



*St. Croix County 4-H
Family Resource Guide*

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Yearly Supplement

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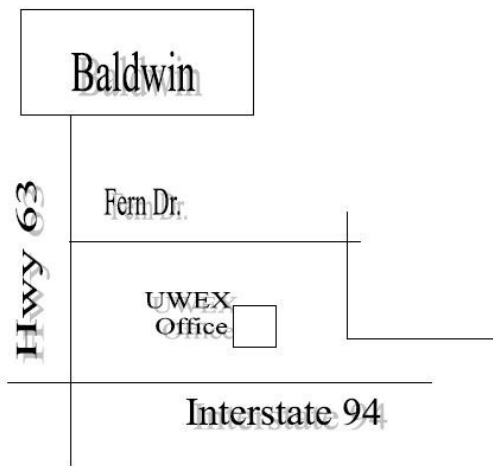
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The Extension Office is located in the Agricultural Services & Education Center, which is in the Industrial Park just South of Baldwin. The large brick building can be seen from Highway 63, but you must turn East on Fern Drive and travel one block to reach 8th Avenue. Then travel one block South on 8th Avenue to the parking lot entrance. Proceed up the hill to the front door located on the South side of the building.

What is 4-H

4-H is a youth organization that is made up of the members, their families, and other interested adults, who serve as volunteer leaders. Support for the 4-H program is a joint effort of local county government, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the University of Wisconsin. The University of Wisconsin provides professional leadership through the Cooperative Extension faculty.

In 4-H, groups of young people, from all parts of St. Croix County, are learning, sharing, and developing a positive self-concept through individually selected projects, events, and activities in informal situations under the guidance of their families and other volunteer, trained adult leaders. Activities and events, such as camp, fairs, music, drama, softball, etc., provide additional opportunities for learning.

Youth in Kindergarten are eligible to enroll in the Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Program. Youth will continue to be eligible for membership through the next 4-H year following their graduation from high school. The University of Wisconsin-Extension provides affirmative action and equal opportunity in education, programming, and employment for all qualified persons regardless of race, color, gender/sex, creed, disability, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or parental, arrest or conviction record or veteran status.

Regardless of the structure, a 4-H group may involve families, neighbors, relatives, and others. The primary goal is for the participants to have fun learning, while working together at home or in the community.

How Will Your Child Benefit From 4-H

4-H members will:

- Learn, make, and do things that appeal and are meaningful to them.
- Make friends, belong to a group, and give and receive acceptance and affection.
- Have a good time thereby making learning appealing and enjoyable.
- Earn recognition and awards.

4-H members develop and practice important life skills:

- Develop an inquiring mind and a desire to learn.
- Make decisions and solve problems
- Relate to and work with other people of all ages.
- Develop a concern for the community in which they live.
- Build their self-confidence.
- Accept responsibility.
- Acquire personal leadership skills and techniques.
- Make vocational decisions.
- Learn how to use their time.
- Discover areas of interest that will provide entertainment in their leisure hours throughout the rest of their life.
- Focus on issues relating to their physical and mental well-being.

Purpose of 4-H

The purpose of 4-H is two-fold:

- To provide opportunities for parents and other interested adults to work with youth in their development.
- To provide real life experiences for youth through fun, action-oriented, and practical programs.

The major focus of 4-H is on the activities held within the local club. Volunteers serve as 4-H leaders to plan and carry out organized learning experiences. The St. Croix County and WI State activities are secondary. Their purposes should be one of supplementing and supporting the local club program.

4-H Emblem and Symbols

Emblem:

The green four leaf clover has a white "H" on each leaf to represent one of the four "H's" - Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.

4-H National Pledge:

I pledge

- My Head to clearer thinking,
- My Heart to greater loyalty,
- My Hands to larger service, and
- My Health to better living for
my club, my community, my country, and my world.

The Colors:

Green and white are the 4-H colors. The white background of the flag stands for purity. The green is nature's most common color in the great outdoors, and green is also the color of springtime, life, and youth.

Motto:

The national 4-H motto is: "To Make the Best Better". It should be the objective of every member and leader.

Slogan:

"Learn By Doing"

What is a 4-H Club

A 4-H club, to be officially recognized in Wisconsin, must have 5 or more youth. The Adult Leadership has to have been approved through the Youth Protection process. Most clubs hold monthly meetings (10 required). The youth are an important part of the leadership and decision making for that club. Through the clubs, the members may be involved in recreational activities, community service projects, health activities, or safety awareness.

What is a 4-H Project

A project is a unit of 4-H work which is the basis of "learning" experiences. These experiences involve skills such as:

- training a dog
- taking pictures
- learning how to grow flowers
- making an article out of wood
- developing leadership skills

All kindergarten through second graders must enroll in the Cloverbud Project.

Cloverbuds are not eligible to participate in an animal project. A maximum of three different items can be exhibited at the St. Croix County Fair.

All third graders must enroll in the Exploring Project. Explorers may exhibit one animal at the Fair. Explorers are not eligible for the Meat Animal Project. A maximum of five different items can be exhibited at the fair.

Each 4-H club will try to locate a Project Leader when there are four or more members enrolled in a project. The Project Leader will notify the members when and where the project meetings will be held. Most projects will require three or more meetings. Before signing up for a project, the member's family might want to inquire about the projects in their club that have project leaders. When there is no Project Leader, the member may have to work individually or seek project leaders from other clubs. As a family, you can use the 4-H project literature to guide your learning.

Requirements for Achievement

A member must have attended 5 regular club meetings. A county meeting, attended the same night, may be submitted.

Club project meetings and softball are not included.

2. One talk or demonstration must be given. This can be done during a project or club meeting. District or county events also fulfill this requirement.

Exhibit at least one entry for each project in which a member is enrolled. This exhibit may be entered at the St. Croix County Fair, a club tour, at a project meeting, or to the General Leader.

4. Member must complete a self-evaluation of all projects enrolled in and club experiences for the year. Format of evaluation is to be determined by the individual club (examples may include: traditional record book, scrapbook, journal, audio or video tape, or an interview with adult leaders).

4-H Terms

Achievement:

Achieving in 4-H means a member completes all membership requirements of the 4-H club and the county 4-H policy during the year.

4-H Communicator:

The St. Croix County 4-H newsletter is mailed or emailed to every 4-H family.

This gives information about county level 4-H meetings and activities offered to members, leaders, and parents. The newsletter is sent out

January/February, March, April, May, June, July/August, September/October, and November/December.

Conference Judging:

The member shows and explains an entry to a judge at the County Fair.

Questions relating to the preparation of the entry will be asked. If a 4-H member not be able to attend the conference judging, the fair entry will be dropped one ribbon placement unless accompanied by an absentee form.

County Fair Entry Blank

This form, which is due in early June, is for listing all of the specific items that you will be exhibiting at the St. Croix County Fair. Fair entry forms are completed online.

Wisline:

St. Croix County is linked to all county offices and the state via teleconferencing equipment. The system allows for communications among all networking sites.

Fair Premium Book

Lists all of the St. Croix County Fair Entry Classes and Rules for entry.

It is provided to each family from your Organizational Leader. These books are revised periodically.

4-H Age

Regardless of birth date, your age listed on the enrollment is determined by the grade you will be on January 1 of the current 4-H year.

4-HOnline:

Reenrollment on 4HOnline (<https://4honline.com>) is due by November 1 and all new members should have joined a club by March 1. 4HOnline is also used to enroll a member into the projects desired. Projects are listed in the 4-H Enrollment Guide, which is posted on 4HOnline as well as on the UW-Extension Website (<http://stcroix.uwex.edu/4-h-youth-development/4-h-clubs>). If a hard copy is desired, please let the UW-Extension staff know.

All kindergarten through second graders must enroll as a Cloverbud. Cloverbuds may not participate in an animal project. All third graders must enroll as an Explorer. Explorers may exhibit one animal project.

4-H Year

A new year starts October 1 and ends September 30th of the following year.

This may vary slightly within individual clubs.

Graduation from 4-H

A graduating 4-H member will have completed one of the following two requirements: 1) have graduated from high school and been active for five years or 2) have completed ten years of active 4-H membership.

Non-achievement

Those members, not successfully completing a year, may be a member of a club the next year, but may not enter at the fair or play softball.

Project Literature

4-H member and leader guides written by University Specialists serve as suggestions of areas to study in your 4-H projects.

Successful Completion

A term used when a member meets all requirements for the 4-H year.

Requirements:

- 1) Must attend 5 club general meetings. A county project meeting, attended the same night, may be substituted. Club project meetings, softball games or practices are not included. Organizational leaders to determine successful completion if member was unable to attend 5.
- 2) Must give one talk or demonstration. This can be done at the local or the county level.

- Complete one entry for each project enrolled in and enter it at the St. Croix County Fair. Should attendance at the fair be impossible, the General Leader may approve showing the project at a project meeting, a club meeting, a club tour or mini-fair, individually to the Organizational Leader.
- 4) A completed record book which is due to the Organization Leader in August. This record book will be evaluated and approved by the local checking committee.
 - 5) Your club leaders will make the final determination regarding successful completion. A record of those members achieving will be kept in the County Office.
 - 6) When one of the requirements is not completed, the member will not have achieved.

4-H Record Books

So what are the reasons for a 4-H Record Book:

1. To help members realize growth within their club and project.
2. A way to document involvement in 4-H.
3. A diary of a good year in a great organization.
4. Great memories for later on in life.

Parts of a Record Book:

There are two basic forms provided by the County Extension Office.

- 1) My 4-H Activity Program: This is a checklist that can be used to document the 4-H events taken part in during a 4-H calendar year.
- 2) Project Goals and Evaluation Form: This form has three basic parts: identification of goals, evaluation of the project, and comments by the parents.
- 3) Other sections that could be added
 - a) Introduction Page: You could include a picture of yourself and tell about yourself.
 - b) Table of Contents: This page would help give organization and make it easier to find certain sections.
 - c) Club Story: You could write a story about the year that you had in 4-H. More detail could be given regarding your level of participation. Within the story, make sure that you explain the talk or demonstration given.
 - d) Extra Activities: There is a wide range of activities that you can be part of during the year. You could write up a one-page report about each activity that you were in. Try to include pictures or anything else that you got from that activity.
 - e) Newspaper Clippings: A number of papers carry good articles relating to 4-H. Cut out ones that apply to activities or meeting in which you were involved.
 - f) Remember to complete the front and back covers.
- 4) Be neat in your record book, use complete sentences, and check your spelling. It makes it look like a finished product.

4-H Activities and Events

Each club will have special activities throughout the year. In addition, there are countywide activities and events that 4-H members may participate in. Many of these are held annually. More detail regarding the events can be located in the 4-H Communicator.

ASTEAM Academy

Art, Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, and Math

Cat Project

- Cat Fun Show
Held in April
Open to Explorers and 4-H members in the 4th grade and up.
All shots required must be given two weeks prior to the Fun Show
- Attend Pre-vetting Clinic and Workshop
Held in June
Cat's shot papers should be brought with the cat to the workshop.

Clothing Revue

- Open to Cloverbuds, Explorers, & members enrolled in Clothing, Knitting, or Crocheting
- Show off the garment that you have sewn
- Entries are due in June to the County Extension Office

Cloverbud/Explorer Day Camp

- Held in the summer
- Open to all Cloverbuds and Explorers
- Enjoy a day of fun, recreation, and activities

Clover College

Held in March
Open to grades K-6
Take part in three unique class sessions of your choice

Clover Cooking

Held in January
Open to all ages
Enjoy a variety of cooking opportunities

Club Officer Training

- Sponsored by Leaders Council and UW-Extension
- Held in October or November
- Learn about each office, games that your club can play, and club management
- There will also be recreational time

Dairy Fitting and Showing Clinics

- A hands on clinic to learn the following:
How to get your animal ready for a show, How to equip a show box,
Requirements at the fair
- Open to Explorers and all dairy members.
- Watch the June 4-H Communicator for details.

Dairy Judging Clinics and Teams

- Open to all Explorers and all 4-H members.

- Learn how to evaluate dairy cows and calves
 - Compete for chance to represent St. Croix County 4-H on the Junior or the Senior Dairy Judging Team at Area Animal Science Days.
 - Junior Division (8-13 years old)
 - Senior Division (14-19 years old)

Dog Project

- This project is directly taught by the St. Croix County Dog Committee
- Trainings are held at the Greenfield Elementary School in Baldwin.
- Trainings begin at 7:30 P.M.
- Dogs must have current vaccination certificates.
- Initial meeting for Explorers and members in the Dog Project will be held in April, with the actual training classes to begin in May. Project fee will be collected at the initial meeting.
- Attend the 4-H Dog Project Fun Show in July at the Glenwood City Fairgrounds.

Foods Judging Day

- Held prior to the St. Croix County Fair.
- Open to members enrolled in foods, except Cloverbuds and Explorers.
- Cloverbuds and Explorers will exhibit their food items at the County Fair.

Foods Revue

- Held prior to the St. Croix County Fair.
- Open to Cloverbuds, Explorers, and all members in Foods and Nutrition.
- Present your food with a flair.
- Food members will receive specific details from the County Office.

Horse Project

- Open to Explorers and members in the horse project.
- Project kickoff begins in the month of April at the County Level.
- Activities organized by the St. Croix County Horse Committee
- Project requirements, as outlined in the county project rules, must be met to show at the fair.

Llama Project

- Llama is a project that is conducted by the St. Croix County Llama Committee.
- There are activities year round for this group
- Area llama owners have agreed to set up a managerial arrangement for youth who are interested.

Livestock Workshops

- Pork Quality Assurance Training
 - Learn about drug residue, improved herd health status, disease problems, and increasing worldwide consumer demand for pork.
 - This training meets the educational requirement to be eligible for the auction.

Meat Animal Project

- Beef must be weighed in December, at the site designated by Meat Animal Committee. Sheep and hogs are weighed in April.
- Exhibitors are required to attend 3 meat animal educational workshops
- Project requirements, as outlined in the county project rules, must be met to show at the fair.
- Carcass evaluation contest is held after the fair.

Mini Talent Explosion

- Held in February
- Compete individually or within a group from the club
- Open to Cloverbuds, Explorers, and all members in 4-H
- Compete in an age appropriate level in Speaking, Interpretive Reading, Demonstrations, Arts or Crafts.
- Compete with other members in your club in Music, Drama, Mini-Drama.
- Winning Music group will perform at the Wisconsin State Fair in August.
- Individuals and groups will be selected to participate at Wisconsin State Fair.

National 4-H Week (first full week in October)

- A week is set aside to recognize and promote 4-H across the country.
- Each year a theme highlights the week.
- Many clubs have window displays or a special promotion of 4-H in their community.

Poultry Project

- Workshops held for Explorers and all members enrolled in Poultry.
- Workshop covers:
 - Filling out the entry form
 - Getting animals ready to exhibit
 - Member responsibilities at the fair
 - Poultry showmanship

St. Croix County Fair

- Open to Cloverbuds, Explorers, and all other members.
- Exhibit projects made throughout the year
- Cloverbuds receive participation ribbons
- Four ribbon categories are awarded:
 - Blue - Excellent
 - Red - Above Average
 - White - Average
 - Pink - Needs Improvement

Softball

- Be a part of a Novice Team (4th grade and under)
- Or be part of a Junior Team (5th grade through 8th)
- Senior teams (9th grade and up) will be formed for friendly competition.
- You just need a desire to play softball against other clubs from the county.
- The season will conclude with a tournament and All-Star Games.

Summer 4-H Camp

- Two camps for two age levels
 - Younger Camp: Usually 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders
 - Older Camp: Usually 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders
- Enjoy three days at camp with fellow 4-H members from other counties.
- Registrations are due in May.
- There is a fee for the three day camp, which includes everything.

Tractor and Equipment Safety Certification

- Held for four days in early June
- Open to all youth (ages 14-15), working on any farm other than parents.
- Earn a Federal Employment Certificate
- Those under 14 may only earn a state license
- The 28 hour class ends with a written and driving test.

Wisconsin Tour

- For grades 5-8
- Held in July
- Each year is a new tour

4-H Older Youth Events

Ambassadors

- For Youth Members in 7th Grade and Over
- Be a part of the public relations team for St. Croix County.
- Share the 4-H story with the general public by promoting 4-H and advertise 4-H events and ride on the Ambassador Float in local parades.

Camp Counselor

- Must be a freshman or older
- Meet other teens from surrounding counties
- Be a part of developing a strong counselor team and learn to solve problems.
- Must attend camp counselor training.
- Camps are held in June

R.I.O.T.

- Revolution, Innovation, Operation, Transformation
- Grades 8-12
- Dedicated to addressing needs and making positive changes within the county

Travel Opportunities

Velocity

- For Youth Members in 6th – 13th grades, boys and girls
- Willingness to learn music to sing and dance to music with no auditions
- Application deadline is January

4-H District and State Events

Get to know 4-H members from across our state!

Art Team

- Work with a professional artist to design a large public art piece and plan the Wisconsin 4-H & Youth Conference Art Exhibit.
- Go behind the scenes for tours of local museums and interview museum curators.
- Exciting leadership opportunity for 9th through 12th graders
- Application due to the State 4-H Office in February.

4-H Arts Camp

- For youth in Grades 6-8.
- An overnight arts experience.
- Explore the Arts: acting, take photos, create art, make music, write, talk and listen, and a variety of other activities.
- Held in the fall.
- Watch the summer 4-H Communicator for information.

Area Animal Science Days

- For youth in 3rd Grade and over
- Held in June at a county within the Western District
- Educational opportunity in 4-H Animal Science Projects through judging and grading experiences
- Registration fee paid by 4-H Youth Program

Arts Leadership Lab

- Held for a weekend in December at Wisconsin Dells
- Registration due in October
- Open to 13 - 17 year olds
- Workshops on theater arts, music, communication, visual arts, and photography.
- Workshops also include leadership, program planning, and practical application.
- Fee includes lodging, meals, program expenses, and insurance.

Badger Dairy Camp

- Open to dairy youth ages 12-19.
- Held in June (for three days) at UW-Madison
- Learn about dairy and explore the Madison campus.
- There is a fee to cover expenses of the camp.

Drama Team

- Work with the Extension Youth Specialist and improvise a show around the theme of leadership
- The show is performed for delegates attending the State 4-H & Youth Conference in Madison.
- There is a mandatory live audition
- Application due in February to the State 4-H Office

Horse Project

- **Minnesota Horse Expo**
 - Held late March or early April
 - There will be entertainment, food, seminars, demonstrations, and exhibits to appeal to Explorers and all members enrolled in the Horse Project.
- **Wisconsin State 4-H Horse Expo**
 - Held in September at Wisconsin State Fair Park in Milwaukee
 - Registration form available at the County fair, youth must receive a blue ribbon at the County Fair in order to be eligible
 - Deadline is the Friday after the County Fair and all registrations need to be mailed from the UWEX Office.

Livestock Shows

- **WLBA Spring Preview Show**
 - Youth must be between the ages of 8-19.
 - Showmanship classes and live animal classes in sheep and beef.
 - Could also enter a sheep poster contest.
 - Held in June at Portage
- **Ellsworth Junior Livestock Preview Show**
 - Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9-19.
 - There are classes for sheep and beef.

- There are also showmanship classes.
 - Held in June at Ellsworth, WI
 - **Wisconsin's Northwest Livestock Show Camp**
 - Members enrolled in sheep, beef, or swine
 - Members are to bring animals
 - Sessions will emphasize showmanship, nutrition, and fitting
 - Registration form due in April

Meat Evaluation Contest

- Held in February at UW-Madison
- Registration due by early February
- Junior Category (Open to grades 3-8)
- Senior Category (Open to grades 9-13)
- Highest scoring senior team will participate in the national 4-H Meat Judging Contest

National 4-H Dairy Conference

- To be held in October, during the World Dairy Expo.
- Applications due in July

Shepard's Clinic

- Open to Explorers and members enrolled in the Sheep Project
- Held in May
- Discuss tools of the trade, take an identification test, and evaluate live animals. Ribbons are awarded in the junior and in the senior division.

Showcase Singers

- Sing and dance with a group of teens from across Wisconsin.
- Perform at the Wisconsin 4-H Youth Conference and at the Wisconsin State Fair
- The Leaders' Council will pay half of the cost of participating.
- Application due in February to the State 4-H Office.

State Dog Show

- Held sometime between July-September, location changes yearly
- Open to youth currently enrolled in the 4-H Dog Project
- Exhibitor and dog must have met local requirements
- Registration due in June. No late entries accepted.

State Fair Clothing Revue

- Open to all members 14 years and older that are enrolled in the clothing project.
- Have a desire to participate in the State Fair Clothing Revue
- Registration forms due in May.

Tech Team

- Attend the WI 4-H Youth Conference & create a conference website.
- Present a "visual newsletter", Power Point program, to the delegates.
- Application due in February to the State 4-H Office.

Wisconsin State Fair

- Open to beef, swine, and sheep exhibitors (Applications due in February)
- Open to dairy members, 12 years and older. All cattle must be registered.
- One music entry from the Mini Talent Explosion and 3 demonstrations (intermediate and senior age division) will be selected to participate in the Wisconsin State Fair.)

Youth Plant Science Day

- Open to youth that are 8 years old and older.
- Attend a day filled with information, contests, and tours all dealing with Plant Science.
- Watch the June 4-H Communicator for specific details.

Trips and Awards

American Spirit

- American Spirit Leadership Program is a wonderful opportunity for youth to develop knowledge of America's heritage, citizenship and leadership.
- In this travel experience the delegates are the teachers. Sites visited include: Valley Forge, Philadelphia, New York, Mayflower, Boston and more.

Citizenship Washington Focus in Washington D.C.

- Learn the importance of civic and social responsibilities as they relate to the development of better citizens and leaders.
- The week consists of participatory workshops, speakers, committee work, field trips, and social events.
- Delegate selects a week in June or in July. (First that register get to select the week that they want to go)
- Members in the 10th to 12th grade are eligible.
- Delegates must have completed 4 years of 4-H and must enroll for one additional year after the trip or have completed at least 6 years of 4-H.
- Leaders Council provides partial financial support

Key Award

- One of the highest leadership awards a 4-H member can be presented.
- Graduating 4-H members are eligible to apply for the award
- Graduate must have had 6 years of 4-H and one year of Junior Leadership
- This award is sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

International 4-H Youth and Exchange

- Spend time in a foreign country learning about its culture
- Stay with several host families throughout the trip.
- Leaders Council provides partial financial support

Leadership Awards

- Helen Holzer Award: Given to 2 boys and 2 girls who have exhibited outstanding leadership in their club.
- Florence Jensen Award: Given to 2 boys and 2 girls who have shown outstanding leadership at the county level.
- Farm Bureau Boy & Girl sponsored by St. Croix County Farm Bureau
- Outstanding Dairy Member sponsored by Happy Hollow Guernsey Farm
- Outstanding Livestock Member sponsored by St. Croix County Livestock Committee

National 4-H Conference

- Held in April in Washington D.C.

- This is an in-depth interactive conference where delegates select a 4-H issue and work with other youth across the country to develop and help direct future 4-H programming.
 - Open to members who are 14-18 as of Jan. 1 of that year.
 - Priority will be given to older members.
 - Each county will nominate one member.
 - Six total delegates will be then selected to represent the State of Wisconsin.
 - Leaders Council provides partial financial support

National 4-H Congress

- Held in November in Atlanta, Georgia
- Fly from St. Paul/Minneapolis and meet the WI delegation at the Conference.
- Members ages 14-18 are eligible. Priority is given to the older members.
- A maximum of two delegates will be sent from St. Croix County.
- Leaders Council provides partial financial support

Outstanding Graduate

- Nominated by the General Leader
- Awarded at the St. Croix County Leader Recognition Banquet

Project and Membership Awards

- Selection of county award winners is done by the leaders of the club.
- Age groups for project awards by the Club:

Cloverbud (K-2)	Exploring (3)
Grades 4-7	Grades 8th and over
Junior Leadership	
- Membership pins for 1st, 5th & Graduates will be given at the end of the year.

Space Camp

- Explore the fascinating world of aerospace, astronomy, and technology at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama.
- This weekend camp introduces participants to the world of space exploration. Learn about becoming an astronaut, complete a simulated space shuttle mission, experience training simulators, and tour the U.S. Space & Rocket Center.
- Youth travel by bus from Eau Claire depart on Thursday and return on Monday.

Wisconsin State 4-H & Youth Conference

- Held in June at Madison campus.
- Seminars to learn more about oneself, future careers, and government.
- Members in the 7th to 10th grade are eligible
- Leaders Council provides partial financial support

Who's Who in 4-H

Local Club Level

Activity Leader

A volunteer who is responsible for organizing and conducting special activities. (Examples: Music, Drama, Community Service, etc.)

General or Organizational Leader

A volunteer who's responsible for the club at large. This person works with the County

Extension office by submitting paperwork, collecting information, and distributing materials in a timely fashion. This person assists in the club's yearly planning and works with the officers.

Parents

Parents are very important to the success a child will have in the 4-H program. Parents are encouraged to attend club and project meetings with their child

Expectations of Parents:

- help child select appropriate projects
- encourage and supervision of projects
- model sportsmanship and honesty
- emphasize the learning taking place, rather than the ribbon won
- financial assistance for projects, as needed
- provide a place for records to be kept
- be active in the workings of the club

Project Leader

A volunteer who helps 4-H members as they learn, make, or create something. They assist members in selecting projects that challenge, yet not frustrate them.

Requirements of all adult leaders:

- Complete a volunteer application with permission to conduct a background check.
- Attend a Youth Protection Policy Orientation
- Complete a volunteer expectation behavior form.

Youth Leader

A 4-H member who is in the 8th grade or older and is enrolled in the Youth Leadership project. Youth Leaders take an active part in helping the younger members in the club.

County Level

Fair Workers

Adult and youth volunteers who work with youth exhibits at the St. Croix County Fair.

4-H Ambassadors

A team of 4-H youth who promote the 4-H program.

4-H Leaders' Association

This organization is open to all 4-H volunteer leaders from St. Croix County. The association holds an annual meeting in January.

4-H Leaders' Council

This is an executive board of the Leaders' Association. The function of the council is to enhance 4-H programming, develop new strategies for encouraging youth involvement, support and empower the county project committees, networking of adult leaders/resources, and provide financial support for 4-H Youth Programs.

4-H County Project Committees

The purpose of the county committees is to meet the educational needs within a specific project and provide opportunities for learning. These committees recognize that not all clubs can provide leaders for all projects; thus, all youth, enrolled in project, will be invited to attend in planned events.

4-H Youth Development Agents

These are the professionals who guide, teach, and administer the 4-H program. They are faculty members of the University of Wisconsin-Extension.

History of St. Croix County 4-H

“To Make the Best Better” serves as the motto for the St. Croix County 4-H Program. Art Knott, St. Croix County’s first County Agent, wanted to do something for the youth and wanted to make the best better. Mr. Knott invited all boys from the Hammond-Baldwin area to an initial meeting at the Lincoln School for the purpose of forming a calf club in 1922. The first leader around Baldwin was John Wieberdink, a resident south of Hammond who had registered Holstein cattle. Mr. Wieberdink stressed the care of the calf, training it to lead, and fitting it for presentation at a show. The boys from the calf club were invited to community celebrations to show them off. Another calf club was formed in the Mann Valley area, near River Falls.

During the Baldwin celebration, the First Reformed Church barn was used to house the calves. Calves were judged according to breed, grade or purebred, and age. Prize money was given to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place. Vegetables and crops were displayed in the stores on Main Street. The last day of the fair, the boys were to lead their calves up Main Street. Usually the band led the parade. During one of these parades, a young man named George Guerink and his calf walked together in the parade. What was unusual was that the calf was so well trained that George did not need to hold onto the rope. The calf walked along his side. During the parade, the band enthusiastically began one of its more jubilant numbers, which sent George’s calf into a panic. The calf scampered back toward the barn and headed for Rev. Wolterink’s garden. Rev. Wolterink reported that everything got harvested but the potatoes.

By 1925, 4-H had officially begun in St. Croix County. Changes were already being made. Girls were allowed to join. Girls could take a calf, sew or bake; and boys could bring calves, pigs, sheep, chickens or crops. During the celebration in Hammond, the calves were housed in the County building. By 1930, Glenwood City and New Richmond each had their own fair grounds. The youth of St. Croix County participated in as many fairs as possible in order to meet youth from around the county.

Originally, only one 4-H club was organized and it was a very large club. Eventually this club divided into smaller clubs with names being given to the clubs in the late 1920’s and in the 1930’s. During this period of time, five clubs were formed. In 1928, Worthwhile 4-H Club was formed in the Burkhardt area. Baldwin Wide Awake 4-H Club was formed in 1929. The Roberts Ribbon Reapers (formerly known as the Warren Club in 1919 changed to Roberts Club), was named July 11, 1935 and the Cylon Ramblers began in 1937. More than 35 clubs were added during the 1940’s. Some of these clubs have disbanded, yet many are flourishing in their effort “to make the best better”.

The original intent of the St. Croix County 4-H Program was to offer an opportunity for the rural youth to learn and take part in farm and household management. By keeping records on their projects, boys and girls were believed to learn the value of farm products and realize considerable experience and acquire actual cash from their work.

During the 1940’s, many events and people will forever be etched in the 4-H history book. The first 4-H Leaders’ Association was organized in 1942 under the direction of its first president, Eugene Frey from the Glover All Stars 4-H Club. Dean Voskull and Paul DeRoy won the State Fair Demonstration Contest and won a trip to the National Contest. In 1946, the county fair was canceled due to the polio epidemic. Judging was an important event with two young men, John Graham and David Afdahl, being selected to represent the county at the State Fair. By 1949 total enrollment in St. Croix County reached 603 members.

The 1950's were filled with continual growth and enthusiasm for the 4-H program. The first St. Croix County 4-H Camp was held in 1950 at a bible camp site in Amery. In 1954 Mr. Delmar Polzin was hired as the first full-time 4-H Agent. Plat books became 4-H sponsored in 1956. By the end of the 1950s enrollment had climbed to more than 800 members.

During the 1960's enrollment and project development expanded. More than 1000 members were now enrolled. The Music Festival in 1960 had more than 38 ensembles. During 1963 the 4-H Bench Project began. Thirty-eight benches were built for use at the county Fairgrounds. In addition, 75 horses were entered in the fair for the first time. In 1967 recreation became a more important component with the addition of the St. Croix County 4-H Softball League. A first-time 4-H Queen was selected in 1967, Peggy McLaughlin. In 1968 the Springbrook 4-H Club won the State Safety Award. The Roberts Ribbon Reapers 4-H Club performed at the State 4-H Congress in Wisconsin and Minnesota in 1969 with their award winning music ensemble called "The Roberts Ribbon Reapers Rally", written by Connie Frederick and directed by Nona O'Connell.

During the past 30 years, 4-H has expanded opportunities and experiences for the youth in order "to make the best better". Enrollment peaked during the 1970's with more that 1600 members in 1974. What once began as a calf club has expanded to extensive projects including: animal science, beef, cats, clothing, cultural arts, dairy, demonstrations, dogs, electricity, exploring, Cloverbuds, family and child development, flowers and houseplants, goats, home environment, horses, knitting and crocheting, llamas, mechanical projects, natural resources and nature space, plant and soil science, photography, poultry, rabbits, sheep, swine, in-depth displays, woodworking and youth leadership. Creative displays have become the focus of projects being shown at the fair in Glenwood City. The St. Croix county Dairy Judging Team continues its success under the direction of Chuck Kruschke and Bob Zwald. The Meat Animal Committee hosts an auction during the St. Croix County Fair that profits not only the youth, but the buyers that are getting high quality meat. Budding performers have been active in drama, music ensembles, Emerald Images, and Showcase Singers. In addition, travel is available for all ages from 4-H camp to traveling abroad. Opportunities abound in developing tomorrow's leaders through state and national congress and conferences. Lori Mueller, during 1999-2000, was the first Wisconsin Representative to serve on the Regional National Youth Directions Council. All of these opportunities strive to developing young people into clearer thinking, greater loyalty, community service, and better personal health and safety for all.

The St. Croix County 4-H Program consists of more than 20 clubs. Along with these clubs, there is an active Leaders' Association and the St. Croix County Ambassador Team. Today's 4-H though, has expanded the concept of not only improving oneself, but also improving those around you. Art Knott's original intent to providing programming for the youth for St. Croix County has grown and expanded in such ways that it is beneficial to all youth, whether they have a rural background or not. All youth and adults are welcome and vital to the St. Croix County 4-H Program.



*Written by
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