



MONROE COUNTY 4-H CLOVERLINK

THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

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MARCH 2026

SPRINGING FORWARD IN GROWTH & DISCOVERY

Spring Greetings, 4-H Families,

As we turn the calendar to March, we begin to feel the subtle but powerful shift that spring brings. The days grow longer, the sun feels warmer, and signs of new life begin to emerge all around us. Spring reminds us that growth is not only possible—it is inevitable when we nurture what matters most. In 4-H, this season beautifully mirrors the work we do every day with young people.

Spring is a time of discovery. Whether it is the first seed pushing through the soil, a new idea taking shape, or a young person stepping into a leadership role for the first time, growth begins with curiosity. In 4-H, we intentionally create spaces where youth can explore interests, try new skills, and discover strengths they may not yet realize they have. Every project meeting, club gathering, and community event becomes fertile ground for learning.

Growth, however, does not happen by accident. It takes patience, encouragement, and a willingness to try again after setbacks. Our volunteers, families, and community partners serve as the steady hands that help guide this process. Just as gardeners tend their fields with care, you help cultivate confidence, resilience, and responsibility in the young people we serve. Your commitment makes lasting impact.

This season also invites us to reflect on progress. What seeds were planted earlier this year that are now beginning to sprout? What goals are taking shape? March is a wonderful time to celebrate milestones

while continuing to set our sights on new opportunities ahead. Growth is ongoing, and every step forward matters.

Spring encourages us to step outside, engage with our communities, and reconnect with the world around us. In 4-H, that connection might look like service projects, project workshops, leadership experiences, or preparing for upcoming events. Each experience helps youth build life skills that extend far beyond a single season.

As we move through this month, I encourage each of you to embrace the spirit of discovery. Try something new. Invite someone new to come to a club meeting. Take on a challenge that stretches your comfort zone. Growth often begins with a simple decision to say “yes” to possibility.

As Jason is working through his annual club visits, he wants to send a warm thank you for the energy, passion, and dedication our clubs all bring to our 4-H community. Together, we continue to nurture not only projects and programs, but young people who are learning to lead, serve, and thrive. May this spring season inspire renewed purpose, fresh ideas, and meaningful growth for us all.

Have a great start to Spring everyone!

Jason & Vicky

Monroe County Extension Staff



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Happy St. Patrick's Day!



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 4, 2026

Beef ID Forms Due by 12:00 a.m.

WHERE: Online [2026 Monroe County Fair Animal ID Form](#) (also found on Monroe County Fair website)

Sun., March 15, 2026

Monroe County Agriculture Society scholarship application due, see Pg 3 for details

Tues., March 17, 2026
Happy St. Patrick's Day!



APRIL

Wed., April 1, 2026

WWBP and Progress Days Scholarship applications due, see Pg 3 for details

Fri., April 3, 2026

Office Closed for Spring Holiday



Sun., April 4, 2026
HAPPY EASTER!

Sat., April 25, 2026

Fur, Fin & Feather Fun Show

WHERE: Barney Community Center, Sparta

MAY

Mon., May 1, 2026

Pop Tabs due by 4:30 pm in the Extension office

2025 - 2026

District Responsibilities

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

Club News

Norwalk Clovers

Club business discussed included festival of the arts and planting flowers in May. The Norwalk Clovers had some voluntary demonstrations. Demonstrations by: Mariah Semann (Diamond Art), Makenah Semann (3-D Donut), and Miranda, Linus, and Daphne Arndt (Crocheting). Today the Norwalk Clovers 4-H club made Valentine's for Norcrest Community Homes and Rolling Hills in Sparta. Some members went and handed the Valentine's out personally.

The next meeting on Sunday March 8th is at J&M Flying Wheels in Oakdale. They will have a meeting and go roller skating.



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 2026!

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!

Clover College

Come join us on Saturday, May 30th at 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. The Jr. Leaders will host the fun activities which will include STEM, crafts, food and outdoor games! Registration link will be in the April newsletter.



Monroe County Fair Meat Animal IDs

The IDs for sheep, swine and goat are due May 11, 2026. Use the online form to register: [2026 Monroe County Fair Animal ID Form](#)



Project News & Information

CONGRATULATIONS, Karlee Bailey!



Congratulations to our very own Karlee Bailey of the Valle Ville 4-H Club on being named State Ambassador for Agricultural Science! This tremendous honor reflects her dedication, leadership, and passion for agriculture. As current President of our Junior Leaders, Karlee has demonstrated exceptional commitment to our county 4-H program, along with active involvement in her school's FFA chapter. She is the first state-level youth leader to represent Monroe County in many years, making this a meaningful milestone for our local 4-H community.

Karlee also received a scholarship from our 4-H Leaders Association to support her participation in the program's leadership events. We are incredibly proud of her accomplishments and look forward to the positive impact she will continue to make at both the state and local levels.



The Monroe County 4-H Fur, Fin & Feather Fun Show will be at the Barney Center on Saturday, April 25, 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!

Scholarship Opportunities



> **Western Wisconsin Beef Producers Scholarship** - Applications are **due April 1, 2026**. 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, 2026**. 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>

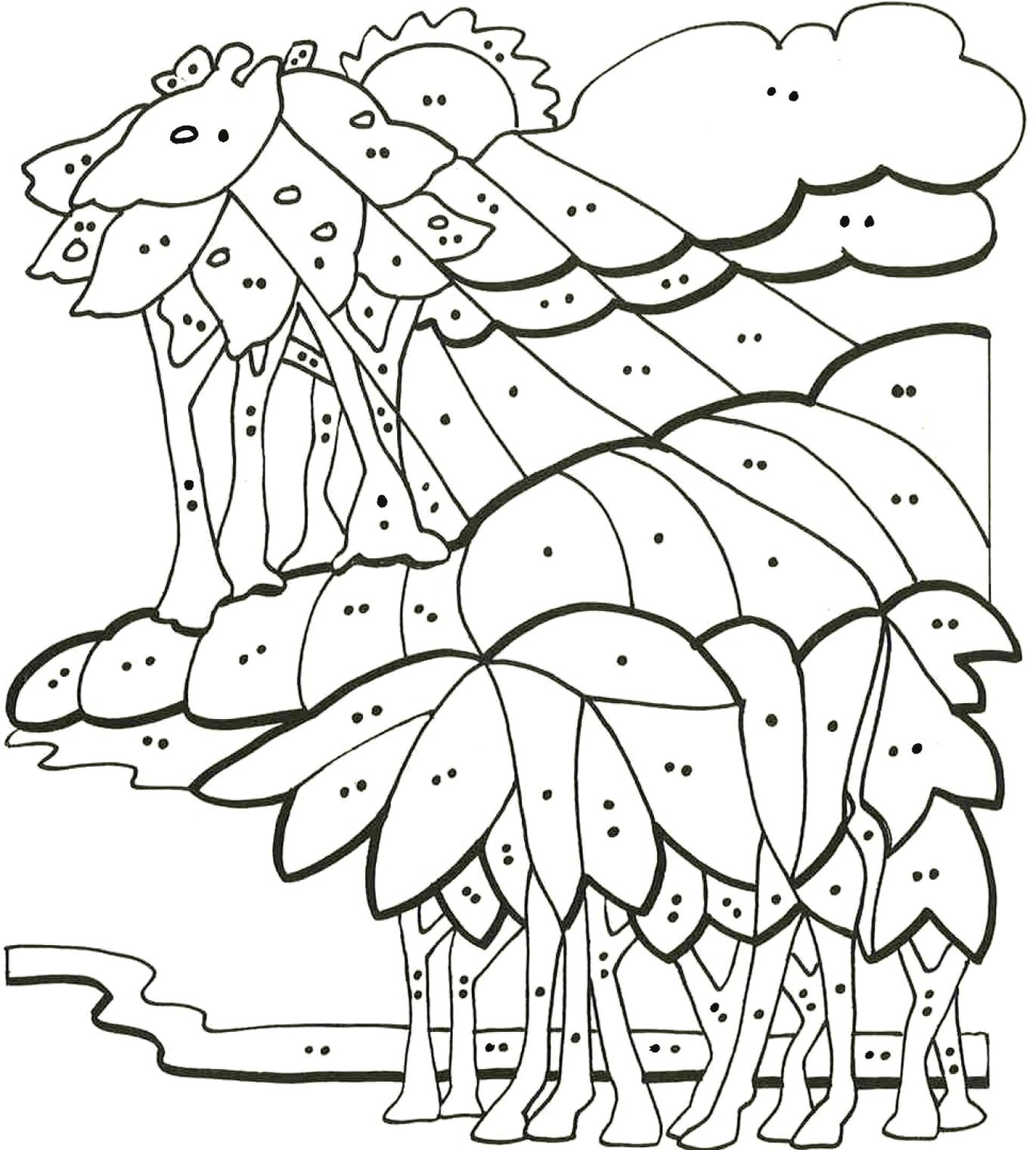
> **Wisconsin Co. Mutual Ins. Corp. Scholarship** - Applications are **due May 15, 2026**. The \$2,500 scholarship is available to full-time students in the fall of 2026, attending either an accredited two-year or four-year college or university. Details and application are found at: [Wisconsin County Mutual Insurance Corporation Scholarship Program](https://www.wisconsinmutual.com/scholarship-program)

> **WI Towns Association** - Applications are **due May 22, 2026**. 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, 2026**. 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/scholarships/>

Safari Surprise

Color each space with one dot with a yellow marker or crayon.
What wild animal is hiding here? _____



Project News & Information

Summer camp at Upham Woods is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29 to Friday, July 31st in Wisconsin Dells. Camp registration will open on March 16th 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 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, 2026**. 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.



Wisconsin Educational Experiences

4H ARTS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The Wisconsin 4-H Photography Contest is Back!

Calling all 4-H photographers in grades 3-13! The 2026 contests gives you another chance to practice your skills and share the world as you see it. Did we mention **cash prizes**? We can't wait to see your great work! [Registration](#) is open **March 1—April 1 through 4HOnline**.



New Arts & Science Opportunity for Grades 3-5

Now 4-H'ers and other youth can spend a full day exploring a fascinating combination of chemistry, environmental science, theater, music and visual arts. On **April 25 in Wausau** and **May 16 in Milwaukee**, youth from around the state can enjoy hands-on activities that spark curiosity, creativity and problem solving skills. [Registration](#) opens in late February. Only \$10 per youth participant, youth must attend with an adult. No cost for adult attendees.

SUMMER ACADEMY

Summer Academy 2026 expands Career & College Readiness opportunities

This year, Wisconsin 4-H's top Career & College Readiness experience has new possibilities including **Exploratory, Core and Advanced Tracks** to meet every youth in grades 8-11 where they're at to get Beyond Ready for life and work! Program is held on the UW-Madison Campus on June 14-18, 2026. [Registration](#) is open **March 6—April 26**.



Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry

Website: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/outdoor-education/>

Email: wi4hwildlifeforestry@gmail.com



“TRACKS” - January 2026

Participation in wildlife & forestry activities is open to all Wisconsin 4-H club members. You can be enrolled in any 4-H project and participate in the activities

DATE TO REMEMBER

The following contests will be held: March 27-28, 2026 West Bend, WI

4-H Wildlife & Forestry Art Contest

Wildlife WHEP WI 4-H Contest (NQE-WHEP)

Wisconsin 4-H Forestry Contest (NQE-Forestry)

4-H Wildlife Contest Tri-County 4-H Archery & Air Rifle Tournament

[Details & Registration](#)

Wildlife WHEP & Forestry 4-H Friends,

Have you seen 2-3” winding trails crisscrossing your backyard? These are vole highways. Often called field mice, voles have small eyes and ears, stocky bodies and short tails when compared to other mice, but even more important is that they very seldom invade homes. Rather, they prefer to live in grassy fields or landscape beds. They are herbivores, eating seeds, leaves, and various grasses. They occasionally will eat roots and bulbs. They are different from moles in that moles will burrow underground and are insectivores. An easy way to remember the difference is that “moles are miners, voles are vegetarians.” Voles are native to Wisconsin and do not hibernate. They burrow underneath the snow and build up their “tunnels” with thatch and grass from your lawn. Once the snow is gone, the voles head back to the fields, abandoning the paths they’ve stomped down.

Don't forget all the great resources to be found at:

[Wildlife & Habitat—Wisconsin 4-H](#)

Sources:

[WildlifeDamage-Vole-6-2020.pdf](#)

[Melting Snow Reveals Tiny Trails | Purdue University Turfgrass Science at Purdue](#)

Wildlife & Woods Explorations - Virtual Sessions: Designed for K-5 and elementary grade youth. The next interactive sessions for your family are on January 28, February 25, March 25, April 27, & May 27. Registration is available in your family 4-H Online account under the Events section. The Zoom link will be emailed after the registration has been completed. Family members are encouraged to participate in the zoom session. Questions? Email: wi4hwildlifeforestry@gmail.com

Wildlife & Woods Careers & Competition - Virtual Sessions: Designed for middle and high school youth. The next interactive sessions for your family are on January 26, February 23, March 23, April 29, & May 25. Registration - see your family 4-H Online account under the Events section. The Zoom link will be emailed after the registration has been completed. Family members are encouraged to participate in the zoom session. Questions? Email: wi4hwildlifeforestry@gmail.com

Wildlife & Forestry 4-H Art Contest – March 27th & 28th. There are 18 categories & 5 age groups: K5-2nd grade, 3-4th grade, 5th-6th grade 7-9th grade, & 10th-13th. The registration form is attached. You can enter 6 items, so bring them, send them with a friend, or ship them to us. Ribbon prizes go to the top 10 items in each class & age division. Have fun & share your skills with others around the state. This is the 25th Anniversary, so why not enter category #19 and make sure a visible 25 can be seen.

Wildlife WHEP & Forestry Contests Dates: March 27 & 28, 2026. **The registration form and additional study guide information for the contests is available, so email us. We'll share the information covered in the contests.** The National WHEP (Wildlife Habitat Education Program) Manual www.whep.org/ & the National Forestry Manual www.4hforestryinvitational.org/ are nationally accredited resources. It's also available at <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/outdoor-education/> or email us anytime.

Kerri, “TRACKS” Editor

Special Thanks” are extended to the following for making the “Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H” & “Wisconsin 4-H Forestry” programs possible: Northern Kettle Moraine Chapter of Whitetails Unlimited, Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry –Washington County; Wisconsin Chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation, Wildlife WHEP 4-H Wisconsin & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry 4-H Friends, & State Committee Members.

Advisor: Carlea Liermann, Calumet Co. 4-H Program Educator

