

4-H ECHO



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The source of 4-H news in Grant County

4-H GROWS LEADERS

July / August 2026

What's Inside...

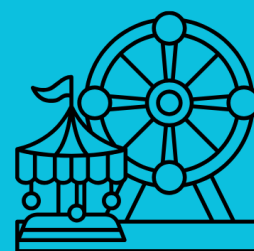
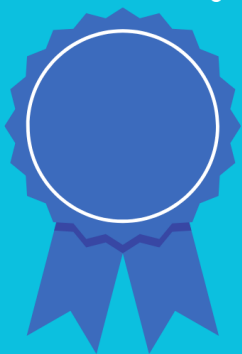
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Contact Us:

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<https://grant.extension.wisc.edu>
Find *Grant County 4-H* on [Facebook!](#)

Charisse Orth
4-H Program Educator
charisse.orth@wisc.edu
Work Cell: 608-885-0781

Good luck to all 4-H
members who are
exhibiting at fairs
this summer.
Have fun!



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

July 17 - 19 - Blake's Prairie Fair

July 21 - Grant County Fair Entry Walk-In Day, 8:00 am - 8:00 pm, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster

July 24 - **DEADLINE** - Turn in YQCA certificates to Extension Office by **4:00 pm**

July 24 - Cat meeting, 6:30 pm, North Room, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster

August 9 - Grant County Fair Shoot - 3:00 pm, Bloomington Sportsman Club (rain date Aug. 16)

August 16 - 23 - Grant County Fair - See Grant County Fair website for details & show schedule

August 26 - Grant County Fair - Livestock Auction Carcass Shows. See page 13 of this echo

August 27 - Fennimore Jr. Fair Shoot, 5:00 pm, Southwest Tech

August 29 - Fennimore Jr. Fair

September 1 - Annual Financial Review (AFR) due for 4-H Clubs & Groups due to Extension Office

September 13 - Grant County 4-H Family Fun Day at Vesperman Farms. Registration required

September 15 - Countywide Leaders Meeting, South Room, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster

September 15 - "A Drawing A Day" Raffle tickets due back to the Extension Office

September 16 - **DEADLINE** to Register for 4-H Art Camp

October 1 - Record books due to Extension Office for county check (check with your club for club deadline)

October 1 - Start of new 4-H Year - Time to re-enroll on wi.4honline.com

October 1 - **DEADLINE** for Ambassador Team applications

October 3-4 - WI 4-H Art Camp, Upham Woods, WI Dells

October 7 - 4-H Leaders Banquet

October 19 - County Record Book Check - Noon to 7:00 pm, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster

October 25 - Community Halloween Party by the Jr. Leaders, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster

November 6-8 - WI 4-H Fall Forum in Stevens Point, WI

November 13 - 4-H Awards Night, 7:00 pm, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster

November 16 - 4-H Officer and Leadership Training, 6:00 pm, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster

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



Club Minutes

Hazel Green Clever Clovers 4-H Club - June

This month for the Hazel Green Clever Clovers we visited Brant's Alpaca farm in Cuba City, WI. We learned all about alpacas and got the opportunity to hand feed and feel their fleece. We also got to see 2 crias (baby alpaca) that were less than 24 hours old. Everyone learned a lot and had fun!



Platteville Woodchucks 4-H Club

The Platteville Woodchucks 4-H did a bike ride on part of the Rountree Trail. We went from the dog park to Baksin Robbins for ice cream. Talking demos were done by Jonathan A. and Caleb D.



Announcements

4-H Ambassador 2025 - 2026 Team:

The Grant County Ambassador Advisors will be seeking applications for the 2026-2027 Ambassador Team. The Ambassador Team serves as the 4-H promotion team throughout the county. Some of the activities the Ambassadors do include:



2025 - 2026

Grant County 4-H Ambassador Team:
Dalton Linneman, Vincent Mumm,
Keely Everson, Ellen Cornett

- ☐ Various duties at the county fair
- ☐ Help at county events such as Family Project Day, Cloverbud Day, Communication Arts Day, Awards Night, etc.
- ☐ Represent 4-H at community and county events, such as Dairy Breakfast
- ☐ Promote upcoming 4-H activities and events with radio recordings and media posts
- ☐ Write articles for the Echo and local newspapers
- ☐ Create posts to be used on the county 4-H Facebook page
- ☐ Visit with local 4-H clubs

The deadline to apply to be an Ambassador will be October 1. If you see any of the 4-H Ambassador Team during the fair, feel free to ask questions about the opportunities and activities through the Ambassador Team.



4-H Ambassadors' Corner

Vincent Mumm
Merry Mixers 4-H Club

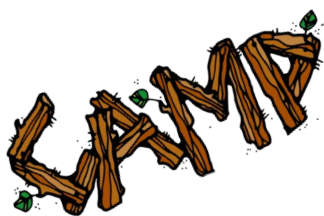
As we have had another successful Grant County 4-H Camp at Upham Woods I would like to share one of my favorite 4-H memories and maybe encourage you to try something new.

My favorite 4-H memory has to be attending 4-H camp. I attended twice as a camper, and the last 2 years as a youth counselor. It was an absolute blast, thanks to all the amazing people there and the incredible staff at Upham Woods who helped make the experience unforgettable.

4-H Camp gave me the opportunity to meet new friends, many of whom I still keep in touch with today. I also enjoyed all the hikes, water activities and great food. I hope you will consider joining us at camp next year!



Announcements



2026 4-H CAMP

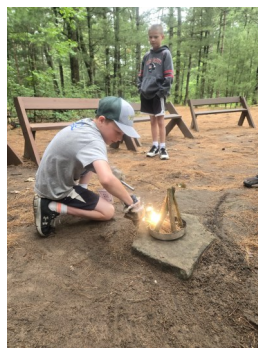
June 22 – June 25, 2026

Upham Woods Outdoor Center, WI Dells

We're Back from 4-H Camp!

4-H Camp is a four day, three night camp held at Upham Woods in Wisconsin Dells. Campers from Grant County boarded the bus in the afternoon on Monday, June 22. After campers got settled in their cabins...it's off to fun activities. Each day at camp is packed with games, activities, down time at the cabin, fun team building adventures and wrap up the day with a campfire. The weather cooperated and was comfortably cool at night with sun-kissed days. Upham Woods Camp is set against the Wisconsin River with trees that make a great shaded camp. Campers returned on Thursday, June 25 to say "see you next year" to their new friends and excited to share their stories once getting home.

If youth are interested in attending the 2027 4-H Camp, keep a lookout next year for the registration. To support such a great group of campers, we need adult volunteers and youth counselors. Contact 4-H Educator, Charisse Orth, at charisse.orth@wisc.edu if you have questions about camp or would like to learn more about volunteering.



Announcements



SAVE THE DATE!

4-H FAMILY FUN DAY

at Vesperman Farms

 Sunday, Sept 13
 1pm - 8pm
 \$9.50 (over 37"); Free for under 36"



Details and a link for tickets will be sent to club leaders by June 1.

OPEN TO GRANT COUNTY 4-H FAMILIES ONLY

4-H Family Fun Day at Vesperman Farms – September 13

Join us for a 4-H Family Fun Day at Vesperman Farms! Vesperman Farms will open exclusively for Grant County 4-H families to enjoy a day together. Meeting space will be available, as well as areas to review record books. Throughout the day, families can also take part in 4-H activities and educational sessions.

Sunday, September 13 | 1pm – 8pm

\$9.50/person (37" and taller) (Kids under 36" are free)

Every person with a 4-H Family Fun ticket will receive a \$5 food voucher.

This event is open to Grant County 4-H members and their families only. Details and a ticket link were sent to club leaders earlier in June.

Questions? Contact Morgan at morgan@vespermanfarms.com.

Volunteer Opportunity



Badger Camp is seeking volunteers to help care for the animals at the camp this Summer. They are looking for helpers each Saturday in June, July and part of August. The animals are housed in sheds and include calf, rabbits, goat and chickens.

If you are available to help please contact Carol Beals at 608-778-7652 to sign up and receive details.

Announcements

4-H Dog Project

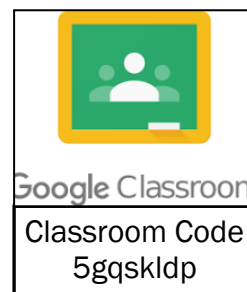


Are you interested in learning more about the 4-H dog show?
Here is what you can expect to learn from joining the dog project (not a complete list)

1. Heeling-walking on a leash
2. Patterns- specific paths a handler follows with their dog in the ring so the judge can clearly see how the dog moves
3. Long sit and down
 - a. First years or new dogs (pre-novice) 1 min sit and 1 min down
 - b. Novice 1 min sit and 3 min down
 - c. Graduate Novice 3 min down handler out of sight, 5 min down handler out of sight
4. Recall-calling your dog back to you when asked
5. Stacking- the art of physically placing the dog's feet in the best position.
6. Dog body parts and basic dog care
7. Agility work: jumps, tunnels, weave poles and more!

If you have questions, feel free to reach me at kacibusch@gmail.com.

Kaci Busch



4-H Cat Project



All 4-H cat project members welcome. You will need to attend at least one meeting to show at the Grant County Fair.

The meeting dates are the following:

- July 24 - North Room - 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
- August 16 - Grant County Fair Cat Show - 10:00 am

Hope to see you there! Any questions please feel free to call Julie Cyborski at 608-723-9813.

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. 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. You must also complete the required fair entries for the respective Fair Competition Shoot by the deadline.



Events:

Grant County Fair Shoot: Sunday, August 9th, 3:00 pm at Bloomington Sportsman's Club, Bloomington
Fennimore Fair Shoot: Thursday, August 27th, 5:00 pm at Southwest Tech, Fennimore

Announcements

"A Drawing A Day" Raffle Tickets

The Grant County 4-H Leaders Association is hosting their first ever "A Drawing A Day" raffle with the drawings set for October to celebrate National 4-H Week and the start to the new 4-H year.

Each raffle ticket is \$25.

Here are a few ways you can help make this fundraiser successful:

- Share the raffle information with family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc!
- Help sell raffle tickets. Raffle tickets can be picked up at the Extension Office. We will record your name with the numbered tickets that you took. You will be responsible for bringing payment back for the tickets you took or returning the unsold tickets. The deadline to do that is September 15th.
- Purchase a raffle ticket yourself! Tickets will be available for purchase at the Extension Office.

The funds raised from this "A Drawing A Day" raffle will go directly to supporting the Grant

County 4-H program and programming such as 4-H Family Project Day, 4-H Camp, educational experiences/trips, project meeting support and more.

If you have any questions, you can reach out to Charisse or one of the 4-H Executive Committee members.



Schedule of Prizes:					
Oct. 1	-----	\$100.00	Oct. 11	-----	\$50.00
Oct. 2	-----	\$500.00	Oct. 12	-----	\$100.00
Oct. 3	-----	\$50.00	Oct. 13	-----	\$50.00
Oct. 4	-----	\$50.00	Oct. 14	-----	\$100.00
Oct. 5	-----	\$100.00	Oct. 15	-----	\$50.00
Oct. 6	-----	\$50.00	Oct. 16	-----	\$500.00
Oct. 7	-----	\$100.00	Oct. 17	-----	\$50.00
Oct. 8	-----	\$50.00	Oct. 18	-----	\$50.00
Oct. 9	-----	\$500.00	Oct. 19	-----	\$100.00
Oct. 10	-----	\$50.00	Oct. 20	-----	\$50.00
			Oct. 21	-----	\$100.00
			Oct. 22	-----	\$50.00
			Oct. 23	-----	\$500.00
			Oct. 24	-----	\$50.00
			Oct. 25	-----	\$50.00
			Oct. 26	-----	\$100.00
			Oct. 27	-----	\$50.00
			Oct. 28	-----	\$100.00
			Oct. 29	-----	\$50.00
			Oct. 30	-----	\$500.00
			Oct. 31	-----	\$100.00

500 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD! GOOD LUCK & THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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. Leaders; please contact the Extension Office at least a week ahead of pick up. 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/>

Announcements

Wisconsin 4-H Clubs and Groups Annual Authorization Form Due September 1

Club Leaders and Volunteers,

I have great news to share! To help simplify the 4-H Club and Group renewal process, the Annual Financial Report previously due in September and the Annual Charter Renewal previously due in November have now been combined into one document with only one signature! The new form and process is called the 4-H Annual Authorization. I hope this streamlined process will make annual reporting easier and more convenient for your 4-H Club or Group.

The Wisconsin 4-H State deadline is September 1.

IMPORTANT: Annual Authorizations submitted late without prior approval may jeopardize the 4-H Club or Group charter.

This new form is just four pages and is designed to make things easier and more efficient for you at the club level. Helpful information that you need to know:

1. [Wisconsin 4-H Clubs & Groups Annual Authorization](#) on the Wisconsin 4-H Website
2. A copy of the June or July bank statement(s) for all accounts. These statements help ensure that funds are managed appropriately.
3. A current inventory of land, buildings, property, or project equipment with individual values of \$2,000 or more

Federal regulations require that any funds raised in the name of 4-H remain publicly accountable and be used solely for 4-H educational purposes. In addition, all 4-H Clubs and Groups that handle funds must submit an annual summary of their financial holdings to maintain federal income tax-exempt status under the University's Group Exemption Number for 4-H Clubs and Groups.

Clubs and groups will be required to use the new form this year. If you have any questions about the form or need help with completing it, please contact Charisse Orth.

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

2026 4-H ART CAMP

October 3-4, 2026

Upham Woods Outdoor Center, WI Dells

Wisconsin 4-H is excited to extend a special invitation to you to attend Arts Camp 26. This is a unique opportunity for you to explore your art spark, connect with peers from across the state, and build your artistic skills. Arts Camp participation is open to 4-Hers in grades 6-8. Youth grades 9-12 can apply for one of our Arts Camp Youth Leadership roles.

Arts Camp

At Arts Camp, you will be immersed in a world of arts activities. You can try your hand at various Expressive Arts, including Drawing, Painting, Theater, Dance, Culinary, Nature Arts, Public Speaking and Music. This is your opportunity to explore new artistic landscapes. But that's not all! Arts Camp is also about having a blast with activities like a makerspace, color group competitions, a counselor hunt — a reverse hide-and-seek game where youth find the counselors, and much more.

Arts Camp is an overnight event at Upham Woods in the Wisconsin Dells, October 3-4. Campers arrive Saturday morning and wrap up at 11 a.m. Sunday. This is a great way to enjoy the outdoors and the arts all at the same time.

Camper Registration

To participate, please complete this registration form before Sept.

16: <https://26wi4hartscamp.4honline.com>.

Registration fees include three meals, an overnight stay, all art supplies and a 4-H keepsake like a t-shirt, stringbag, water bottle. etc.

Tiered pricing is available through the generous support of funds and endowments, including the Peter Talen 4-H Arts Endowment Fund. That way, families can select one of three levels of payments that best fits their needs:

- Tier 1: \$135
- Tier 2: \$160 (most closely represents the direct costs for Arts Camp programming)
- Tier 3: \$180 (Helps other families attend Arts Camp. Thank you!)
- Adult chaperone registration fees are \$75 each

All payments are confidential and all youth will receive the same great Arts Camp experience. We value and encourage participation in the arts, and it is difficult to put a price on youth programming. Thank you for paying what you can to make future 4-H youth programming possible for all Wisconsin youth!

Announcements

2026 Grant County Fair Updates and Important Reminders

We are looking forward to the 2026 Grant County Fair and want to share a few important changes and fair reminders so everyone can plan ahead.

Livestock Department Changes for 2026

Swine Department:

Due to increased entries and higher numbers this year, there will be no pen space available for tack in the swine department. Please come prepared and plan accordingly.

Goat Department:

The entire goat department will be housed in the Dairy Barn this year. Goat shows will take place in the Open Dairy Arena.

Dairy Department:

Because the goat department is moving into the Dairy Barn, space in the dairy area will be more limited this year. Exhibitors should plan for reduced tack space and are asked to limit extra items and belongings as much as possible, including tables, chairs, and other non-essential equipment.

2026 Entry Reminders

Please be mindful that mail delivery can be slower than normal. We encourage everyone to submit entries as early as possible to make sure they arrive on time as our entry deadline is a hard deadline.

The fair office is now accepting entries and is open 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday. Please call ahead (608) 723-2135 to drop off your entries.

Walk in Day:

- July 21, 2026
- Location: Youth & Ag Building
- Time: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 pm

Final Entry Deadline

- July 24, 2026, before 4:00 pm

A \$10.00 late fee per entry will apply to any entries submitted between July 22 and July 24

Additional 2026 Fair Updates

Shooting Sports:

Shooting Sports is now scheduled for August 9 at 3:00 pm

Rain date: August 16 at 3:00 pm

Veterinary Check-In Time:

For exhibitors bringing animals in on Thursday of fair week, vet check-in will now end at 3:00 p.m. instead of 4:30 pm

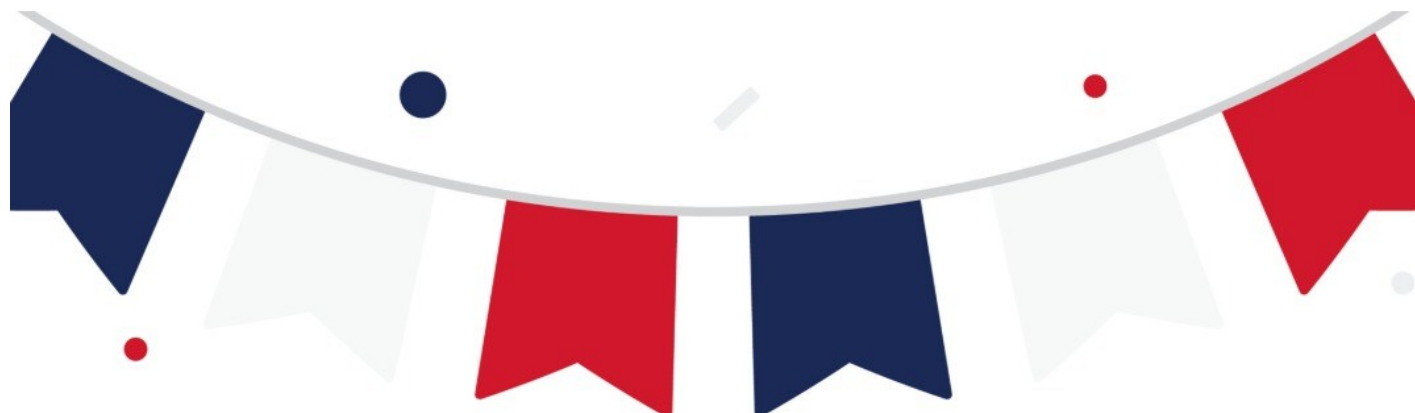
Free Gate Admission:

New this year, admission to the fairgrounds is free. It will cost nothing to attend the fair on the grounds. Please note that grandstand admission and carnival ride prices will still apply.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us make the 2026 Grant County Fair a great experience for everyone. We are excited to celebrate our 2026 theme and all the fun, hard work, and community spirit that come with fair week. We cannot wait to see everyone at the Grant County Fair and look forward to making this year's event a great one for all.

Amy Olson, CFE

Grant County Fairgrounds and Operations Director



Fairs in Grant County

JULY
17-19

BLAKE'S PRAIRIE FAIR

[HTTPS://WWW.BLAKESPRAIRIEFAIR.COM/](https://www.blakesprairiefair.com/)
BLOOMINGTON, WI

AUG.
16-23

GRANT COUNTY FAIR

[HTTPS://FUNONFORTY.CO.GRANT.WI.GOV/](https://funonforty.co.grant.wi.gov/)
LANCASTER, WI

AUG.
29

FENNIMORE JR. FAIR

[HTTPS://WWW.FENNIMORE.K12.WI.US/](https://www.fennimore.k12.wi.us/)
LISTED UNDER "PARENT RESOURCES" TAB
FENNIMORE, WI

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 **July 24, 2026 by 4:00 pm.**

Further details are mailed out to 4-H 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/

Grant County Fair - August 16 - 23, 2026

Visit our website funonforty.co.grant.wi.gov
to view and download the Grant County Fairbook and forms.



Grant County Fair Carcass Show

The carcass show is for animals that went through the auction ring and the animal's buyer chose to send them to one of the three locations listed below, will be included in this year's carcass show.

The Livestock Auction Carcass Evaluation Shows will be held as follows:

Bloomington Meats II - Bloomington - 2:30 - 4:30 pm, Wednesday, August 26

Weber's Processing - Cuba City - 7:00 pm, Wednesday, August 26

Grant County Fair

Hello Fair Families,

Fair season is shaping up to be one of our most exciting yet, and I am thrilled to share several updates with our fair families.

As we prepare for this year's Grant County Fair, it has been wonderful to hear about the dedication, time, and hard work that our exhibitors are already putting into their livestock, projects, and displays. Their passion, talent, and commitment are truly the heart of the fair, and we are proud to celebrate the efforts of each exhibitor and family who helps make this event so special.

This year's fair will feature a great mix of new entertainment, returning favorites, and long-standing traditions for all ages to enjoy. We are excited to welcome FireGuy to the fairgrounds. FireGuy will light up the evening with an unforgettable fire show at dusk, and families can also enjoy bubble foam parties Thursday through Saturday at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on the grounds.

For those looking for high-powered excitement, Monster Trucks will take over the grandstand on Thursday night. We extend our sincere thanks to Platinum Ag and Matt Heims for serving as the title sponsor of Thursday night's grandstand event. Fairgoers can look forward to roaring engines, massive jumps, and action-packed entertainment.

We are also pleased to bring back several crowd favorites. Country Line Dancing will return with lively music, great energy, and plenty of opportunities to kick up your boots and join in the fun. Bear Hollow Wood Carvers will also be back, showcasing incredible craftsmanship as talented artists transform wood into stunning works of art right before your eyes.

In addition to these exciting entertainment updates, we are also pleased to share an important change for this year's Grant County Fair: **gate admission will be free for everyone.** There will be no season passes and no separate gate ticket required to enter the fairgrounds, enjoy the exhibits, walk the grounds, visit vendors, and take in the fair atmosphere.

Because gate admission is now free, several ticket practices will also change. There will no longer be exhibitor tickets, and exhibitors will not receive a free admission ticket with their entry fee. Privilege tickets will not be provided, and vendors will no longer need to obtain admission tickets. Everyone is welcome to enter the fairgrounds at no charge.

Please note that grandstand events will remain ticketed. While admission onto the fairgrounds is free, tickets must still be purchased to attend shows and performances held in the grandstand.

Thank you for your continued support of the Grant County Fair. We are grateful for our exhibitors, families, volunteers, sponsors, vendors, and fairgoers who help make the fair such a meaningful tradition. We look forward to welcoming you for another memorable year filled with excitement, tradition, and community pride.

Sincerely,

Amy Olson
Fairgrounds & Operations Director

Grant County Fair

TICKETS AVAILABLE

ALL EVENT TICKETS

Purchase an all event ticket from the fair office and it gets you into all 5 events in the grandstand.

All Event Tickets can be purchased at the Fair Office, Extension Office, any fair board member or Amy Olson, Fair Director for \$60 per ticket.

BADGERLAND MIDWAYS CARNIVAL

SALE starts June 1st thru August 17th at 5:00 pm

Mega Pass with unlimited riding from Wednesday to Sunday for \$70 a ticket

Daily Pass \$30 a ticket - good for any day at the fair

After 5:00 pm on August 17th tickets will need to be purchased at the carnival.

Mega Passes will be \$90 a ticket and Daily Passes will be \$35 a ticket.

You can also purchase mega ride passes at the fair office or directly from Amy Olson, Fair Director.

Mega ride passes or daily passes can also be purchased online through Badgerland Midways at

https://badgerlandmidways.magicmoneyllc.com/MagicMoney_web/eticket/eventdetails/53

CARNIVAL TIMES FOR 2026

Wednesday, Aug. 19

5:00 pm to close \$2 rides

Thursday, Aug. 20

3:00 pm to close wristband rides \$35

Friday, Aug. 21

Noon to close wristband rides \$35

Saturday, Aug. 22

Noon to close wristband rides \$35

Sunday, Aug. 23

NOON to close wristband rides \$35

Grant County Fair Office:

916 E. Elm Street, Suite B

Lancaster, WI 53813

(608) 723-2135

<https://funonforty.co.grant.wi.gov>

July / August 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



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

Important Dates

July 21 - Grant County Fair Entry Walk-In Day
July 24 - DEADLINE - Turn in YQCA certificates by 4:00 pm
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