



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>

MARCH 2025

PLANT THE SEEDS

Hello Monroe County 4-H Families,

We hope you are all MARCHing to the rhythm of warmer weather and looking forward to the hints of Spring ahead!

This month's Cloverlink is filled with exciting upcoming events, and we hope to see all of you there!

Last week, we completed our first of six Archery and Air Rifle sessions. We want to express how impressed we were with the youth participants' engagement during the Safety Meeting. They all listened attentively, helped read, and answered all the questions thoughtfully. Our youth also made significant progress within the first half-hour of instruction. Excellent job, Shooting Sports members! Keep up the great work, and we look forward to seeing you next Monday!

This month, we will also host the Festival of the Arts and a Spring Indoor Plant/Seed Starting Project Day. We are thrilled about both events!

We are also proud to announce that we are establishing a community garden at the Extension Office, which will officially be named the "4-H Centennial Endeavor Garden." The name reflects that 4-H was formed more than a hundred years ago, and we hope this garden will thrive for another century to come! The term "endeavor" signifies the effort to accomplish something challenging with long-term goals in mind.

It has been a dream for our team and many partners in the community to see this project come to life, and now is the time to make our 4-H garden a reality with the help of the Sparta Community Garden Partnership—and of course, with your assistance to **PLANT THE SEEDS!** We are excited to collaborate on this community project.

Beyond creating vibrant green spaces, our initiative will serve as a hands-on educational resource for youth, families, and community members. Volunteers, including local students, gardeners, conservationists, and educators, will participate in workshops covering topics such as composting, the benefits of native plants, pollinator conservation, and sustainable gardening.

The produce grown in the 4-H Centennial Endeavor Garden will support various community-focused efforts, including:

- * 4-H cooking projects that teach youth about nutrition and meal preparation.
- * Healthy eating programs in local schools to encourage students to incorporate more fresh produce into their diets.
- * Surplus produce will be donated to local food banks to provide fresh vegetables and herbs to families facing food insecurity.

In addition to food production, community gardens have been shown to improve mental health, promote social interaction, and increase access to green spaces for relaxation and learning.

We are anxious to plant the seeds, nurture the soil, and watch our garden, youth, and helpers of all ages grow together.

Warmest Regards,

Jason & Vicky

Monroe County Extension Staff



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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

Wed., March 5, 2025

Beef ID Forms Due

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

Mon., March 17, 2025

Summer Camp Registration Opens

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc5ZkyjYIqLLXgeIjvZPPnX_N5-DSw-c_mo5lySbfLX-nsuBA/viewform?usp=sharing

Sat., March 15, 2025

Festival of Arts, 8 am—Noon

WHERE: Meadowview Middle School, Sparta

Sat., March 22, 2025

Spring Plant Day, 10 am—Noon

WHERE: Norwalk Town Hall

APRIL

Fri., April 18, 2025

Woodworking Workshop, 6-8 p.m.

WHERE: Cashton H.S. Wood Shop

Sun., April 20, 2025

EASTER, Office Closed

Mon., April 21, 2025

4-H Leaders Association mtg, 7-9 p.m.

WHERE: TBD

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>



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



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 2025!

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!



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

Project News & Information



A new date of Saturday, May 31st has been chosen. The venue has changed to Pineview Campground at Ft. McCoy from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Youth in Grades K-2 are invited to this special event. Cost is only \$10 per member. Reminder that if you registered and paid for January's session, your spot is reserved for this make-up session. The Jr. Leaders will host the fun activities which will include STEM, crafts, food and outdoor games! Register at: <https://forms.gle/SYN7ShyWTRADyVdx7> by May 19th. Enrollment is limited to 24 participants.

Jr. Leaders Overnight – 2 Nights!

That's right—TWO NIGHTS! New dates of Friday, May 30 & Saturday, May 31st have been chosen. The venue has changed to Pine View Campground at Ft. McCoy and two cabins will be rented. Jason will bring his camper and is inviting all 4-H families who want to make it a weekend to join in. Families should reserve your own campsites. The Jr. Leaders will be staying on the East side of the lake.



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/>



May the luck of the Irish chase you down as you chase your rainbows!

Project News & Information

MONROE COUNTY 4-H



The Barney Center is reserved for Saturday, May 10th, set up @ 8 am welcome and vet/judge learning clinic from 9-10:00 am, and classes will run from 10:15 am - 1:30 pm. This show will be more educational focused than in previous years. Jr. Leaders and adult volunteers needed. Stay tuned for registration and further class and clinician details in next month's newsletter!

Upcoming Events



- ★ **Woodworking Workshop**, Friday, April 18 at the Cashton High School, 6-8 p.m.
- ★ **Advanced Archery & .22 Competition Practices**, being planned @ April, details TBD
- ★ **Clover College**, Saturday, May 31, 11:30 am—3:30 pm, Pineview Campground, Ft. McCoy, *limited to 24 participants*
- ★ **Jr. Leader Overnight**, Friday, May 30-Saturday, May 31, Pineview Campground, Ft. McCoy
- ★ **Community Service Project at VA**, Tuesday, June 10, June Dairy Days for residents at the Tomah VA
- ★ **Summer Academy**, June 16-19, UW-Madison
- ★ **Clothing Preview**, Monday, June 23, 8:30—10:30 am, Monroe County Assembly Room, Sparta
- ★ **Foods Revue**, Wednesday, July 16, at the Warrens Log Building, Warrens ****NEW LOCATION****
- ★ **Upham Woods Summer Camp**, Wednesday, July 30 to Friday, August 1, in Wisconsin Dells. *Registration opens March 17, limited to 20 spots.*



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: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc5ZkyjYlgLLXgelJvZPPnX_N5-Dsw-c_mo5lySbfLX-nsuBA/viewform?usp=sharing
Spots are limited to the first 20 4-H members. Any 4-H member in 9th Grade and up are eligible to be Camp Counselors at no cost and can earn great leadership experience: <https://forms.gle/NgKmi3RTu7PHxjITA> Parents interested in possibly becoming chaperones at no cost, are also welcome to email Jason for more info: jason.hornickel@wisc.edu

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>

2025 Animal Science Virtual Education Series

Bernie O'Rourke, Extension Youth Livestock Specialist, will host three webinars from February through April from 6:30-7:30 p.m., for youth in grades 3-13. Topics include Management for your animal project and Charcuterie Boards. For more information and to register, go to <https://uwmadison.zoom.us/meeting/register/zRhkQ0clRseBJTxoq9JNvQ#/registration>



Woodworking Workshop

Join us for an evening of simple, yet exciting woodworking projects on Friday, April 18 from 6-8 p.m. at the Cashton High School Wood Shop. We will have separate tables based on grade levels. This program is open to Cloverbud through 13th grade. Must register by April 4th. <https://forms.gle/7ffstSUGQLBPuctIA>

Jr. Livestock IDs

The IDs for sheep, swine and goat are due May 12, 2025. Use the online form to register: <https://forms.gle/Vr3PGdxXyMxmDDA5A>

Sheep will need to have a Monroe County Fair tag, scrapies tags are no longer acceptable.



Monroe County Fair
July 23rd - July 27, 2025

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.

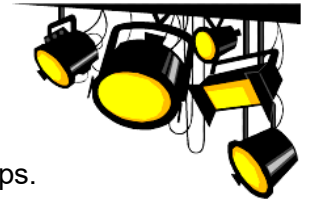
- Produced with minimal props (no special lighting, hay, straw, candles or open flames) and costumes, they may be performed in a classroom. Examples include skits, puppetry, or creative dramatics.

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



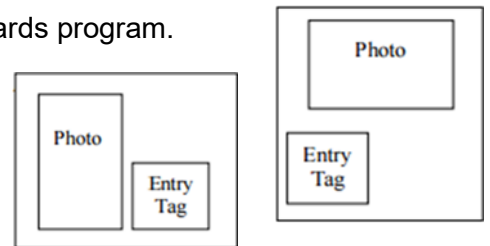
- **Entry Labeling** - All Marketing items must have a 3" x 5" index card listing: name, club, grade, date completed, and title. Also, describe how the marketing item is used. Writing must be legible or deduction to placing may occur. Attach cards securely on the front of the exhibit in such a way that 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.



Summer Intern Position



The Extension Office is looking for an Assistant for Summer 2025. 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.



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.

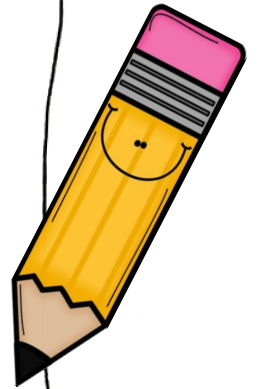
Cloverbud

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

Seed Search

How many plants can you name whose seeds make tasty treats for people? Check out the puzzle below. Names are across and down.

r	t	s	b	j	r	c	w	s	b	j	u
o	c	p	e	a	n	a	j	e	n	d	p
n	p	r	a	z	e	s	k	s	k	v	o
c	o	r	n	i	t	h	a	a	l	p	p
o	p	a	z	p	c	e	w	m	i	j	p
c	c	s	t	r	a	w	b	e	r	r	y
o	o	p	l	e	l	r	y	a	n	i	k
n	r	b	y	o	m	l	o	m	f	c	o
u	n	e	l	y	o	s	u	b	m	e	g
t	o	r	s	u	n	f	l	o	w	e	r
m	u	r	c	m	d	s	d	a	n	h	o
s	l	y	a	d	m	n	o	l	o	x	m



Did you find 13?



Look for these seeds:

poppy	sunflower
cashew	strawberry
raspberry	corn
sesame	popcorn
coconut	bean
almond	pea

Adapted from A Teacher's Guide for Arbor Month, Minnesota Arbor Month Committee. used with permission.