

The Voice of 4-H

The Vernon County 4-H Family Newsletter



CLUB OFFICERS AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROJECT MEMBERS LEARN BREATHING EXERCISES TO MANAGE STRESS FROM LAMONT MCPHERON, A LOCAL LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR, AT OUR VERY FIRST LEADERSHIP RETREAT HELD DURING CHRISTMAS BREAK

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A Gift That Keeps on Giving

Emery Bork - 4-H Educator

My son's birthday is December 28th, he just turned 4! On his gift request list was basically anything semi, trailers, and excavating equipment. I've learned very quickly to make sure I reference each piece of equipment specifically: digger, front end loader, grabber and so on, so I don't get scolded. He truly is an expert!

I diligently hunted for a semi trailer toy, and ended up purchasing a set, along with a logging truck set. I was so excited to give these two items to Torin, and he instantly loved them. Unfortunately, even after trying to find the best quality, Torin broke them within hours. We all were devastated--him most of all.

While we felt that he wasn't overly aggressive with the toys, my husband and I started wondering about the value of giving material gifts. Should we switch to taking our family on a vacation instead? Perhaps we should do more educational experiences like the zoo, local caves, or the owl center?

I am not sure what the answer is, but as I considered what I'd purchased for our children--I thought about what our 11 year old received. I'd bought her a lego kit, and paper model kit of her favorite TV characters because I recognized that these not only brought her joy, but they were projects that she, her dad, and I could work with her on for 4-H. If we worked together,

her putting in most of the effort, she'd have some great items to share with others at Arts Fest, her club meetings and at fair. I think she will learn a lot about engineering and it will help her to focus on completing a task and feel accomplished.

I'm glad I've grown this bigger picture habit. While 4-H wasn't the main reason why I bought her Christmas gifts, being a part of 4-H has trained me to find opportunities to incorporate not only life skills, but quality time with my own children while doing a task together. 4-H is all about bringing people together over a good project!

From talking to a few parents (and helping a few) I know that youth are starting out the year with some great new projects such as a new rabbit, a litter of puppies, a camera upgrade, and more. I can't wait to hear the stories and see the successes! So, here's to broken toys, and well-intentioned Christmas lego kits! Enjoy 2023!

Photo Happenings



SEVERAL VERNON COUNTY YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN AN ESSAY CONTEST TO BE AWARDED A MINI REX RABBITS, DONATED BY A LOCAL FAMILY! CONRATS TO IVORY AND LINCOLN



THIS YEAR'S LIGHT THE DRIVE WAS SPECTACULAR! OUR CLUBS' DISPLAYS GET BETTER AND BETTER. WE WERE THANKFUL FOR A WARM PLACE TO COME INSIDE AND ENJOY SOME HOT CHOCOLATE AND COOKIES



THE LIBRARY LENDERS 4-H CLUB HELD THEIR FIRST MEETING IN DECEMBER, THEY LEARNED THE PLEDGE AND HOW IT GUIDES 4-H



MANY OF OUR 4-H CLUBS HOSTED CHRISTMAS PARTIES IN DECEMBER. SPRINGVILLE SUPERSTARS MADE GRINCH HEARTS, PEANUT BUTTER BIRD FEEDERS, AND CARDS FOR NURSING HOMES

Updates: What you need to know

Arts Fest Entries Due Soon:

What is Arts Fest? It's an opportunity for 4-Hers to come together and celebrate the arts, music and performance. Arts Fest consists of judging youths' abilities, and is broken up into two distinct entries: fair and fest. The Vernon County Fair in September hosts many competitions but it does not host demonstrations, vocals, piano, instrumental and the clothing revue. Those are done during Arts Fest. This can make the application process a little confusing, so please read directions carefully when registering. Entries are due back by Friday, January 20th. Arts Fest will be held on March 4th at the Viroqua Church of Christ. Rules and information can be found on our website, and registration is at the QR code below or <https://forms.gle/qj9QBaSSuULjzip16>.



Youth Leadership Challenge Points Standings:

Each year, our Youth Leadership Project (YLP), which consists of 8-13th graders, plans challenges for our county 4-H clubs to complete. The reward: at the end of the challenge series, the club with the top points gets first choice in the fair food stand shift sign up process. Our Youth Leadership Project works hard to find challenges that will bring club members together and encourage teamwork and idea sharing. Each challenge is worth 13 points and clubs are ranked based on the successful completion of each challenge. Their first challenge of the year, is Light the Drive. Clubs are judged on their narrative (write up), theme, and handmade decorations, as they decorate for a one-night-only light show, which is open to the public.



Here are the 2022-2023 rankings thus far:

Seas Branch Smithies & Mississippi Steamers: 13 pts
Davis Diggers & Liberty Pole Boosters: 12 pts
Lucky Clovers: 11 pts
Retreat Ramblers: 10 pts
Country Critters: 9 pts
Nerison: 8 pts
Springville Superstars: 7 pts
Enterprise Eagles, Library Lenders, Riverside Badgers & Hillsboro Hotshots: 0 pts

The youth will offer two more challenges for the year: a food drive in February. The outline for the food drive challenge is on the next page.

Summer Camp is Scheduled

Summer Camp at Upham Woods (WI Dells) is slated for June 11-13. We are in DEEP need of adult volunteers, especially men. We will have to severely limit youth attendance this year if we do not have enough adults volunteer. There are some trainings, so the earlier you volunteer, the better so we can get those done. Let us know ASAP.



Upcoming Countywide Programming and Countywide Project Updates

-Oology Day: February 18th

The suffix, -ology, is commonly used to indicate a field of study. -Ology Day, is a program for 5-8th graders to experience several -ology topics. It will be held in the Erlandson Building. Youth will rotate from room to room, and work with professionals and hobbyists in these areas. Youth can expect a hands-on approach, for example: building a terrarium habitat for a desert turtle, connecting circuitry for a light up name badge, solving a mystery deep within a woman's genealogy to find the cure for a disease she has, etc. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Registration is required and must be submitted by Feb. 1:

<https://forms.gle/SotY4EXHLzjyPDqi9>



DOG PROJECT MEETING

**JANUARY 13
@ 6:30 PM**

AT THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

- Plan out the year/service projects
- Talk about summer training classes
- Demonstration on police dogs by Deputy Bellacero and K9 Dax



MONROE, LA CROSSE, RICHLAND AND VERNON COUNTY 4-H PRESENT:

FUR, FIN, FEATHER: TEACHING SHOW

SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH, LOCATION TBA



WHAT: FULL ALL BREED/TYPE RABBIT SHOW, RABBIT SHOWMANSHIP, RABBIT BREED JUDGING, FULL ALL BREED/TYPE POULTRY SHOW, POULTRY SHOWMANSHIP, SMALL PET AND CAT SHOW, PHOTOGRAPHY AND POSTER CONTEST

WHO: CLOVERBUD THROUGH GRADE 13 (SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO CLOVERBUDS)

THE TEACHING SHOW IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR BOTH NEW AND EXPERIENCED RABBIT/POULTRY PROJECT MEMBERS TO EXPERIENCE A SHOW, WORK WITH AND RECEIVE FEEDBACK FROM JUDGES, AND LEARN. THE SMALL PET SHOW ALLOWS MEMBERS TO EXHIBIT AND SHARE THEIR SMALL PETS AND CATS WITH OTHERS.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE IN 4-H TO ATTEND THE SHOW.

ENTRY FORMS FOR THE SHOW AND SHOW BILL WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC SOON. WE WILL HAVE A FULL RAFFLE FUNDRAISER, CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE, AND POSSIBLY A SUPPLY VENDOR

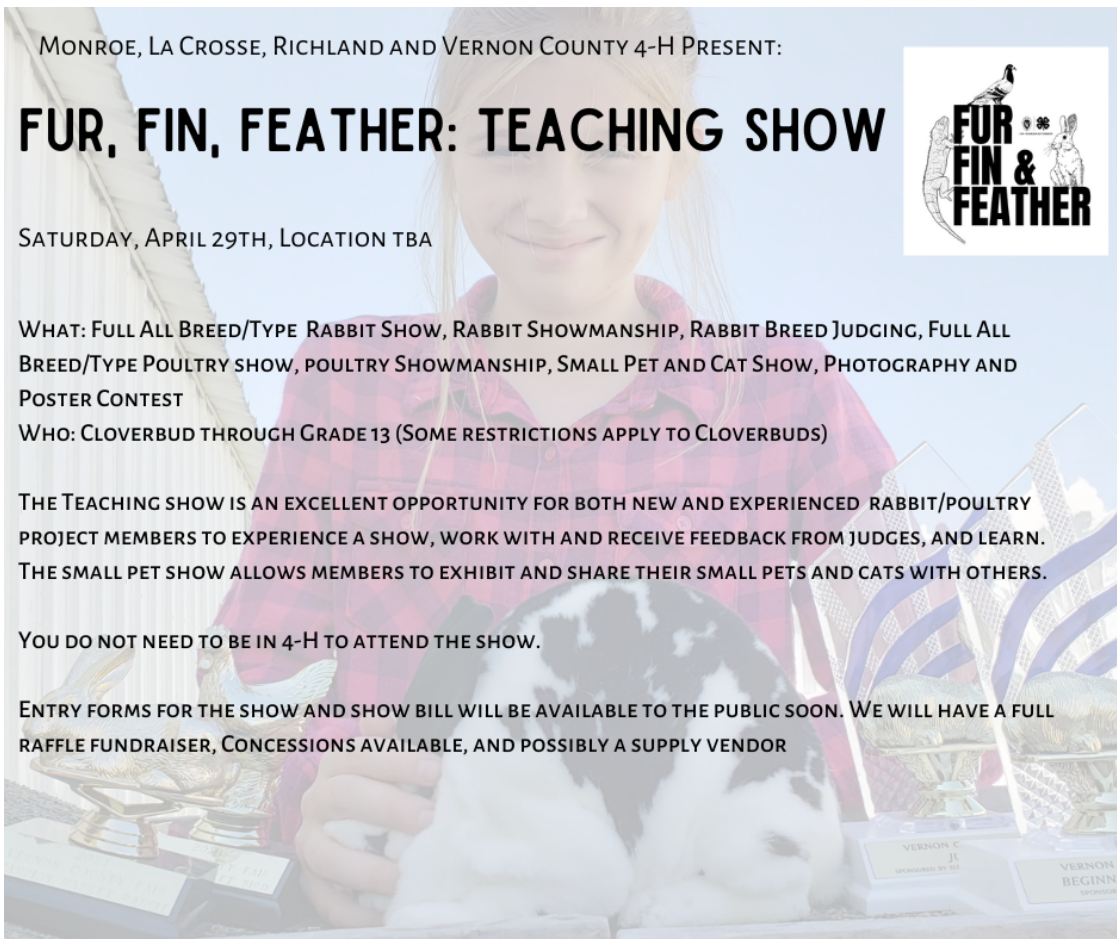


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Statewide Opportunities

WISCONSIN YOUTH LIVESTOCK PROGRAM (WYLP) PRESENTS

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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING 2023

January 9 - Why participating in knowledge and judging teams is important!

Join us to learn how to get involved, prepare, and learn about the advantages you gain from being involved in teams. Meats, Livestock, Quiz Bowl and Skillathon

Speakers: Scott Howard, Meyer Natural Foods (Columbia County alumni); Liz Gartman, Ag Instructor at Lakeshore Technical College (Sheboygan Co. alumni); Stephanie Witberler, Kansas State Student (Marathon Co. Alumni)

February 6 - Beef Live/Carcass Evaluation & Cookery

March 6 - Reproductive Technologies in Agriculture



SCAN ME

All events are **free, virtual** and
begin at 7 p.m. CST
Can meet county educational
requirements.

For more information & how to
register: <https://go.wisc.edu/tnq61h>



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