assoc. Meeting, 7 pm

WHERE: Leon Community Center

MARCH

Wed., March 5, 2025

Beef ID Forms Due

WHERE: Online <https://forms.gle/Vr3PGdxXyMxmDDA5A>



4-H Facebook Page

We're streamlining our social media accounts and will only use the main office account. All important 4-H updates and announcements will be posted there. To get Monroe County 4-H Facebook notifications, PLEASE like & follow us at:

facebook.com/co.monroe.wi.us

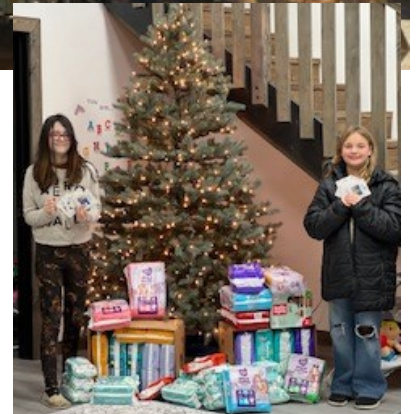
Club News

Dragonflies

On November 30th, 2024, the Dragonflies hosted a diaper and gift card drive at Sparta Hansen's IGA. The members made signs and stood out on the sidewalk to help tell people about the drive.

The club collected 19 packages of diapers, 1 case of diapers and 20 packages of wipes, and 1 gift card. We had a donation jar which we collected \$315; those dollars were used to purchase 12 Walmart gift cards and more wipes.

The donations were delivered to the Caring Closet in Tomah to help those in local foster care.



2024 - 2025

District Responsibilities

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

Clean Food Stand Before Tractor Pull

Northwest: Denim N' Dust; Dragonflies

Clean Food Stand After Tractor Pull

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

Clean Exhibit Hall Before County Fair

Southwest: Jolly Joiners; Leon Livewires, Sparta Sprockets

Family Celebration

Clean Food Stand After County Fair

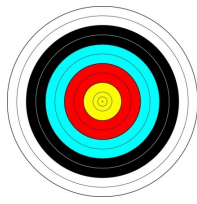
4-H Jibbitz!



The office has ordered the Christopher Clover Jibbitz and the Wisconsin 4-H Jibbitz to promote 4-H in Monroe County. These little buttons can decorate your Crocs, or you can buy adapters to tie onto regular shoes, backpacks, jackets, etc. These can be yours for only \$1. Jason will be bringing these to his club visits, or you can stop by the office and purchase them.

Project News & Information

Shooting Sports



We are starting to plan our next archery and air rifle session. Tentatively it will start in February at the Gold Recreation Building on the Monroe County Fairgrounds in Tomah. A letter, safety and release forms will be sent to all members who signed up for these projects in 4HOnline.



Clover College RESCHEDULED

We had to cancel this program at the last minute due to sick staff, leaders & participants. If you registered and paid, your spot is reserved for this make-up session. We are working really hard to find another date in April or May. Since the weather will be better we are tentatively planning livestock caretaking with animal demonstrations, hands-on learning projects which will be eligible for participants to enter into Dept. 17 at the MoCo Fair, and of course fun games! Youth in Grades K-2 are invited to this special event. Cost is only \$10 per member. Please watch the March Cloverlink for date and registration information.

Spring Project Day: Intro to Indoor Plants & Starting a Garden Workshop



This spring project day will take place on Sat., March 22 from 10 am to Noon at the Norwalk Town Hall. We will be learning about house plants, taking cuttings and transplanting them, and planting seeds to get ready for the community garden. Open to all grades (**Cloverbuds MUST be accompanied by an adult**). Cost will be \$10 and snacks will be provided. Register at - <https://forms.gle/QFuaNDHcw1HsJSJ19>



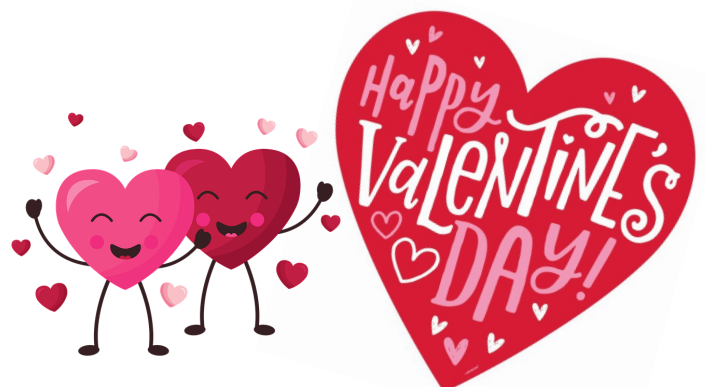
Scholarship Opportunities

> **Western Wisconsin Beef Producers Scholarship** - Applications are due April 1, 2025. 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/2025/01/WWBP-Scholarship-Form.pdf>

> **Monroe County Farm Progress Days** - Applications are due April 1, 2025. 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/2025/01/Monroe-County-Farm-Progress-Days-Scholarship-Application.pdf>

> **WI Towns Association** - Applications are due May 23, 2025. 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/>

> **Monroe County Agricultural Society** - Applications are due on or before March 15, 2025. To be eligible, applicants must have participated in 4-H, FFA or any approved youth group. Details and application can be found at: <https://www.monroecountyfairwi.com/information/>



Project News & Information



Jr. (Gr 3-5) Record Book Recipients



Key Award Recipients

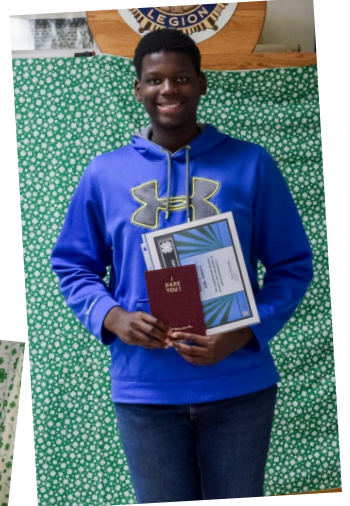
FAMILY CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS



Inter. (Gr 6-8) Record Book Recipients



Top Record Book Recipients



I Dare You Award Recipient



Sr. (Gr 9-12) Record Book Recipients

Project News & Information

Summer Camp



Summer camp at Upham Woods is scheduled for Wednesday, July 30 to Friday, August 1st in Wisconsin Dells. Camp registration will open on March 17th and spots are limited. Any 4-H member in 9th Grade and up are eligible to be Camp Counselors at no cost and can earn great leadership experience. Please email jason.hornickel@wisc.edu for more information. Parents interested in possibly becoming chaperones at no cost, are also welcome to email Jason for more info. Participants who attended Summer Camp last year will be given the first opportunity to register early as returning campers and are guaranteed spots if they register before March 15th. Watch for an email around February 15th from the office with the Pre-Registration Links. The estimated cost will be \$125 per camper, and payments must be made in full by June 1st, 2025. After June 1st, there will be no refunds for cancellations. Additional 25% scholarships are available through the Monroe County 4-H Leaders Association, and can be applied for at any time by filling out an application at this link: <https://forms.gle/HnxMykLa1uSY7yoSA> More details to come in next month's newsletter.

Beef Weigh-In



The beef weigh-in will be on Saturday, Feb. 15 from 9-11 am at Equity in Sparta. (*Snow date is the next day, Sun., Feb. 16 same time/place.*) This counts as your Pre-ID and you do not need to submit an online form if you attend the weigh-in with your animal. ID forms are submitted for you if you participate in the weigh-in. Beef not identified at the weigh-in will need to be identified by using the online form <https://forms.gle/Vr3PGdxXyMxmDDA5A> by March 5, 2025.

Wisconsin Educational Experiences



If you are interested in a state or national program, but costs are preventing you from applying, there are limited county scholarships available for youth. Application Link: <https://forms.gle/qQ1uwvhQsLgPMPxz9>

4-H ArtBEAT! - March 14-16, 2025



This is an introductory program for Wisconsin 4-H expressive arts and was created for 4-H members in grades 3-5, their parents and leaders. ArtBEAT provides an opportunity for youth and their parents to experience different art forms in a camping environment at the Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center in Wisconsin Dells.

Registration is through 4HOnline from January 20-February 17, 2025. Capacity is limited for this experience. The cost is \$125.00. For more details including scholarship information please go to <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/art-beat/>

Monroe County 4-H Festival of Arts

March 15, 2025

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/8Sba8oFSEaEBqr2N6>

Deadline is March 3, 2025



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.

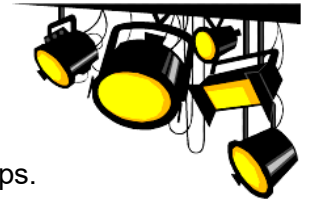
- Produced with minimal props (no special lighting, hay, straw, candles or open flames) and costumes, they may be performed in a classroom. Examples include skits, puppetry, or creative dramatics.

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.

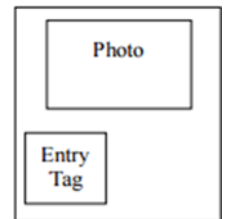
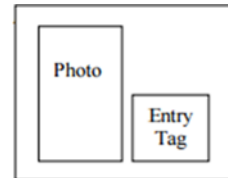


If a youth is unable to make it to the Festival of Arts they will be required to write a statement answering the 5 or 6 questions listed in the Face to Face Judging Guidelines and attach it to the exhibit.

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.



MONROE COUNTY 4-H



It has been decided that the name will be changed this year to: Monroe County 4-H Fur, Fin & Feather Fun Show. The Barney Center is reserved for Saturday, May 10th, set up @ 8 am welcome and vet/judge learning clinic from 9-10:15 am, and classes will run from 10:30 am - 1:30 pm. Stay tuned for registration and further class and clinician details in next month's newsletter!

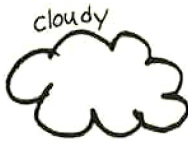


Cloverbud r e n

University of MN Extension Service
Cloverbuds Publication 4H-MI-5560-S

My Weather Log

Check the weather every day for a week and draw pictures of what you see. Do it at about the same time every day.



	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
TIME							
TEMP.							

What was the most common weather this week? _____
What was the highest temperature? _____ The lowest? _____

Just imagine!

What would it be like if the weather was exactly the same every day of the year? Pick one kind of weather - hot and sunny, snowy, rainy, stormy - and pretend the weather has been exactly like this every day for a whole year. How would your life be different? How would it affect holidays? Outdoor playtime? Get a blank piece of paper and write or draw about it.