



The Voice of 4-H

The Vernon County 4-H Family Newsletter



BILL AND SANDY MAROHL WERE HONORED FOR 40 YEARS AND KAREN LEVENDOSKI FOR 45 YEARS OF SERVICE TO VERNON COUNTY 4-H. THESE VOLUNTEERS HAVE SERVED IN MANY CAPACITIES AND WE'RE THANKFUL FOR THEIR COMMITMENT! (BILL, SANDY, JOANNE, KAREN, EMERY)

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Honoring Volunteers

Emery Bork - 4-H Educator

National Volunteer Week in April, is just around the corner. It is an opportunity to recognize the impact of volunteer service and the power of volunteers to make an impact in our communities, change the lives of young people, and transform the world.

Our Vernon County volunteers inspire me to be the best leader I can be, support me to be innovative, and have become pillars in both my professional and personal life. I am grateful to them and the change they are bringing in our county through 4-H.

I was happy to give pins and certificates out to several longstanding Vernon County 4-H volunteers for their years of service at our January Awards Banquet. These individuals have served in so many capacities throughout their time with 4-H and I see the foundations they have laid.

Vernon County cannot exist without a robust volunteer network, and I am writing you today to consider becoming a certified 4-H volunteer. With the occurrence of the pandemic, societal changes, and strained finances, I know that parents and guardians are feeling overwhelmed at the moment.



I know this because our once 100+ person strong volunteer base is now sitting at 37. Yet as our adult participation is dwindling, our youth members are rapidly growing and we're seeing our highest enrollment numbers since 2019!

We have several active countywide projects in jeopardy: photography and shooting sports, for example. If we cannot find adult project volunteers to run these projects, they will become dormant.

In more exciting news, we have had several adults step up over the last few months and we are offering a new ASL program and hopefully, forming a meat judging team this fall.

Please give me a call and ask about what it takes to become a volunteer--we would love to have you!



4-H CLUB MEMBERS POSE WITH THEIR VELOCIRAPTER DRAWINGS AFTER A DEMONSTRATION PRESENTATION. WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO HEAR ABOUT ALL OF THE WONDERFUL CLUB DEMONSTRATIONS HAPPENING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY CLUBS!



4-H EDUCATOR, EMERY, ALONG WITH NEW 4-H VOLUNTEER ANN, POSED NEXT TO A DISPLAY HONORING VERNON COUNTY 4-H DURING THE MCINTOSH MEMORIAL LIBRARY'S CELEBRATION EVENT COMMEMORATING THEIR HONOR OF BEING NAMED WI LIBRARY OF THE YEAR. OUR PROGRAMMING PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LIBRARY HELPED GIVE THEM AN EDGE IN THIS VERY COMPETITIVE AWARD

Photo Happenings



FUN WAS HAD BY ALL AT OUR ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET IN JANUARY! ATTENDEES PARTICIPATED IN OUR FIRST EVER GOOSECHASE SCAVENGER HUNT AND POSED INFRONT OF OUR HOLLYWOOD BACKDROP!



DOG PROJECT MEMBERS AND GENERAL 4-H MEMBERSHIP WERE INVITED TO AN INFORMATIONAL DEMONSTRATION WITH POLICE AND SHERIFF K-9 OFFERS TO LEARN ABOUT HOW THEY USE DOGS IN A VARIETY OF WAYS.

Updates: What you need to know

Beef, Sheep, Swine Tags & YQCA:

All youth that are planning on exhibiting beef, sheep, and swine must come and get fair tags to put in ears on Saturday, May 6th. Go to the **fair grounds**, and committee members will be there from 8:00-Noon only. If you cannot make it at this time, please arrange for someone else to grab your tags that day.

YQCA classes are required EACH year. Youth may take the classes online for a \$13 fee or in person from our 4-H Educator, Emery Bork for \$3. Dates will be announced early summer for in-person classes. These classes are required for youth that exhibit in: goats, sheep, beef, swine, dairy, rabbits, and poultry. Registration and online classes all take place at: <https://yqcaprogram.org/>

Eligibility to Exhibit At Fair: This is your **annual reminder** about the rules surrounding being able to exhibit your projects at fair. While fair is an important, mostly referred to as "the cherry on top" event, it isn't the foundation of 4-H. Club and project leaders, and the county educator work to provide learning opportunities and skills building all year round to help shape and form our youth into successful adults.

Beef:



Please place Visual Tag in Steers Right Ear as shown in picture and RFID disc tag in Left ear also shown. Pictures of **complete head of steer** is required **with tags in the ear** along **with Full body picture of the steer**. Please make sure we can clearly see the steer so we can identify it come September fair. Pictures can be forwarded via email or hard copies can be sent Via Mail.
Email: vernoncountybeef@gmail.com
Mail: Tyler Fortun -E6938 Us Hwy 14/61-Westby WI 54667
Please indicate whose steer the picture is for when sent in as well.

Sheep:



Please send two pictures ,one of head and side view. We are not worried about seeing the numbers on the tags, but ask to write scrapie tag and RFID tag number in email for each sheep when emailing the pictures.

The email address for the sheep is vernoncountysheep@gmail.com

Swine:



Take one head picture of *each hog* with the tag showing as being in place in the *left* ear. Take one side shot picture of *each hog*. That would then be **two** pictures per hog to be submitted.

Photo's are to be submitted via email to vernonswine@gmail.com

Clearly note exhibitor name and the ear tag number (s) in the body of the email.

Information Example:
Exhibitor Ron Smith
Hog #1 VE 101

Again, if you have any questions or concerns with this new procedure please contact
Lloyd Hardy, Meat Animal Sale Committee President at 608-606-1301.

Eligibility to Exhibit At Fair, Ctd: Fair provides an opportunity for the youth to show what they have been working hard on, all year. This being said, 4-H has an attendance rule concerning eligibility to exhibit. If you would like to request a full copy of the policy, please email: emery.bork@wisc.edu. Main highlights include:

- Returning youth must attend 50% of the meetings held from October to June. New families must attend 50% of meetings held from when they joined until June. If joining in June or thereafter, they cannot exhibit at fair that year.
- Youth have opportunities to make up two missed meetings by attending other 4-H programming either in-person or virtually.
- If returning families have not registered on 4HOnline by June 1st they are not able to exhibit at fair.



Updates: What you need to know, ctd

Find your projects on Facebook: Many of our county-wide projects have their own Facebook pages where announcements are made, questions asked, and information is posted. Here is a list of all of the Facebook pages, feel free to join in!

Dog Project:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2207581809539814>

Photography Project:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/891585188189682>

Rabbit and Poultry Project:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/525348828264549>

Horse Project:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/231378910220751>

Vernon County Dairy Youth:

<https://www.facebook.com/VCDairyYouth>

ASL Project:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/845880039769364>

General Vernon County 4-H Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/vernoncounty4h>

Fairest of the Fair and Jr. Fairest of the Fair Entries Sought:

The Vernon County Ag Society/Fair Board is sponsoring the Fairest of the Fair contest. The Fairest and Jr. Fairest will serve as hostesses for the Vernon County Fair September 13-17, 2023. The Fairest will also represent Vernon County at the Wisconsin Association of Fairs Convention -State Fairest contest in January 2024.

The contestants must be a resident of Vernon County, or most of their fair activities take place in the county. They must be a resident of the state of Wisconsin for least a year prior to entry. Fairest contestants must be 18 years of age by contest date June 11, 2023, since the contestant will be required to travel if they are selected as Wisconsin Fairest of the Fairs in January 2024.

Each contestant must have a sponsor for the contest. Any business, youth or civic organization may sponsor a candidate. Sponsor fee is \$30.00 There will be a contestant meeting on May 13, 2023, at 10:00am at the Vernon County Fairgrounds for any contestant and parents wanting more information about the contest and program. This meeting is required if you plan to turn in an application as we will be going over important information regarding the contest and the year of service for the fairests.

The contest will be held Sunday June 11, 2023 at the Vernon County Fairgrounds and the deadline is May 19, 2023. Applications will be available on the fair's website at www.vernoncountyfair.com beginning on April 19, 2023.

To obtain more information contact Angie Hornby at 608-606-3167 or email at fairest@vernoncountyfair.com



Upcoming Countywide Programming and Countywide Project Updates

TEACHING SHOW

SATURDAY, APRIL 29
BARNEY CENTER
1000 E. MONTGOMERY
SPARTA, WI



The Fur, Fin and Feather Show is open to all youth in grades 3-13. There are some classes available for K-2nd. The show gives our youth an opportunity to show their rabbits, poultry, cats and small pets, with face-to-face judging. They get pointers and learn hands-on about their animal and how to improve when showing at the fair.

In addition to the animals, there will also be a poster and an animal photography show. Join us for educational sessions, a poster exhibition, and raffle fundraiser. Lunch will be available for purchase.



SMALL PET & CAT SHOW

Cats, birds, reptiles, amphibians. Youth judged on knowledge, care, health. Cat vaccination cert. required.



POULTRY SHOW

All breed/type show. Showmanship competition. Testing paperwork required.



RABBIT SHOW

All breed/type show. Showmanship and breed judging competition.

To Enter Online: <https://forms.gle/ocaG42U62sMXUrEb7>

The Teaching Show is hosted by La Crosse, Monroe, Richland and Vernon County 4-H. Full rules, regulations, and paper entry forms can be found: <https://vernon.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/4-h-opportunities/>



Lizards, Snakes and Roaches, Yipee!

Join us for fun, informational Zooms about unique pets! Presentations will be on bearded dragon lizards, five types of cockroaches, frogs, and snakes!



Snakes and Frogs
Tuesday, March 21st
6:45-7:45 PM



Cockroaches and Bearded Dragons
Tuesday, April 4
6:45-7:45 PM

Class spaces are limited to 30 youth, so please register for each presentation separately. Questions can be directed to Vernon County 4-H: emery.bork@wisc.edu



This program is by special invitation to youth enrolled in entomology and exotic pets projects. Invitations will arrive via 4HOnline email.



This spring, join Wisconsin 4-H International and UW-Madison for a **free virtual trip** around the world. Tour **six countries** to learn about their culture and language, and participate in interactive activities.

Each 45-60 minute session will feature:



Language 101
Intro to language learning, basic phrases, songs



Country/Culture Presentation
Learn about each country's history and culture in an interactive way



Global Connection
Learn from program partners and young people from across the world!

Program Details

- ▶ 2/16, 2/28, 3/16, 3/28, 4/13, & 4/25- Join for one or all! Each session starts at 7:00 PM
- ▶ Open to youth of all ages and adult volunteers
- ▶ Registration is open now on 4-H Online. More info at go.wisc.edu/50163o



Program Goals

- ▶ Gain deeper understanding and appreciation of other countries and cultures
- ▶ Reflect on important aspects of your own culture
- ▶ Increase curiosity and desire to explore the world!



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Upcoming Countywide Programming and Countywide Project Updates, ctd

STREAM KIDS



Hosted by Trout Unlimited & Vernon County 4-H

Trout Unlimited invites 4-H families with youth aged K to 6th grade, to the West Fork Sports Club on April 22nd to experience the wonderful world of trout! Trout habitat and the ecology of Driftless area streams will be largely focused on with several other exciting activities and techniques. Here you will learn about:

- Macroinvertebrate sampling
- Gyotaku Japanese style fish printing
- Fly tying
- Streamside scavenger hunt



Register Now!

Youth who attend will also be given a free one year youth membership to Trout Unlimited!

Attendees will be learning from volunteers of the Coulee Region TU Chapter and college volunteers from Stevens Point, Stout, and Madison!

There is so much to fun to be had and exciting new things to learn for the kids who love to fish! This is a drop in event-come any time!

APRIL 22, 9AM-12PM



RSVP by April 14th | Open to K-6th and their families

<https://tu.myeventcenter.com/event/Stream-Kids-With-Vernon-County-4h-And-Tu-Costa-5-74258>

Family Cooking Challenge

Register Now!

Vernon County 4-H invites you to our first cooking challenge! 4-H will provide you with a supply of mystery ingredients to compete in a contest of cooking finesse. Invent a recipe using all the ingredients and submit your photos and recipe to win a prize! This event is for your whole family to work together!

Register here before April 14th:

<https://forms.gle/V1rrqNoMewt74SYj9>



Pick up your ingredients on April 20th or 21st between 8:30am and 4:30pm at our office building behind Vernon Manor

Registration will close on April 14th

We are asking for a registration fee of \$10. Please present fee at ingredient pick-up.

THANK YOU TO OUR LOCAL INGREDIENT PROVIDER



3 Summer Opportunities: Summer Academy, 4-H Camp, Summer Inbound Programs

2023 4-H
SUMMER
CAMP

June 11-13th
Open to Youth
Grades 3-8
Cost TBA

Costs include:
 -Transportation from Vernon County to camp and back
 -Lodging and meals at Upham Woods in WI Dells
 -Camp t-shirt & name button
 -All food & snacks
 -Activity supplies and equipment

- Go swimming and play water games in the Wisconsin River with an Upham Woods lifeguard
- Explore the water and woods through fun nature activities
- Songs, stories, skits and s'mores around the glowing campfire
- You will sleep in a cabin with new friends your age and awesome youth counselors
- Hang out on Blackhawk Island and explore caves and rock formations
- Hike Peanut Butter Mountain, circle dance, make arts and crafts, , interact with local wildlife at the nature center and SO MUCH MORE!



Summer Inbound Programs

Wisconsin families have the opportunity to host a youth from Japan or Norway for one month. Times vary throughout the summer depending on the program. Click below to learn more our 2023 Summer Inbound Exchange Programs.

Program	Summer 2023 Dates	Delegate Age Range
Norway (tentative)	June 23 - July 20	14-18
Japan (confirmed)	July 23 - August 16	12-18 (majority are 12-14 years old)

To Learn More About Hosting a Youth:



Youth will explore higher learning opportunities and future career paths along one of seven SPARK tracks:

- Arts & Communication
- Agriculture & Animal Science
- Leadership & Civic Engagement
- STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics)
- Human Service (head, heart, health, hands)
- Construction & Trades
- Hospitality Management & Culinary Science



JUNE 19-22. UW-MADISON CAMPUS. GRADES 7-10
 \$350 (SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE)
 REG OPEN IN APRIL ON 4HONLINE



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Your Club's Funds and How to Use Them

Each year, your clubs raise funds to use for many things: meeting supplies, programming materials, trips and more. However, I have noticed some general confusion when it comes to how club funds should be used. Youth and adult volunteers raise this money--and it should be used to **benefit the club members**. This means using funds for items I've previously mentioned: supplies, fair entry fees, and trips. While that seems straightforward, clubs struggle with donations. 4-H policy states that **4-H clubs cannot donate money to individuals**. For example, there is a cancer benefit for a family member--funds cannot be issued directly to this person. 4-H club funds can only be donated to licensed organizations and the reason why, is protection from theft and swindling. While I understand that some clubs donate to organizations--I want to re-iterate that **clubs should be fundraising not to donate but to benefit members to further their 4-H experience**. Instead of donating to organizations, infuse the funds into an educational trip for everyone, or provide scholarship funding so they can attend 4-H camp or other travel opportunities. **Scholarships for 4-H trips should be sent directly to the Vernon County Leader/Parent Federation, not given directly to families**. I have seen one or two examples over the last few months of some members exploiting 4-H clubs as ways to make money for other organizations as well. For example, asking 4-H club members to sell bracelets for another organization's benefit--this is absolutely not allowed before being approved by your county 4-H Educator. If you have any questions about your club's funds, donating, and how to financially support your members' 4-H experience, please contact me.

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Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Please do so 10 days before the program activity so that proper arrangements can be made.

