



MARCH - APRIL 2026 ISSUE 371

The Voice of 4-H

The Vernon County 4-H Family Newsletter



A 4-H YOUTH TAKES CAKE TASTING SERIOUSLY AS SHE DETERMINES HER FAVORITE SLICE AT OUR COMMUNITY CAKE EXCHANGE PROGRAM ON VALENTINE'S DAY

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

EMERY BORK

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

Friends in 4-H

Emery Bork - 4-H Educator

For the last month or two, we've had a 4-H program scheduled for just about every weekend. Over that time, I have seen several youth consistently attend those, and as a result, they have formed some pretty strong friendships. They look for each other when they arrive, help one another, and often ask parents ahead of time, "Do you think my friend will be there?"

These connections form because families make the effort to attend activities outside of their club meetings. When youth participate in workshops, trips, and county events, they get the chance to meet others who share in their interests and support them along the way. I know that every family's schedule is different, but when you're able, joining events beyond your club can make a meaningful difference.

If you would like to see a certain activity or event offered by our 4-H program, don't hesitate to reach out and let us know. Your club leaders and I chat often about what sorts of programs to offer and what families are into or need at the moment.



UW-MADISON EXTENSION



Annual Awards Banquet:



The Springville Superstars, ViroquaTeers, and Lucky Clovers 4-H Clubs hosted this year's annual banquet, which had a super fun dinosaur theme! We want to congratulate all our disc recipients and graduating Cloverbuds! Thank you to all who attended and the clubs who worked so hard to put it on, it was a blast!



We were so excited to award many deserving individuals and entities at the banquet. Friends of 4-H: Dale Torgerson, Wild West Days Grounds, Vernon County Sheriff's Office - Special 4-H Leaders: Kate Merritt, Joel Jepsen, James Martens, Renae Diehl - 4-H Volunteer of the Year: Deb Primmer



Photo Happenings:



Youth of various ages attended our veggie cooking and cutting skills workshop held in early January.



Admin staff, Miranda, helps pack over 100 Wonders Within Wood carving kits to be sent statewide. Educator Emery co-wrote the distance program with a carving artist.



Youth and community members were able to gather and enjoy cakes at the Springville Superstar's Community Cake Exchange. They played games and made Valentine's Day cards. Extra cake was delivered to hospital staff and the sheriff's department.



Updates: What you need to know

Trip Award Information:

Vernon County 4-H wants to send our youth on trips! 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.

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 2nd. Go to the fairgrounds 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. We will not have tags in the office. Please refer to the infographic later on in the newsletter about tag placement, etc. Pictures are due back via email no later than June 2.

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 4-8th: Cloverbud Sunflower Growing Contest-Seeds Disbursed
- June 14-18th: Summer Academy
- June 23-24th: Summer Day Camp
- July 19th: Annual Summer Social Celebration
- July 25th: Foods and Clothing Revue
- July 29-31: 4-H Summer Camp at Upham Woods
- August 4th: National Night Out

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.

Summer Shooting Sports Schedule:

The season will be hosted at the Viola Sportsman's Club: S64565 Sportsman Road, Viola, WI 54664

- Sunday, May 31 @ 4 PM: Annual Safety Meeting Required for 1st Time Youth
 - 5 pm: Archery & Air Rifle Practice
 - 6 pm: Shotgun & .22 Practice
- Sunday, June 28 Practice
 - 5 pm: Archery & Air Rifle
 - 6 pm: Shotgun & .22
- Sunday, July 26 @ 1 PM: 4-H Invitational Shoot Competition
- Sunday, August 30: Vernon County Fair Premium Shoot
 - 5 pm: Archery & Air Rifle
 - 6 pm: Shotgun & .22

Please follow the Shooting Sports Facebook page for updates, cancellations, etc.:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1Hjxsa5imU/>



A promotional poster for the 2026 Vernon County Fairest of the Fair. The background features a woman in a blue blazer and a white sash that reads "Vernon County Fairest of the Fair". The text on the poster includes: "Do you love the fair? Your community? Agriculture? You could be the NEXT Vernon County Fairest of the Fair! Applications for the 2026 Vernon County Fairest of the Fair are NOW AVAILABLE! This isn't just a contest — it's an opportunity to: Represent the Vernon County & The Vernon County Fair, Grow your confidence & leadership skills, Share your love for agriculture & community, Meet amazing people locally & across Wisconsin, Make lifelong friendships. Apply Online: www.vernoncountyfair.com Dream Big. Take a Chance! Questions? Contact Angie Hornby at (608) 606-3167 Please share with young women who would be AMAZING in this role! #VernonCountyFair #FairestOfTheFair". The bottom of the poster shows a scene from a fair with a Ferris wheel and a barn.

County, State & Nationwide Happenings



**4th Annual
SUNFLOWER GROWING
CONTEST**

Seed Material Pick Up Week: May 4-8th
Extension Office: 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

Show Scheduled For:
Wednesday 6:00 PM, Sept 16th @ Vernon
County Fair

Open to all K-2nd graders who are interested
in participating.

To register by April 18th: 

To Register for Sunflower Growing Contest:
<https://forms.gle/knHwYtQcGBKgG9DeA>



VERNON COUNTY 4-H PRESENTS

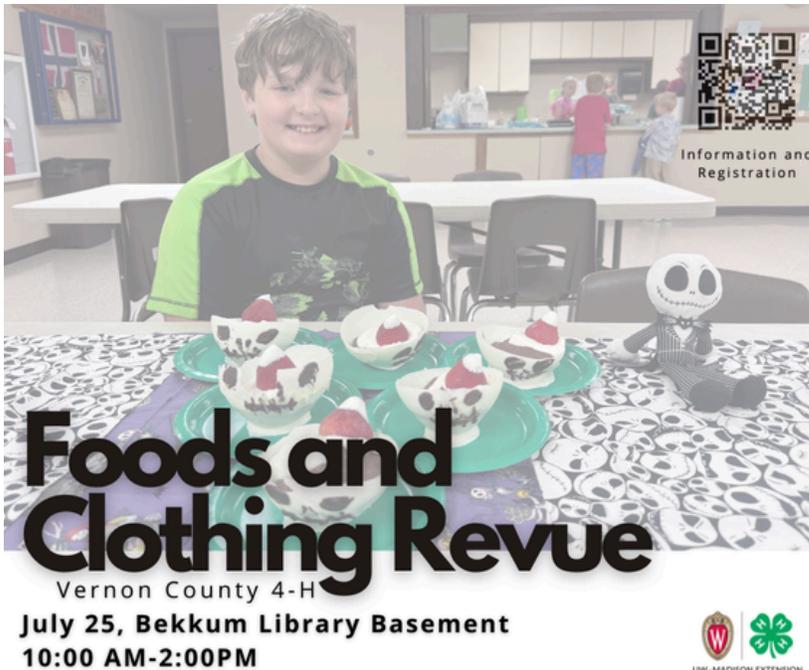
MAPLE SYRUP CLASS

OPEN TO ALL
SATURDAY, MARCH 7
STARTS AT 3 PM
AT ERLANDSON BUILDING

- Youth participants can take one jar home each for fair entries
- Syrup will be donated to various food pantries as part of our Community Orchard and Perennial Garden program
- Dress warmly and come ready to help! Bring pruning shears, as we may also be apple tree pruning while boiling.

 Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

To Register for Maple Syrup Class:
<https://forms.gle/knHwYtQcGBKgG9DeA>

**Foods and
Clothing Revue**

Vernon County 4-H
July 25, Bekkum Library Basement
10:00 AM-2:00PM



To Register for Foods and Clothing Revue:
<https://forms.gle/tw9NcQKY616xNADCA>



4HARTS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

CONTEST CLOSSES APRIL 1ST!

WHAT
Enter a photo in any of the following categories:

1. What 4-H means to me (projects, events, logos, meetings, talks, members)
2. People
3. Animals/Wildlife
4. Action/Movement
5. Nature/Landscape
6. Travel

HOW
The contest will run through 4-H online.
Scan the QR code or click the link to learn more!

WHO
Any active 4-H members grades 3-13



4-H SUMMER CAMP

Where Fun Meets
Learning Under the Sun

GRADES 3-8

JULY 29-31

Upham Woods, WI Dells

Registration Fee

\$100

Activities Include:

- Nature Hikes & Exploration
- Arts & Crafts Workshops
- Science & Discovery Projects
- Team Sports & Games
- Swimming, Canoeing, Fishing
- 4-H Skit and Campfire Nights

Costs Include:

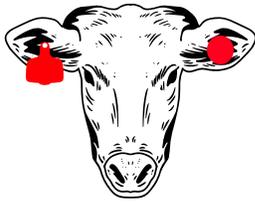
- Transportation from Vernon County to camp and back
- Lodging and Meals
- Camp T-shirt
- Activity supplies and equipment
- Vernon County offers a scholarship fund for those who need.

**ONLY
100
SPOTS!**



Registration Opens : March 16th

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.

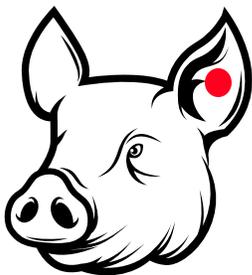
Email: vernoncountybeef@gmail.com

Please indicate whose steer the picture is for and when sent in as well.



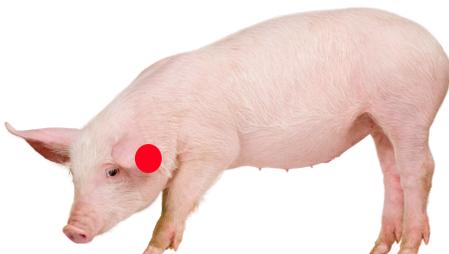
Sheep: Please send two pictures, one of the head and one of the side view. We are not worried about seeing the numbers on the tags, but please write scrapie tag and RFID tag number in email for each sheep when emailing the pictures. Please indicate whose sheep the picture is for.

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 swine the picture is for, and 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



Table of Contents

4-H EDUCATOR: FRIENDS IN 4-H - 1

PHOTO HAPPENINGS: AWARDS BANQUET - 2

PHOTO HAPPENINGS - 3

UPDATES: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW - 4

COUNTY, STATE, NATIONAL EVENTS - 5

SUMMER CAMP - 6

EAR TAG PLACEMENT - 7

SUMMER ACADEMY - 8

4-H is all about helping your older youth explore universities and career options, after all, we're part of UW-Madison! This summer camp allows your youth to explore a career track (both trades and university), live in a campus dorm for a week, and enjoy many hands-on learning experiences. We'll help financially, don't let that be a barrier!

Additional UW-Madison Division of Extension Office Staff

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

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.

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