



JANUARY - FEBURARY 2025 ISSUE 365

# The Voice of 4-H

*The Vernon County 4-H Family Newsletter*



**DAVIS DIGGERS MEMBERS LISTEN TO A PRESENTATION ON THE FRESHLY FINISHED MURAL IN DOWNTOWN VIROQUA THAT HIGHLIGHTS SEVERAL PROMINENT 4-H ALUMNI INCLUDING HELEN HORNBY**

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## 4-H From a Distance!

**Emery Bork - 4-H Educator**

4-H has a long and storied history, but it's not stuck in the past! We are constantly evolving to meet the needs of today's busy families, as we know that life throws curveballs, and finding time can be a challenge. Studies today show that families are spending less and less time with each other, one recently citing only about 30 minutes a day.

We have always been about positive youth development, and so we recognize the importance of building connections. Recently we've begun advertising this year's lineup of Distance Learning Kits. These kits provide all of the materials needed for a specific project, allowing you and your family to learn together at home, and some have the option to connect with others who are also doing the kit in other parts of the state.

So take a few minutes to explore not only the many face to face options in this edition of our newsletter, but also the awesome lineup of distance programs that include: The Science of the Chocolate Chip Cookie, Dinosaurs and Unicorns, and Paper Circuits. If you have any questions about this style of programming, feel free to reach out to our office.

Have fun learning and connecting with your family this year!



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

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# Updates: What you need to know

## Arts Fest Entries Are Out

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, and instrumental. Those are done during Arts Fest, along with 'fun' or 'fest' entries: Cloverbuds, artwork, photography, and forensics speaking. This can make the application process a little confusing, so we have included an informational sheet at the end of the newsletter. There are additional rules and entry guidelines posted on our website as well. Entries are due back by Friday, January 24th. Arts Fest will be held on March 1st at the Viroqua Church of Christ.

**\*\*\*New this year! We will offer a \$100 prize to the best club play entry, \$50 to the second place. \*\*\***

**Work together as a club or project (ex. horse project) to plan and perform a play at Arts Fest. The play must include at least 5 members in your club.**

To register: <https://forms.gle/4PdLioi9VHjTc9xv7>



Rules and Entry Requirements:

<https://vernon.extension.wisc.edu/files/2023/12/4-H-Arts-Fest-Rules-and-Instructions.pdf>



## Attendance Policy

If your family is interested in exhibiting their projects at the Vernon County Fair, which is hosted by the Vernon County Agricultural Society, your youth must attend 50% of your club's meetings. Your youth can make up two missed meetings in order to reach their quota by participating in other 4-H programming. Ask your club leader or the Extension Office for a copy of the attendance policy in its entirety.

**Horse Project:** Next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 1 at the Erlandson Building (318 Fairlane Drive, Viroqua, WI 54665) at 1:00 PM

**Rabbit/Poultry/Cats/Small Pets Project:** The Fur, Fin, Feather Show, which is typically held at the end of April, has been cancelled this year due to a conference conflict, and loss of several key adult leaders. We are looking for knowledgeable adults to take over our rabbit, poultry, cat and small pet projects. Reach out if you're interested!

**Shooting Sports Project:** Keep your eyes tuned for an announcement for our annual check-in/safety meeting. Each year, every youth involved in shooting sports must engage in a safety screening training. This meeting typically takes place in the beginning of April.

## Youth Leadership Challenge Updates: Food Drive

This year's theme is Education Advocacy. Your club has been tasked with three challenges: community partners/outreach, education advocacy, and our annual February Food Drive. At the end of this newsletter is your tracking sheet for the food drive.

Clubs will need to identify a food pantry or shelter (homeless, pregnancy, halfway house) that they would like to donate to. It can be in the county or outside the county—whatever works best for your club members. Please contact them ahead of time to make arrangements, and to find out what they need and what they can handle (freezer space, etc.)

There are so many possible things that a pantry/shelter may need—if it is not on the sheet, write it on the back and follow the system of 3

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# Updates: What you need to know, ctd.

## Youth Leadership Club Challenge: Updates, ctd.

points per individual item or 10 points for packs of multiples. Throughout the month of February members should work to collect items and complete their point sheets. Point sheets should then be turned in to leaders to do a final tally and then submit the club's total to Extension Office by 4:30 PM, March 7th. The club is responsible for getting items and cash to the pantry/shelter. Clubs can also work shifts or do volunteer projects at the pantry/shelter to earn additional points. 50 pts per youth per shift. Once all points are in, the winners will be put in order and the 12 pts on down will be applied.

We've specifically chosen the month of February, because after the holiday season, giving/donating, decreases abruptly, but need does not. We are excited to work to fill that gap through this challenge.

**Livestock Project:** Our new Livestock Agent, Beth McIlquham, has offered to host two youth programs per year that focus on large animal production, processing, feed/nutrition, etc. She is excited to invite 4-H members to Nordik Meats in March to learn about the process of breaking down a hog carcass and cuts of meat. 4-H has a very involved meats judging program, and it's our goal to have a team competing in the future. To learn more about the event, head to the 'happenings' section.

**Crops and Soils/Gardening Project:** Our Crops and Soils Agent, Sam Bibby, will be offering a session on how to prune apple trees. For youth who exhibit apples at fair, or want to do some horticulture poster work, this session will allow hands-on learning on the apple trees here at the Extension Office. You're also providing a service, as our Extension Office employees pick and process the apples as a fundraiser each year for either 4-H or severely impacted youth that live in Vernon County. The trees need the attention, and will greatly benefit from this workshop!

## Mark Your Calendars

We figure you're already planning your summer trips and vacations, as we are already planning out our summer programming. Here are a few dates to put into your phone calendars:

- May 17-18th:** Cloverbud Sunflower Growing Contest-Seeds Disbursed
- June 21st:** Cloverbud Discovery Day
- July 20th:** Annual Summer Social Celebration
- July 26th:** Foods and Clothing Revue
- July 30-August 1:** 4-H Summer Camp at Upham Woods
- August 5th:** National Night Out

## Other Programming in the Works:

- May:** Woodworking Project Day
- June:** Trolls, Fairies, and Centaurs Weeklong Day Camp at Coon Valley Library
- July:** Dinosaurs Weeklong Day Camp at another library outside of the county seat

We're hoping to also sneak in some cooking programming somewhere!



**THE GREATEST BANQUET**

**OF THE CENTURY**

**VERNON COUNTY 4-H**

**LA FARGE COMMUNITY CENTER**

**JANUARY 19TH @ 1:00 PM**



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

All 4-H Families are invited to attend our annual awards banquet night.

Please head to the registration page to sign up or learn more:

<https://forms.gle/CaFBPRF1FEUdW6WF6>





# County, State & Nationwide Happenings

## DISTANCE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### THE SCIENCE OF THE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE



**AUDIENCE:**  
Youth in grades 3-12  
**WHEN:**  
February-March, 2025

Registration opens December 20 and closes January 13

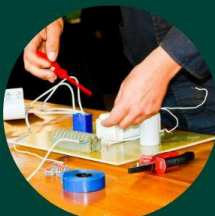
### DINOSAURS AND UNICORNS!



**AUDIENCE:**  
Youth in grades K-2  
**WHEN:**  
February-March, 2025

Registration opens December 20 and closes January 13

### PAPER CIRCUITS



**AUDIENCE:**  
Youth in grades 4-9  
**WHEN:**  
March 2025

Registration opens January 2 and closes January 24



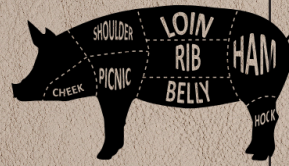
**LEARN MORE**  
[HTTPS://4H.EXTENSION.WISC.EDU/WI-DISTANCE-LEARNING/](https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/wi-distance-learning/)



**Positive Youth Development Institute**  
DIVISION OF EXTENSION  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## BREAKING DOWN A PIG:

Youth will learn how to take a hog from primal cuts to retail cuts as an introduction to meat science and judging.





**Nordik Meats - 9:30 AM - March 15th**

- Must wear head covering such as a beanie/ball cap, dress warm 50 degrees in cut room
- Recommended for older youth, will be standing for up to 1.5 hours
- 20 spots available



**To register:**  
<https://forms.gle/HhyKaYEej4b1MDyC9>



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## 2025 CITIZENSHIP WASHINGTON FOCUS


 **JUNE 20-28, 2025**  
 **WASHINGTON D.C.**

Learn about:  
**Citizenship**  
**Congressional Issues**  
**Bill Writing**  
**Action Planning**

**Open to Youth Grades 10-12**  
[go.wisc.edu/CWF](http://go.wisc.edu/CWF)

Registration Open  
**Dec 20th-Jan 15th**  
 in 4HOnline





Reminder that Vernon County Federation will provide a 50% scholarship and additional assistance to help you attend 4-H trips. Email our office to get started!

# APPLE PRUNING WORKSHOP

Join UW-Extension Crops and Soils Agent, Sam Bibby, for a hands-on lesson on pruning apple trees, care, and hot apple cider.




**TO BRING:**

- Sanitized loppers & pruners ✓
- Step ladders ✓
- Sanitized hand saw ✓

**TO REGISTER:**



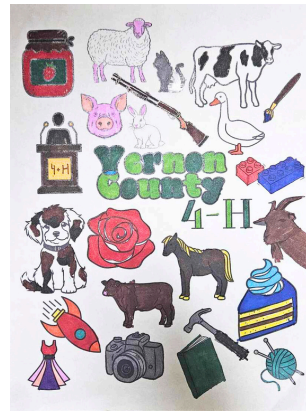
<https://forms.gle/6C6Hh6N8LwcnRYZE6>

**FEBRUARY 8 @ 1:00 PM - 318 FAIRLANE DRIVE, VIROQUA**  
**DRESS VERY WARMLY!!**



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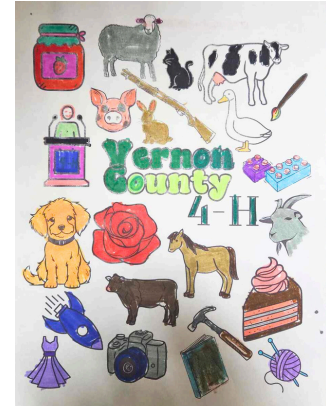


Our National 4-H Week Coloring Contest Winners are:

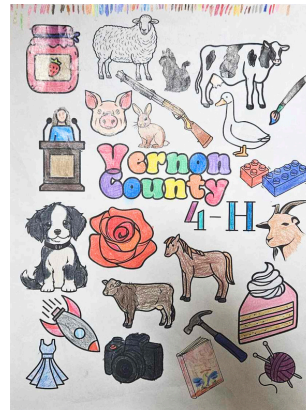
Overall Winner: Jesse Miller, 6th Grade Country Critters



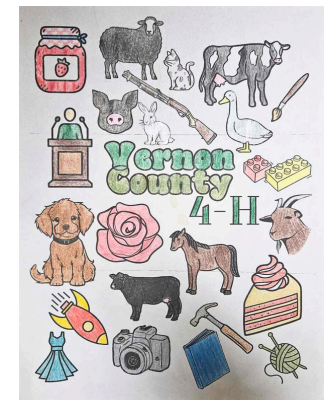
Cloverbud: Lydia Schott, 2nd Grade, Liberty Pole Boosters



3-5th: Haliava Merritt, 4th Grade, Davis Diggers



8-12th: Kendall Caley, 8th Grade, Liberty Pole Boosters



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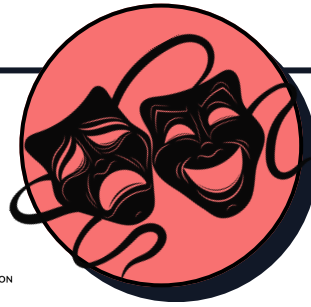
Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Please do so 10 days before the program activity so that proper arrangements can be made.





# A Guide To Arts Fest

Vernon County 4-H



## FAIR ENTRIES DEPT 18 & DEPT 31 OPEN ONLY TO 3-13TH GRADES

Not all classes can be completed at fair, so we host those as part of Arts Fest. Ribbons and premiums apply, here are the entry categories:

### CLASS K: MUSIC: SINGING

-Vocal Presentations, either solos or duets

### CLASS K: MUSIC: PIANO

-Piano Presentations, either solos or duets

### CLASS K: MUSIC: OTHER INSTRUMENTS

-Stringed Instrument  
-Band Instrument: Solo  
-Instrumental Presentation: Duet (may include vocal, piano, and/or other stringed instrument)

### CLASS A: TEAM DEMONSTRATIONS

-Team Demonstrations include an Action Center Approach: 2 youth showing a process, making/doing something while explaining it to an audience and answering their questions. Roving judges.

### CLASS B: INDIVIDUAL DEMONSTRATIONS

-Showing a process or making/doing something while explaining. Time limit: 10 minutes in front of judge.



## ARTS FEST OPEN TO ALL GRADES K-13

The 'Fest' portion of the program includes additional ribbon-only entry categories. Cloverbuds can enter any of the categories:

### MUSIC & DANCE ENTRIES

-Dance  
-Dance, more than one performer  
-Vocal, 3 performers or more  
-Cloverbud Instrumental or Vocal

### DRAMA

-One Act Play  
-Mini Drama  
-Commercial  
-Full Drama

### COMMUNICATION ARTS

-Memorized Selection -Play Reading  
-Prose Reading - Storytelling  
-Poetry Reading  
-Original Speech  
-Cloverbud Demonstration

### ARTS AND CRAFTS

Each 4-H youth may enter two arts and crafts entries. The word 'craft' is used loosely--anything you create! For example: jewelry, woodworking, painting, etc.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Each 4-H youth may enter two photographs they took of any size and type.

## WHY PARTICIPATE?

Arts Fest provides 4-H youth an opportunity to showcase their creative talents, gain valuable experience in presenting, and receive constructive feedback from experienced judges.

**As a result,** they will develop skills in self-confidence, communication, and self-expression, which can be applied to academic success and workforce readiness.