



MAY - JUNE 2024 ISSUE 360

The Voice of 4-H

The Vernon County 4-H Family Newsletter



YOUTH MAKE HEALTHY CHOICES AT A RECENT "STORIES WITH 4-H" PROGRAM AT KNUTSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY IN COON VALLEY WHERE THEY TASTED SEVERAL FRUITS AND VEGGIES

**UW-MADISON DIVISION
OF EXTENSION VERNON
COUNTY STAFF**

EMERY BORK

4-H Educator
emery.bork@wisc.edu



MIRANDA WONTOR

Senior Administrative
Assistant
miranda.wontor@vernoncounty.org



OFFICE HOURS:

M-F: 8:30-4:30
Office Phone:
608-637-5276

OFFICE LOCATION:

318 Fairlane Drive
Ste. 392
Viroqua, WI 54665

4-H In the Summer

Emery Bork - 4-H Educator

Our kids are counting down the days until school is out, I'm sure other families are in the same boat. Here in the office, we're counting down the days until summer programming begins! We've offered some heavy hitters this year already: banquet, Lunar New Year, Fur Fin Feather, and a Conservation Fair.

This summer, we are focusing on project development for youth. We are partnering with the Viroqua Farmers Market to have a booth for project work. We will be there most Saturday mornings working on a variety of projects both to help current 4-H youth, but also to introduce 4-H to new families. Projects could be anything from food, art, sewing, to STEM. Families can drop in and learn from presenters to complete their project work.

In addition to the Farmer's Market, our other project leaders are kicking off some excellent opportunities: dog project will begin obedience and agility practices, horse project is starting with summer clinics, outings, and fundraising, dairy project is beginning judging practice, and the shooting sports project is competing at local shoots and practicing.

Finally, don't forget to travel with 4-H this summer. We're offering our annual summer camp at Upham Woods, Summer Academy at UW-Madison, and more!





Photo Happenings



Adult volunteers hear from Bill Marohl about updates concerning fair at our recent leadership retreat.



4-H Educators from across the state gathered in Vernon County to help pack our newest distance learning kit: The Tomato Kit. Educator Emery and several other colleagues wrote and designed the kit, and several Vernon County families are currently working through its activities!



Davis Diggers members are all smiles after successfully completing their ceramics projects!



Vernon County 4-H is working to reach out to families with toddlers to share about the opportunity to join when they hit Kindergarten in our Stories With 4-H program. Youth learned about responsibility and caring for others--what better way to demonstrate than by having an animal project?



The Liberty Pole Boosters Club enjoyed a visit from both the Fairest of the Fair, Vivian Stephenson, and Dairy Ambassador Georgia Goede.



Photo Happenings, Ctd.



Youth from several different counties exhibited cats, rabbits, exotic pets, and poultry at our recent Fur, Fin, Feather Teaching Show. The show helps youth prepare for their county fairs and grow confidence.



Shooting sports youth kicked off the year with their annual orientation and first practice. They've been busy attending shoots in the county and competing.



At Fur, Fin, Feather, several Vernon County 4-H youth served as youth superintendents, meaning they ran the show, handed out ribbons, and made announcements.



We love sharing photos of what everyone has been up to--please email photos to Emery to be included in the newsletters!



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 email photos of the tags in their animals' ears by May 31st.

If you missed tag pick-up or have questions, please contact Lloyd Hardy: 608-606-1301.

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.



Dairy Project: AASD is June 20th in Green County. Project leader Ashley asks that all project members stay tuned for practice announcements and sign up announcements.

Dairy Ambassador Applications Open: The Vernon County Dairy Ambassador Program (formerly the Dairy Princess program) is open to all students in Vernon County (or the majority of their activities are in Vernon Co) interested in promoting the dairy industry for the next year. Applications are due June 1st. Contact the Extension Office for an application to be sent to you. Entries are due June 1.

Enroll for Your Projects By June 1: Reminding all families that youth must be enrolled in all the projects on 4HOnline that they wish to enter in fair. For example, if your youth wants to exhibit art at the fair, they must enroll in the art project. Please go online and review your enrolled projects for each youth. **Remember, this is NOT enrolling for fair classes.** That process takes place later in the year on a completely different system. While 4-H leaders can help a bit with that process, all fair enrollment questions must be forwarded to the fair office or superintendent of that area. Also check with your leaders regarding your attendance and that you're in compliance with the 50% rule.

Youth Leadership Challenge Points Due June 3: All year, clubs have been working to engage in the challenges set forth by our youth leadership team. All activity report sheets must be turned into the office by June 3 by 4:30 PM. Points will be tallied and winning clubs will be announced along with when they get to sign up for shifts. We are adding additional volunteer opportunities, such as morning food pick ups, working the 4-H outreach table, and more this year. Keep an eye out for information regarding those changes.



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!



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>

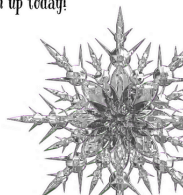


"THE SCIENCE OF SEASONS" Vernon County 4-H At-Home Cloverbud Series

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!



Tag Placement and Reporting Instructions



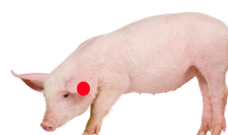
Beef: Please place the visual tag in the steer's right ear as shown in the picture and the RFID disc tag in the left ear. Pictures of the complete head of steer is required with tags in the ear, along with a full-body picture of the steer. Please make sure we can clearly see the steer so we can identify it come the 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 and when sent in as well.



Sheep: Please send two pictures, one of the head and one of the side view. We are not worried about seeing the numbers on the tags, but please write scrapie tag and RFID tag number in email for each sheep when emailing the pictures.
Email: vernoncountysheep@gmail.com



Swine: Two photos required: 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. Please indicate whose sheep the picture is for, the tag numbers in your communication.
Email: vernonswine@gmail.com



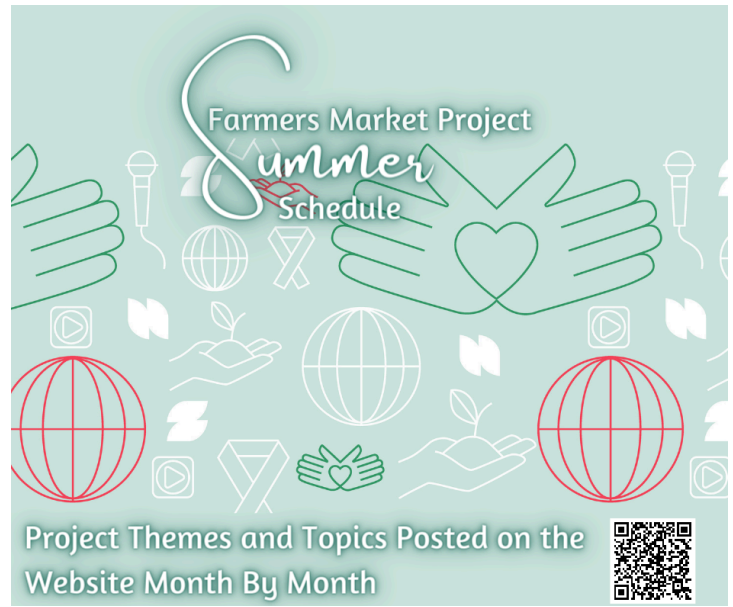
If you have any questions or concerns with this process, please contact Lloyd Hardy, Meat Animal Sale Committee President: 608-606-1301



County, State & Nationwide Happenings, Ctd.



Information and
Registration



You're invited to join us for 100 years of 4-H in Vernon County! The celebration will be combined with our annual summer social celebration. The event will include a carnival, free food, dunk tank, scholarship award ceremony, and more! The celebration is open to everyone, especially current and past 4-H families! Let's celebrate 100 years of positive youth development in Vernon County! Registration forms will open in July.





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Additional UW-Madison Division of Extension Office Staff

SHEENA COOK-FUGLSANG

FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator, Vernon,
Crawford and Richland Counties
sheena.fuglsang@wisc.edu

HANNAH ALTIMUS, M.ED.

Community Development Extension Educator
haltimus@wisc.edu

SAM BIBBY

Regional Crops Educator: Vernon, Sauk, Juneau
Counties
sbibby@wisc.edu

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