



MAY - JUNE 2025 ISSUE 367

The Voice of 4-H

The Vernon County 4-H Family Newsletter



YOUTH WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD TENSION TABLES IN THE ADVANCED WOODWORKING SESSION HELD RECENTLY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MONROE AND LA CROSSE COUNTY 4-H

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

EMERY BORK

Senior 4-H Educator
emery.bork@wisc.edu



MIRANDA WONTOR

Senior Administrative
Assistant
mwontor@wisc.edu



OFFICE HOURS:

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

OFFICE LOCATION:

318 Fairlane Drive
Ste. 392
Viroqua, WI 54665

Youth As Decision Makers

Emery Bork - Senior 4-H Educator

When was the last time that you allowed your youth to make a decision that affected your family:

- choosing your vacation destination and planning a specific visit
- selecting, preparing, and cooking a meal for everyone
- identifying a local need, figuring out how to address it, and driving it to completion

As adults, we make upwards of 35,000 decisions every day, and most of them are centered around our youth. How did you end up being an effective decision maker? 4-H is meaningfully structured to be a youth led-program so that they can practice making decisions in a safe environment under the guidance of adult mentors. **Youth should be planning the trips that their clubs take, where their money is spent, and what outreach projects they are working on.**

Take a moment to reflect: are you sharing your club agenda with your youth so that they come to club meetings prepared to make decisions and share input? Are you power sharing with youth, and allowing them to make decisions or has someone else taken over?



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

Youth As Decision Makers, Ctd.

What changes do you need to make to align with 4-H's goals of having a youth-led club or project?

While it is important to teach decision-making skills, allowing youth to choose also creates belonging and buy-in. While it may be more time-consuming, not engaging youth leads to a disconnect, disappointment, and not wanting to come back due to a negative experience. Embracing a youth-led approach cultivates confident, capable individuals who feel valued and invested, ultimately enriching your family and community in ways you might never have imagined.



The ViroquaTeers Club learned about healthy foods, why they're important to eat, and how to help them grow.

Photo Happenings



Over 20 youth of all ages participated in our woodworking workshop. They could make wooden animals, tension tables, or candy dispensers.



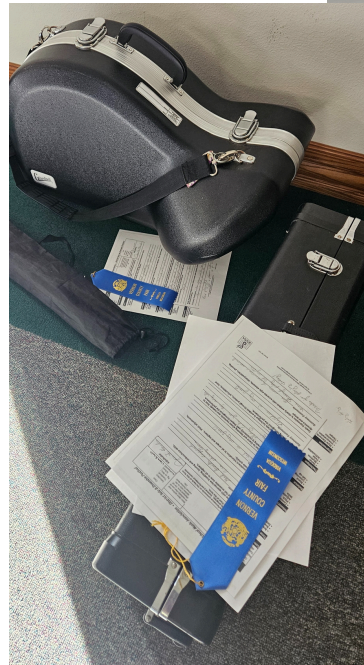
Educator, Emery, attended the National Conference on Volunteerism in Extension in Portland, ME. Emery and colleagues, in partnership with the WI Beef Council, won the Animal Science Award for the "Cooking with Meats" program. Let our office know if you want a copy of the cookbook.



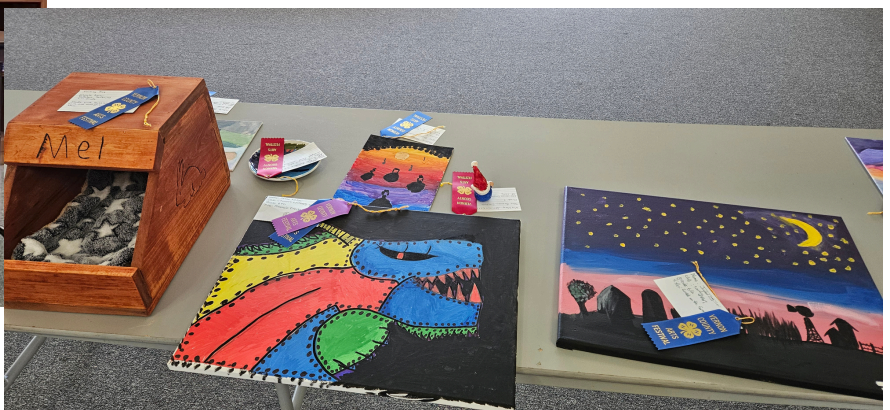
Photo Happenings, Ctd.



Youth attendees learned how to break down a pig, label cuts, and how processing works.



Arts Fest never ceases to amaze me! Our youth are truly talented! Demonstrations, instrument and vocal performances, art, photography, dance and more! Well done and congratulations!



Updates: What you need to know

Beef, Sheep, Swine Tags/Fair Book:

All youth that are planning on exhibiting beef, sheep, and swine must come and get fair tags to put in ears on Saturday, May 3rd. 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 or call Lloyd Hardy (608)-606-1301. We will not have tags in the office.

Dairy Project Updates:

Area Animal Science Days will be on Friday, June 13th in St. Croix County. All youth grades 3-12 are invited to participate on the Judging Team! We have worked hard to schedule practice workouts for those who want to learn/fine tune their judging skills and oral reasons (why you placed animals the way you did). In order to participate in the contest, we must know by May 21st, as we have to pay for each participant. It will be an all day event, returning around 5:00 p.m.

Here is the workout schedule and they'll be an hour. Just show up.

Wednesday May 21st, 7:30 p.m. at Cody and Arlisa Clements Farm. Holsteins. N897 County Rd. PI Coon Valley, WI 54623. Look for the Westby Creamery Farm Sign at the end of the driveway!

Wednesday May 28th, 7:30 p.m. at Rob and Gail Klinkner Farm. Holsteins and Jerseys. S7304A State Highway 82 Viroqua, WI 54665

Wednesday June 4th, 7:30 p.m. at Peterson Jerseys-Alana Peterson S3667 Peterson Lane Viroqua, WI 54665

Wednesday June 11th, 7:30 p.m. at Lang-Haven Guernseys. W3411 Fennigkoh Rd West Salem, WI 54669

Call/text coach, Ashley Olson, with questions: 608-385-2607

Fairest of The Fair Contest

The Vernon County Agricultural Society is excited to announce their 2025 Fairest contest. The Fairest of the Fair serves as the official host of the fair.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be 18 by June, 21, 2025
- Must be a WI resident for at least one year prior to June 21, 2025
- Must be a Vernon County Resident or complete the majority of their fair-related activities within Vernon County

There is much more, so an informational meeting for contestants will be held on Wednesday, June 5th at 6:30 PM at the Vernon County Fairgrounds. This meeting will cover contest expectations, etc.

Applications are due by June 5th, and are available at the Vernon County Fair website. The actual contest will take place on Saturday, June 21st during the Ferris Wheel Breakfast at the VMH Building.

For more information, please contact Angie Hornby: 608-606-3167, angie.hornby0219@gmail.com.

*This is not a 4-H/4-H sponsored event.

Dog Project Updates

Our dog project boasts a wonderful agility and obedience program during the summer. If your youth wishes to participate, registration and information night will be Tuesday, May 20th at the Hanson Arena at the fairgrounds between 5:30 and 6:15 PM. Do not bring your dog, as this is a drop-in informational event only.

Classes will begin Tuesday, June 3rd.

All dogs will have to submit registration and vet paperwork. You can find that form online on our website or pick up the form at registration night. The dog project has an active Facebook page if you wish to join: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2207581809539814>



County, State, National Updates

HIDDEN SPRINGS CREAMERY 4-H FIELD TRIP!



In honor of June Dairy Month, we will visit a sheep dairy that produces cheese on site!

-Ride the bus from the Extension Office to Hidden Springs, only 20 spots available!

-Learn about and watch the milking and cheesemaking

-Try some samples of great sheep cheeses! It's very sweet, rich, and creamy, and has a very different flavor than goat cheese!



FRIDAY, JUNE 27TH 3-5 PM, BUS LEAVES AT 2:30 PM

TO REGISTER: [HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/XQCUB2WJVLZZ9FHN8](https://forms.gle/XQCUB2WJVLZZ9FHN8)



Summer Social Save the Date:

Save the date for our annual Summer Social Event! It will be held on Sunday, July 20th at the Youth Building at the Vernon County Fairgrounds. Make sure you note the building change! As per usual, we will have an amazing carnival, games, food, and more! Registration for the Summer Social will be sent out the beginning of June!



Vernon County 4-H

Foods and Clothing Revue

July 19, Bekkum Library Basement
10:00 AM-2:00PM



Information
and
Registration



CLOVERBUD EXPLORATION DAY

Join us for fun, hands-on sessions:
arts, food, animal science, plants, STEM
and more!



LET'S GO

ADVENTURE



SATURDAY,
JUNE 21ST

Cloverbud Exploration Day will be held at the Vernon County Fairgrounds from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Parents can drop off their children or attend, however, plan to join us for our picnic lunch at the end.

Our Cloverbud project is open to K-2nd graders. This particular exploration day is open to non-4-H members as well!

The cost is free, and includes all materials, food, and t-shirt.

Choose from many exciting hands on classes!

Schedule

- 8:45 - Check-In
- 9:00 - Welcome
- 9:15 - 9:45 - Session 1
- 10:00 - 10:30 - Session 2
- Snacks and Games
- 11:00 -11:30 - Session 3
- 11:40-Noon - Lunch/Parent Picnic

To Register:

<https://tinyurl.com/CLOVBUD>



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Session 1 Choices

Tie Dye T-Shirts: Each youth will be given a t-shirt for participating in the program. If they would like to tie-dye it, this is the session for them! (LPB)

All About Dairy: Learn about dairy calves and how farmers take care of them. There will be several baby calves to interact with. (SS)

Clothespin Bird Feeders: Make a super cute bird feeder using peanut butter, seeds, and a clothes pin! (VT)

Rabbit Showing and Care: Learn all about rabbits, how to care for them, and how to show them. (HH)

Balloons & Cars: Build your own car and use balloon power to rocket it along! (DD)

Learning How to Make Lemonade: Do you know how to turn lemons into lemonade? This session will teach you how! (LC)

Archery: Learn how to hold and shoot a bow and arrow. (SSports)

Ice Cream: Learn how to make your own ice cream! (N)

Rock Animal Painting: Paint your own cute animal rock to take home! (RB)

Session 2 Choices

Tie Dye T-Shirts: Each youth will be given a t-shirt for participating in the program. If they would like to tie-dye it, this is the session for them! (LPB)

Balloons & Cars: Build your own car and use balloon power to rocket it along! (DD)

Flower/Pumpkin Growing: Prep and plant your very own pumpkins and flowers for your garden! (EE)

All About Dairy: Learn about dairy calves and how farmers take care of them. There will be several baby calves to interact with. (SS)

Clothespin Bird Feeders: Make a super cute bird feeder using peanut butter, seeds, and a clothes pin! (VT)

Coloring Page Sun Catchers: Color in and create beautiful suncatchers using mason jar rings. (MS)

Archery: Learn how to hold and shoot a bow and arrow. (SSports)

Duct Tape Wallets: Learn how to take duct tape and turn it into your very own wallet! (SB)

Ice Cream: Learn how to make your own ice cream! (N)

Session 3 Choices

Tie Dye T-Shirts: Each youth will be given a t-shirt for participating in the program. If they would like to tie-dye it, this is the session for them! (LPB)

Rabbit Showing and Care: Learn all about rabbits, how to care for them, and how to show them. (HH)

Pine Cone Bird Treats: In this session, youth will have a chance to make a bird treat with peanut butter, seeds, and pine cones. (CC)

Learning How to Make Lemonade: Do you know how to turn lemons into lemonade? This session will teach you how! (LC)

Flower/Pumpkin Growing: Prep and plant your very own pumpkins and flowers for your garden! (EE)

Coloring Page Sun Catchers: Color in and create beautiful suncatchers using mason jar rings. (MS)

Duct Tape Wallets: Learn how to take duct tape and turn it into your very own wallet! (SB)

Rock Animal Painting: Paint your own cute animal rock to take home! (RB)



Table of Contents

4-H EDUCATOR: YOUTH AS DECISION MAKERS - 1 & 2

PHOTO HAPPENINGS - 2 & 3

UPDATES: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW - 4

COUNTY, STATE, AND NATIONWIDE HAPPENINGS - 5

CLOVERBUD EXPLORATION DAY - 6 & 7

SHOOTING SPORTS UPDATES - 8

TABLE OF CONTENTS - 8

Shooting Sports Project Updates:

June 1: Westby Rod and Gun Club

-Safety meeting for new participants and parents (mandatory): 4 PM

-Practice for all disciplines: 5 PM

June 29: Coon Valley Conservation Club

-Practice for all disciplines: 5 PM

July 20: Coon Valley Conservation Club

-Invitational Shoot Competition: Noon

August 24: Coon Valley Conservation Club

-Fair Shoot Competition: Noon

If you would like to explore this project but don't have equipment, that is fine. Our project is happy to lend bows and air rifles to use. Ear and eye protection are required for air rifle, .22, and shotgun.

Registration forms for the invitational shoot will be emailed to all shooting sports enrolled project members in June. The shooting sports project has an active Facebook page if you wish to join:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1065845924509771>

Additional UW-Madison Division of Extension Office Staff

HANNAH MCKEEVER, M.ED.

Community Development Extension Educator
haltimus@wisc.edu

SAM BIBBY

Regional Crops Educator: Vernon, La Crosse, Crawford Counties
sbibby@wisc.edu

BETH MCILQUHAM

Regional Livestock Educator: Crawford, La Crosse, Richland, Vernon Counties
mcilquham2@wisc.edu



The University of Wisconsin-Extension prohibits discrimination or harassment of any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy (including childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services (as defined by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994: service in the uniformed services includes membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation for service in the uniformed services) in any of its programs or activities.

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