



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>

May 2025

YOU'VE GOT THIS!

May the 4th be with you, 4-H Families!

As the days grow longer and school winds down, it's the perfect time to lean into the 4-H spirit of responsibility, learning, and leadership. May is a critical month in our 4-H calendar, and we want to help you stay on top of everything that needs to be done. Being proactive now means less stress later—and more time for fun this summer!

When you take the initiative and stay ahead of deadlines, you're setting yourself up for success, not just in 4-H, but in life! Proactivity helps:

- ◇ Reduce last-minute stress
- ◇ Ensure higher quality work
- ◇ Show leadership and responsibility
- ◇ Free up time for other hobbies/ fun activities

Let's take a closer look at the key items to focus on this month. Are all of your goal project areas started? What can you do differently from last year to help prepare me for the first day of Fair? Secretary and Treasurers: Are your Books current and up to date? Have you documented your activities, achievements, and projects in your Record Book?

If you haven't started a Record Book yet, it's not too late! During Club Visits, Jason has emphasized to members the importance of completing record books. Many 4-H alumni have shared that one of their most valuable 4-H experiences was creating a record book. Not only is it a way to showcase your hard work, but it also serves as a keepsake that you'll likely treasure forever.

Plus, you can earn \$50 each year for completing a Record Book that you can use towards 4-H State or National Events, or cash out after graduation for up to \$500!

Record Books can also help you prepare for your future career by allowing you to create a professional portfolio that highlights your leadership skills to scholarship committees or during job interviews.

4-H equips young people with essential life skills through hands-on learning experiences that encourage responsibility, leadership, and critical thinking. Through both group and independent learning across unique project areas, youth members gain practical knowledge while developing communication, teamwork, and decision-making abilities.

Additionally, we encourage our members to strive to do more by participating in community service, volunteering for public speaking opportunities, and taking on leadership roles, such as being involved in the Junior Leaders.

As the school year ends and summer begins, things can get busy and overwhelming. However, by helping our 4-H members learn to set goals, manage their time effectively, and collaborate with others, these experiences build confidence and equip them with the skills needed for success in school, careers, and life.

4-H Pro Tip: Break large tasks into smaller chunks and set weekly goals. Whether you're finishing up a project or working with your show animals, making a little progress each week can lead to significant improvements!

Your hard work, dedication, and responsibility make our 4-H community proud. Don't forget to get outside, enjoy nature, plant something, and spend time with friends and family.

YOU'VE GOT THIS!

Jason & Vicky

Monroe County Extension Staff

CONTENTS

Pg 1	You've Got This!
Pg 2	Calendar of Events / District Responsibilities / Pop Tabs / Summer Intern
Pg 3	Clover College / Jr. Leaders Overnight / Record Book & Project Workshop / Foods Revue
Pg 4	Fur Fin & Feather Fun Show / Shooting Sports / Scholarship Opportunities
Pg 5	Food Stand News / Livestock IDs / Sheep Weigh-In / Fair News / Fair Raffle Tickets
Pg 6	Cloverbud Corner
Pg 7	Clothing Revue
Pg 8	Farm Safety Day / Tractor Safety / June Dairy Windows / Fair Clean Up Dates

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

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 14, 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

JUNE

Fri., June 6, 2025

Dairy Window Picture Due

SEND TO: vicky.kast@wisc.edu

Mon., June 16 & 17, 2025

Tractor Safety Class, 8 am - 4 pm

WHERE: Meadowview Middle School, Sparta

Thurs., June 19, 2025

Tractor Safety Class, 8 am - 4 pm

WHERE: Meadowview Middle School, Sparta

Mon., June 23, 2025

Clothing Preview, 9 am

WHERE: Assembly Rm, Justice Ctr, Sparta

Wed., June 25, 2025

Record Book/Project Help, 4-6 p.m.

WHERE: UW-Extension Office, 206 So K St.



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

Jr. Leaders Overnight – 2 Nights!

That's right—TWO NIGHTS! We're trying something new this year. Join us on Friday, May 30 & Saturday, May 31st at the Pine View Campground at Ft. McCoy. 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. Part of Friday night will be spent finalizing plans for Saturday's Clover College. It will be a fun filled weekend full of games and activities. Cross your fingers for good weather!



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.



Record Book & Project Help Workshop Days

We're having a record book & project help workshop days on Wednesday, May 14th, 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. If those times don't work you can even call us and make an appointment to come in. 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.

Foods Revue

This is a pre-fair event, meaning that your food item(s) will be judged face-to-face at this event. Remember to add this entry on your exhibitor registration for Fair—Dept. 25, 4-H Foods Revue.

New Location—the event will be held at the Warrens Log Building in Warrens on July 16, 2025. Registration will be at 6:30 p.m. and judging starts at 7 p.m. More details will be in June Cloverlink.



Project News & Information

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. **Deadline is May 1st** Register at: <https://forms.gle/HjzMJyJmYnEpX6G79>



Shooting Sports News

Our Summer Shooting Sports sessions are quickly approaching. We are starting a new **Advanced Archery session in May**, followed by our **Shotgun and .22 sessions in June!** Both sessions will be held at the Cataract Sportsmen's Club.

Important Information for Both Sessions: Youth must have completed Hunter Safety and submit a copy of their certification (on file if participated last year). Must also complete Conduct & Safety Agreement, and Assumption of Risk Agreement for both Advanced Archery and Shotgun/.22.



ADVANCED ARCHERY - This session is NEW for this year and is intended for practice at extended outdoor ranges to prepare youth for competitive 3-D shoots or for hunting. Youth must provide their own equipment (bows & arrows). If a youth did not attend the Winter Archery Session, but attends at least four advanced sessions, they will qualify to enter the Monroe County Fair Shoot.

- **Cost:** \$10, which includes a youth membership to Cataract Sportsmen's Club and use of their range & 3-D targets.
- **Dates:** Mon. 5/12, Tues. 5/13, Mon. 5/19, Tues. 5/20, Tues. 5/27 & Wed. 5/28
- **Registration Deadline:** Monday, May 12th. Register at <https://forms.gle/b3YXTvsELEnusaKr6>

SHOTGUN & .22 RIFLE - All 4-H members who signed up for shotgun, .22 rifle or shooting sports projects in 4HOnline have been sent the registration form, safety rules and assumption of risk. **WI State 4-H rules require members must be 12 years old and have completed hunter safety.**

- **Cost:** \$10/per discipline (\$20 for both shotgun & .22)
- **Dates:** Mon. 6/2, Wed. 6/4, Mon. 6/9, Wed. 6/10, Mon. 6/16, & Wed. 6/18
- **Registration Deadline:** Sunday, May 18. Register at <https://forms.gle/Ek6RmuwKYTjWj1F1A>
> We must purchase ammunition ahead of time to receive a bulk order price, and we will not accept any registrations after 5/18

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/>

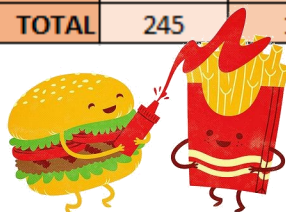
> **Monroe County Farm Bureau** - Applications are due July 1, 2025. The \$50 fair grant is available to members of the Monroe County Farm Bureau. Details and application are found at: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/14KSRWBtknRmcgZZtbPFUTH4Cn2m9EYzUqKT0JmZnhJs/edit?tab=t.0>

Food Stand News

Monroe County 4-H members will again host a fund raising food stand for the Tractor Pull on June 26-28 and the Fair on July 23-27. This is one of our biggest fund raisers for the year. The chart indicates how many shifts your club is responsible for working, and is calculated on the number of eligible members in Grades 3-13, divided by the total number of members in the county. Adults are not a part of the calculation, but parents and grandparents are welcome to work a shift. Just be sure to put the CLUB NAME in the sign up so we can give credit to the correct club!

The SignUpGenius form will be released on May 27th, so be sure to check your email.

Club Name	# of Mbrs Gr 3-13	% of Total Membership	Total # of shifts PULL	Total # of shifts FAIR
Clovers & Cranberries	12	5%	5	14
Denim 'n Dust	10	4%	4	12
Dragonflies	8	3%	3	9
Hill-N-Valley	10	4%	4	12
Jolly Joiners	19	8%	8	22
LaGrange Tunnel-Lites	41	17%	18	47
Leon Livewires	57	23%	25	66
Norwalk Clovers	34	14%	15	39
Sparta Sprockets	21	9%	9	24
Stepping Stones	24	10%	10	28
Valle Ville	9	4%	4	10
TOTAL	245	100%	106	282



2025 Monroe County Fair NEWS

Wednesday, July 23 – Sunday, July 27

Fair entries will be online again this year. Keep an eye on the [website](#) for updates. Deadline to enter is June 30th.

Club display themes will be picked by each club. There were awesome displays last year, and they keep getting better. We can't wait to see this years!

Remember: All animal exhibitors are expected to help at one of the fair clean-up days. Scheduled days are for June 21 at 9 a.m. and July 19 at 9 a.m.

**Just a
reminder...**

**In order to be eligible
to participate in the
fair, 4-H members must
attend 4 club meetings.**



Sheep Weigh-In

The weigh-in will be held on Wed., May 7th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Cashton Ag Room. Exhibitors need to bring shovels and brooms to clean up after their lambs.



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



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.



Fair Raffle Tickets



The Monroe County Ag Society is once again having it's calendar raffle to raise funds to help run the fair. Tickets are \$10 each and your name goes back in the drawing, making it possible to win more than once. If you are interested in selling or buying a ticket, please contact Annette Trescher at treschera65@gmail.com. All tickets need to be returned to Annette or the fair office by **June 1st**.

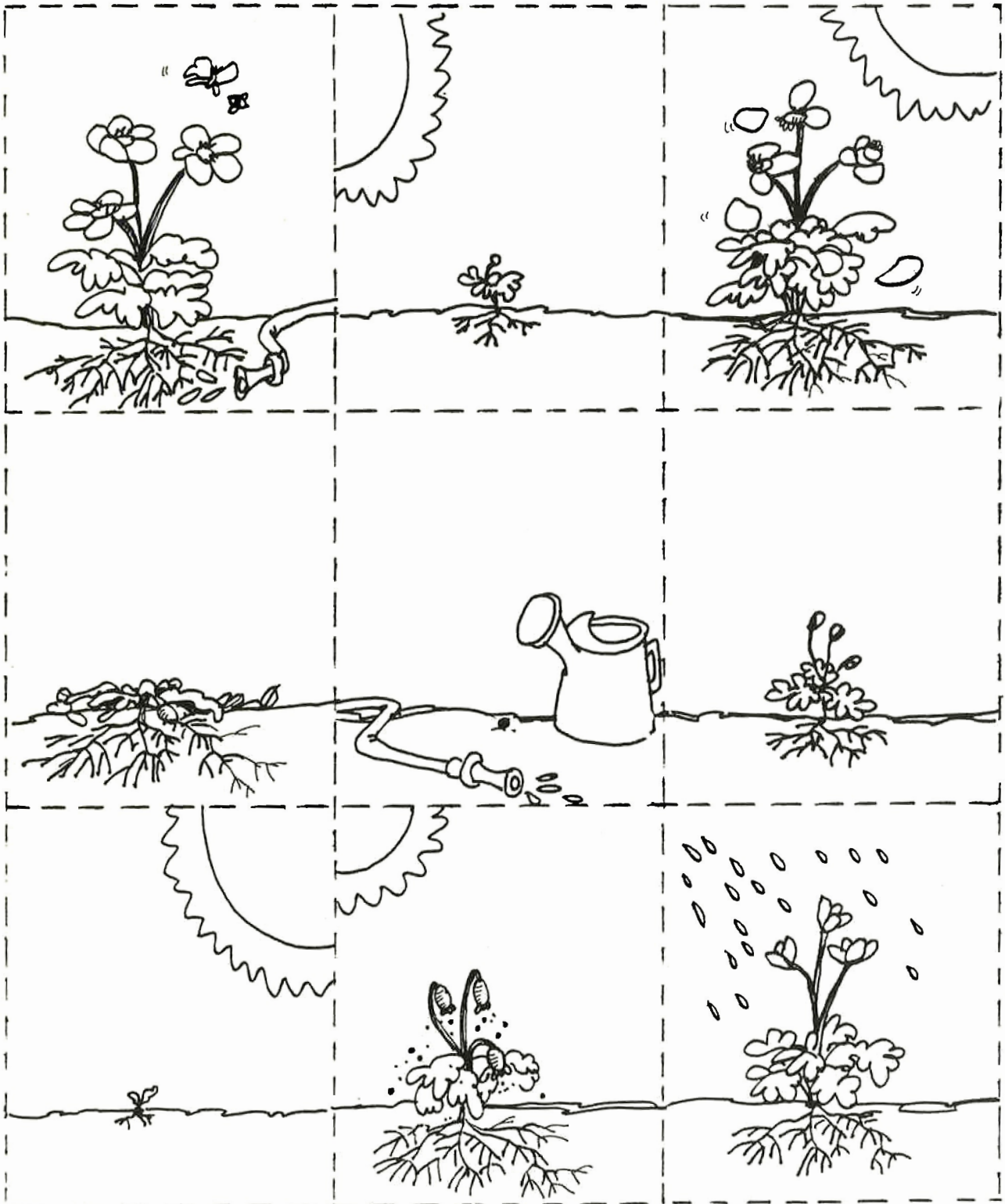
Cloverbud

o
r
n
e
r

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

Life cycle of a flower

Color these pictures. Cut them out and put them in order by pasting them on a larger sheet of paper.



2025 CLOTHING PREVIEW ENTRY FORM - MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025

Registration Deadline: Monday, June 16, 2025

Mail entries to: Monroe County Extension Office, 206 So. K Street, Sparta, WI 54656

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
 CITY/ST/ZIP _____ CLUB _____
 GRADE _____ YR(S) IN CLOTHING _____

CONVENTIONAL MACHINE SEWING

BEGINNERS - 1st and 2nd year Clothing Project members. Limit: 2 entries per exhibitor, plus Consumer Buymanship. Open to members in their 1st or 2nd year enrolled in the Clothing Project. Serger may also be used for any entry.

____ **Class A**, Clothing Preview, Beginning, Grades 3-4

____ **Class B**, Clothing Preview, Beginning, Grades 5-6

____ **Class C**, Clothing Preview, Beginning, Grades 7+

Lot No.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| ____ 1. Apron | ____ 2. Skirt |
| ____ 3. Shorts /Culottes | ____ 4. Pants |
| ____ 5. Lounge pants | ____ 6. Blouse/shirt or top |
| ____ 7. Outfit for general wear | ____ 8. Dress/Jumper |
| ____ 9. Nightwear | ____ 10. Outerwear |
| ____ 11. Consumer Buymanship Outfit (at least one item constructed) | |
| ____ 12. Cos Play Outfit | |

When: Monday, June 23, 2025

Time: Registration: 9:00 a.m.

Judging begins: 9:30 a.m.

Where: Assembly Rm, Monroe County Justice Ctr, Sparta

Entry Deadline: June 16, 2025

This is a pre-fair event, meaning your clothing item gets judged face-to-face before the fair, not at the fair like most exhibits. If you want to receive your premium you must enter Clothing Preview on your fair entry form. Entries will be judged for suitability of garment to individuals and purpose in regards to color and design, general appearance, neatness, posture, fit, and construction (to the extent that it affects the general appearance).

Registrations are due to the Extension Office or postmarked no later than June 16. Once your registration form is received, more information will be sent to you with details for the event. You can also scan your form and send it to vicky.kast@wisc.edu.

Each participant is expected to model in the Clothing Preview and in the Style Show at the county fair. The Style Show will be held **Sunday, July 27th** beginning at **2:30 p.m.** at the Fairgrounds in Tomah. Failure to participate in the Style Show will result in the loss of your premium, unless you have obtained permission from Superintendent Denise Murray.



CONVENTIONAL MACHINE SEWING

INTERMEDIATE - Limit: 2 entries per exhibitor, plus Consumer Buymanship. Open to members in their 3rd, 4th, or 5th year enrolled in the Clothing project. Serger may also be used for any entry.

____ **Class D**, Clothing Preview, Intermediate, Grades 5-6

____ **Class E**, Clothing Preview, Intermediate, Grades 7-8

____ **Class F**, Clothing Preview, Intermediate, Grades 9+

Lot No. (Conventional Machine Sewing)

- | | |
|---|--|
| ____ 1. Nightwear | ____ 2. Skirt |
| ____ 3. Shorts | ____ 4. Pants |
| ____ 5. Lounge Pants | ____ 6. Blouse/Shirt or Top |
| ____ 7. Skirt with Top | ____ 8. Pants with Top |
| ____ 9. Shorts with Top | ____ 10. Jumper or overalls with Top |
| ____ 11. Jumpsuit, short or long | ____ 12. Sportswear outfit (at least two pieces) |
| ____ 13. Dress for general wear | ____ 14. Dress for best wear |
| ____ 15. Outerwear | ____ 16. Garment for someone else |
| ____ 17. Consumer Buymanship Outfit (at least one item constructed) | |
| ____ 18. Cos Play Outfit | |

CONVENTIONAL MACHINE SEWING

ADVANCED - Limit: 2 entries per exhibitor plus Consumer Buymanship.

Open to members with six or more years enrolled in the clothing project.

Serger may also be used for any entry.

____ **Class G**, Clothing Preview, grades 8+

Lot No.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ____ 1. Nightwear or Loungewear | ____ 2. Beachwear |
| ____ 3. Skirt with Top | ____ 4. Shorts with top/shirt |
| ____ 5. Pants with top/shirt | ____ 6. Dress/outfit for general wear |
| ____ 7. Garment for pre-school child | ____ 8. Garment for school child |
| ____ 9. Jacket, unlined | ____ 10. Suit, unlined |
| ____ 11. Dress outfit for best wear | ____ 12. Dress outfit for party/formal wear |
| ____ 13. Sports outfit, two piece (not dress) | ____ 14. Garment for Adult |
| ____ 15. Altered/Recycled Garment (must provide before picture) | |
| ____ 16. Outerwear/coat | ____ 17. Jacket, lined |
| ____ 18. Suit, lined | ____ 19. Jumpsuit, short or long |
| ____ 20. Costume for yourself/another | |
| ____ 21. Consumer Buymanship Outfit (at least one item constructed) | |
| ____ 22. Cos Play Outfit | |

Would like the "Modeling Your 4-H Garment" handout sent to you?

____ Yes ____ No

See Dept. 26—Clothing Preview in the Fair Book for more information.

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.



Monroe & La Crosse County Tractor Safety Class

Anyone 12 years old or older can attend the Tractor Safety Class. Location will be at the Meadowview Middle School, 1225 N Water Street, Sparta from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., June 16, 17 and 19. Limited to the first 30 participants with completed forms and \$10 payment. Contact your local Agricultural Teacher to sign up. Any questions? Email efollendorf@spartan.org

Mon. June 16	Tues., June 17	Wed., June 18	Thurs., June 19
Classroom and Driving	Classroom and Driving	Stay Home. Practice/Prepare for testing	Classroom and Driving (Testing Day)



June Dairy Windows

All clubs will be receiving a monetary award of up to \$150 for creating a window display in a local

business. The window must share **at least three Dairy Facts** to receive the highest prize. The windows, with consent of the business, are asked to stay in place until mid-July. To be eligible for the monetary award, you must submit a picture to the Extension office by June 6th. Send the picture to vicky.kast@wisc.edu. Please register your club by **June 1st** at: <https://forms.gle/FB5KWCX1uBuXYcdEA>

WI 4-H AREA ANIMAL SCIENCE DAYS

Save the Dates

**PIERCE COUNTY
JUNE 13TH**

**CALUMET COUNTY
JUNE 30TH**



WATCH INBOXES AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR FUTURE REGISTRATION INFORMATION



Fair Clean Up Dates

June 21 at 9 a.m. —
clean up barns and around grounds to prepare for tractor pull.

July 19 at 9 a.m. —
get ready for fair, clean barns, set up gates & more