



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

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APRIL 2025

SPRING INTO ACTION!

Hello Monroe County 4-H Families,

As the weather warms and new life begins to bloom, April is a wonderful time to focus on how we can help our communities grow and thrive. This month, we are highlighting the incredible importance of volunteering and community service—an essential part of the 4-H spirit and a fantastic way for our youth to make a real difference.

After all, without our dedicated volunteer leaders, 4-H would never be possible. The week of April 20th is Volunteer Appreciation Awareness Week, so be sure to check Page 7 for a list of our Monroe County 4-H Volunteers and take a moment to thank them for all they do!

Why Volunteer? Look to the 4-H Clover!

The 4-H pledge encourages us to dedicate our "hands to larger service," and this isn't just a line we recite. Volunteering and community service offer so many benefits:

- **Making a Difference:** You can directly impact the lives of others and contribute to the well-being of your community.
- **Developing Important Skills:** Volunteering helps you build teamwork, leadership, communication, problem-solving, and empathy – skills that will benefit you throughout your life.
- **Exploring Your Interests:** Trying different service activities can expose you to new areas and help you discover your passions.
- **Building Connections:** You'll meet new people, work alongside your peers and adults, and strengthen your community bonds.
- **Personal Growth:** Giving back feels good! It boosts your self-esteem and provides a sense of accomplishments.

Most importantly, it **strengthens our community**: When we all contribute, our community becomes a stronger, more vibrant place to live.

Spring into Action with Your Service!

Here are a few upcoming 4-H Community Service Events:

- 1) Earth Day Beaver Creek Clean-Up: April 22nd
- 2) Community Gardening Days: May –dates TBD
- 3) VA June Dairy Days: June 10th

Ways to Go Beyond Organized Events!

Remember that community service doesn't always need to be a big event. Even small, everyday acts of kindness can be of service and make a difference:

- Offer to help an older neighbor with yard work.
- Help an elderly person with errands or spend time with them.
- Donate gently used books or toys to a local charity.
- Write a thank-you note to community helpers (firefighters, police officers, teachers, club leaders).
- Pick up litter around your neighborhood or school.

We encourage all our 4-H members to get involved in volunteering this April (and beyond!). If you participate in any of these opportunities or have your own stories of giving back, we'd love to hear about them!

We hope to see you at an upcoming event!

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

APRIL

Fri., April 18, 2025
Spring Holiday, Office Closed

Sun., April 20, 2025
HAPPY EASTER



Mon., April 21, 2025
4-H Leaders Association mtg, 7-9 p.m.
WHERE: Leon Community Center

Tues., April 22, 2025 - Earth Day -
Beaver Creek Garbage Clean Up, 4-6 p.m.
WHERE: Evans-Bosshard Park

MAY

Thurs., May 1, 2025
Pop tabs are due in the office by 4:30 p.m.

Sat., May 10, 2025
Farm Safety Day, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
WHERE: Cashton Elementary School

Mon., May 12, 2025
Jr. Livestock IDs Due, 4:30 p.m.
WHERE: online at <https://forms.gle/Vr3PGdxXyMxmDDA5A>

Wed., May 21, 2025
Record Book/Project Help, 4-6 p.m.
WHERE: UW-Extension Office, 206 So K St.

Fri., May 30 & 31, 2025
Jr. Leaders Overnight
WHERE: Pineview Campground, Ft. McCoy

Sat., May 31, 2025
Clover College, 11:30 am-3:30 pm
WHERE: Pineview Campground, Ft. McCoy



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!

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.

2024 - 2025

District Responsibilities

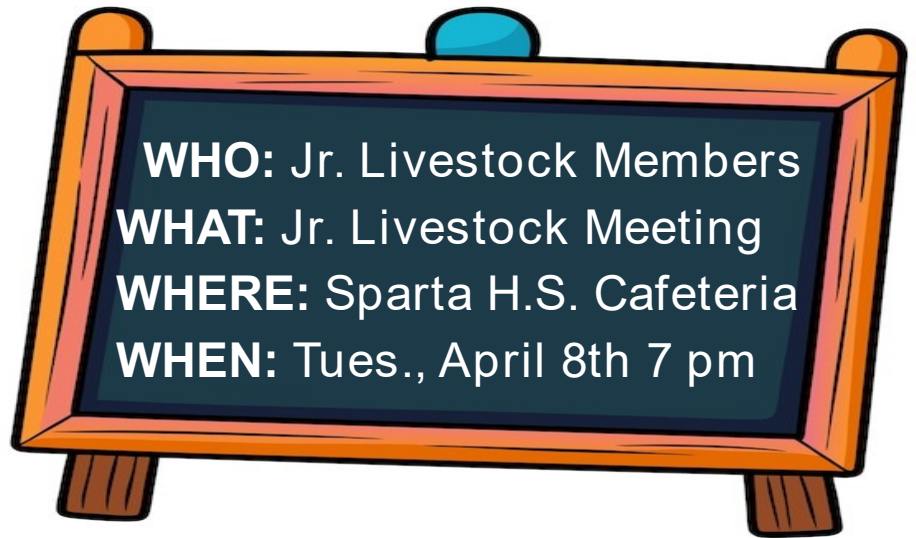
- Northeast:** Clovers & Cranberries; Valle Ville; La Grange Tunnel-Lites
Clean Food Stand Before Tractor Pull
- Northwest:** Denim N' Dust; Dragonflies, Sparta Sprockets
Clean Food Stand After Tractor Pull
- Southeast:** Hill-N-Valley; Norwalk Clovers; Stepping Stones
Clean Exhibit Hall Before County Fair
- Southwest:** Jolly Joiners; Leon Livewires
Family Celebration
Clean Food Stand After County Fair

Project News & Information

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.



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.



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.

Scholarship Opportunities

> **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 Farm Bureau** - Applications are due July 1, 2025. The \$50 fair grant is available to members of the Monroe County Farm Bureau. Details and application are found at: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/14KSRWBtknRmcgZZtbPFUTH4Cn2m9EYzUqKT0JmZnhJs/edit?tab=t.0>

Project News & Information

Woodworking Workshop

The Friday, April 18th workshop is full! If you would still like to do a woodworking project, please contact jason.hornickel@wisc.edu. If there is enough interest we can plan another workshop.



Jr. Leader Meeting

The next in-person meeting will be on Monday, April 21st at 6 p.m. before the Leader's Association meeting. We are going to plan a shed painting event and hope the Jr. Leaders will be interested in helping with the Community Garden project.

WISCONSIN 4-H

SUMMER ACADEMY

JUNE 16-19, 2025
OPEN TO YOUTH GRADES 8 - 11

\$600 per youth

Register through [4Honline](#), open March 17th!

For more info:
<https://go.wisc.edu/4hsummeracademy>

Summer Academy

Summer Academy will take place from June 16-19, 2025! This is a four day educational experience set on the UW-Madison Campus. Registration is open in 4HOnline for youth in grades 8-11. Youth will get the chance to meet new friends and explore potential career and college opportunities in a track of their choice! Track descriptions can be found at <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/summer-academy/>

Youth will also get to explore Madison, stay in a college dorm at Sellery Hall, and participate in fun activities like the dance and Drama Company performance. Cost is \$600 per youth. Deadline to register is April 27th.

MONROE COUNTY 4-H



The Barney Center is reserved for Saturday, May 10th. Set up @ 8 a.m. and the show will run until 2 p.m. Jr. Leaders and adult volunteers are needed. Registration will be open on April 1st: <https://forms.gle/HjzMJyJmYnEpX6G79>



Project News & Information

Record Book & Project Help Workshop Days

We're having a record book & project help workshop days on Wednesday, May 21st, June 25th, July 16th, & August 20th from 4-6 p.m. at our office, 206 South K Street, Sparta. You can use this time to ask questions, work on your books/projects, or have us make copies. Every year you enter a record book you earn money that you can use for local or State programs, or save it up and get a check at the end of your 4-H career.



Has your club kept the Treasurer's Reports up to date? Do you have all receipts in the book? This is a friendly reminder to get them caught up this month, and organizing your receipts monthly helps speed up the review. Doing the reports monthly also makes completing the Annual Financial Report (AFR) easier this fall. If you have any questions, please contact the office, we're here to help! **AFRs are due September 1st.**

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>

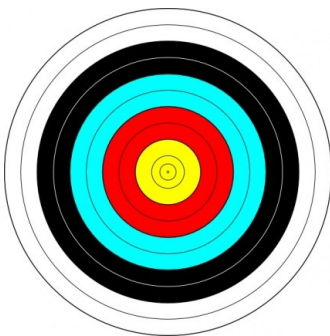


** IMPORTANT ** Shooting Sports News

The Gold Building is NOT available for our last night of archery & pellet gun on March 31st, so we will need to postpone the potluck/Fair Shoot until Monday, April 7th.

UPCOMING events:

- **NEW THIS YEAR!** Advanced Archery/.22 session will start in May!
- Shotgun & .22 will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting the second week in June. All members who signed up for this project will be sent a letter & safety forms.
- Gun cleaning workshop in May, date TBD. Email Jason.hornickel@wisc.edu if you are interested.



Farm Safety Day

Come learn how to stay safe on the farm! Cashton FFA members and the Monroe County Farm Bureau is offering a Farm Safety Day program on Saturday, May 10th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Cashton Elementary school. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. Community youth ages 4-12 years old are invited to attend. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Brooke Brueggen at brueggen.brooke@mail.cashton.k12.wi.us or Kori Blank at blank.kori@caston.k12.wi.us.



Festival of Arts Results

We had a nice turn out for the Festival of Arts with a lot of arts & crafts, photos, and live performances. **CONGRATS** to everyone who received merit awards!

ARTS & CRAFTS

Bruce Deal, Sparta Sprockets, Firework Paining
 Brooklyn Edmond, Sparta Sprockets, Rainbow Dash Painting
 Brynley Olsen, Valle Ville, Flower Nail Art
 Mirabella Fanell, Jolly Joiners, Ceramic Wolf
 Mirabella Fanell, Jolly Joiners, Dragon Painting
 Clement Klein, Jolly Joiners, St. Francis Drawing
 Brady Wells, Leon Livewires, Decorative Cutting Board
 Seraya Currier, Leon Livewires, Flower Bird House
 Azaria Carpenter, Norwalk Clovers, Starry Night Diamond Art



SPEAKING

Isaac Wells, Leon Livewires, Deal Them Up!, Action Center
 Nathan Wells, Leon Livewires, Pancake Demonstration
 Audrey Wells, Leon Livewires, Basketball, Poetry Reading

PHOTOGRAPHY

Zachiah Carpenter, Norwalk Clovers, Sunflower with Bee
 Hannah Chambers, Norwalk Clovers, Horse



CLUB DISPLAY

Leon Livewires—1st Place
 Jolly Joiners—2nd Place
 Norwalk Clovers—3rd Place

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.*



National Volunteer Week April 20-26, 2025

A BIG THANK YOU to all our 4-H volunteers who give their time and share their talent and skills with all of our 4-H members.

Time is precious and you give it willingly! Without you, there would be less program opportunities for all 4-H members. You have led so many young minds to new adventures.

Thank you for guiding them along the way.

You make the 4-H program GREAT!



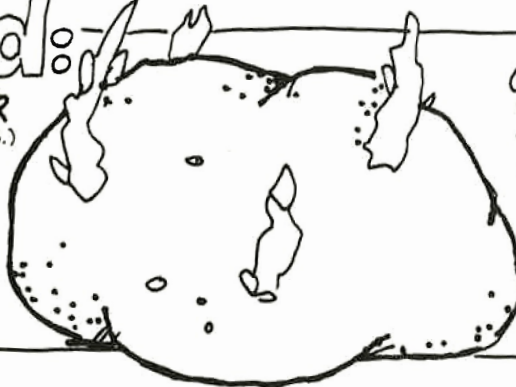
Bernadette Adams, Jolly Joiners
Kirstin Arndt, Norwalk Clovers
Jen Bailey, Valle Ville
Amanda Benzing, Denim n' Dust
John Benzing, Denim n' Dust
Kristin Betthausen, Clovers & Cranberries
Sarah Britzman, Norwalk Clovers
Kristy Brown, Leon Livewires
Angela Bunker, Leon Livewires
Jessica Campbell, Valle Ville
Elizabeth Carpenter, Norwalk Clovers
Jenny Chambers, Norwalk Clovers
Kevin Cox, Leon Livewires
Leah Currier, Leon Livewires
Kimberly Flock, Leon Livewires
Louise Fosbinder, Dragonflies
Jessica Gaska, Jolly Joiners
Alicia Gaunky, Sparta Sprockets
Kayla Hach, Norwalk Clovers
Keri Hericks, LaGrange Tunnel-Lites
Alice Horton, Dragonflies
Michelle Jaeger, Denim n' Dust
Clara Johnson, Jolly Joiners
Taylor Johnson, Jolly Joiners
Mary Koltermann, Valle Ville
Adam Lamb, Sparta Sprockets
Gwen Lamb, Sparta Sprockets
Joseph Lamb, Countywide
Jennie Marx, Countywide
Ann Mitoraj, Leon Livewires
Jessica Mlsna, Leon Livewires
Denise Murray, Stepping Stones
Brande O'Rourke, Stepping Stones
Allyson Olson, Sparta Sprockets
Barb Ornes, Norwalk Clovers
John Ornes, Norwalk Clovers
Kennedy Ornes, Jr. Leaders
Chat Ottum, Hill-N-Valley
Jeannine Ottum, Hill-N-Valley
Bobbi Paulson, Leon Livewires
Jackie Pederson, Leon Livewires
Danielle Peterson, Leon Livewires
Lee Russell, Dragonflies
Kara Sparks, Leon Livewires
Annette Trescher, Jolly Joiners
Lois Von Haden, LaGrange Tunnel-Lites
Elizabeth Wells, Leon Livewires
Timothy York, Norwalk Clovers

Bucket of Spuds

Plant a potato in a large bucket and you should get a bucketful in about 4 months. Early spring or fall is the best time to plant.

You need:

- A LARGE CONTAINER (IT MUST HAVE DRAINAGE HOLES.)
- A POTATO
- SOIL
- COMPOST



Choose a potato with lots of eyes. These are buds that will begin to sprout if the potato is left in a light, airy place.

You Do:



1 Half fill your container with soil. Mix in a little compost.



4 Keep covering the plant until the bucket is full. Keep the soil damp.



2 Make a hole in the soil large enough to take the potato. Leave the 2 strongest shoots on and rub the rest off. Bury the potato.



5 When the plant flowers, it's a sign that things are happening underground. When the flowers die, stop watering. Potatoes will have formed and wetness might make them rot. When the whole plant dies, tip the soil out and see how many potatoes you grew!



3 In 3 or 4 weeks when green shoots appear above the ground, add just enough soil to cover them again. This makes the stem push upward while little potatoes form below the ground.



This is how I plan to cook and eat my spuds: _____