



Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry

Website <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/outdoor-education/>

Email: wi4hwildlife forestry@gmail.com



“TRACKS” – January 2026

Participation in wildlife & forestry activities is open to all Wisconsin 4-H club members. You can be enrolled in any 4-H project and participate in the activities.

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 27- 28, 2026
4-H Wildlife &
Forestry Art Contest
West Bend, WI

March 27-28, 2026
Wildlife WHEP WI
4-H Contest (NQE -
WHEP) West Bend

March 27-28, 2026
Wisconsin 4-H
Forestry Contest
(NQE - Forestry)
West Bend, WI

March 27-28, 2026
4-H Wildlife Contest
Tri-County 4-H
Archery & Air Rifle
Tournament
West Bend, WI

Wildlife WHEP & Forestry 4-H Friends,

Have you seen 2-3" winding trails crisscrossing your backyard? These are vole highways. Often called field mice, voles have small eyes and ears, stocky bodies and short tails when compared to other mice, but even more important is that they very seldom invade homes. Rather, they prefer to live in grassy fields or landscape beds. They are herbivores, eating seeds, leaves, and various grasses. They occasionally will eat roots and bulbs. They are different from moles in that moles will burrow underground and are insectivores. An easy way to remember the difference is that "moles are miners, voles are vegetarians." Voles are native to Wisconsin and do not hibernate. They burrow underneath the snow and build up their "tunnels" with thatch and grass from your lawn. Once the snow is gone, the voles head back to the fields, abandoning the paths they've stomped down.



Don't forget all the great resources to be found at:

[Wildlife & Habitat – Wisconsin 4-H](#)

Sources:

[WildlifeDamage-Vole-6-2020.pdf](#)

[Melting Snow Reveals Tiny Trails | Purdue University Turfgrass Science at Purdue](#)

[“U” What Are Voles And Why They Wreck Lawns ~ Get A Health Lawn ~ LawnSavers](#)

Wildlife & Woods Explorations - Virtual Sessions: Designed for K-5 and elementary grade youth. The next interactive sessions for your family are on January 28, February 25, March 25, April 27, & May 27. Registration is available in your family 4-H Online account under the Events section. The Zoom link will be emailed after the registration has been completed. Family members are encouraged to participate in the zoom session. Questions? Email: wi4hwildlife forestry@gmail.com

Wildlife & Woods Careers & Competition - Virtual Sessions: Designed for middle and high school youth. The next interactive sessions for your family are on January 26, February 23, March 23, April 29, & May 25. Registration - see your family 4-H Online account under the Events section. The Zoom link will be emailed after the registration has been completed. Family members are encouraged to participate in the zoom session. Questions? Email: wi4hwildlife forestry@gmail.com

Wildlife & Forestry 4-H Art Contest – March 27th & 28th. There are 18 categories & 5 age groups: K5-2nd grade, 3-4th grade, 5th-6th grade 7-9th grade, & 10th-13th. The registration form is attached. You can enter 6 items, so bring them, send them with a friend, or ship them to us. Ribbon prizes go to the top 10 items in each class & age division. Have fun & share your skills with others around the state. This is the 25th Anniversary, so why not enter category #19 and make sure a visible 25 can be seen.

Wildlife WHEP & Forestry Contests Dates: March 27 & 28, 2026. **The registration form and additional study guide information for the contests is available, so email us. We'll share the information covered in the contests.** The National WHEP (Wildlife Habitat Education Program) Manual www.whep.org/ & the National Forestry Manual www.4hforestryinvitational.org/ are nationally accredited resources. It's also available at <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/outdoor-education/> or email us anytime.

Kerri, “TRACKS” Editor

Special Thanks” are extended to the following for making the **“Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H” & “Wisconsin 4-H Forestry”** programs possible: Northern Kettle Moraine Chapter of Whitetails Unlimited, Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry –Washington County; Wisconsin Chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation, Wildlife WHEP 4-H Wisconsin & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry 4-H Friends, & State Committee Members.
Advisor: Carlea Liermann, Calumet Co. 4-H Program Educator

