

4-H ECHO



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The source of 4-H news in Grant County

4-H GROWS LEADERS

February / March 2026

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SAVE THE DATES
2026 BINGO NIGHTS

Join us for an evening of fun, excitement, and prizes at our Bingo Night hosted by the Grant County 4-H Leaders Association.

JANUARY 25
FEBRUARY 22
MARCH 22

4:00 - 6:00 PM

**YOUTH & AG CENTER
LANCASTER**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT CHARISSE
AT THE EXTENSION OFFICE - 608-723-2125

- Save the Dates - 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.

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

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

February 8 - Shooting Sports Practice, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Tri County Archery, outside of Arthur
February 9 - Horse Bowl Practice, 6:00 pm, North Room, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster
February 14 - 4-H Family Project Day, Youth & Ag Center, Grant County Fairgrounds, Lancaster
February 17 - Goat Project Presentation, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, North Room, Youth & Ag Center, Lanc.
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
February 23 - Horse Bowl Practice, 6:00 pm, North Room, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster
March 2 - **DEADLINE** - Grant County 4-H Scholarships
March 8 - Shooting Sports Practice, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Tri County Archery, outside of Arthur
March 9 - Horse Bowl Practice, 6:00 pm, Location to be announced
March 10 - 4-H Countywide Leaders Meeting, 7:00 pm, Youth & Ag Center
March 16 - Horse Bowl Practice, 6:00 pm, Eckstein Building, Grant County Fairgrounds, Lancaster
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
March 22 - YQCA Training, 2:30 pm, South Room, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster
March 30 - Horse Bowl Practice, 6:00 pm, North Room, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster
April 1 - **DEADLINE** to add/change 4-H projects in wi.4honline.com
April 1 - **DEADLINE** Communication Arts Day Entry Forms by **4:00 pm**
April 12 - Shooting Sports Practice, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Tri County Archery, outside of Arthur
April 19 - YQCA Training, 2:00 pm, South Room, 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 29 - CPR Training, 5:30 pm, Eckstein Building, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster
April 30 - Rabbit Showmanship Clinic & Swap Meet, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Fairgrounds, Lancaster
June 19 - Area Animal Science Day, Grant County Hosting, Grant County 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

2026 Grant County Fair / Livestock Auction Animal ID Dates

May 1 - Horse and Dairy (paper id), by 4:00 pm
May 2 - Sheep and Goat 9 - 11:00 am (in-person)
May 29 - Swine (paper/photo id), by 4:00 pm
July 9 - Rabbit, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm (in-person)
Poultry (*date dependent on volunteers and testing availability*)

These dates and details are subject to change. Details will be sent to FFA advisors and 4-H members enrolled in the specific projects. Contact the Grant County Extension Office or the Grant County Fair Office with questions.

Jr. Leaders Minutes

Grant County Jr. Leaders by Keely E. - September / October

The Grant County Jr. Leaders met on September 28th at 3:00 pm at the Youth and Ag Building for our regular meeting. We discussed and planned more for our Halloween party that was held on October 19th from 1-3 pm. We met on October 18th to pack grab bags and door prizes for the party. We had a very good turn out with around 150 kids attending. We held our October meeting on the 26th and we discussed how the party went and what we could do better for next year with plans to have it again in 2026. Our next meeting will be November 23rd and will meet at the Comfort Inn in Lancaster where we will hold our business meeting and elect new officers for the upcoming year. We will celebrate our past year with a pizza party. We are still looking for new members to join this great organization. We do community activities, help to promote 4-H and have fun! If you have any questions feel free to reach out to a current Jr. leader member or our advisor, Matt Adams, you can reach him by email at docadamsvet@gmail.com

Grant County Jr. Leaders by Keely E. - November

The Grant County Jr. Leaders met on November 23rd at 3:00 pm at the Sleep Inn Hotel meeting room. We talked about 4-H awards night and officer training and how it went. 4-H Family Project Day ideas? We decided to do the Tin - Can ideas and we need to start collecting tin cans and also bring them to the January meeting so we can decorate a few examples. We then held officer elections for the 2025 - 2026 year - President- Kenzy, Vice President - Sarah, Secretary - Keely, Treasurer - Ariana, Reporter/ Historian - Haidyn, Livestock Rep. - Adeline. Congrats to all new officers! We discussed fundraiser ideas and community service and our winter activity. Also we will be selling tickets for the Executive Board. We will not hold a December meeting our next meeting is January 25th at 3:00 pm Youth and Ag Building.

Grant County Jr. Leaders by Keely E. - January

The Grant County Jr. Leaders met on January 25th at 3:00 pm in the North Room at the Youth and Ag Building. The meeting was called to order. Pledges we led by all in attendance. Roll call was taken and we had 7 members and 4 adults present. New Business: 4-H family Project Day. Everyone discussed and showed their cans that they made. We decided to stay away from glue and do self adhesive stuff. Fundraiser Ideas, community service ideas, winter activity - Saints game. We will be going on February 20th. The next meeting is February 22nd at 3:00 pm.



Grant County 4-H Jr. Leaders at Halloween Party

4-H Club Minutes

Cassville Country Buddies 4-H Club by Claire P. - October, November & December

In October we elected new officers and we made a fall project that was a pumpkin decoration. Our new officers are: President Gwen R., Vice President Joselyn A., Secretary Iris A., Treasurer Natalie R., and Reporter Claire P.

In November we made and decorated cookies for Christmas in Cassville, to give away to children that came to see Santa.

In December we had our meeting. We talked about our funday coming up in January and important dates on the 4-H calendar. After the meeting we made a holiday treat. Our next meeting will be in February.



Hazel Green Clever Clovers 4-H Club

For our January meeting we took a look ahead at future meetings and went over what a great year 2025 was for the Hazel Green Clever Clovers! We also had our group members enjoy a movie with a hot cocoa bar and treats. Looking forward to 2026!

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

We started out with Tyler's fishing demonstration which was really nice and cool so thank you Tyler for doing that for us. We talked about our next meeting and how we are going to Fireball Lanes. We collected donations for the food pantry thanks to the people who brought stuff for that. Last, we ended with making cards for the nursing home and Pop Tart gingerbread houses. Everyone's house looked amazing, and thanks to all the families that brought something to have for anyone to use on their house.



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

This meeting we talked about 4-H Family Project Day 2026 and how we are doing the wooden stools and how much wood we would need for that. We are also thinking about doing a little table for kids who finished early with Play-Doh or other things for them to do while they wait to rotate to the next station. Lastly we finished up with going to Fireball Lanes to bowl. Thank you to the club for buying the games for us.

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

Alyssa handed out awards. Talking demos by Haley M. and Tyson S. Everyone brought food for a pot luck. Alyssa made a saran wrap ball for a Christmas game. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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

We held our first 2026 meeting at Mound City Bank. We talked about the February 27th hockey game, discussed family project day and the woodworking project (Mike). Jeff and Alyssa M. set up a maple syrup project day. Colored Valentine cards for Alyssa to disperse. Snacks were provided by the Weigels.

Announcements

4-H Goat Project

Come join the Grant County Goat project on February 17th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at the North Room, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster Fairgrounds! Dr. Sally Harper will be leading a fun presentation on; Herd Health and Parasites in goats there will also be a Q&A session with prizes! Feel free to bring a goat fecal sample. All 4-H and FFA goat exhibitors and families are welcome. Questions or to rsvp- Clare Heberlein 608-574-9829 or Krissy Timmerman 608-732-3714.

4-H Horse Project

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. Practice dates:
February 9, 6:00 pm, North Room, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster
February 23, 6:00 pm, North Room, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster
March 9, Location to be determined. March 16 & 30, 6:00 pm, Grant County Fairgrounds
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.

4-H Shooting Sports

Shooting disciplines offered are Air Rifle, Archery, Air Pistol, .22 Rifle and Shotgun. 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. For more information contact Rhonda Hughey at 778-8415 or Dave Vosberg at 943-8492.

If you plan to compete in a fair competition shoot youth must attend at least two practices to participate in Fair Shoots. Practices will be from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm 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, 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)



4-H Ambassadors' Corner

Keely Everson
3rd Year as part of the Ambassador Team
Plum Valley Boosters 4-H Club

My favorite 4-H project is the dog project because you get to learn new things to train your dog but also connect more with your dog and other dog project members. I attended the State 4-H Dog Agility Show in Oshkosh last year and I had a fun time competing. I also get to go again this year. It's a very fun experience and I meet kids from all across the state competing at the state dog agility competition. It's cool to see other kids work with their dogs.



Scholarships

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 2. Contact the Extension Office for an application or go to the Extension Office website at <http://grant.extension.wisc.edu/>.

Grant County Cattlemen Scholarship:

Applicants must be residents of Grant County. Applicants must plan on attending a 4-year university or a technical college/short course program of his or her choice the following fall. At least one scholarship will be given to a student attending a 4-year college or university and at least one scholarship will be given to a student attending a technical college or short course program. Applicants must have a background in the beef, veal, or dairy industry. Preference may be given to those majoring in an agriculture related field. Applications must be returned by April 1, 2026. Please mail all applications and letters of recommendation to: Amy Maag, 11735 Mt Ridge Rd, Fennimore, WI 53809, amys_3angels@yahoo.com. If there are any questions call Amy Maag 608-485-0533. Full details can be found at: <https://grant.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/4-h-forms-and-applications/4-h-forms/> (under Scholarships and Grants). For paper copies, contact the Extension Office.

Farm Progress Days Scholarship:

The Executive Committee of Grant County Farm Progress Days has established a scholarship fund. Each year a \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a Grant County resident who is a graduating high school senior. The student must be pursuing a course of study in a recognized two- or four-year School of Agriculture. Will award the scholarship based on: Scholastic achievement, Extracurricular activities, An essay on career plans, and Two letters of recommendation from non family members. The scholarship is not need-based. However, if everything else is equal, need may be considered by the committee. The application deadline is March 1 of the student's senior year in high school. Application forms can be found at grant.extension.wisc.edu. Call the Grant County Extension Office at (608) 723-2125 with questions.



Scholarships continued on next page ...

Scholarships / Announcements

2026 Wisconsin 4-H Scholarship:

Each year, Wisconsin 4-H recognizes outstanding students in our communities with scholarships that celebrate dedication, leadership, and achievements in 4-H. To apply, applicants 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, • Be enrolled or planning to enroll at a university, college, or technical school during the 2026-2027 academic school year, • Have not received a Wisconsin 4-H Collegiate Scholarship

For the application form, specific scholarship information, and complete instructions on how to apply, visit <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/wisconsin-4-h-scholarships/>. Applications must be received electronically by no later than 11:59 p.m. Central Time on March 1, 2026. Applicants who are awarded scholarships will be notified via email by mid May.

2026 Adkins Energy Scholarship:

The Adkins Energy LLC Scholarship is open to anyone (High School Graduates, College Students, Trade School Students) actively pursuing higher education. In 2026, three recipients will each be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship, granted upon submission of documentation showing successful registration for the fall semester. We encourage you to apply and share your plans for continuing your education! Applications and details can be found at: <https://www.adkinsenergy.com/>. Deadline is April 1, 2026. For questions, contact Mary Wernicke at mwernicke@adkinsenergy.com.

Grant County 4-H - Hands Only CPR Class

We have an exciting opportunity to share with our 4-H members and volunteers to help take a deeper dive into the Heart and Hands of 4-H through a Hands Only CPR class! This class is NOT a CPR certification class. It will help build basic life skills that could help save a life, when you least expect it. Wednesday, **April 29, 2026, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm**, Eckstein Building, Grant County Fairgrounds, 916 E Elm Street, Lancaster, WI 53813

This event is open to 4-H members who are in 3rd grade or older and volunteers who would like to learn how to do Hands Only CPR.



Registration is required by Wednesday, April 22, 2026 to ensure enough materials and resources are ready. Register at <https://bit.ly/GrantCo4HCPR> or by calling the Extension Office. Questions? Contact Charisse Orth, 4-H Program Educator, at charisse.orth@wisc.edu or 608-723-2125.

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

What is STEAM GAZE?

STEAM GAZE is a full-day, hands-on learning experience for curious and creative youth in grades 3–5, where art and science come together through interactive workshops led by educators and mentors.



Participants will explore a variety of STEAM topics, including chemistry, environmental science, theater, music, and visual arts, while engaging in activities designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving skills. Youth will be supported throughout the day by professional staff and older 4-H youth leaders. STEAM GAZE is open to both 4-H members and non-4-H youth. \$10 per youth participant. Youth must attend with an adult (parent, club leader, teacher, Extension staff, etc.). There is no cost for adult attendees. <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/steam-gaze-a-creative-fusion-of-art-science/>

Wausau - April 25

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Marathon County Extension Office, Wausau, WI

Milwaukee - May 16

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Kellogg PEAK Initiative, Milwaukee, WI

2026 Summer Academy: The Quest

Event: Summer Academy

Grades: 8-11

Location: UW-Madison

Dates: Sunday, June 14 through Thursday, June 18, 2026

Registration: Registration will open March 6, 2026 via 4-H Online

Cost: The Summer Academy experience fee is \$150.

For more information, please visit go.wisc.edu/4HSummerAcademy ... We can't wait to see you in Madison!

Summer Academy is the Positive Youth Development Institute's signature career, leadership, & college readiness conference hosted at UW-Madison. The event focuses on preparing young people (grades 8-11) for higher education in a way that complements formal education prep programs. Summer Academy offers an immersive college experience; participants will experience life in a residence hall, explore campus, and enjoy the unique elements of higher ed that only Madison can offer.

This year's theme is The Quest; Summer Academy participants will answer the call to adventure across the UW-Madison campus and explore their next steps in their career and college readiness journey! They will choose between exploratory tracks that introduce them to a variety of different Sparks and activities, core tracks that allow them to explore an area of interest in-depth, or an Advanced Art Track where youth will focus deeply on a specific area of arts.

Announcements

Record Book Info

Record book forms are listed on the Grant County Extension website. There were a few forms that were updated again after receiving helpful feedback from leaders and families as of December 2025. Please use new forms each year (except your permanent record and cover) 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, 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/>

Clover Connect – Idea Sharing Zooms

Want to learn some new community service or engaging, fun activities for your club? Have an idea your club would like to share? Join in the Clover Connect idea sharing zooms this spring!

Two engaging, interactive topics are planned:
Hands to Larger Service: Community Service Ideas
Sunday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. & Monday, Feb. 23, at noon
(same content will be repeated)

Making 4-H Meetings Fun: Bringing Laughter and Learning to 4-H Meetings
Sunday, March 22, at 7 p.m. & Monday, March 23, at noon
(same content will be repeated)

The sessions will include information sharing, hands-on learning, and time to share ideas with other older youth leaders and adult volunteers from across the state!

Register for one or both topics by visiting <https://go.wisc.edu/pbm474>. Both sessions will be recorded, and resources will be shared with those who sign up!

Zoom connection information will be shared with those who register before each session date.

SAVE THE DATE!

Clover Connect

Idea sharing zooms for 4-H volunteers and older youth

Hands to Larger Service: Community Service Ideas

Sunday, Feb 22 @ 7 p.m.
Monday, Feb 23 @ 12 Noon

Making 4-H Meetings Fun: Bringing Laughter & Learning to 4-H Meetings

Sunday, Mar 22 @ 7 p.m.
Monday, Mar 23 @ 12 Noon



UW-MADISON EXTENSION



For More Info:



Announcements



2026 4-H CAMP

Save the Dates for June 22 - June 25
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.

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. Grade of camper is based off of grade they are currently in, not going into.

Ellen Cornett

4-H Ambassador,
shares about her
camp experience.



4-H CAMP

This summer, the youth of Grant County went to 4-H Camp at Upham Woods, where we spent four days enjoying each other's company in the great outdoors, with cabins of course. Campers enjoyed a wide range of hands-on activities, including hiking, archery, water games, nature classes, crafts, and team games, all designed to build confidence, skills, and friendships. With the help of dedicated chaperones, counselors, and Upham Woods staff, campers learned valuable lessons in leadership, communication, and independence. For many, it was their first time away from home, and they quickly found comfort in the supportive camp environment and new friendship. Evenings were filled with campfires, songs, skits, plenty of laughter, and memories created that will last long after summer ends. 4-H Camp continues to be a highlight of the year for many youth, offering a safe and welcoming space to grow, explore, and just be themselves. If you are interested in coming with us to camp this year, look for the registration that will open in March. Hope to see you there!

Grant County Fairbook Updates

Changes for 2026 Grant County Fair

1. Junior Goats
 - Move start time up ½ hours when market goats are first
2. Junior Class Plant and Soil Science
 - Biggest weed contest –no ragweed
 - Class for gourds was added
 - Add to potatoes – small box of three
3. Junior Class Legos
 - Added a Flowers/Nature lot for both scratch built and kit built
4. Junior Class Foods and Foods Preservation
 - In foods preservation, include description or ingredient list for jelly/jam, relish, and salsa.
5. Junior Class Rabbits
 - Added Polish rabbits as their own class.
 - Show time changed to 10:00 am on Friday. Superintendents will accommodate exhibitors.
6. Junior Class Beef
 - Showmanship classes – must be pre-entered. Superintendents will randomly draw to split heats and post it Thursday night when classes are posted.
 - Changed the listing of class “Crossbred” heifers to “Commercial”
 - Order of breeds in fair book are: Angus, Mini Herford, Herford, Low Line, Reg Angus, Shorthorn, Simmental, Any Other Breed, Commercial.
 - Beef animals must be in place by 2:00 pm on Thursday.
7. Animal Vet Check-in Times
 - Vet Check will end at 3:00 pm on Thursday
8. Cavies
 - Cavies will be judged at noon with the caged birds.
9. Dogs
 - Change the wording in rules from “exhibitor” to “dog is limited to one entry per class”.
10. Clothing
 - In Class 1 of the Clothing Department the pillowcases will be judged with aprons.

Grant County Fair

Poster Contest for the Grant County Fair

The Grant County Fair is continuing our poster contest for students to participate in 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. If you choose to participate, all entries must be in to the Grant County Fair Office no later than 3:00 pm on May 1, 2026. Posters are evaluated based on visual effectiveness, originality, and neatness. Below are the guidelines to enter.

Contest Rules

- A fully completed entry form must be attached to the back of the poster to make it eligible for judging. No other entry forms will be eligible for participation.
- Any media may be used to create a flat or two-dimensional effect (paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, paper or other materials on regular poster) please no computer.
- Poster size must be between 8.5" x 11" and 12" x 18"
- Posters should be packaged so they remain flat when sent for judging.
- All posters must be created by an individual student rather than a team of students.
- The 2026 title "Ribbons of Red, White, and Blue and Fair Fun too!" the date August 19-23, 2026, and Grant County Fair must be on your poster. (Don't use any other title.)
- An individual student may only enter in one grade level.
- Entry forms should be submitted to the Grant County Fair, who will contact the winners for prize distribution.
- Sponsored by the Grant County Fair Board. The contest deadline is May 1, 2026.

Prizes

- First place entry in grade 7th, 8th, and 9th will receive 1 All Event Pass and \$25.00.
- Second place entry in grade 7th, 8th and 9th will receive 1 All Event Pass and \$20.00.
- Third place entry in grade 7th, 8th and 9th will receive 1 All Event Pass and \$15.00.
- The main 4-H leader of the first place winner will receive an All Event Pass.

Contact Amy Olson, Grant County Fair Office, with questions. 608-723-2135.

Wanted: Junior Fairest of the Fair for the Grant County Fair. Fair Dates: August 16-23, 2026

Contest Rules:

1. Contestant must be in 7th, 8th, or 9th grade in school.
2. Complete the essay question below in 150 words or less.
3. If selected, contestant can no longer seek the role of Junior Fairest of the Fair.
4. If for any reason there is not a Fairest of the Fair selected that year there will be no Junior Fairest of the Fair for that year either.

Essay Questions

"Why do you want to be the 2026 Grant County Junior Fairest of the Fair? How are you involved in the fair or your community?"

Grant County Fair Board members will select the finalist. Number of finalists based on number of applications received by **deadline: April 3, 2026**. Applicants will be notified by April 17 of their status. The finalists will introduce themselves and be interviewed with brief questions regarding promoting the Grant County Fair on May 5, 2026. The winner will receive \$100 plus an All Event Pass into the 2026 Grant County Fair.

Communication Arts Day

Grant County

Communication Arts Day

April 26th at 2:00 pm

Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster

The arts are for anyone! No matter your grade level or interest, there is something for you to try and learn through the 4-H Arts. The goal of the 4-H Communication Arts Day is to give youth (5K-13th Grade) an opportunity to express their creativity, while also developing skills in a supportive and encouraging environment.

The 4-H Communication Arts Day Contest will have seven divisions.

- ♦ VOCAL ♦ SPEAKING ♦ ARTS & CRAFTS
- ♦ INSTRUMENTAL ♦ DEMONSTRATION ♦ PHOTOGRAPHY
- ♦ DANCE

All performance and exhibits must have been performed, completed or taken after October 1, 2025. Entries in Vocal, Instrumental, Dance, Speaking and Demonstrations are eligible for fair premiums. Arts & Crafts and Photography exhibits will be ribbon only and eligible for peer choice awards. Cloverbuds will be celebrated for their participation receiving age appropriate ribbon and premium in eligible divisions.

Members must be enrolled in the 4-H project they are exhibiting in before April 1, 2026. A \$4 Grant County Junior Fair Exhibitor fee will be required for those who enter the Vocal, Instrumental, Dance, Speaking and Demonstration divisions. This fee will cover the exhibitor fee for that 4-H member.

Cloverbuds can bring a total of 5 entries for the day, but no more than 2 entries from the same division. Members grades 3 and over can bring a total of 7 entries for the day, but no more than 2 entries from the same division.

Entry forms and fee can be dropped off at the Extension Office by **April 1 by 4:00 pm** or postmarked on or before April 1. Mail entry forms and fees to the Grant County Extension Office at 916 E. Elm Street, Suite A, Lancaster, WI 53813. A full list of rules, class listings and entry forms can be found online at <http://grant.extension.wisc.edu>.

If you have questions, please call Grant County Extension Office: 608-723-2125 or the Grant County Fair Office: 608-723-2135.

Divisions are listed on the next page.

Communication Arts Day Divisions

VOCAL DIVISION:

A vocal performance is singing with or without accompaniment, and with or without costuming. Participants may perform as a solo, duet or small group ensembles. Performances are recommended to be 3 minutes and 30 seconds. Limit of 2 entries. Options are:

- Solo Vocal Performance
- Duet Vocal Performance
- Small Group Vocal Performance

INSTRUMENTAL DIVISION:

An instrument performance is an instrumentalist(s) playing standard musical instruments, with or without costuming or staging. Participants may perform as a solo, duet or small group ensembles. Performances are recommended to be 3 minutes and 30 seconds. Limit of 2 entries. Options are:

- Solo Instrumental Performance
- Duet Instrumental Performance
- Small Group Instrumental Performance

DANCE DIVISION:

A dance performance is a dancer(s) doing body movements set to music. Participants may perform as a solo, duet or small group. Performances are recommended to be 3 minutes and 30 seconds. Options are:

- Individual Dance
- Team Dance

SPEAKING DIVISION:

A speaking performance is any prose, poetry or traditional speech, whether presented as memorized or interpretive reading. Performances are recommended to be 2-8 minutes. Options are:

Prose/Poetry – Options include: prose reading, poetry reading, a memorized piece, storytelling (where the story is told and not read), or an interpretive speech (a speech that had originally been written and presented by someone else). You may edit your selection to meet the time requirement. Original poetry or stories can also be used. Presentations will be critiqued on use of introduction, voice, expression and appropriateness of material. You should prepare an introduction that includes credit to the author(s) and any transitions that are needed if you have more than one piece. NO props or costumes are 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, but do not read your speech from your notes. You may also use visuals (posters, charts, diagrams, power point) to help you deliver your speech, but NOT props or costumes. (Keep in mind, this is a speech, not a demonstration.)

DEMONSTRATION DIVISION:

A demonstration shows the audience several steps in a process and may be performed individually or with another youth as a team. Demonstrations are recommended to be 5 minutes. Options are:

- Individual Demonstration
- Team Demonstration

ARTS & CRAFTS DIVISION:

This division includes any visual artwork, including drawing, painting, sculpture, and crafts. All art, drawing and painting must be original work. Crafts can use a pattern or kit. Exhibits must be matted, framed, or otherwise ready for display. Exhibits should be labeled with name, club, grade. Limit of 2 entries. Options are:

- 2D - drawing, painting and flat artwork
- 3D - sculpture, crafts and other 3 dimensional artwork

PHOTOGRAPHY DIVISION:

This division includes any digital photo (color or black & white) taken by the youth. Photos must have been taken after October 1, 2025. Limit to 2 photo entries.

Communication Arts Day

Communication Arts Day

- Information on how to choose Department, Class and Lot -

Vocal / Instrumental / Dance / Demonstration / Speaking

Cloverbuds = Youth in grades 5K, 1st or 2nd

All cloverbuds will list Department 17

Cloverbud - Vocal / Instrumental / Dance = Class 4

Cloverbud - Demonstration = Class 5

Cloverbud - Speaking = Class 6

Lots depend on the specific description. See next page for lot breakdown.

Participants in grades 3rd and over will list:

Vocal / Instrumental / Dance = Department 18, Class 12

Demonstration = Department 31, Class 11 (see page 17 in this echo for details)

Speaking = Department 31, Class 12 (see page 17 in this echo for details)

Lots depend on the specific grade level and description. See page 17 in this echo for lot breakdown.



For a complete listing of rules, information and the Grant County Fairbook, visit <https://funonforty.co.grant.wi.gov/>

Information regarding entries

- Remittance of \$4.00 for exhibitor's entry fee must accompany entry blank.
- All performances, including songs, jokes, movements, props, dress, etc. should be in good 4-H taste. No references to alcohol or drugs can be used. As in all 4-H events, good sportsmanship and support of others is expected.

Grant County Fair

Department, Class and Lot Information for Cloverbuds (5K, 1st & 2nd Grades)

DEPARTMENT 17 - CLOVERBUDS CLASS 4 - VOCAL, INSTRUMENTAL & DANCE (Grades 5k – 2)

RULES TO ENTER CLASS 4

- Cloverbuds can bring a total of 5 entries for the day, but no more than 2 entries from the same division.
- Accompanists for any musical solo or ensemble can be a person or recorded. Recorded accompaniment with background vocals are not permitted.
- Pantomiming or lip synching to tapes, CD or DVD's, karaoke or background singing does not give an opportunity for musical expression on the part of participants. It is not permitted.
- To keep the selection shorter, excerpts may be taken from longer pieces, one movement may be done or repeats may be eliminated.

PREMIUMS

RIBBON - \$1.00 for each exhibit.

Lot Numbers

1. Vocal solo
2. Vocal duet
3. Small group vocal performance
4. Instrumental solo
5. Instrumental duet
6. Small group instrumental performance
7. Vocal & Instrumental piece to be performed at same time
8. Individual Dance
9. Duet Dance (2 dancers)
10. Team Dance (3+ dancers)

DEPARTMENT 17 - CLOVERBUDS CLASS 5 – DEMONSTRATIONS (Grades 5K – 2)

RULES TO ENTER CLASS 5

- 4-H members may select any project or activity as a subject for a demonstration.
- For Communication Arts Day Event: Cloverbuds can bring a total of 5 entries for the day, but no more than 2 entries from the same division. Divisions are Vocal, Instrumental, Dance, Demonstrations, Speaking, Arts & Crafts and Photography.

PREMIUMS

RIBBON - \$1.00 for each exhibit.

Lot Numbers

1. Individual Demonstration
2. Team Demonstration

DEPARTMENT 17- CLOVERBUDS CLASS 6 – SPEAKING (Grades 5K – 2)

RULES TO ENTER CLASS 6

- 4-H members may select any project or activity as a subject for speaking.
- Cloverbuds can bring a total of 5 entries for the day, but no more than 2 entries from the same division. Divisions are vocal, instrumental, dance, demonstrations, speaking, arts & crafts and photography.

PREMIUMS

RIBBON - \$1.00 for each exhibit.

RECOMMENDED TIME IS LESS THAN 3 MINUTES

Lot Numbers

1. 4-H Pledge
2. Prose/Poetry
3. Original Speech

Information regarding entries

- Remittance of \$4.00 for exhibitor's entry fee must accompany entry blank.
- All performances, including songs, jokes, movements, props, dress, etc. should be in good 4-H taste. No references to alcohol or drugs can be used. As in all 4-H events, good sportsmanship and support of others is expected.
- For a complete listing of rules, information and the Grant County Fairbook, visit <https://funonforty.co.grant.wi.gov/>

Grant County Fair

Department, Class and Lot Information for Grades 3 & Over

DEPARTMENT 31 DEMONSTRATIONS

- 4-H members may select any project or activity as a subject for a demonstration.
- Members grades 3 and over can bring a total of 7 entries for the day, but no more than 2 entries from the same division. Divisions are Vocal, Instrumental, Dance, Demonstrations, Speaking, Arts & Crafts and Photography.
- Some Grant County 4-H clubs require members to present a demonstration on a club level in order to compete on the county level. Members need to check with their main leader before entering.

CLASS 11 - OPEN TO GRADE 3-5

Lot No.

1. Individual Demonstration
2. Team Demonstration

CLASS 11 - OPEN TO GRADE 6-8

Lot No.

3. Individual Demonstration
4. Team Demonstration

CLASS 11 - OPEN TO GRADE 9 & OVER

Lot No.

5. Individual Demonstration
6. Team Demonstration

DEPARTMENT 31 SPEAKING

- 4-H members may select any project or activity as a subject for speaking.
- Members grades 3 and over can bring a total of 7 entries for the day, but no more than 2 entries from the same division. Divisions are vocal, instrumental, dance, demonstrations, speaking, arts & crafts and photography.

CLASS 12 - GRADES 3-5

RECOMMENDED TIME LIMIT IS 2-5 MINUTES

Lot No.

1. Prose or Poetry
2. Traditional Speech

CLASS 12 - GRADES 6-8

RECOMMENDED TIME LIMIT IS 2-5 MINUTES

Lot No.

3. Prose or Poetry
4. Traditional Speech

CLASS 12 - GRADES 9 & OVER

RECOMMENDED TIME LIMIT IS 5-8 MINUTES

Lot No.

5. Prose or Poetry
6. Traditional Speech

DEPARTMENT 18

CLASS 12 - VOCAL, INSTRUMENTAL & DANCE

- Open to members enrolled in Music and Dance
- Limit of 2 entries in each Vocal, Instrumental, and Dance Division
- For Communication Arts Day Event: Members grades 3 and over can bring a total of 7 entries for the day, but no more than 2 entries from the same division. Divisions are Vocal, Instrumental, Dance, Demonstrations, Speaking, Arts & Crafts and Photography
- Accompanists for any musical solo or ensemble can be a person or recorded. Recorded accompaniment with background vocals are not permitted.
- Pantomiming or lip synching to tapes, CD or DVS's, karaoke or background singing does not give an opportunity for musical expression on the part of participants. It is not permitted.
- To keep the selection shorter, excerpts may be taken from longer pieces, one movement may be done or repeats may be eliminated.

CLASS 12 – MEMBERS IN GRADES 3-5

Lot No.

1. Vocal solo
2. Vocal duet
3. Small group vocal performance
4. Instrumental solo
5. Instrumental duet
6. Small group instrumental performance
7. Vocal & Instrumental performed at same time
8. Individual Dance
9. Duet Dance (2 dancers)
10. Team Dance (3+ dancers)

CLASS 12 – MEMBERS IN GRADES 6-8

Lot No.

11. Vocal solo
12. Vocal duet
13. Small group vocal performance
14. Instrumental solo
15. Instrumental duet
16. Small group instrumental performance
17. Vocal & Instrumental performed at same time
18. Individual Dance
19. Duet Dance (2 dancers)
20. Team Dance (3+ dancers)

CLASS 12 – MEMBERS IN GRADES 9 & OVER

Lot No.

21. Vocal solo
22. Vocal duet
23. Small group vocal performance
24. Instrumental solo
25. Instrumental duet
26. Small group instrumental performance
27. Vocal & Instrumental performed at same time
28. Individual Dance
29. Duet Dance (2 dancers)
30. Team Dance (3+ dancers)

Grant County Fair

YQCA Information

The Livestock Auction Committee set the requirements to sell an animal in the Grant County Fair Jr. Livestock Auction, Saturday of the Fair. Again, this year **ALL swine exhibitors showing or selling** and **all market exhibitors wishing to sell any other species in the auction** must be YQCA certified. A copy of your YQCA certificate must be turned in to the Extension Office prior to fair entry deadline in July.

Further details will be mailed out to members in the animal projects along with Grant County Fair animal id information.

Please go to <https://yqcaprogram.org/login/index.php> in order to register. Upon signing up for a course, you will then pay for that course with a credit card.

- **Online Training** (\$12.00/youth) This type of training is at your own pace. yqcaprogram.org/
- **In-Person Training** (\$3.00/youth) **Online registration is still required. If low registration, training may be cancelled. Make sure to register by the deadline listed.** In-person trainings are scheduled for:
 - March 22 at 2:30 pm, South Room, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster—pre-registration required.
 - April 19 at 2:00 pm, South Room, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster—pre-registration required.
 - Youth can attend other counties/trainings that are listed on the online registration system.



GRANT COUNTY FAIR XXX

CHANGES ARE ■■■

COMING YOUR WAY!

Important changes for 2026

- Free admission on grounds only
- Walk in entry day is July 21 (8am-8pm)
- Final deadline to enter the fair is July 24 with a late fee if entering after July 21
- Vet check-in during fair ends at 3pm on Thursday

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Grant County Fair - August 16 - 23, 2026

JUNIOR CLASS ENTRY FORM—DUE April 1 by 4:00 pm

GRANT COUNTY FAIR, LANCASTER, WISCONSIN

AUGUST 16-23, 2026

Grade as of Jan. 1st, 2026 _____

NAME ADDRESS PHONE

CITY STATE ZIP CLUB NAME

Email Address

Communication Arts Day – April 26th, 2026 @ 2:00 pm, Youth & Ag Center, 916 E. Elm St., Lancaster

Vocal / Instrumental / Dance / Speaking / Demonstration Entry Form

DEPT.	CLASS	LOT	DESCRIPTION	Selection Title	Fee
					0
					0
					0
					0
					0
					0
					0
<i>(only \$4.00 per exhibitor, not per exhibit entered)</i> ENTRY FEE:					\$4.00

Arts & Crafts / Photography Entry Form

Please check one Division (Arts & Crafts or Photography) per exhibit and list if 2D or 3D in Arts & Crafts Division.

Arts & Crafts (note if 2D or 3D)	Photography	Description	Current Grade
<i>no charge for Arts & Crafts or Photography entries during this event</i>			No Charge

Use additional forms if needed.

By signing this you agree to the following; I have read & understand the IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics and the Grant County Fair Code of Conduct Addendums to the code and I agree to abide by these rules in all departments

EXHIBITOR: _____

PARENT or GUARDIAN: _____

Return to: Grant County Extension Office, 916 E. Elm Street Suite A, Lancaster, WI 53813

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

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 89
Lancaster, WI 53813

Change Service Requested



An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.

Important Dates

February 8 - Shooting Sports Practice
February 9 - Horse Bowl Practice
February 14 - 4-H Family Project Day
February 17 - Goat Project Presentation
February 22 - Jr. Leaders Meeting
February 22 - 4-H BINGO Night
February 23 - Horse Bowl Practice
March 2 - DEADLINE - Grant County 4-H Scholarships
March 8 - Shooting Sports Practice
March 9 - Horse Bowl Practice
March 10 - 4-H Countywide Leaders Meeting
March 16 - Horse Bowl Practice
March 21 - State 4-H Livestock Skillathon & Quizbowl Contest
March 22 - 4-H BINGO Night
March 22 - YQCA Training
March 30 - Horse Bowl Practice

