

The Voice of 4-H

The Vernon County 4-H Family Newsletter



4-H VIDEOGRAPHY VOLUNTEER, JEREMY, FILMS AT UW-MADISON'S PLANT DISEASE DIAGNOSTICS CLINIC. THE VIDEO WILL BE USED TO TEACH 3-6TH GRADERS ABOUT CAREERS WITH PLANTS AS PART OF THE 4-H STATEWIDE TOMATO KIT

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Fitting 4-H Into Your Schedule

Emery Bork - 4-H Educator

I recently sat down with a 4-H mom for a chat, and asked, "How was your weekend?" She proceeded to tell me how she and her husband split the kids, took one to wrestling and the other to a ski race. She mentioned that her family hadn't had time to cook a proper meal together in weeks, but she was loving every minute of watching her involved kids. I'm sure if I asked you, how was your weekend, you may have a similar response. BUSY! Our lives are filled with so many great things to be involved with, and we're excited that you choose to be in 4-H!

Recently, I have embraced different types of countywide programming strategies that help your family stay engaged with 4-H with a minimal amount of time, travel, or commitment. We've begun more at-home programming that is intentionally designed to be short, impactful, and help you create stronger relationships with the young people in your life. For example, Cloverbuds enrolled in our Science of Seasons program receive an envelope with a short lesson that can be read by a guardian that is about 15 minutes. Each lesson teaches hands-on science concepts but also ties in life skills such as sharing their talents with others, drinking water to stay healthy, and more. It's great for a quiet evening.

We have a great group of at-home bakers learning about the history of cakes, custards, and breads. Each month, they submit their creations for judging and feedback from a local chef. They'll meet her soon on Zoom as the program concludes at the end of March.

Finally, you may have seen announcements for the Tomato Kit. I led this statewide effort to create a kit focusing on all of the aspects of tomatoes from learning about their deadly history, to cooking international recipes, and finally connecting youth to various careers connected with plants. Youth will also build a model of a common tomato disease from Lego® pieces, and have a tomato potluck party Zoom!

When working on any countywide programming, I make sure to focus on our life skills model and youth development practices. You will often hear me say, there is something in 4-H for everyone! If you are a family that still enjoys connecting with others in person in addition to your monthly club meetings, we continue to also offer in-person programming opportunities as well.

Grow Green!

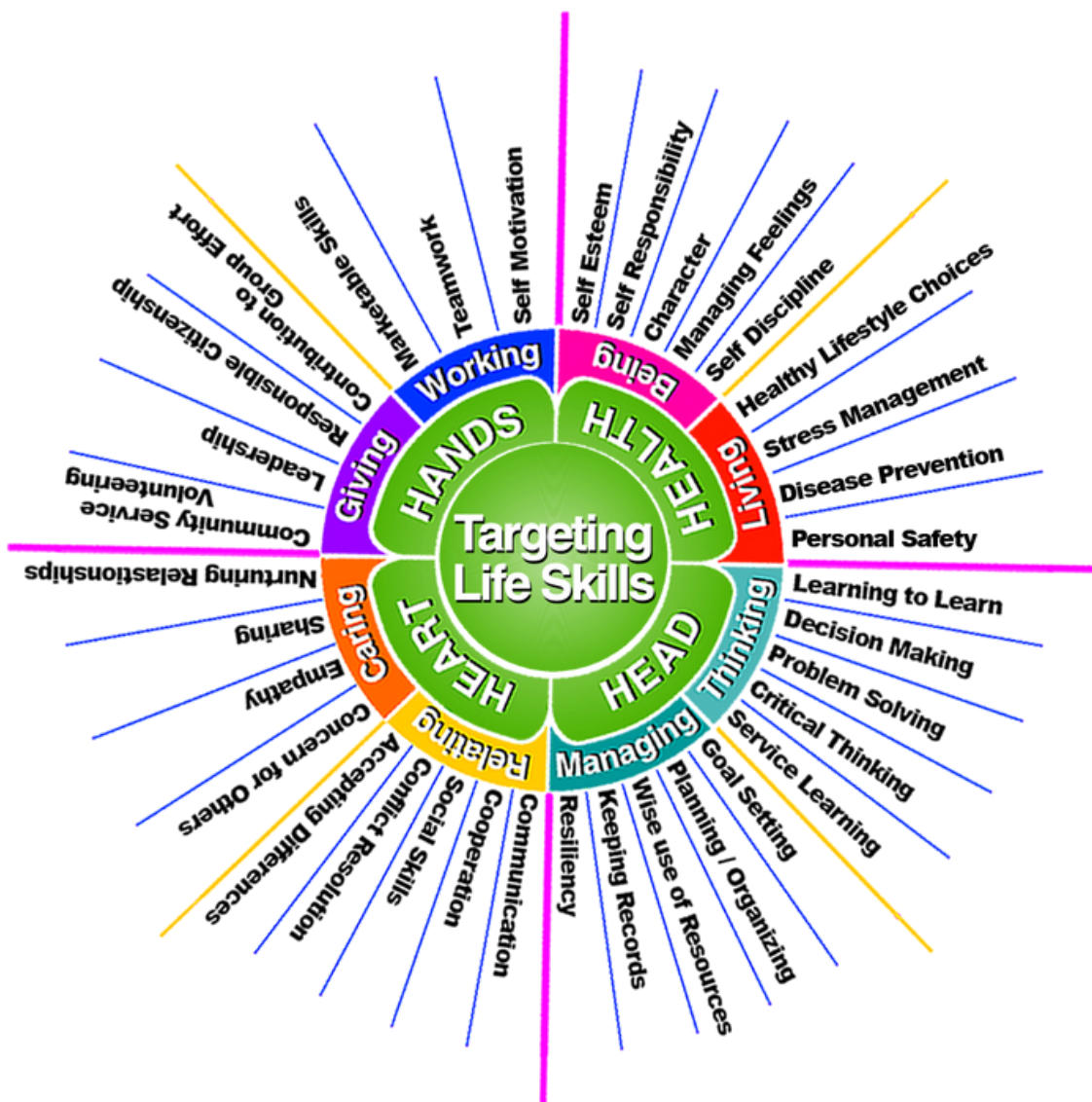


Photo Happenings



Various adult volunteers receive service awards at our annual banquet in January!



Our Lunar New Year Program offered in February, attracted 218 community members, where they enjoyed interactive learning tables, traditional dance, and taste tested food from several Asian cultures.



Springville Superstars invited a speaker to present on Norway and her experiences growing up there, and they tried roe (fish eggs).



Young children learn about using their hands to help others, during a recent program in partnership with the Coon Valley Library.



Youth of all ages enjoyed participating in our annual Arts Fest, which includes vocal, instrumental, drama, demonstrations, photography, art, and more!

Updates: What You Need to Know

Beef, Sheep, Swine Tags & YQCA: The Vernon County Fair's Meat Sale Committee has voted to remove the requirement to attend a YQCA class for exhibiting at fair.

All youth that are planning on exhibiting beef, sheep, and swine must come and get fair tags to put in ears on Saturday, May 4th. 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. Please refer to the infographic later on in the newsletter about tag placement, etc.

County Establishes Livestock State Fair Shipping Fund: Our local county committee (subset of the county board) has set aside \$1500 towards helping Vernon County 4-H livestock exhibitors go to State Fair. In the past, our county allocated funds towards helping truck in dairy cattle, but has now dedicated this funding to be open to rabbit, poultry, swine, sheep, beef, and dairy 4-H exhibitors. This money will be issued in partial reimbursement to exhibitors, evenly allocated depending on species/costs incurred and any other factors the Vernon County Extension Office sees fit. The 4-H office does not help youth apply to be in the WI State Fair, so families must register and work with state fair staff. Entry deadlines are much earlier than expected, require a lot of paperwork, and youth must have YQCA. Here is their website, so you can understand a bit more:
<https://wistatefair.com/competitions/junior-livestock/>

The reimbursement form is via Google form. I will share this several times throughout the period between now and Oct. 1. The reimbursement is ONLY open to 4-H exhibitors who are currently enrolled and in the correct livestock projects.



New Horse Arena: Our horse project has secured permission from the fair board to proceed forward with building a brand new arena!! If you haven't been a part of participating in our fantastic horse project, now is the time to start! Head into 4-HOnline and register to be a part of the horse project.

Horse Project Updates: Welcome to a new year for the Vernon County Horse and Pony Project! We have many exciting things happening! Whether you are a returning member or new member, I welcome you!

Please join us for a meeting on March 17th at 1 pm at the Erlandson Building Conference Room in Viroqua. This is going to be a very important meeting to discuss many items such as the project contract, safety checks, arena updates, fundraising, and activity dates. Remember, in order to be able to show at the fair, our contract requirements must be completed.

We are currently raising funds for our project with our 2nd round of "Pony Poop Bingo" at Westby's Syttende Mai! Only 3 families have picked up tickets thus far. These funds help pay for activities, awards at the fair, awards for any show we host, state fair, clinics, and the new arena improvements to name a few. Please stop by the Extension Office to pick up your tickets!

Make sure to follow our Facebook page for all the latest updates:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/231378910220751/>

As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Brook Strangstalien, HP Leader



County, State & Nationwide Happenings

2024 4-H SUMMER CAMP

July 31- August 2
Open to Youth
Grades 3-8
Cost: \$85

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, make arts and crafts, , interact with local wildlife at the nature center and SO MUCH MORE!

Are you ready for a great summertime adventure! Time to sign up for camp! As a reminder: we need adult chaperones, particularly males! If you sign up to chaperone, both you and your attending child/ren will be free!

The typical cost of camp is around \$175, and the Vernon County 4-H Leader Parent Federation grants scholarships to all attendees, leaving them with a final cost of \$85. If you still need financial assistance to attend camp, please indicate that on your application--we want everyone to experience camp!

To register as a camper (due by June 1): <https://forms.gle/hH2BBn8Zai8JQhzD9>



To register as a youth counselor (9-13th grade, due by April 1): <https://forms.gle/tSepeoRRCRvYZEE56>



To register as an adult chaperone (due by April 1): <https://forms.gle/FsRYVHZWqYQTLXVN7>



County, State & Nationwide Happenings, Ctd.



La Crosse County 4-H ARCHERY INVITATIONAL

2024

Participants do not have to be 4-H members, nor do they have to live in La Crosse County. For youth that participated in the annual Archery & Pellet Gun Program in January through March, participation in this separate invitational is free. For all other participants, there is a \$7 fee for the first event and an additional \$5 fee for each even thereafter.

For More Information,
and to register, visit:
tinyurl.com/5x7ws8f5



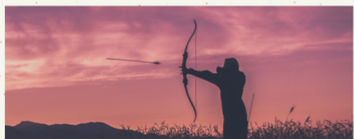
Or scan
the QR
code!

SATURDAY,
APRIL 6TH

Please contact the Extension La Crosse
County office with questions at:

AT ARCHERY
COUNTRY

LaCrosseCounty4H@lacrosecounty.org
or 608-785-9593



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Fun with Cake Decorating

Let's learn

- New skills with tips or fondant
- From 4-H youth around Wisconsin
- About cake decorators and businesses
- Where to learn more!

Register at: <https://go.wisc.edu/w6d7v5>

•Decorating kits are limited, register early to reserve yours!

**Join us in our
Goosechase Community
March 15-
May 15**

Grades 3 and older

**Fun to create.
And participate.**

••Participants will need to download the Goosechase app on a digital device.
For more information visit:
4h.extension.wisc.edu/vlc

UW-MADISON EXTENSION

SAVE THE DATE

SUMMER ACADEMY

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

FUR, FIN, FEATHER: TEACHING SHOW



SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH, BARNEY CENTER,
SPARTA, WI

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 ARE AVAILABLE. WE WILL HAVE A FULL RAFFLE FUNDRAISER, CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE, AND POSSIBLY A SUPPLY VENDOR

RULES/SHOWBILL/PAPER ENTRY:



ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM:



CHARGE YOUR SPARKS

JUNE 24- 27, 2024
UW-MADISON CAMPUS

OPEN TO YOUTH GRADES 8-11
WITH LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
AVAILABLE FOR 11TH GRADE +

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1ST, 2024
[GO.WISC.EDU/4Hsummeracademy](https://go.wisc.edu/4Hsummeracademy)

UW-MADISON EXTENSION

County, State & Nationwide Happenings, Ctd.

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.



"THE SCIENCE OF SEASONS" Vernon County 4-H At-Home Cloverbud Series

ONCE A MONTH, YOUR CLOVERBUD WILL RECEIVE A PACKET IN THE MAIL
FULL OF EASY SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS THAT ANSWERS QUESTIONS LIKE:

- HOW DO ANIMALS STAY WARM IN THE WINTER?
- WHAT HAPPENS UNDERGROUND?
- CAN ANYTHING LIVE UNDER THE WATER?
- WHY DO APPLES HAVE A PEEL?

Lessons will begin arriving in November and come once per month from now until October.
Families can complete them at their own leisure! Sign up today!



Photo Happenings, Ctd.



Right: Lunar New Year continued. Above: The Young family's delicious attempt at cheesy herb soda bread as part of our at home baking challenge.

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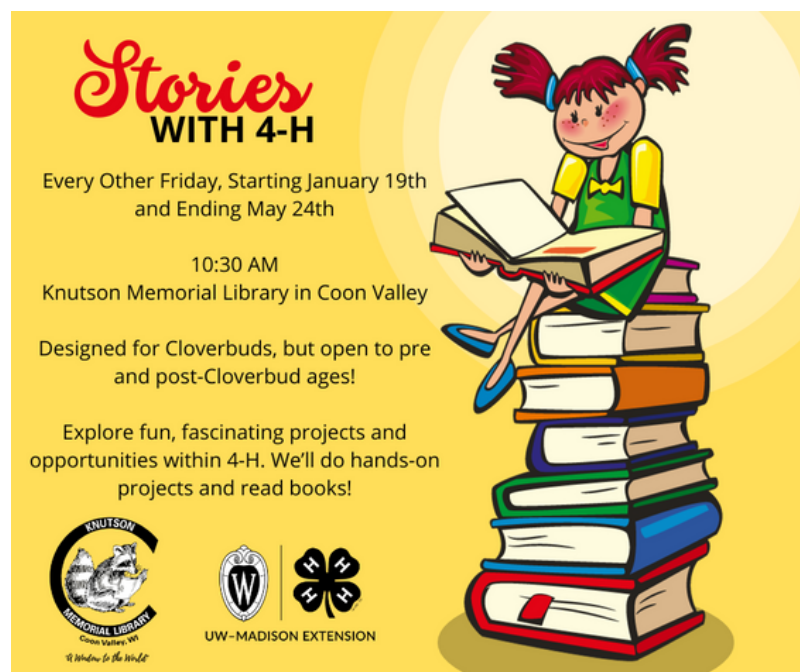
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