

4-H ECHO



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The source of 4-H news in Grant County

4-H GROWS LEADERS

December 2025 / January 2026

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4-H grows confident, capable, and caring kids with the life skills to thrive in today's world and succeed in their boldest dreams for tomorrow.

Upcoming Dates & Events

December 1 - **DEADLINE** to enroll/re-enroll via wi.4honline.com for youth

December 5 - January 9 - Grant County Fair Beef ID

December 7 - Meats Judging Practice, 1:00 - 2:30 pm, Eckstein Building, Fairgrounds, Lancaster

December 13 - 4-H Horse Project Meeting, 9:00 am, Youth & Ag Center, North Room, Lancaster

December 14 - Meats Judging Practice, 1:00 - 2:30 pm, Eckstein Building, Fairgrounds, Lancaster

December 16 - Executive Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Extension Office, Lancaster

December 21 - Meats Judging Practice, 1:00 - 2:30 pm, Eckstein Building, Fairgrounds, Lancaster

December 24 & 25 - Extension Office Closed, Happy Holidays

December 28 - Meats Judging Practice, 1:00 - 2:30 pm, Eckstein Building, Fairgrounds, Lancaster

January 1 - Extension Office Closed, Happy New Year

January 4 - Meats Judging Practice, 1:00 - 2:30 pm, Eckstein Building, Fairgrounds, Lancaster

January 9 - **DEADLINE** - by 4:00 pm - Grant County Fair Beef ID

January 11 - Shooting Sports Practice, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Tri County Archery, outside of Arthur

January 11 - Meats Judging Practice, 1:00 - 2:30 pm, Eckstein Building, Fairgrounds, Lancaster

January 12 - **DEADLINE** - 4-H Camp Counselor Applications

January 12 - 4-H Horse Project Meeting, 6:00 pm, Eckstein Building, Fairgrounds, Lancaster

January 17 - Photography Project Meeting, Auditorium, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster

January 18 - Meats Judging Practice, 1:00 - 2:30 pm, Eckstein Building, Fairgrounds, Lancaster

January 23 - **DEADLINE** Sewing Project Workshop Pre-registration (Event: Jan. 31)

January 25 - Meats Judging Practice, 1:00 - 2:30 pm, Eckstein Building, Fairgrounds, Lancaster

January 25 - Jr. Leaders Meeting, 3:00 pm, Youth & Ag Center, North Room, Lancaster

January 25 - 4-H BINGO Night, 4:00 - 6:00 pm, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster

January 26 - 4-H Horse Project Meeting, 6:00 pm, North Room, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster

January 31 - Sewing Project Workshop, 9:00 am - Noon, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster

January 31 - State 4-H Meats Judging Contest, UW-Madison Campus

February 1 - **DEADLINE** Mini Grants

February 8 - Shooting Sports Practice, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Tri County Archery, outside of Arthur

February 14 - 4-H Family Project Day, Youth & Ag Center, Grant County Fairgrounds, Lancaster

February 22 - Jr. Leaders Meeting, 3:00 pm, Youth & Ag Center, North Room, Lancaster

February 22 - 4-H BINGO Night, 4:00 - 6:00 pm, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster

March 1 - **DEADLINE** - Grant County 4-H Scholarships

March 8 - Shooting Sports Practice, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Tri County Archery, outside of Arthur

March 21 - State 4-H Livestock Skillathon & Quizbowl Contest, UW-Madison Campus

March 22 - 4-H BINGO Night, 4:00 - 6:00 pm, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster

April 25 - Cloverbud & Exploring Day, 10:00 am - Noon, North Room, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster

April 25 - Rabbit & Poultry Skill-a-thon, 10:00 am - Noon, South Room, Youth & Ag Center

April 26 - Communication Arts Day, 2:00 pm, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster

April 30 - Rabbit Showmanship Clinic & Swap Meet, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Fairgrounds, Lancaster

June 22 - June 25 - 4-H Camp at Upham Woods, WI Dells

July 7 - Foods Revue, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster

July 13 - Clothing Revue, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster

4-H Club Minutes

Blockhouse Builders 4-H Club

Congrats on our new 2025-2026 4-H Officer Team:

President: Owen M., Vice President: Ally B., Secretary: Brielle W.,
Treasurers: Levi A and Eli A., Reporter: Maddy B., Sergeant of Arms: Stella R.



Boscobel Big Green Clovers 4-H Club

The Big Green Clovers had a club meeting and elected a new club leader and officers. Congratulations to the new officers. President - Gretchen B., Vice President - Annabeth S., Treasure - Luke V., Secretary - Wilhelm B.



Hazel Green Clever Clovers 4-H Club - October

The Hazel Green Clever Clovers were very busy this month. On Wednesday October, 8th the 4-H club along with the Hazel Green Lion's Club Members collect over 950 pounds of food for the Hazel Green Food Pantry. Then after the collection the Hazel Green Women's Club provided us with supper. The kids loved running around collecting all the bags and giving back to the community. Then on Sunday's meeting we had a costume parade. Each member had 2 mini pumpkins that they attached a handmade greeting that we delivered to

their friends and neighbors. Everyone loved seeing the kids dressed up and receiving their fall surprise.

Hazel Green Clever Clovers 4-H Club - November

We had our mystery meeting for the month of November. Our club split into four groups and each group were given \$100 and an hour and half to go out and do something amazing things for the community. All together as a group we put together a care basket for a community member battling health problems, two large donations for blessing bags, a donation for SW teachers and sent a couple boxes full of supplies for children in need overseas.



Merry Mixers 4-H Club by Brooklyn C. - October

October 12, 2025. This meeting we talked about the Junior Leader Halloween party and who was helping for that. We also talked about our December meeting and that we will be doing Ginger bread houses, Tyler will be doing a demonstration on fishing. We also talked a bit about ideas for Family Project Day. Then we ended the meeting with pumpkin carving and apple cider doughnuts and apple cider from Vesperman Farms.



Merry Mixers 4-H Club by Brooklyn C. - November

We started out our meeting with the potluck which was really good; thank you to all the family's that brought something for that. Then we talked about our project for Family Project Day that will be on February, 14 2026. We also we talked about our Christmas project that we will do. We will do something for the food pantry and make cards for the nursing home and we ended off on that note.

4-H Club Minutes / Ambassadors

Platteville Woodchucks 4-H Club - September

During our September meeting, we met up to create our Dairy Days parade float. Then a group of us met and participated in the Dairy Days parade.

Platteville Woodchucks 4-H Club by Cecilia W. - November

In the November 9 meeting we: planned a 4-H outing to a hockey game, talked about the wood working class, Savannah H. did a talking demo, talked about Family Project Day, and snacks were provided by the Averkamps.

Plum Valley Boosters 4-H Club By Annabelle W. - October

The meeting of the Plum Valley Boosters 4-H Club was called to order on October 4th, 2025. We discussed the 4-H Junior Leaders Halloween Party. It will be held at the Youth and Ag Building in Lancaster on Sunday, October 19th from 1pm to 3pm. Admission is \$2 per person for anybody grades 6 and under. We also discussed the club Halloween Party, 4-H Awards Night, and club fundraising. The club will be selling Bucky Books for \$35 a book this year. We also had our Officer Elections. Club President : Josie K., Vice President: Reid S., Secretary: Josephine S., Treasurer: Bree S., Reporter: Annabelle W., Historian: Ella H., and Sergeant of Arms: Herman S. Our next meeting will be held on November 1st, 2025 at the Fennimore United Methodist Church.

Plum Valley Boosters 4-H Club by Annabelle W. - November

The meeting of the Plum Valley Boosters 4-H Club was called to order on November 1st, 2025. We discussed 4-H Awards Night on November 14th at 7:00 p.m. We also planned the club's Christmas Party. The club will be participating in the Festival of Lights by decorating a tree in front of the Rail Road Museum and will have a float in the "Fenstival" Holiday Parade. We will be donating clothes, toys, and hygiene products to the Grant County Adopt-A-Family. We had our club Halloween Party which included a costume and pumpkin decorating contests in addition to some games. Our next meeting will be the Christmas Party, on December 6th, 2025.

Town & Country Kids 4-H Club by Destiny C. - September

We held our September meeting on September 18th at Splinter Park. The secretary and treasurers report were accepted. We went over new and old business and that concluded the meeting.



4-H Ambassadors' Corner

Congratulations to the 2025 – 2026 Grant County 4-H Ambassador Team.

Ellen Cornett, Keely Everson, Dalton Linneman and Vincent Mumm. They will have orientation soon and set some goals for the upcoming year! The Ambassadors serve as the public relations team for the Grant County 4-H Program. You can find them helping out at Family Project Day, Communication Arts Day and more!

Congratulations again, we can't wait to see you accomplish your goals this year!

Scholarships & Congrats

Grant County 4-H Scholarships:

Grant County 4-H Scholarships are available in the amount of up to \$1,000.00 each to 4-H members who are high school seniors. Applicants must have been a 4-H member for the last 4 years (consecutively), must have held an active leadership role and completed a record book following their junior year of high school. Scholarships will be awarded after the recipient successfully completes a program of study or semester of post-high school classes, achieving a 2.0 gpa or higher. The program can be either full or part-time and tuition costs must be at least \$450 to receive the entire \$1,000 award. Applications are due March 1. Contact the Extension Office for an application or go to the Extension Office website at <http://grant.extension.wisc.edu/> soon.

Mini Grant Opportunities for 4-Hers and 4-H Leaders:

The Grant County 4-H Leaders Association is again offering mini grants to 4-H members. Applications will be due Monday, February 2, 2026. The guidelines and application will be at <http://grant.extension.wisc.edu/> after December 15 or by contacting the Grant County Extension Office. Any questions, contact the Extension Office at 608-723-2125.

2025 Grant County 4-H Leaders Awards

The 4-H Leaders Association Banquet was held on Wednesday, October 8, at 7:00 pm, in the Youth & Ag Center. The banquet is an opportunity for leaders to be recognized for their achievements during the meal. Thank you, leaders, for all of your dedication and knowledge that you share with the Grant County youth to help 4-H grow.

Congratulations to these recipients of special awards at the 2025 banquet:

- Meritorious Service Award – **Roger Guthrie, Dennis Patterson, Virginia Peake**
- Volunteers of the Year Award – **Bernie O'Rourke Patterson and Ron Patterson**
- John Edge Memorial Award for Leaders with 10 Years of Service – **Amy Linneman, Bobbi Riedl**
- Emerald Club Award for Leader with 25 Years or More of Service – **Margaret Yearous**

Thank you to all the 4-H Leaders who volunteer their time and talents to help make the Grant County 4-H Program an outstanding program for youth in grades K-13.



Roger Guthrie



Dennis Patterson



Virginia Peake



Bernie O'Rourke
Patterson &
Ron Patterson



Amy Linneman



Bobbi Riedl



Margaret Yearous

Announcements



- Save the Date - 4-H BINGO Nights!

The Grant County 4-H Leaders Association is hosting a series of BINGO nights open to anyone. This is a community event to help raise funds to support the Grant County 4-H program, mini-grants, educational experiences, scholarships and more! This is a family friendly event open to all ages. Bring your family, friends, cousins, grandparents, etc.

January 25, February 22 & March 22, 2026 from 4:00-6:00 pm in the Youth & Ag Center

More details will be shared as the event gets closer.



4-H Junior Leaders



- Junior Leaders is to help 4-H members connect to others across the county through leadership activities and community service projects.
- 4-H members in grades 7 and over are welcome to attend.
- Next meetings: January 25 and February 22, 3:00 pm, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster
- Contact Matt Adams at docadamsvet@gmail.com or 608-412-4351 for questions and to learn more about Jr. Leaders.

4-H Awards Night

Grant County 4-H youth were recognized for their year-long accomplishments in 4-H at the 4-H Awards Program held in November at the Youth and Ag Center in Lancaster. Family and friends watched as youth received plaques and/or discs representing the project area or activities in which they excelled.

4-H members received award discs for their individual project accomplishments as well as participation in the Foods Revue, Communication Arts Day, Livestock Judging, Meat Judging and members graduating from the 4-H program and more. The 4-H Ambassador Team, along with their advisors, were congratulated on their hard work throughout the year, along with helping at 4-H Awards Night.

Grant County 4-H Cloverbuds received plaques and/or discs for their achievements also. Cloverbuds are youth in kindergarten, first and second grades. Cloverbud members have the opportunity to learn about 4-H and the many different projects the program has to offer by previewing the program.

A special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped host this years event! The time and effort put into making the happen is greatly appreciated.

Announcements

4-H Shooting Sports

The Grant County 4-H Shooting Sports practices from January - June and host fair competition shoots in July and August. Shooting disciplines offered are Air Rifle, Archery, Air Pistol, .22 Rifle and Shotgun. In the winter months we are able to practice Archery and Air Rifle indoors and the summer months we practice all disciplines outside. All equipment to participate is provided but youth are welcome to bring their own to practice if they prefer. Equipment safety checks will happen at the beginning of practice.

Participant Requirements:

- Archery and Air Rifle is open to any youth in 3rd grade and above.
- 22 Rifle, Air Pistol and Shotgun: youth must be 12 years or older and have completed hunter safety to participate.
- Members must enroll in one or more of the following projects they plan to practice in via 4hOnline by April 1; Air Rifle, Air Pistol, Archery, .22 Rifle, Shotgun or Shooting Sports.
- If you plan to compete in a fair competition shoot youth must attend at least **two practices** to participate in Fair Shoots.



Practices:

Practices will be from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Winter/Spring practices will be at the Tri County Archery, 9145 Co Line Rd, Platteville, WI 53818 this is just outside of Arthur heading toward Rewey off of County Rd A.

- Sunday, January 11 at 1:00 pm (Tri County)
- Sunday, February 8 at 1:00 pm (Tri County)
- Sunday, March 8 at 1:00 pm (Tri County)
- Sunday, April 12 at 1:00 pm (Tri County)
- Sunday, May 17 at 1:00 pm (location to be determined later depending on weather)

Future dates will be announced at a later date. For more information contact Rhonda Hughey at 778-8415 or Dave Vosberg at 943-8492.

Reminder: **All shooting sports members must attend two practices to participate in competition shoots for the fairs.**

4-H Horse Project



With winter on the way, riding your horse will be slowing down but we still have a lot we can do. Over the next few months, we will be making plans for our summer practices, clinics, horse bowl/hippology, and getting to know more about the project. Our next meeting will be December 13 at 9:00 am in the North Room, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster. We will also be holding meetings January 12, 6:00 pm, in the Eckstein Building and January 26, 6:00 pm, North Room, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster. We will be practicing for horse bowl and

hippology to get ready for Horse Education days which will be May 2 & 3 in Green Bay. Please put it on your calendar if you plan to participate. Make sure to come to the meetings to learn more! If you are unable to make the next meeting but are interested or you have any questions, please contact Amy Maag, 608-485-0533 or amys_3angels@yahoo.com.

Announcements



Pillowcase

Sewing Project Workshop Saturday, January 31, 2026

9:00 am - Noon

Location:

North Room, Youth & Ag Center
Grant County Fairgrounds
916 E. Elm Street, Lancaster



Scrap Holder

Project Options:
Pillowcase or Pin-cushion & Scrap Holder

This is open to all 4-H members to explore sewing as a possible project, or to those who are enrolled in the sewing project. We will be making a pillowcase (beginner) or a sewing caddy (sewers with 2 or more years of experience).

Needed for the pillowcase:

- $\frac{3}{4}$ yard of main color fabric
- $\frac{1}{4}$ yard of the cuff fabric
- $\frac{1}{8}$ yard of trim fabric
- Thread to match fabric

OR

Needed for the sewing caddy:

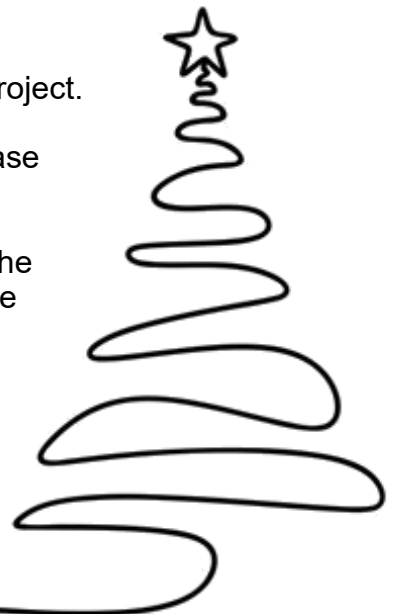
- $\frac{1}{3}$ yard fabric
- thread to match fabric

Please pre-wash & dry all fabric. Bring a sewing machine if you have one available; otherwise, sewing machines will be provided. Bring pins if available. If you do not have fabric available, some will be provided.

These projects may be entered into the fair under the sewing workshop project.

Snow date, if necessary: Saturday, February 7, 2026. Any questions, please call Kim Spease at 608-642-2990.

Please pre-register for this workshop by Friday, January 23rd, by calling the Extension Office at 608-732-2125. Please specify which project you will be sewing.



Announcements

4-H Family Project Day: Saturday, February 14, 2026

4-H Family Project Day will be held in the Youth & Ag Center, on the Grant County Fairgrounds, in Lancaster. The event will be held from 9:30 am - noon for kids in grades 5k through 5th grade. There will be several project areas to explore.

Pre-registration is required for attendees and will be posted on the Grant County Extension website in early January and sent to Grant County school districts. Questions, contact the Extension Office.

For any questions, or you would like join the Family Project Day Committee, please contact Jenny Belscamper-Dixon at the Extension Office at jenny.dixon@wisc.edu or 608-723-2125.

2026 4-H CAMP

Save the Dates for June 22 - July 25



It is never too early to start planning for this year's camp! We will be camping at Upham Woods near Wisconsin Dells.

Needed are Adult Advisors to ensure a strong camp experience by providing guidance and oversight to camp. Adult Advisors must be at least 21 years of age and certified as a 4-H leader. Upham Woods requires a ratio of the adults to youth to be 1:10... so we need your time and commitment to make this an educational and fun camp. Contact Charisse Orth at Charisse.orth@wisc.edu if you are interested in being an adult advisor for this year's camp.

Camp Counselors - Applications for youth counselors will be on the Grant County Extension website after December 15. Deadline to apply is January 12. Monthly trainings will be required. Youth counselors play a vital role in the success of 4-H camp.

Camper registration will open on wi.4-HOnline.com in March. 4-H youth in 3rd grade through 7th grade will be notified when camp registration is open through 4-H Online.

4-H Volunteers

- All new and updated Wisconsin 4-H Volunteer Policies can be found on the Wisconsin 4-H Policy website: [4-H Volunteers – Wisconsin 4-H Re-Enrollment \(New Policy\)](#)
- IMPORTANT: A submitted application/enrollment form does not mean that an individual is an approved volunteer. Adults who are not approved 4-H volunteers cannot be in custodial care of youth.

Announcements

Record Book Info

Is one of your New Year's resolutions to start your record books earlier this year?! Well then you are in luck! Final record book forms will all be updated and listed on the Grant County Extension website in January. There were a few forms that were updated again after receiving helpful feedback from leaders and families. Please use new forms each year (except your permanent record) as updates and score sheets did change.

Check with your club leader if you would like hard copies of the forms as some clubs will pick them all up from the Extension Office at the same time. If your club is not planning on getting the record book forms for your group, please contact Jenny or Charisse at the Extension Office and we can help you out.

If you would like to use pdf versions of the forms, after January 1 you can save/print/view record book forms at: <https://grant.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/4-h-forms-and-applications/4-h-record-book-pages/>

A fresh crop of easy-to-use 4-H Project Guides

Picking projects is the exciting first step 4-H youth take in their annual 4-H membership journey. And it just got easier! We're excited to share **four brand-new resources** to help 4-H members find their sparks — the interests that bring them joy, energy and purpose.

The resources are:

1. [A fresh Project Guide](#) that groups projects into seven streamlined categories. The new categories not only give youth ideas for exploring each project area, but also conveniently match up with most county fair exhibit categories. There's even a key in the back that shows how the new project areas line up with the previous ones. And a new Sparks Roadmap that helps youth find projects that align with their interests!
2. [Three quick videos](#) that give you a tour of the simple changes to the new 4-H Project Guide. That way you can easily explore your sparks and the many exciting projects that help you develop them!
3. [A Quick Guide](#) for families who — not to brag — already know their way around a 4-H Project Guide. And it's less to print!
4. [Projects and County Fairs Guide](#) that helps you connect projects with fair entry categories. Adult leaders can share it with fair partners. Easy peasy!

Have your best 4-H year ever with these new [Project Guides](#)! We have printed copies available at the Extension Office. Each club leader will receive a couple of copies for their club at the September Countywide Leaders Meeting as well.



Grant County Fair

Are you showing beef in the market division at the 2026 Grant County Fair?

All junior class market division beef need to be id'd if showing at the Grant County Fair. Each member can identify up to 5 beef animals per member within immediate family. **Deadline for all beef id paperwork and weigh-ins is Friday, January 9, 2026, by 4:00 pm** into the Grant County Extension Office.

RFID Tags: Market cattle that will be shown at the Grant County Fair will need to be tagged with a radio frequency tag (RFID/EID). You can use your own RFID/EID tags or pick them up from the Grant County Extension Office. Id pictures and id paperwork will need to be turned in by the deadline.

4-H beef members that have re-enrolled in 4-H by December 4 will be mailed the id packet, including the letter, information sheet and the id form. The packet will be emailed to FFA advisors and can also be found at: grant.extension.wisc.edu next week.

To participate in the **optional** rate of gain, animals can only be weighed between December 1 and January 9, including proof of weight, to be eligible.

- The Belmont Sale Barn will be open for beef weigh-ins on December 20 from 9:00 am - noon for exhibitors wishing to utilize their scales for proof of weight for rate of gain. Their address is 26770 Sale Barn Lane, Belmont, WI. Contact Mark Donar if you cannot make this time and would like to use these scales. (608) 778-4011.
- Bloomington Livestock Exchange will also be open for the use of their scales on January 3 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Bloomington Livestock Exchange's address is 9663 Cty Hwy A, Bloomington. Contact Mark Schmidt if you cannot make this time and would like to use these scales. (608) 988-7166.
- Note: These locations are not required. These are just two options for exhibitors who wish to utilize their scale date. Other scales can be used with proof of weight to meet the Rate of Gain requirement. Again, rate of gain is optional and not a requirement to show or sell at the Grant County Fair.

Grant County Fair
August 16 - 23, 2026

December 2025 / January 2026 4-H ECHO
UW-Madison Division of Extension
Grant County
916 East Elm Street, Suite A
Lancaster, WI 53813

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Important Dates

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