



JULY - AUGUST 2025 ISSUE 368

The Voice of 4-H

The Vernon County 4-H Family Newsletter



TEENS AND INTERNS FROM VERNON, LA CROSSE, MONROE, RICHLAND, AND CRAWFORD COUNTIES RECENTLY GATHERED IN VIROQUA TO COMPLETE CAMP COUNSELOR TRAINING. OVER 100 YOUTH WILL PARTICIPATE IN JULY!

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Education Advocates

Emery Bork - Senior 4-H Educator

Each June, our Youth Leadership Project (YLP) gathers to review the year and choose a new service theme for our county clubs to pursue in the annual Youth Leadership Challenge.

The theme for this past year was Education Advocacy. Clubs learned about shortages and needs in clothing and food at schools. They found out what impact homelessness has on academic success, learned new skills to address gaps, and paid off a lot of school lunch fund debt. It was an amazing year, and you all worked hard.

As we swing into fair season and enjoy the review and praise of a year's worth of effort on projects, I strongly encourage you to reflect on the life skills your youth learned this year, too! Perhaps they built stronger foundations on empathy, patience, teamwork, self-care, public speaking, or grew a spark to explore more.

It is my hope that you all have grown as a family while being members in 4-H! I cannot wait to see your projects at the fair and get started on our 25-26 year in September! I wish you all the best of luck and success!



UW-MADISON EXTENSION



Vernon County 4-H

Youth Leadership **CHALLENGE**

2024-2025 Year of Service Report



Education Advocates

Our theme for 2024-2025 asked clubs to focus on learning about challenges that many youth and families face in the realm of school and education. They were encouraged to invite speakers to inform them of what needs may exist and to create an action plan to help with those needs.

Our clubs performed 15 acts of service throughout the year, several examples include:

- creating food baskets and birthday bags for young people
- purchasing pants, underwear, and clothing for multiple districts
- learned about homelessness and provided headphones for those youth to participate in classes that use technology
- created hygiene kits and learned about self care
- knitted hats and sewed mittens to donate to a school
- cleaned and prepped school produce gardens
- raised almost \$1000 to help alleviate school lunch fund debt

Annual Food Drive



Eleven clubs participated in our annual food drive in February, supplying much needed items and funds to pantries in Viroqua, La Farge, Stoddard, Westby and more. Youth and families also worked a total of 9 shifts and donated around 7,700 points worth of items (each item is worth 3 points).

Community Partners



Many communities around Vernon County have different outreach events or programming efforts. 4-H Clubs can help improve these events by participating in them or conducting community service in order to help these partners. 4-H Clubs participated in 39 community events/community service opportunities including:

- marching in parades and helping with festival celebrations
- volunteering at the annual dairy breakfast
- planting memorial flowers and cleaning cemeteries
- decorating and cleaning prep work before large celebrations like Syttende Mai



Vernon County 4-H

Youth Leadership **CHALLENGE**

2024-2025 Year of Service Report

Impact on 4-H Youth

While having an impact on others, the work that clubs performed also had an impact on the youth and adult leaders. These are impact themes reported by clubs connected to each of the three types of service above. Youth felt joy, learned empathy, tried new things (sparks), and felt proud to promote their involvement in Vernon County 4-H.

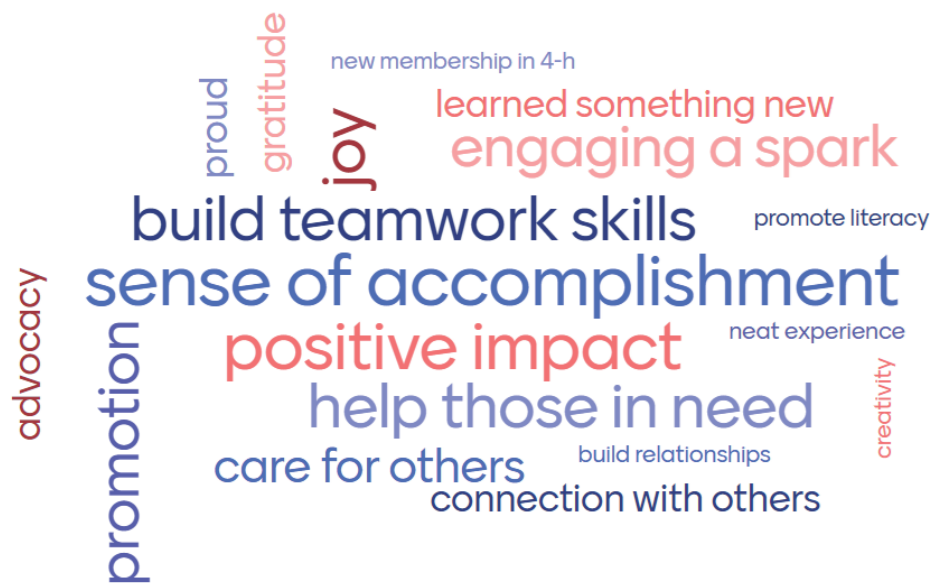


Photo Happenings



Our dairy judging team participated in the annual AASD competition, and several youth made it to state!



Woodworking project youth and adult volunteers headed to Upham Woods for a day of renovation! The camp is finally getting a new raptor after 5 years, and the cage had to be rebuilt!



Over 60 Cloverbuds had an amazing, yet hot day at Cloverbud Discovery Day. Youth got the chance to learn in three different sessions of their choice. Sessions included foods, STEM, arts and crafts, cattle, and more!



Updates: What you need to know

Registering for Fair:

Fair books will be out to your club leaders to distribute to families. Remember that registration takes place on the fair website. If you are having difficulties registering for fair, please contact the fair office. A list of their hours can be found in the fair book or on their website. If you are exhibiting animals, please make sure you have all of the correct paperwork. If you have questions or concerns in a specific project area, please call the superintendent listed--they're the experts and can help. After registering for fair, turn your forms into your club leader to handle for your family--do NOT take them to the fair office.

Raffle Tickets

Raffle tickets are being distributed for youth to sell. Each youth will receive 5, with the requirement that 3 must be sold. Work with your leaders to turn in tickets and money by their set deadline.

Summer Social:

Summer Social is our annual summer gathering, planned and hosted by members of our Youth Leadership Project.

Club competitions will be the following:

Watermelon Eating Contest: 5 participants
Youth will be given half of a watermelon. They will work together to eat the pieces. Whoever finishes the plate of watermelon first, wins! (We will do this in the beginning of the night's program.)

Water Transfer Challenge: 5 participants, will get wet

Youth will sit in a line of chairs, blindfolded. Each youth will get a tub. The first youth will have water in their tub and will need to lift it over their heads and attempt to pour it into the tub behind them, and so on. The club with the most water left at the end wins.

Food Stand Sign Up Process and Pie Policy

Here are the winning clubs and dates that the food stand sign up will be released:

1st Place: July 3rd: Seas Branch Smithies
2nd Place: July 7th: Liberty Pole Boosters
3rd Place: July 11th: Country Critters
4th Place: July 14th: Mississippi Steamers
5th Place: July 18th: Lucky Clovers
6th Place: July 21st: Springville Superstars
7th Place: July 25th: ViroquaTeers
8th Place: July 28: Hillsboro Hotshots
9th Place: August 1: Nerison, Enterprise Eagles, Davis Diggers
No Places: August 4: Riverside Badgers

You will see some new sign-up slots on the sign-up program. Debbie will need help doing food runs with volunteers that have trucks, and there is an opportunity to sign up to work the 4-H table in the youth building. The 4-H table is strongly recommended for youth who are neurodiverse or thrive in a calmer, less fast-paced environment. The booth will be teaching how to make pipe cleaner flowers, so finger dexterity is necessary.

Last year's new pie policy worked super well. Clubs have two choices: work together to source, and bake pies together at a club meeting time with an experienced baker OR the club must contract with a Amish/local baker to make the pies and pay for them out of the club's account.

If clubs choose choice #2, it is the club's responsibility to find, contract with, pay, pick up, and deliver the ordered pies.

Please try to provide a variety of flavors if possible.

Clubs need to deliver one pie per family. We will be assigning drop-off days to clubs so we don't have too many on one day. We will communicate that out once the fair is closer. Don't forget that if you're assigned W-F, instead of dropping at the fair, clubs can drop at our office and we will deliver. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to run them past Debbie.

VERNON COUNTY FAIR QUESTION GUIDE

FAIR SUPERINTENDENTS

- Exhibit Check In
- Stalling
- Showtime Questions
- Animals
- Judging
- Rules & What is Required
- Animal Records
- Exhibit Check Out

Superintendents specialize in their areas. Each department has a superintendent with their phone number listed. Have a question about how to mount photography or what paperwork your pig needs--call the superintendent listed.

4-H EXTENSION OFFICE

- 4-H Food Stand
- 4-H Information Booth

CLUB LEADERS:

- Entry Submission
- Entry Tickets

4-H participates in fair, but doesn't run it. We can answer questions about food stand shifts. You will turn your online fair entries into your club leaders and they are in charge of turning them in and handing out your tickets. They will also make sure you are in the correct projects and have met your requirements in order to show at fair.

FAIR OFFICE

- Online entry glitches and issues
- Deadlines
- Fair Theme
- Parking
- All Fair Events
- Rides
- Bathrooms
- Open class entry
- Complaints/Problems

The fair office is responsible for all logistics including entries. While your club leader will turn in your entries for you, if you're having problems with the online system, the fair office can help with that. Their office hours are limited so check online for schedule. You do not register for fair on 4HOnline, registration is on the fair website.

FAIR WEBSITE:





SUMMER SOCIAL



SUNDAY
20 JULY

Join us for a free family carnival, dunk tank, dinner, and ceremony honoring 4-H graduates and award winners. We invite all 4-H families past and present to join us!

4:00 PM-Watermelon Eating Club Competition
4:20 PM: Carnival, Dunk Tank and Drop-in Dinner
5:00 PM: Scholarship Award Ceremony
5:10 PM: Musical Doors and Water Transfer Challenge

Please register for food purposes:
<https://forms.gle/ngb47hBRa9CidXDw8>



YOUTH
BUILDING
VERNON COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS



County, State, National Updates

WI 4-H STATE DOG OBEDIENCE & SHOWMANSHIP SHOW

**REGISTRATION
DEADLINE:
JULY 15TH**

**SHOW WILL BE HELD ON SEPT. 27-28
LANGLADE CO. FAIRGROUNDS; ANTIGO**



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Information
and
Registration

Vernon County 4-H

Foods and Clothing Revue

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





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Shooting Sports Project Updates:

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.

The shooting sports project has an active Facebook page if you wish to join:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1065845924509771>



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