



NOV-DEC 2025 ISSUE 370

The Voice of 4-H

The Vernon County 4-H Family Newsletter



SEVERAL 4-H MEMBERS SETTING UP LAMBS DURING THE SHEEP SHOW AT THE VERNON COUNTY FAIR

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A Focus on Fostering Food

Emery Bork - 4-H Educator

The Youth Leadership Project members are encouraging our 4-H clubs to think about and be fosters of food this year! Each year, our Youth Leadership Project members choose a service theme and set challenges for clubs to embrace.

Food is everywhere in our lives, from home to school, and beyond. We need it to live and thrive. The challenge this year is to take a deep dive into a food-based project with your club that has a service learning, planning, and leadership component. I've heard some whispers from clubs about community gardens, planned trips to pantries to learn how that system works, and more.

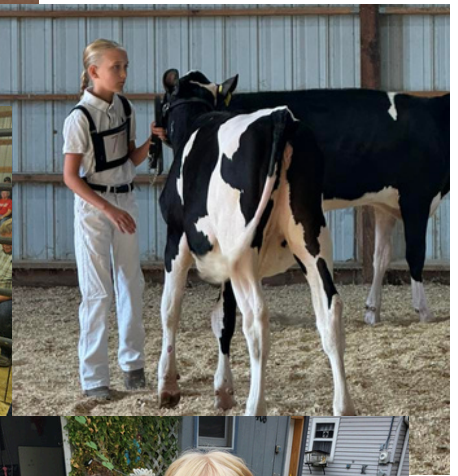
As your 4-H Educator, I like to plan countywide events that complement the theme. Later in the newsletter, you'll find several program opportunities around cooking and sewing skills. I also encourage you to explore this theme at home! Cooking together, buying a new recipe book, or planning a trip to a restaurant you'd like to try can be a great way to bond and build family relationships.



UW-MADISON EXTENSION



Photo Happenings: Vernon County Fair!



Updates: What you need to know

Trip Award Information:

Vernon County 4-H wants to send our youth on trips! Most of the state, region, and national trips enroll during the fall months. If you are considering going, please keep an eye out for emails from the state. Remember that Federation typically pays for half of your trip. You can also ask for funds from your club! We will help financially support your youth to go, so please do not hesitate to reach out to get more info.

2025 Awards Recognition Banquet: January 18th, location TBA. It is strongly recommended that all 4-H families attend the banquet and receive their award discs and other items.

Arts Fest

The first weekend in March is Arts Fest! Arts Fest focuses on exhibiting/performing the following projects:

Art
Photography
Singing/Vocal
Band Instrument Performance
Piano
Demonstration Speaking
Forensics: Poetry, Storytelling, Group Theatre, Speech Memorization, Prose and more.

Start planning your entries now. Rules and all information will be listed on the website when it gets a bit closer.

***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 to plan and perform a play at Arts Fest. The play must include at least 5 members in your club.

Youth Officer Training: December 30th

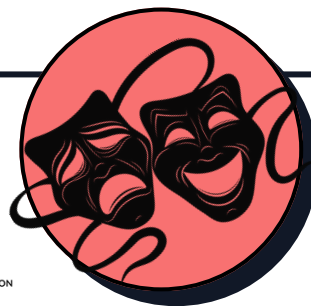
All youth who have been elected as officers in their club are strongly urged to attend our 2 hour Youth Officer Training on Monday, December 29th from 9-11 AM.

A Guide To Arts Fest

Vernon County 4-H



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



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

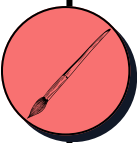
-Stringed Instrument
-Band Instrument: Solo
-Instrumental Presentation: Duet (may include vocal, piano, and/or other stringed instrument)

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.

County, State, and National Events



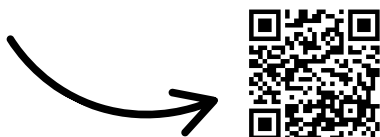
Join us for a fun afternoon of pie making! Youth will learn how to make two types of crust: baked crust and graham cracker crust and two types of filling. Just in time to prepare for holiday pie making season! Open to youth of all ages and grades! Youth will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult for the workshop and bring a few items from home. 4-H will provide all of the food, so supplies will be kitchen utensils. Register here: <https://forms.gle/GpJXjkkYdfzyCahf9>



Cedar Crest Ice Cream and the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation have teamed up once again to present the "Cedar Crest Ice Cream 4-H Flavor Creation Contest" for Wisconsin 4-H clubs. All Wisconsin 4-H clubs are eligible to submit their ideas for a new ice cream flavor, along with a flavor description and interesting flavor name. Entries are being accepted now through November 15! They must be submitted by your club leader, so make sure to bring this up at your club meeting!



Youth will have the opportunity to learn how to work with a sewing machine and sew a potholder. The times are broken down by grades and learning ability. The older the youth, the more complicated the pattern. The classes will be held at the Erlandson Building in Viroqua. Youth may bring their own fabric, otherwise, 4-H will provide all the materials and fabric. Class size is limited. To register: <https://forms.gle/VEAqpzwV2AXrZGyw5>



County, State, and National Events, CTD



Open to all ages and grades. Youth 5th grade and below will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult for the workshop. 4-H will provide all of the food and may ask for participants to bring some kitchen utensils and tupperware to bring left over food home. To register: <https://forms.gle/2jt5iRSBL3Ujk7Tm6>





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Saturday, December 13th | 12pm
Oshkosh Arena | 1212 S Main Street, Oshkosh, WI



Join us for 4-H Day with the Wisconsin Herd!

Just for 4-H Families:

- Pre-Game Watch sitting courtside & autographs
- High Five Tunnel with Herd Players




The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.

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.

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