



The Alphorn

Your 4-H Family Newsletter

January/February 2026



Extension Green County – Justice Center
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Next Alphorn Deadline:
February 15



Ellen Andrews
4-H Youth
Development Educator

What do YOU want to learn in 4-H this year?

Whether you are a youth or a volunteer, the simple question of “*What do you want to learn in 4-H this year?*” is a really important question. In our already busy lives, knowing what we want to learn can help us be more intentional about how we participate in 4-H and help us get the most out of this tremendous youth-driven program.

4-H Members in 3rd Grade & Older

Did you know that you can still add 4-H projects to your 4HOnline profile by contacting the Extension Office? We encourage you to sign up for any projects that you think you might be interested in learning about. This way, if a new learning opportunity comes up, we know that you might be interested and can send you that information.

What new ideas/skills/experiences do I want to learn in my 4-H projects this year? Who can help me learn this new thing? In 4-H we want to always be growing and learning. As youth (and even as adult), we are rarely ever project experts; there is always something more we can learn or improve on. Now is a great time to think about what you want to learn, and share that with the family members and 4-H volunteers around you. This will help you prioritize the learning opportunities you want to participate in.

4-H Project Leaders (Youth & Adults)

We also encourage 4-H Project Leaders to ask 4-H members what they want to learn. Understanding members’ interests can help you intentionally create more meaningful learning experiences with our youth.

Interested in planning a 4-H Project Learning activity, but not sure where to start? Looking for ideas of what can be done or a plan to follow? Contact me at the Extension Office! I am happy to help you and connect you with resources!

I look forward to seeing what 4-H Project Learning opportunities 4-H members and leaders create that together challenge us to learn and grow.

Ellen Andrews
4-H Youth Development Educator

4-H Attendance Requirement

Remember, to exhibit as a 4-H member at the 2026 County Fair, youth must attend at least four 4-H meetings, events, or workshops between 9/1/2025 and 4/21/2026, with at least two being 4-H Club meetings.

Job Opportunity

Green County Extension is seeking a college student for a 30-34 hours per week position, late May - mid August. Help us spread the word and grow our team! See page 10 for more details.

New Family Corner

Each newsletter, we will provide some helpful insights into the 4-H program for our new and newer families.

4-H Club Meetings

Almost every 4-H club holds regular club meetings. Even within the same club, no two club meetings are the same. Ideally, every meeting should have three parts—**recreation** (fun), **business**, and **learning**. Youth leadership plays a huge role in the success of a club. Most clubs have youth officers (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and other selected roles) who are responsible for running each meeting. Youth leaders not only gain excellent life skills, they help to keep the meeting relevant and fun for members of all ages. All youth have a responsibility to contribute to their clubs through their voice and their actions!

What is my role as an adult?

Adults help create a safe, positive atmosphere for all 4-H members when they empower and encourage youth. While at a meeting, it's important to be a positive role model for everyone in attendance. Caring adults play an important role in the mental health of youth, and 4-H can help connect youth with positive adults.

Make 4-H Meetings a Positive Experience

1. Actively listen to all 4-H members.
2. Let youth run the meeting. It's their club!
3. Attend as many meetings as possible.
4. Ask your club leader how you can help.
5. If you have a hobby or skill, consider offering to be a guest speaker!

To learn more about 4-H Club Meetings and activities that can help your member(s) to "Get to Know Your Club" and "How is the meeting run?", please check out our 2-page "Exploring 4-H for New Families" newsletter on Club Meetings at: <https://bit.ly/NFNClubMeetings>.



Thank You!

- To the 4-H leaders who helped at 4-H Club Leadership Team Training: Mirielle Smith, Steve Gellings, Correna Bovee, Barb Buetow, Heather Watson, Lynn Lokken, & Kris Winkler.
- To the 4-H Youth Leaders who MC'ed or assisted with the 4-H Award Program: Mirielle Smith, Micki Andrews, Benson Miller, Tayla Shrader, Elena Boss, Layla Fry, Georgia Christen, Owen Larson, Thadeus Miller & Remington Zilliox.
- To our 4-H Adult Leaders who coordinated the 4-H Meals on Wheels Boxes service project - Pat (and Dale) Sleiter and our partners at ADRC of Southwest WI - Green County, including the Aging Programs Coordinator, Morgan Kennison!
- To the 4-H Clubs and families who donated & helped pack boxes at our 4-H Meals on Wheels Service program!

- To the adult and youth volunteers that helped with New Family Orientation: Dawn Smith, Mirielle Smith, Micki Andrews, Tonya Gratz, Eileen Horn, Sharon Stowers, and Grace LaFrance.
- To the Colony Brands Foundation for a very generous donation through their Colony Brands Associate Donation program.

Congratulations!

- To Connor Eckdhal, Telina Gratz, and Sadie Mitchell for receiving a \$25 gift card for completing the Thrive Survey!

4-H Member Opportunities

4-H (Project) Exploration Day—Save the Date!

We are excited to be planning a 4-H Project Exploration Day to engage 4-H and non-4-H youth in hands-on learning.

Mark your calendars for:

Saturday, March 28— 9:00-11:50am (Grades 3rd-13th)

- Blackhawk Technical College (Monroe)

Registration information will come out in mid-February.

Call for Presenters!!!!

We need 4-H volunteers, older youth, parents, and community members willing to lead 50-minute hands-on workshops at our 4-H Project Exploration Day. Who do you know that would lead a fun, hands-on project activity? Session proposals can be submitted at: <https://forms.gle/dJvYcc4arzJ582GC8>. Session proposals are due February 1st! Please contact Ellen (ellen.andrews@wisc.edu or 608-328-9440) if you have any questions about this event.

4-H Communications Contest

Sunday, February 22, 2026 at 1:00pm

Green County Justice Center, Monroe

This countywide contest offers all 4-H youth (Cloverbuds – 13th grade) opportunities to participate in Speaking and Demonstration events! Recite a poem, read a story, teach us how to make a peanut butter & jelly sandwich, and so much more!!! See the flyer on page 6 for more info.

Register **by February 17th** at: <https://go.wisc.edu/hnh7a4>.



STEAM GAZE: A Creative Fusion of Art & Science!

Wisconsin 4-H proudly presents STEAM GAZE, a dynamic, full-day experience designed for curious and creative youth in grades 3–5. This spring, dive into a world of discovery where art meets science through hands-on workshops led by passionate educators and mentors.

Whether your spark is chemistry, theater, visual arts, environmental science, music, or something in between, STEAM GAZE offers multiple interactive tracks to ignite imagination and innovation. Two date options:

- Wausau: April 25, 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM
- Milwaukee: May 16, 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Thanks to the generous support of a grant, this opportunity is being offered for just \$10.00. More info to come!

4-H Camp Staff Needed (Older Youth & Adults)

Do you enjoy working with youth and having fun outdoors? If so, please consider applying to be part of our volunteer 4-H Camp Staff Team, where older youth and adults work together to plan and lead awesome camp experiences!

Our **4-H Base Camp** for youth in **3rd-6th grade** will be **August 5-8, 2026**. No previous camp experience is necessary! For more information go to the 4-H Camp website:

<https://green.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-camp/>

Camp Staff Team application are **requested by March 1**.

Green County 4-H Record Books

New for the 2025-2026 4-H Year, Green County 4-H members will use grade-specific 4-H Record Books.

These new 4-H Record Books will be posted by **December 31, 2025** at: <https://go.wisc.edu/4i8v76>

The new tool replace the former minimal and county 4-H record book options. Completing a 2025-2026 4-H Record Book is encouraged of all 4-H members, and required all youth in 3rd grade and older, who wish to remain a member-in-good-standing and be eligible to exhibit as a 4-H member at the 2027 Green County Fair.

Green County 4-H Scholarships & Awards

The Green County 4-H program uses an application and interview process to support youth building life skills, while pursuing extraordinary 4-H opportunities and recognitions...

- **4-H Travel Scholarships** – Funds to cover 25% of a 4-H Travel Experience (6th-12th Gr), including for...
 - * *4-H Summer Academy*—June 14-18, 2026
 - * *National 4-H Congress*—Nov 27-Dec 1, 2026
- **4-H Key Award** – Top award a WI 4-H Youth can receive (11th-13th Gr)
- **4-H College Scholarships** – Funds for post-high school education (4-H members in 12th-13th Gr)
 - * *4-H Adult Leaders* – Three \$500 scholarships
 - * *Cindi Miller Memorial* —Three \$1,000 scholarships

There are three parts to this process...

- **Application**—Youth submit a cover letter, resume and essay **by Monday, March 16, 2026**.
- **Interview**—Youth applicants will participate in an interview **on Wednesday, March 25, 2026**.
- **Feedback**—Youth receive written feedback to help improve future applications and interviews.

For more information go to the 4-H scholarships website page: <https://go.wisc.edu/of3535>

4-H Educational Travel Experiences

Wisconsin 4-H is happy to once again offer some outstanding educational travel experiences. These are so much more than “trips”, rather they are powerful opportunities for personal exploration and leadership development. Please also see our “4-H Scholarship & Award Opportunities” that can significantly help defray the cost of these experiences.

4-H Summer Academy – UW-Madison

June 14-18, 2026

Sign up to learn what it takes to have a career, or a hobby in several areas including agriculture, STEM, service, leadership, arts, trades, and many more. Youth must be in 8th-11th grade at the time of registration. The cost will be just \$150 (includes lodging and meals), and registration will be open March–April (TBD) on 4HOnline.

National 4-H Congress – Atlanta, Georgia

November 27-December 1, 2026

National 4-H Congress is a five-day premiere nation-wide 4-H event in Atlanta, GA, where 4-Hers network with others. Youth must be in 9th-12th grade at the time of registration, and maximum age of 18 as of 1/1/2026. The cost will be approximately \$1,500, and registrations will tentatively be open June 1-30, 2026.

Additional Scholarship Opportunities

A list of available post-secondary scholarships can be found on our website at: <https://green.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/scholarships-2/>

Wisconsin 4-H Scholarships

The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation will award more than \$20,000 in scholarships in 2026. Applicants must submit applications electronically by March 1, 2026. To be eligible, students must have been a Wisconsin 4-H member for at least three years; have a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, and be enrolled or planning to enroll at a university, college or technical school during the 2025-2026 academic school year. Please visit: <https://go.wisc.edu/0u8twh>.

WSF Dairy Promotion Scholarships

The Wisconsin State Fair Dairy Promotion Board is offering \$1,000 scholarships to individuals that will be third or fourth year college students during the 2026-27 academic year and are pursuing a dairy-related or food science degree. All applications must be submitted electronically as a PDF by January 15, 2026. Application and more information can be found at: <https://wsfdairypromo.org/scholarships>.

Youth & Adult Leader Opportunities

4-H Adult Leader Association Meetings

A friendly reminder that Green County 4-H Adult Leaders, Inc. meetings are open to all approved enrolled 4-H adult leaders. Each 4-H club is strongly encouraged to have at least one adult leader in attendance at each meeting.

Upcoming 4-H Adult Leaders Assoc. meeting dates:

- Monday, January 5th @ 6:15 PM—Executive Board Mtg
 - Monday, February 2nd @ 6:15 PM—Executive Board Mtg
 - Monday, February 2nd @ 7:30 PM—Adult Leaders Mtg via Zoom or Phone—register at: <https://go.wisc.edu/4vmlv9>
 - Monday, March 2nd @ 6:15 PM—Executive Board Mtg
- Agendas and meeting materials can be found at: <https://green.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/leaders/>

4-H Project Curriculum Available

4-H project literature is a valuable resource for members and leaders. Learn important project information and get ideas of hands-on project activities that can grow your project knowledge and life skills. Have a project for which you would be interested in curriculum?

FREE Curriculum – While supplies last we have extra curriculum to give away in many different project areas.
Curriculum Library – The Extension Green County Office has a curriculum library, which can be checked out during normal business hours.

If you have questions about 4-H Project Curriculum, contact Samantha at the Extension Office. (swileman@wisc.edu)

Service Opportunity: Loaves & Fishes

Loaves & Fishes is a monthly free meal served on every 4th Sunday 4pm-6pm. This meal is coordinated by a nonprofit group housed out of Grace Lutheran Church in Monroe. The group is looking for individuals willing to volunteer to help serve and clean up during the meal. 4-H clubs interested in helping, or individual families that are interested in helping can reach out to the Extension Office for more information.

Cloverbud Corner

Cloverbud Book & Cookie Decorating Event

Saturday, February 7, 2026 from 10:00 - 11:00 AM
Rooms 1-3, Green County Justice Center, Monroe
Event is open to all Cloverbuds (gr. K-2). We will read aloud "The Rainbow Fish" and then each youth decorate their own rainbow fish cookie to take home and enjoy.
Parent/Guardian is asked to stay for this workshop.
Register by Thursday, January 29 using the following link:
<https://forms.gle/vKNpenwrtc6wNHbaA>.

Family, Home & Health

Green County Fair Foods Department Pre-Fair Events

Again this year, registration for County Fair Judging Events will occur through Fair Entry. To read the Foods Department rules and entry options, and to register: please go to:
<https://greencountyfair.net/junior-class/>.

Foods Revue

Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 1:00 PM
Rooms 1-3, Green County Justice Center, Monroe
Youth prepare and present foods projects for judging.
Foods Revue is a Pre-Fair, premium earning event.
Registration will be open February 16-27, 2026.

Cake Revue

Saturday, April 11, 2026 at 1:00 PM
Rooms 1-3, Green County Justice Center, Monroe
Youth prepare and present cake decorating projects for judging. Cake Revue is a Pre-Fair, premium earning event.
Registration will be open March 16-27, 2026.

Arts & Communication

Wonders within Wood

Youth in grades 5-13 will explore the art of green wood carving. You will have an opportunity to look deep into the past to encounter the history of carving, and use several different art mediums to understand wood, and how carving is like sculpture. Zoom Meeting on March 10, 6:30-7:30 PM with a master green wood carver! Registration is open now through January 5th in [4HOnline](#).

Join the 4-H Performing Arts Committee!

On January 21st at 6:00 PM the county-wide 4-H Performing Arts Committee (PAC) will meet at the Green County Justice Center to begin to plan and organize exciting activities for our 4-H community. Whether you're a youth member or an adult volunteer, we'd love to have you help shape opportunities in music, drama, dance, and more. Come to our kick-off meeting to learn more and be part of this creative group!

4-H Art Beat—March 14-15

This event is for 4-H Members in grades 3-5, parents and leaders. This 2 day / 1 night arts camp is held at Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center near Wisconsin Dells. Youth will try different types of art (visual arts, drama, music & STEM), while also experiencing camp and staying in cabins. Registration will be open in 4HOnline from January 12-February 8, 2026. This program is using tiered pricing for youth of \$100-\$145, and \$75 for adult volunteers. For more information, go to: <https://go.wisc.edu/hz33lo>

WI 4-H Photography Contest!

Wisconsin 4-H will be offering a 4-H Photography contest March 1st—April 1st, 2026 for youth in 3rd grade & older. Categories might include: People, animals/wildlife, textures, landscape, black & white, and more. More info to come!



Natural Sciences

Shooting Sports Leader Training Workshops

The Shooting Sports program is always looking for more adult volunteers! If you are interested in becoming a shooting sports leader, there are certification workshops coming up this winter and spring!

- February 7, 2026—Washington County Fair Park (Archery, Air Rifle/Rifle & Air Pistol/Pistol)
- February 28, 2026—Richland Center Courthouse (Archery & Rifle/Air Rifle)
- April 25, 2026—New Franken, WI (Archery, Rifle/Air Rifle, Shotgun)

For more information on certification workshops, click the link: <https://go.wisc.edu/4x0h9u>. Please note that you must be an enrolled 4-H volunteer before you can register for a SS Leader Certification Workshop. The 4-H Adult leaders Association is willing to reimburse you for both your national and state training registration fees.

2026 Shooting Sports Competitive Shoots

The Wisconsin 4-H Shooting Sports program offers 15 Invitationals across the state between March-July. To participate in Invitational shoots, 4-H members must be:

1. Currently enrolled in a 4-H Shooting Sports project.
2. Actively participating in 4-H Shooting Sports training or successfully complete 4-H Shooting Sports training.
3. Participating with the approval of their 4-H Shooting Sports certified instructor.

The 2026 schedule will soon be posted at this link along with additional information: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/shooting-sports/competitive-shoots/>

2026 Shooting Sports Deadlines

The 2026 Shooting Sports Deadlines are quickly approaching! You should have received a Newsletter, Kick Off Letter, Permission Form, and required waivers if you are signed up for a shooting sport discipline on 4HOnline. Members **MUST** submit required forms and fees at the Open House or the Extension Office. **None will be taken at the ranges.**

Preferred Deadline: **January 2, 2026**

Final Deadline with \$5 late fee per youth: **January 9, 2026**
(Late fee will only be waived for 1st year families.)

To view the 2026 Shooting Sports Newsletter, and to access required forms, visit the Extension Green County website at: <https://green.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/4-h-projects/shooting-sports/>



Animal Science

Green County 4-H Livestock Judging Team

We are forming a Livestock Judging team(s) to compete at Area Animal Science Day in June. Our goal is to offer practices where youth can learn to evaluate beef, sheep, swine and meat goats. This is a valuable opportunity for youth in 3rd grade and older to increase their knowledge of livestock, while also increasing their decision-making and communication skills. Let us know you might be interested by going to: <https://forms.gle/wSFNftZcPwtX9aN36>



WI Livestock Quiz Bowl & Skill-a-thon

March 21, 2026 @ UW-Madison

Livestock Bowl is a quiz competition where all the questions are about beef, sheep, swine, and meat goat topics and students use a buzzer in order to answer the questions. Skillathon contest is made up of a written quiz and learning stations such as breed identification, feed identification, equipment identification as well as some team activities such as demonstrating evaluation skills. The contest is open to current 4-H members in grade 3-13. If you or someone you know might be interested in creating a team and some possible practices, please contact Ellen at the Extension Green County Office. For more info, go to: <https://go.wisc.edu/4526k8>

Wisconsin 4-H Meats Judging Contest

January 31, 2026 @ UW-Madison

This contest tests the knowledge of youth in the placement of carcass and retail cut classes, carcass grading, and retail cut identification. More information about the contest and how to register can be found at: <https://go.wisc.edu/69d5xp>

Livestock Premise ID

Livestock Premise Registration Numbers must be obtained for the location(s) where your animals are housed.

A Livestock Premise ID number must be obtained for all animal projects with the exception of cats, dogs, & rabbits.

The livestock premise registration program is intended to protect animal health, as well as the security of the food chain. Any person who keeps one or more livestock animals at a location in Wisconsin is required to register that location. To “keep livestock” means to own, feed, house, confine or care for livestock, or to exercise legal or physical control over livestock. If you have any questions, please contact the Extension Office at 608-328-9440. To register for a livestock premise ID number online, visit the website at www.wiid.org.

NOTE: NO FAIR ENTRY can be entered online for showing without a premise ID number for all animal projects (excluding cats, dogs & rabbits)!

YQCA Certification

In 2026, YQCA certification will be required of all...

- Green County Fair Exhibitors in Dairy, Beef, Swine, Sheep Goats, Poultry & Rabbits.
- Wisconsin State Fair Junior Exhibitors in Dairy, Beef, Swine, Sheep, Goats, Poultry & Rabbits.

Three types of trainings are being offered in 2026:

- **Option A—Web-Based Training**—Curriculum is tailored to an exhibitor’s age and available 24/7 for your convenience. Includes three interactive online modules and corresponding quizzes. It is \$12 per person, per year, and must be paid online.
- **Option B—Test-Out Option**—Youth ages 12 (\$36), 15 (\$48), and 19 (\$36) may choose the test-out option. Youth must score 80% or better and you will only be charged if you pass the test. If you pass, you will need to retest when you reach the next age split.
- **Option C—Instructor-Led Training**—Sessions will be held face-to-face and are limited to the first 50 youth. Youth **MUST** register and pay online at least 24 hours in advance, **BEFORE** attending the training. Exhibitors need to arrive at least 10 minutes in advance of the session to check-in and **MUST** stay the full 60 minutes. Cost is \$3 per person, per year. Exhibitors ages 19-21, as of December 31, 2025, must take the Web-Based Training. There will be two in-county training dates or you can go to a neighboring county.

- *Tentatively* March 28th—8:45am @ BTC

For more details, visit: <https://green.extension.wisc.edu/youth-quality-care-of-animals-certification/>.

2026 Animal ID Procedure

March 23, 2026—April 17, 2026

New in 2026—Swine, Lamb, and Goat ID will open and close on the same dates.

Please note—The Extension Office will be CLOSED on Friday, April 3rd. You will be able to drop off forms in the drop box, but you cannot pick up forms on that date.

Exhibitors will be required to tag their animals with RFID tags, picked up at the Green County Extension Office and do picture identifications for each animal. There will be no upfront cost to the exhibitor, as the Green County Meat Animal Auction Committee covers the cost of the tags.

Photo identification is required for EACH ANIMAL that is being tagged. The photos MUST show all required tags in the ears of the animal. If a picture is blurry or does not clearly show all required tags, the exhibitor will be asked to resubmit their photo ID. **No photo ID's will be accepted after April 17, 2026 at 4:30pm. New this year, identification forms can be turned in via paper form or using the google form.**

The Green County Extension office will loan out ear taggers for exhibitors to use to tag their animals. The taggers must be returned to the Extension office and will be sanitized before being given to another farm to prevent the spread of disease. Due to all animal identifications happening at the same time, taggers may not be available to borrow. We strongly encourage families to purchase their own taggers for this reason and biosecurity purposes. 4-H Leaders and FFA Advisors will be allowed to pick up ID kits for their members. However, they will be required to sign for all the kits that they pick up.

More information regarding requirements for each species will be provided in the animal ID packet.

Swine

Wisconsin Pork Association—Youth Pig Project

The Wisconsin Pork Association (WPA) is continuing the Youth Pig Project giving \$100 scholarships to 4-H and FFA youth across the state! The Youth Pig Project scholarships are meant to help cover some of the cost of youth swine projects for the 2025-2026 year. The WPA is looking to give away 50 scholarships in three age divisions this year. For more information, visit: <https://go.wisc.edu/j7988f>

Reminder: Exhibiting Swine in other states

As a reminder, if you exhibit pigs in another state and the pigs return to Wisconsin after the show, you must notify the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) of the movement before returning to Wisconsin and before exhibiting the same pigs at the Green County Fair. The WI DATCP may issue you an import permit, and upon re-entry into Wisconsin, the pigs, herd of origin, or both will be quarantined until a herd plan is developed and approved.



Goats

4-H Goat Workshops

Green County Justice Center, 2841 6th St., Monroe
Presenters: Nicole Davis & Mike Egan

As 4-H volunteers and the Green County Fair Goat Superintendents, Nicole and Mike will be hosting two 4-H Goat Workshops this winter at the Justice Center...



- **Tuesday, January 20th @ 7:00pm**—"Kidding" and getting your dairy goat or meat goat project off to a good start.
- **Tuesday, March 3rd @ 7:00pm**—Selection of market goats, how to get the most out of your market goat project, and county fair requirements.

If a workshop needs to be cancelled due to weather, updates will be emailed to 4-H Goat Project members and posted on [Green County 4-H UW-Extension Facebook](#) page.

Horse & Pony

Horse Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, January 6th at 6:00 PM via Zoom. Any youth or adult volunteers interested in planning 4-H Horse project opportunities are welcome to participate by going to: <https://go.wisc.edu/cq9w7m>

Horse Project Kick-off Event & Pizza Party

Saturday, February 7, 2026 11:30am

Rooms 2 & 3, Green County Justice Center

Any youth interested in participating in the 4-H Horse project this year should plan to attend this event. We'll share upcoming clinic opportunities, announce 2025 High Point winners, answer questions and enjoy a pizza lunch.

Please note: Youth who intend to bring a horse to any 4-H clinics, 4-H Ride Nights, 4-H Pre-Fair Show, or 4-H Games Day, or wish to be eligible for State 4-H Horse Shows, will need to submit:

- ⇒ 4-H Horse Project Fees - \$30 per youth or \$50 per family. Project fees help to cover costs of clinicians, judges, awards and more. These fees can also be paid at the Open House on February 7.
- ⇒ Coggins for each horse, with the Premise ID for where the horse is stabled, written at the top of the Coggins form. Coggins must be in color with clear photos.

Questions about the 4-H Horse Project can be directed to the Extension Office or the 4-H Horse Committee chair, Carla Melvin- colorfulapps@hotmail.com.

Poultry & Rabbits

Wisconsin Swap Meets

Youth looking to get new birds or rabbits to raise and exhibit this summer might want to check out some of the following small animal swap meets in Wisconsin:

- January 24—Jefferson, WI
- February 21—Jefferson, WI

Find more details at: <https://go.wisc.edu/8971yh>

4-H Rabbit Committee

The next committee meeting will be **Sunday, January 11th at 7:15pm via Zoom**. Any youth or adult volunteers interested in planning 4-H Rabbit project opportunities are welcome to participate by going to <https://go.wisc.edu/08rd2q>



4-H Rabbit Workshop

The 4-H Rabbit Committee is working on planning an in-person, hands-on workshop for February on the different breeds of rabbits. Keep an eye out for more info to come!

2026 Green County Fair

The 2026 Green County Fairbook is posted on their website! Please remember to read the fairbook pages that correspond with the departments you plan to exhibit in. If you have any questions, please reach out the superintendents or the Green County Fair Office. To view the 2026 Fairbook pages, visit the Green County Fair website: <https://greencountyfair.net/junior-class/>

2026 Meat Animal Auction

Meat Animal Auction - Other Fair Auctions

Exhibitors who **sell animals in any other Fair's Meat Animal Auction** are not eligible to sell at the Green County Fair Meat Animal Auctions that same year. The only exception to this rule would be if their animals are sold through the Governor's Auction at the WI State Fair. Youth may also participate in other Youth Fair Auctions where their **animals are not sold** without losing their eligibility to participate in the Green County Fair Meat Animal Auction.

Meat Animal Auction - Deadlines

All exhibitors who plan to **sell animals** in the 2026 Meat Animal Auction at the Green County Fair **MUST** follow all Auction rules and deadlines. If you have any questions about the required forms and deadlines, please contact the Extension Green County Office at GCyouthanimalauctions@gmail.com or (608)-328-9440.

2026 Meat Animal Auction Deadlines:

April 17—Swine, Sheep & Goat ID Forms—Extension Office
May 21—Auction Entry Forms—Extension Office
May 21—Fair Entry Deadline—Green County Fair Office
May 21—YQCA Completion Deadline (Certification number must be entered into your fair entries)
June 26—Auction photos deadline—Extension Office
June 26—Two buyer cards due—Extension Office
July 13 (at check in)—Swine—Tyson Form—Swine Barn
October 1—Auction Financial Records—Extension Office

Reminder that all forms should NOT be mailed, but turned in at the Extension Green County Office, dropped off in our drop box in the entryway, or emailed to GCyouthanimalauctions@gmail.com.

Extension News

The Extension Green County Office offers a fun, fast paced office work environment. We would like your help spreading the word about several great opportunities we have to join our team. Please reach out to Ellen or Sam if you have any questions or want to know more!



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
GREEN COUNTY

4-H & Extension Summer Intern Position

Seeking a College student for a 30-34 hours per week position, late May thru mid August. This is an on-site position at Extension Green County office located in Monroe, WI. Under the general direction of the 4-H Youth Development Educator and Extension Business Manager, this position is designed to support and expand 4-H youth development opportunities, including Premier Exhibitor, Herdsmanship, Cloverbud events, and other youth outreach events during the summer months. The Summer Intern will increase their knowledge of youth development programs, volunteer development, community partnerships, office operations and University of Wisconsin, Division of Extension. This summer position provides valuable pre-professional experience for youth development, educational, agricultural, and community based careers. For information about the position and how to apply, see the Intern Position Description: <https://go.wisc.edu/x0n96z>. Deadline to apply is **January 12**.

4-H Club Happenings

Club Secretaries & Reporters: Please submit a brief report to the Extension office so we can let everyone know what your club is up to! Your report should be no more than 100 words. You can email your reports to swileman@wisc.edu.

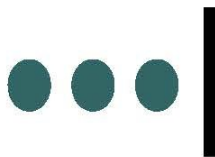
Clarence Bridge Pioneers

On December 14, the Clarence Bridge Pioneers hosted our annual Christmas party. We had a meeting, a potluck, listened to Christmas music, and made Christmas cards for Collinwood Memory Care and Pleasant View Nursing Home.



Dayton Dairylanders

For our October 13th meeting our activity was to decorate pumpkins, we have gifted our painted pumpkins to the local senior center. Here our just a few of the amazing pumpkins and people we had attended our meeting!



2026



YQCA certification will be required of all...

- **Green County Fair Exhibitors in Dairy, Beef, Swine, Sheep, Goats, Poultry & Rabbits**
- **Wisconsin State Fair Junior Exhibitors in Dairy, Beef, Swine, Sheep, Goats, Poultry & Rabbits**

Each individual Green County Dairy, Beef, Swine, Sheep, Goat, Poultry or Rabbit Exhibitor **MUST** submit their YQCA Certificate of Completion number during the online fair entry process in order to be eligible to exhibit and/or sell their animal at the 2026 Green County Fair.

2026 YQCA Training Options

All 2026 YQCA Training options MUST be registered and paid for online at: <https://yqcaprogram.org/>

Three types of training are being offered in 2026:

- **Option A- Web-Based Training** — Cost is \$12 per person, per year, and MUST be paid online.
- **Option B- Test-out option** — Youth ages 12 (\$36), 15 (\$48), and 19 (\$36) may choose the test out option.
- **Option C—Instructor Led Training** — Cost is \$3 per person, per year, and MUST be paid online at the time of registration.

For more information about the YQCA training options, visit the Extension Green County website:

<https://green.extension.wisc.edu/youth-quality-care-of-animals-certification/>

There will be two Instructor-Led Trainings in Green County.

- **Monday, December 29th**, from 10:00am-11:00am at the Green County Justice Center (2841 6th Street, Monroe)
- **Saturday, March 28th**, starting at 8:45am (arrive by 8:30am) at Blackhawk Technical College (210 4th Ave, Monroe)

You must register and pay online to attend.

You must register & pay online at <https://yqcaprogram.org/>

Steps for Getting Your YQCA Certification:

For Step-by-Step Directions, with pictures, please go to:

<https://green.extension.wisc.edu/youth-quality-care-of-animals-certification/>

Create An Account—Go to: <https://yqcaprogram.org/>

- Click on "Register/Sign In". If you already have an account for YQCA, enter your username and password and "submit"
- If you do not have an account, click on "Register" to register a new account.

Select a Course—it is IMPORTANT to select the correct course for the youth's age, as of **Dec. 31, 2025**.

Purchase a Course—Select the state, and then select a Web-Based Training. You MUST pay online for the course. Keep a copy of your receipt/confirmation.

Pre-Test—After selecting a course, you will be asked to do a "pre-test" which is merely a series of simple questions to answer. Students will access the pre-test by signing into their YQCA account and then clicking on the blue username. In the dropdown menu, students will select "Enrolled ILT Trainings" and click the Pre-Test button. Once completed, you will be ready to proceed.

Post-Test—Once the student has completed the pre-test on their YQCA account, and the instructor has marked them as complete, they need to complete the post-test under Course Certificates. The Course Certificates option is found by clicking the blue username button. The download certificate button will be available once all steps are completed.

Submitting Certificate of Completion—Once the training is complete, return to the course menu screen to download a PDF of the Certificate of Completion with the youth's unique certificate number. Certificate numbers MUST be submitted during the Green County Fair online entry process in May 2026.

Questions regarding YQCA can be directed to Jackie McCarville at (608)328-9440 or Jackie.mccarville@wisc.edu

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This document can be provided in an alternative format by calling the UWEX office at (608) 328-9440 (voice) (711 for Wisconsin Relay)



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
GREEN COUNTY



Green County 4-H Communications Contest

Sunday, February 22, 2026
Green County Justice Center (2841 6th St, Monroe)
Check-in Begins at 12:45 PM



DIVISIONS WILL PROMPTLY START AT 1:00 PM

Registration deadline for this event is Tuesday, February 17.

Presenting or speaking before a group or audience is an important life skill to develop. The goal of the Green County 4-H Communications Contest is to give 4-H youth an opportunity to develop and polish these skills in a supportive and encouraging environment. 4-H participants will be evaluated and provided constructive feedback on their presentation, each receiving a certificate of participation and a participation ribbon (gr. K-2) or ribbon placing (gr. 3-13).

This year's Communication Contest will have two divisions. Youth are eligible to submit one entry in each division.

• SPEAKING DIVISION

• DEMONSTRATION DIVISION

SPEAKING DIVISION:

Participants in the SPEAKING DIVISION will be categorized by Grade Level, each with a grade appropriate time limit.

Grade Levels: *Cloverbud (Grades K-2): 1-3 minutes*

Beginner (Grades 3-5): 2-4 minutes

Intermediate (Grades 6-8): 3-5 minutes

Senior (Grades 9 & Up): 4-7 minutes

SPEAKING DIVISION participants (K-13) will have the choice of presenting prose, poetry or a traditional speech.

- **Prose/Poetry** – Options include: prose reading, poetry reading, a memorized piece, or storytelling, or an interpretive speech (a speech originally written and presented by someone else). You may edit your selection to meet the time requirement. Original poetry or stories can be used. Reciting the 4-H Pledge can be a great speech option for Cloverbuds. Presentations will be critiqued on use of introduction, voice, expression and appropriateness of material. If reading the selection, text should be mounted on construction paper instead of reading from a book. You should prepare and memorize an introduction that includes credit to the author(s) and any transitions that are needed if you have more than one piece. Props or costumes are not permitted.
- **Traditional Speech** – Pick a topic of your choice and write an original, factual speech about it. This could be about a 4-H project you love or a current issue you are concerned about. Your speech could inform, persuade, or motivate your audience. You may use note cards during your presentation. You may also use visuals (posters, diagrams, power point) to help you deliver your speech, but NOT props or costumes. (Note, this is a speech, not a demonstration.)

DEMONSTRATION DIVISION:

Participants in the DEMONSTRATION DIVISION will be categorized by Grade Level, with a grade appropriate time limit.

Grade Levels: *Cloverbud (Grades K-2): 2-4 minutes*

Beginner (Grades 3-5): 3-6 minutes

Intermediate (Grades 6-8): 5-10 minutes

Senior (Grades 9 & Up): 5-10 minutes

In this division, 4-H youth members demonstrate how to do something. A topic is chosen, often from a 4-H project. Props and visual aids are required; may include a homemade posters and/or computer presentation. A successful demonstration will show the audience and judges several steps in a process, such as preparing a cooked dish, grooming an animal, etc. Demonstrations are followed by a question and answer period with the judge and audience.

Registration deadline is Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

There are 2 ways to register for the 4-H Communications Contest:

- Online using the following link: <https://go.wisc.edu/hnh7a4>
- Contact the Extension Office (608-328-9440 or swileman@wisc.edu) and provide the following: Child's name, 4-H Club, Grade Division (K-2, 3-5, 6-8 or 9-13) and Contest Selection(s) (Prose/Poetry, Traditional Speech or Demonstration).



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2026 SUMMER INTERN

NOW HIRING!

Accepting applications through
January 12th, 2026.

About

Under the general direction of the 4-H Youth Development Educator and Extension Business Manager, this position is designed to support and expand 4-H youth development opportunities and other Extension programs during the summer months. The Summer Intern will increase their knowledge of youth development programs, volunteer development, community partnerships, office operations and University of Wisconsin, Division of Extension. This summer position provides valuable pre-professional experience for youth development, educational, agricultural, and community-based careers. The position begins in late May and ends in mid-August.

Description & Applications

Full position description and applications can be found at:
<https://go.wisc.edu/48dk07>

For More Information

For more information, prospective applications should contact:

Ellen Andrews, 4-H Youth Development Educator
ellen.andrews@wisc.edu
608-328-9440

Samantha Wileman, Extension Business Manager
swileman@wisc.edu
608-328-9440



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Green County 4-H Calendar of Events

For Calendar updates, please visit: green.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/calendar-news

Times and dates are subject to change. Listen to WEKZ AM 1260 for weather updates.

JAN. 2026	EVENT	START TIME	END TIME	LOCATION
1	<i>New Year's Day—Extension office Closed</i>			
2	DEADLINE for 4-H Shooting Sports Registration		4:30 PM	Extension Office
5	4-H Executive Board Meeting	6:15 PM	7:15 PM	Zoom Only
6	4-H Horse Committee Meeting	6:00 PM		Zoom Only
9	DEADLINE for 4-H Shooting Sports (\$5 late fee)		4:30 PM	Extension Office
11	4-H Rabbit Committee Meeting	7:15 PM		Zoom Only
14	Mandatory 1st Year Air Rifle & BB Gun Orientation	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	Rooms 2 & 3, Justice Center
15	Mandatory 1st Year Air Rifle & BB Gun Orientation	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	Rooms 2 & 3, Justice Center
15	DEADLINE 4-H Enrollment for new members		11:59 PM	https://v2.4honline.com
21	4-H Performing Arts Committee Meeting	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	Room 1, Justice Center
20	4-H Goat Workshop	7:00 PM		Green County Justice Center
29	DEADLINE Cloverbud Book & Cookie Decorating Registration		11:59 PM	
31	WI 4-H Meats Judging Contest			UW-Madison Campus
FEB. 2026	EVENT	START TIME	END TIME	LOCATION
1	DEADLINE for 4-H Exploration Day Proposals			https://forms.gle/dJvYcc4arzJ582GC8
2	4-H Executive Board Meeting	6:15 PM	7:15 PM	Zoom Only
2	4-H Adult Leaders Meeting	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	Zoom Only
7	Cloverbud Book & Cookie Decorating Event	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Rooms 2 & 3, Justice Center
7	4-H Horse Kick-Off Event & Pizza Party	11:30 AM		Rooms 2 & 3, Justice Center
15	DEADLINE Livestock Judging Interest Form			
17	DEADLINE for 4-H Communication Contest		11:59 PM	https://go.wisc.edu/hnh7a4
22	4-H Communications Contest	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	Rooms 1, 2 & 3, Justice Center
27	DEADLINE County Fair Foods Revue Registration (Opens Feb. 16)		11:59 PM	
MARCH 2026	EVENT	START TIME	END TIME	LOCATION
14	County Fair Foods Review	1:00 PM		Rooms 1, 2 & 3, Justice Center
1	DEADLINE—4-H Camp Staff Applications			
2	4-H Executive Board Meeting	6:15 PM	7:15 PM	Room 1, Justice Center
3	4-H Goat Workshop	7:00 PM		Green County Justice Center
14	Green County Fair Foods Revue	1:00 PM		Rooms 1, 2 & 3, Justice Center
16	DEADLINE 4-H Travel Scholarship Applications			
21	WI Livestock Quiz Bowl & Skill-a-thon			UW-Madison Campus
23	Meat Animal Auctions—Swine, Sheep, & Goat ID Opens	8:00 AM		Extension Green County
25	4-H Travel Scholarship Interviews			
27	DEADLINE County Fair Cake Revue Registration (Opens Mar. 16)		11:59 PM	
28	4-H Exploration Day			Blackhawk Technical College

The Green County 4-H Website is always being updated to include new information, links and dates. Check it out for the most current news: greencounty4h.info
Be sure to check the 4-H Calendar Page for up-to-date information as events approach:
<http://green.extension.wisc.edu/4h-youth-development/calendar-news>

Meet the Extension Staff Here to Serve You!

Lynn Perkins, Area Extension Director
Jackie McCarville, Agriculture Educator
Jordyn Sattler, Crops & Soils Educator
Casey Lobdell, Livestock Educator
Ellen Andrews, 4-H Youth Development Educator
Victoria Solomon, Community Development Educator
Bob Wiegel, Human Development & Relationships Educator
Samantha Wileman, Business Manager
Olivia Roth, Office Specialist

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oroth2@wisc.edu

Office Hours: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday

Address: Extension Green County, Justice Center, 2841 6th Street, Monroe, WI 53566 Phone: (608) 328-9440

**The following individuals serve on the Green County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee.
Feel free to contact these individuals if you have any questions in regards to Extension Programs.**

Green County Agriculture and Extension Education Committee:

Susan Knox, (608)219-2244
206 Warren Street, Albany, WI 53502
Erica Roth, (414)305-0734
W898 Bump Road, Albany, WI 53502
Dawn Sass, (608)424-3095
356 Sugar Ave, Belleville, WI 53508

Peg Sheaffer, (608)247-9684
902 21st Street, Monroe, WI 53566
Yvette Smith, (517)230-9685
N214 Hartman Road, Brodhead, WI 53520



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The University in Your Community

Green County 4-H Is On the Web!
greencounty4h.info &
facebook.com/greencounty4huwex

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