

The Voice of 4-H

The Vernon County 4-H Family Newsletter



VERNON COUNTY HORSE PROJECT MEMBERS COMPETED AT THE WISCONSIN 4-H COUNTY CLASSIC HORSE SHOW IN WEST SALEM, WI

UW-MADISON DIVISION OF EXTENSION VERNON COUNTY STAFF

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Local-State-National-International

Emery Bork - 4-H Coordinator

When I explain 4-H to new families, I like to describe it as an 'onion' with many layers. Depending on how much you want to invest in our programming, you can continue to peel the layers and work your way into a variety of amazing, life-changing experiences.

I was doing some 'end-of-year' reporting recently, and within our county, I have offered and/or planned over 40 different programs for our members to engage in during the 22-23 year. However, looking into how large the 4-H 'onion' is, there is so much more, too! Here are a few stories of our Vernon County 4-H families participating in several opportunities that 4-H offers outside of county programming:

State competitions: we regularly send youth to state competitions. This year we had youth competing at dairy judging/shows, dog agility, horse shows, sheep shows, and more at either the State Fair in August or at other state 4-H sanctioned shows. They did so well, too!

International connections: one of our 4-H families hosted a Japanese chaperone for two weeks as part of 4-H's exchange programs with other

countries. They learned about Japanese culture and forged great friendships that will last a lifetime.

Travel: We sent 3 youth on our American Spirit East trip where they encountered history and strengthened their citizenship skills as they visited many significant destinations out East. Four youth also hopped on a bus to Alabama to experience Space Camp at NASA for a week!

From trips (national & international), competitions, to camps--4-H has so much to offer, especially as youth get into their middle and high school years. If you're looking to dig deeper into 4-H as our new 23-24 year starts, give me a call to talk about the many options we offer!

Photo Happenings



OUR COUNTY DOG PROJECT MEETS WEEKLY DURING THE SUMMER. HERE, DAVIS DIGGERS MEMBER, ARDYN P, ENJOYS THE FRUITS OF HER HARD WORK AT THE STATE AGILITY DOG SHOW. WELL DONE!



PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT MEMBERS WORKED ON TELLING STORIES THROUGH PHOTOS WITH OUR NEW PHOTOGRAPHY VOLUNTEER. THEY VISITED SEVERAL SHOPS IN VIROQUA TO PHOTOGRAPH IN VARIOUS SETTINGS



DAIRY YOUTH GATHER AT THEIR ANNUAL DAY OF DAIRY TO SPEND TIME WITH FRIENDS, LEARN SHOW TIPS AND TRICKS, AND SO MUCH MORE



YOUTH HAD A FANTASTIC TIME COMPETING AT OUR FIRST EVER CLUB WATERMELON EATING CONTEST. THIS GREATNESS WAS PLANNED BY OUR VERY OWN YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROJECT'S MAGGIE B FROM MISSISSIPPI STEAMERS

Fair Food Stand Shift Sign Up Reminder

WEDNESDAY (9/13)

3:00-7:30 PM:

ADULTS: Amanda Hautanen, Michael Hautanen, Sam Klum, Samantha Skifton, Julie Falkers

YOUTH: Aiden Klum, Levi Klum, Catherine and Sarah Falkers

7:00-10:30/11:30 PM:

ADULTS: Jenny Dregne, Morgan Schwenn, Tonya Mikkelsen, Amy Schlicht, Aaron Mithum, Lori Pedretti

YOUTH: Gina, Marissa, and Tricia Klum, Lylli Schlicht, Rhyannon Roman

THURSDAY (9/14)

9:30 AM-1:30 PM:

ADULTS: Elizabeth Caley, Ashley Brudos, Kathy Cade, Alexis Vesbach, Rachel Effinger, OPEN

YOUTH: Ruby Goede, Kendall and Gracie Caley, Logan and Emily Brudos

1:00-4:30 PM:

ADULTS: Renae Diehl, Courtney Wubbenhorst, Shannon Anderson, Erik Strangstalien, Bridget Strangstalien, OPEN

YOUTH: Ellie and Kaylie Tryggestad, Leah Cade, OPEN

4:00-7:30 PM:

ADULTS: Jenny Goede, Dana Hohlfelder, Labecca Schott, Jennifer Harris, Jessica Wallace, Brian Wallace, Hollie Satona

YOUTH: Caitlyn and Kenna Hohlfelder, Sophie Harris, Joelan Satona, Erin and Katy Torgerson

7:00-10:30/11:30 PM:

ADULTS: JJ Braun, Jessica Mosher, Terry Stluka, Lisa Young, Heidi Garrett, Rebecca Clason, Chelsea Myhre-Foster

YOUTH: Mason, Connor, Ethan Mosher, Luke Garrett, Adrianna Briggson, Sage Bork, Joseph Harter

FRIDAY (9/15)

9:30 AM-1:30 PM:

ADULTS: Jennifer Miller, Tabitha Volden, Brook Strangstalien, Jennie Brudos, Cory Colburn, Steve Michaels, OPEN

YOUTH: Emily and Matthew Berra, Caden Strangstalien, Mason Brudos, Odessa Huebner, Landen Colburn, Jacob Michaels

1:00-4:30 PM:

ADULTS: Justin Monroe, Holly Anderson, Tucker Anderson, Brian Huebner, Amber Joseph, Diane Falter

YOUTH: Evalyn, Alexis, and Paige Monroe, Odessa Huebner, Raelynn and Amiah Joseph

4:00-7:30 PM:

ADULTS: Jill Krause, Dana McCauley, Tom McCauley, Lynn Curtis, Kari Defliger, Travis Martin

YOUTH: Maci Krause, Ava Felde, Charlie Felde, Aliyah McCauley, Logan Curtis

7:00-10:30/11:30 PM:

ADULTS: Jill Jarzemski, Shelley Gunn, Andrea Jochen, Melinda Benzing, Natalie Solverson, Brenda Torgerson, Tracy Engh

YOUTH: Rachel and Angela Diehl, McKenna Jochen, Weston Benzing, Harper Solerson, Myle Torgerson

Fair Food Stand Shift Sign Up Reminder

SATURDAY (9/16)

9:30 AM-1:30 PM:

ADULTS: Bethany Larson, Trent Schott, Deb Thompson, Kari Pedretti, Derek Felde, Lenay Kumlin, Michelle Caley

YOUTH: Aria Larson, Jaden Schott, Tyler Thompson, Kenzie Pedretti, Chelsea Pedretti, OPEN

1:00-4:30 PM:

ADULTS: Amanda Jensen, Melanie Aspenson, Allison/Craig Pierce, Liz Liermo, Sheri Hammond, Lorene Palm

YOUTH: Sylvie and Ardyn Pierce, Danika Liermo, Hannah and Elizabeth Hammond, Jadence Nagel

4:00-7:30 PM:

ADULTS: Katie Mossholder, Dan Frederick, Tracey Goltz, Sheena Cook-Fuglsang, Ann Schwert, Laci Sheldon, Hazel Hendrickson

YOUTH: Logan Curtis, Genesee and Hazel Goltz, Cole Defliger, Jenna Harrington

7:00-10:30/11:30 PM:

ADULTS: Savannah Steers, Nadine Foster, Ann Schwert, Becky Gehrke, Shawna Andolsek, Rob Andolsek, OPEN

YOUTH: Annabelle and Abby Oliver, Ry and Bennet Gehrke, Kolbie and Kendal Andolsek

SUNDAY (9/17)

9:30 AM-1:30 PM:

ADULTS: Ariel Walleser, Rikki Sprosty, Stephanie Nicklay, Heather Stenslien, Anastasia Penchi, Rachel DeFlorian, Erica Johnson

YOUTH: Grady and Reid Nicklay, Brynlee Sprosty, Oscar Zink, Ben Penchi

1:00-3:30 PM:

ADULTS: Deanna Martins, Ann Christianson, Tamera Zink, Lorna Vento, Elisa Trussoni

YOUTH: Alana Christianson, Lillian and Anastasia Zink

There are still several open spots. Please head to our sign up sheet to get those filled in. If you absolutely cannot find a spot that works for you, please drop off an extra pie or contact Debbie Primmer to offer to help her set up the stand before fair or after fair. Debbie Primmer can be reached via email at primmerdj@gmail.com or 608-689-2620

Please remember that each family is responsible for bringing 2, two crusted pies. **Do not bring cream, crumble top, or single crust pies--we cannot serve them!!** Remember if you don't have the ability or finances to enter the fairgrounds to drop off your pie, you may drop off your pie at the Extension Office on Wednesday-Friday 8:30-4:30 PM, and we will get it over to the stand.

Link to shift sign up sheet:



Updates: What you need to know

Time to Re-Enroll: Sept 1

When fair comes around, so also does re-enrolling for 4-H. Re-enrollment opens September 1st. Please make sure to head into 4-HOnline and re-enroll for the 23-24 year by Nov. 15. **If you delay in re-enrolling, you will miss out on mass emails and newsletter mailings, as your information won't show in the system.** We recommend using a computer, as mobile phones seem to time out in the system.

1. If you had an account in 2022- 2023, go to <http://wi.4honline.com>.
2. Enter your email address and password.
3. Click Sign-In If you have forgotten your password, click "Reset Password?" to receive an email with a link to set a new password.
4. You will be at the Family Member List Screen.
5. To re-enroll a youth member, click on Enroll Now and skip to Youth Member Enrollment.
6. To re-enroll an adult member, click on Enroll Now and skip to Adult Enrollment.
7. To add a new youth or adult member, click on the Add Member button and skip to Adding a New Member to the Family.

Scan here to re-register:



Trip Award Information & Key Award:

Vernon County 4-H wants to send our youth on trips! Each eligible youth will be mailed a trip packet with information on all of the opportunities offered for their age group, as well as an application for financial support from our Leader/Parent Federation. The same goes for those youth eligible to apply for the Key Award.

Raffle Tickets Due To Your Leader By Sept. 25:

Please make sure to turn your raffle tickets and money in to your club leader by Sept. 25th, so they can have them in to our office by Friday that week. Please make sure they are filled out on both sides, as the youth that sells the ticket gets Culvers gift cards. There were a lot of blank sides on tickets pulled last year and that is ILLEGAL!!

Nominate Yourself For Parent/Leader Federation:

Each year during the awards banquet, we elect new officers for our Federation. What is Federation, you may ask? It's a governing body of 4-H club leaders, adult leaders, and youth that make decisions for county-wide programming, and handle our county's 4-H budget. We meet one time per month, every 3rd Sunday at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in running for these positions, or would like to know more, please reach out to our office.

2023 Awards Recognition Banquet: Each year, in January, we host a sit-down banquet, where we pass out award discs to youth members, and recognition awards to adult volunteers or organizations that have helped our county's 4-H program. Later in this newsletter, you will find an application for each of your youth to fill out in order to receive their award discs for the year. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this process, the award disc is a way to recognize an area where your youth learned/gained knowledge throughout the 2022-23 4-H calendar year.

This is also when, if your youth served as an officer, for them to get their recognition pins. Youth build these award discs throughout the years, and place them on a plaque. If this is the first year that your youth has applied, please ask for a plaque. If your youth has filled their plaque and needs another, please let us know. These forms should be submitted to your club leader for review, so that they can return to our office by November 1. Finally, we ask that you consider any adult volunteers or organizations that your club has worked with this year and nominate them to receive an award from 4-H. Many times, we have not gotten nominations, so we highly recommend you submit them. If you prefer to submit electronic versions of these forms, you can find the on on our website.

National 4-H Week--Time to Celebrate 100 Years of 4-H in Vernon County!

T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST DUE NOV 1

In order to commemorate 2023-2024 as our 100th year of 4-H in Vernon County, we're offering a county wide t-shirt for members to order! We need a design! Youth can submit their designs via Google form. Must include 100 Years, 1924-2024 and Vernon County 4-H. Can be drawn or done on the computer.



ROAD RALLYE! SUNDAY, OCT 1ST 2 PM - 5 PM

Find your driver and your navigator and jump in on this adventure! Pre-register your family to compete in our road rallye. Scour the countryside for clues as you navigate through our cryptic directions. The ending is a secret, but wherever it is at, there is free dinner!

WANT TO PARTICIPATE?! HERE'S THE SMALL PRINT!

Vernon County Road Rallye:

In order to participate in the Vernon County Road Rallye, you will need to pre-register by Wednesday, September 25th. Teams need a minimum of two people: a driver and a navigator. The driver must have a valid driver's license and the driver cannot change during the rallye. The rallye will begin in the parking lot of the Erlandson Building at 2:00. In order to get cars moving out of the parking lot, you are asked to arrive at 1:30. Cars will be released in 5-minute intervals to begin the course. The course has been pre-routed and tested for approximate time. There are 2 ways to win: cars that are closest to the approximate time, and earning question points.

Time: If you drive the course too quickly, you will have points deducted from your total score. If you drive the course too slowly, you will also have points deducted from your total score. You want to drive the course as close to the approximate time as possible. It is not in your advantage to drive quickly. No one knows where the end will be, it's a strict secret.

Earning Question Points: Before you depart from Erlandson, you will be given a packet with directions. They are not straightforward, and will take either sharp eyes or a bit of figuring out to know where to go. You will follow the directions, but along the way there are questions you must answer. You may need to resort in getting out of your car to look for an item, or you may be able to answer the question by looking out of your car. We have worked to make these questions both challenging, but also enjoyable for youth participants.

Other General Information:

1. You will not leave the county. If you find that you have left the county, you have misread the directions.
2. If you are lost, in trouble, or need assistance, there is a panic envelope in your packet. In the envelope is a phone number that you can call—as well as the end destination, and receive assistance. If you open the panic envelope, then you are disqualified. Please come directly to the end, where you'll get your free dinner and share about your adventure!
3. Teams are encouraged to have team spirit and dress up. An award for the best team will also be given, in addition to best time, highest points for answers, and overall champion.
4. The end is a secret; however, we will be providing each family/team a dinner at the end. Once you have been given the meal, your team is released!
5. There will be two categories for teams: 4-H Families, Community Families. Sign up here:



100 Years of 4-H in Vernon County

4-H, as we know it, began around 1900 as a means of reaching parents with improved farm and home practices. American farmers had experienced poor economic times for 30 years. It was risky business for them to try a newly recommended farm practice. In 1902, a few midwestern school teachers developed some crop demonstrations with their students who in turn shared their successes with their parents.

These school projects developed small groups covering a single topic such as beef, corn, gardening, or canning. By 1909 some of these groups were called 3-H clubs, and in 1911 the name of 4-H was adopted. There were corn clubs in Wisconsin as early as 1904.

The first county agents were hired about 1915 and the first Wisconsin State 4-H Leader was hired in 1914. A plan of organizing boys' and girls' agricultural clubs in Wisconsin was later adopted. This plan called for definite organization with the usual club officers, an adult leader, regular meetings, and a series of projects. Clubs were organized in schools and rural communities under the direction of the local teachers.

The 4-H program has been a part of the lives of thousands of youth and adults in Vernon County since 1922 when Agricultural Instructor R. A. Power traveled to rural schools and enrolled youth in garden, corn, dairy, and pig projects.

In March 1924, Miss Elizabeth Salter, Assistant State 4-H Club Leader, talked to the entire high school assembly in Viroqua. After the assembly, 65 girls enrolled as members of the first Girls Ag Club. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Power organized a Boys Ag Club and also assisted the girls club.

Mrs. Bertha Lauder, the wife of a Viroqua doctor, volunteered as the first general leader for the girls club with the help of Mrs. Phoebe Schelling and Mrs. Vic Shaeffer as project leaders of the new club. The president of that first Girls Ag Club was Olga Bennett who went on to become a prominent Viroqua attorney and judge.

The first year these two clubs organized, they held several social dances and sponsored a school fair.

The first community 4-H club organized outside of the school was the Bishop Branch Sewing Club organized in 1925 or 1926. One of the club's first members, Merle Fish, now Mrs. Primmer, was recognized in 1993 for having completed 50 years as a volunteer 4-H leader in Vernon County. She was recognized at the 1993 State 4-H Congress in Madison.

The 4-H program is a part of the educational mission of county-based University Extension staff who are employed jointly by Vernon County, the University of Wisconsin, and the United States Department of Agriculture. The Vernon County Board of Supervisors hired its first 4-H club county leader in the summer of 1928 for a three-month period. A full-time 4-H and Youth Agent has been a part of the University Extension staff in the county since the mid 1940's. In 2018, the 4-H and Youth Agent was further defined and re-titled into a 4-H Educator.

The first 4-H Leaders Association was organized in 1935 with R.A. Power as president, a position he held for many years. The 4-H Leaders Association was organized by those serving the 4-H program as adult volunteers to help promote and raise funds to further the program in the county.

Interest in the 4-H program continued to grow. A probable high point in terms of number of members was about 1963 when Vernon County had 834 4-H members in 38 different community clubs. Projects and activities in which members became involved with, continue to change and expand. Currently youth have over 100 projects and activities from which to choose in an area that meets interests.

Vernon County Agents/Educators:

Emery R. Bork 06/01/2018- present

Colleen B. Pulvermacher 9/1/04 to 2018

Susan R. Marino 04/10/89 to 05/14/04

Robert S. Fredrick 01/01/67 to 07/01/88

Judith Gates, interim 10/01/65 to 06/30/66


Alfred J. Hornby, interim 09/15/73 to 08/15/74

Alfred L. Finger 01/15/53 to 11/14/56

Lester E. Glewen 03/25/47 to 11/30/52

Neilus R. Larson 02/15/46 to 12/31/45

County, State & Nationwide Happenings



COUNTY FARM "FRIGHT NIGHT"

...A NIGHT TO HONOR MENTAL HEALTH
AND VERNON COUNTY HISTORY...

OCTOBER 28, 2023 | 6PM-11PM |
\$5 FEE FOR ZOMBIE RUN

6:00-7:30 PM **TRUNK OR TREAT:** LOCAL ENTITIES AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES WILL BE HANDING OUT CANDY AND COPING KEY CHAINS! COLLECT ALL 5 AND THEN SHARE OUT TO YOUR FRIENDS!

7:00 & 8:00 PM **COUNTY FARM, ASYLUM, AND MASS GRAVE CEMETERY TOURS:** LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE FARM, ASYLUM, AND HOW MENTAL HEALTH ACCEPTANCE AND SERVICES HAVE EVOLVED

8:00-11:00 PM: **RUN FOR YOUR LIFE:** CAN YOU SURVIVE THE ZOMBIES WANDERING THE COUNTY FARM CORNFIELD? CAN YOU MAKE IT TO SAFETY WITHOUT BEING EATEN? YOU BETTER RUN FAST AND DON'T MAKE A SOUND!

6:00-11:00: **HOT CIDER AND CAMPFIRE STORIES:** BRING CAMP CHAIRS AND GATHER AROUND THE FIRE TO LEARN STORIES FROM THE COUNTY FARM OR TELL A GHOST STORY OF YOUR OWN. ADMIRE THE LIGHTS IN THE APPLE TREES IN MEMORY OF THOSE WE LOST TOO SOON AND THOSE BATTLING MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

HOSTED BY VERNON COUNTY 4-H YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROJECT AND
SUPPORTED BY VERNON COUNTY DEPARTMENTS AND MANY OTHERS!
FUNDS RAISED WILL BE DONATED TO TRAUMA TASK FORCE AND VERNON COUNTY NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Wisconsin 4-H Foundation
August 23 at 3:49 PM · 🌱

It's that time, Wisconsin 4-H! 🌱 Cedar Crest Ice Cream and the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation have teamed up once again to present the "Cedar Crest Ice Cream 4-H Flavor Creation Contest" for Wisconsin 4-H clubs. All Wisconsin 4-H clubs are eligible to submit their ideas for a new ice cream flavor, along with a flavor description and interesting flavor name.

Entries are being accepted now through November 15!

For contest information, rules and the entry form, please visit:

<https://cedarcresticecream.com/4H-Flavor-Contest/>

To learn more about the #W4HFoundation and Cedar Crest's unique partnership in supporting Wisconsin 4-H youth development, visit: <https://wis4hfoundation.org/cedar-crest-ice-cream-flavor/>



we
need
a big
flavor

FLAVOR CREATION CONTEST

CEDAR CREST ICE CREAM and WISCONSIN 4-H FOUNDATION

Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development
August 24 at 10:00 AM · 🌱

National 4-H Dairy Conference Registration is Open!

For all conference information visit: <https://national4hdairyconference.org/>

Dairy Project Members, gather a delegation and 4-H volunteer chaperone from your county to attend this great national conference right here in Madison, WI from October 1-4, 2023. This experience is open to current members that are at least 15 but not more than 18 years of age before January 1 of the conference year.

The National 4-H Dairy Conference is the place where leading dairy youth from across North America can come to interact with one another and build industry bridges that will last well into the future. Fun, hands-on sessions, tours, meeting dairy project members from throughout the nation and more are part of this great experience.



National 4-H Dairy
Conference

Registration
Now Open

Fall Forum 2023

November 4-5, 2023:

Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake WI

This year's event will include:

- An inspiring keynote address, Tim Talen
- Opportunities to participate in dozens of youth and adult-led workshops on Saturday
- Choose your own adventure interactive activities on Saturday night
- Introductions to Wisconsin Leadership Council Candidates AND Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame Laureates
- Updates from the Wisconsin Leadership Council and Wisconsin 4-H Program Leadership
- And so much more! You won't want to miss it! Here is the schedule draft:



Vernon County believes that Fall Forum is an amazing opportunity for our youth and adult leaders--they will pay 100% of your attendance. We often car-pool, too! GO!

Table of Contents

4-H COORDINATOR: LOCAL-STATE-NATIONAL-
INTERNATIONAL- 1

PHOTO HAPPENINGS - 2

FAIR FOOD STAND SHIFT SIGN UP REMIDER - 3 & 4

UPDATES: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW - 5

NATIONAL 4-H WEEK ACTIVITIES - 6

100 YEARS OF 4-H IN VERNON COUNTY - 7

COUNTY, STATE, AND NATIONWIDE HAPPENINGS -
8

DISC REPORT AND NOMINATION FORM - 9 & 10

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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.



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

