



COMMUNICATOR

New Year Reminders

It's That Time of Year Again!

Due to any unforeseen weather conditions some UW-Extension programs may cancel. In these instances, you will be sent an email notifying you of the cancellation. If you don't receive an email or are unsure if the meeting has been canceled, please contact the UW-Extension Office for more information. Evening program / meeting cancellations will be done by 3:00pm.

Winter Activities Need Insurance

Just a reminder that most winter activities (skiing, sledding, tubing, etc.) are not covered by our normal \$1.00 per year per member insurance taken out on all enrolled members in the 4-H program. These activities require additional insurance that can be purchased for a very small fee per participant. This special activity insurance will also cover non-4-H members if your club has invited other youth to an event and will cover adults and volunteers participating in the event. To get this extra insurance for your event contact Sky sky.holt@wisc.edu at least 1 week prior to your event.

Notice to All Groups Using the Meeting Rooms @ Baldwin Ag Building

If you are holding an event or meeting at the Ag Center kindly remember:

- Email Laura to reserve room to make sure it is available for your group and if you need after hours building access information.
- Return the table and chairs in the layout you found them in.
- Place all garbage in receptacles.
- Shut off all of the lights following your meeting..

Volunteer Enrollment - Are you approved?

If you have not yet received an email stating you are an approved volunteer **ACTION IS NEEDED!** Please go into your 4-H online account to review what steps you still need to take. You may not participate in 4-H Events or Meetings until this is done! All 4-H volunteer leaders will need to comply with all training requirements:

- Federal background check (every 4 years) - you can complete this online or via paper
- Mandated Reporter Training (one time for new volunteers)
- VIP (Required of all new UW-Madison volunteers)
- Building Safe Spaces (completed every 2 years)
- Supporting You, Supporting Youth (refreshed annually)
- Supporting Youth Mental Health Training (all volunteers who are planning on being a 4-H chaperone)

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4-H 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."*

Join us on Facebook

St. Croix County 4-H &
Extension St Croix County WI

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Due to community work, trainings and meetings please call ahead to our office to ensure that someone will be here to support your needs. We don't want you to make unwanted or unnecessary trips.

CALENDAR

January

- 1 UWEX Office Closed - HOLIDAY
- 8 Horse Project Monthly Meeting
- 9 Livestock Rules Meeting
- 13 Livestock Rules Meeting
- 15 UWEX Office Closed - HOLIDAY
- 16 Cloverbuds @ Home
- 16 Leaders Association Meeting
- 19 Camp Counselor Application Deadline
- 21 SCC 4-H Leader's Training
- 28 Dog Bite Prevention Presentation



February

- 3 Sheep & Goat: Lambing & Kidding Clinic
- 4 Dog Project Agility and Rally Training
- 5 Horse Project Monthly Meeting
- 8 Fair Board Meeting
- 11 Dog Project Agility and Rally Training
- 12 Dairy Committee Meeting
- 18 Dog Project Agility and Rally Training
- 20 Cloverbuds @ Home
- 24 Clover College
- 25 Dog Project Tricks that Transition! and Attention Development
- 25 Dog Project Agility and Rally Training
- 29 St. Croix County 4-H Dog Project committee meeting



March

- 1 Enrollment Deadline to show at St. Croix Co. Fair under 4-H
- 3 Dog Project Agility and Rally Training
- 4 Horse Project Monthly Meeting
- 10 Dog Project Agility and Rally Training
- 15 4-H Deadline to add/delete projects
- 16 Showmanship Seminar
- 17 Dog Project Agility and Rally Training
- 19 Leaders Association Meeting
- 19 Cloverbuds @ Home
- 24 Dog Project Agility and Rally Training



CLUB INFORMATION

2024 Summer Camp Counselor's Needed!

CAMP DATES: JUNE 12-14, 2024



Do you enjoy working with younger members in 4-H? Have you had experience planning activities for younger members? Have you worked with other members your age to organize group activities? If you answered yes to any of these questions, think about applying to be a 4-H Summer Camp Counselor. Serving as a 4-H Camp Counselor is one of the most fun leadership development opportunities you can be part of. Counselors (youth grades 8-12) will make up a team from three different counties and focus their skills to develop a great 2024 summer camp program for youth.

Please complete applications by January 19 at <https://go.wisc.edu/xrr3u3> or paper application below found here: <https://stcroix.extension.wisc.edu/files/2023/12/Camp-Counselor-Application.docx-1.pdf>

2024 4-H Clover College SAVE THE DATE - Saturday, February 24, 2024 Camp St. Croix, Hudson, WI

This fun filled day is open to all youth (4-H and non) grades K—5. The day will be filled with a variety of workshops for youth to explore different 4-H projects. Youth will take home several completed fair projects. Registration information will be sent out shortly!



2024 Clover College Workshop Help Still Needed

Thank you to all who have signed up to lead Clover College this year!

Heidi Wagner
Jennie Bazille
Lindsay Spindler
Rob and Tara Brown
Molly Ziegler



The deadline has been extended to January 5th, please consider leading a workshop! We are in need of adults and youth who would be willing to teach a 4-H project related workshop. Topics can be pretty much anything that K-5th graders would find fun to learn about. Youth will spend the day rotating between workshops.

To register to host a workshop please go to: <https://forms.gle/JxQsrk7HYHWgiPwT9>

News from North County 4-H Club

1. North Country submitted 5 entries for the Cedar Crest Ice Cream Contest
2. Decorated over a dozen beautiful wreaths for the Holidays. The wreaths were for sale at the Deer Park Library. Proceeds went to the Library.



CLOVERBUDS AT HOME

The 1st Cloverbuds at Home Zoom was great success! Youth in K-2 constructed a Jingle Bell Engineering Challenge. Youth were challenged to build structures that would stand on their own using just play dough and jingle bells.

The kids came up with super creative designs!



2024 4-H TRIP PARTICIPANTS

Thinking about taking a trip in 2024? Just a reminder to members attending 4-H trips - the Leaders Association offers trip scholarships for eligible applicants to help cover some of the cost of the trip.

Forms can be found **HERE** <https://stcroix.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-scholarships-awards/>

Deadlines –

For trips scheduled in February 2024-June 30, 2024, application deadline is no later than **Friday, April 5, 2024** at 5:00pm.

Find the 2023-24 Wisconsin 4-H Program Booklet Here: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/80783fab-dd3a-4773-88b9-f90f9775871b>



IT'S HERE!

2023-24 WISCONSIN 4-H PROGRAM BOOKLET

See all the amazing programs and educational experiences that WI 4-H has to offer this year! Learn about trips, camps, animals, and more!


LEADER NEWS

To register to attend the Leaders Retreat click here: <https://forms.gle/v1H54MCNFaWpBtrU6>

4-H LEADER'S RETREAT



21 Jan
2024
1 PM - 5 PM

LOCATION 
UW Extension Office
1960 8th Ave, Baldwin

RSVP to Laura at laura.hinz@wisc.edu

- Policy Info
- Resources
- Project Activity
- Information Sharing
- Q & A

Connect
Grow
Learn

St. Croix County 4-H Leaders Association Meeting

**Tuesday, January 16 @
7:00pm**

**UW-Extension Office
or via ZOOM**

**Agenda will be sent out
prior to the meeting**



REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS FROM ST. CROIX COUNTY 4-H LEADERS ASSOCIATION

To request reimbursement of an expense your club or committee has incurred - please use this form <https://stcroix.extension.wisc.edu/files/2023/12/4-H-Request-Reimbursement-Form.pdf> found on the Extension website.

Return to the SCC 4-H Leaders Association
Email: scc4hleaders@gmail.com
Mail: 1960 8th Ave, Suite 140; Baldwin, WI 54002



4-H Event Insurance

As you plan out your club calendar take note of those activities that may require additional insurance. This insurance will cover all participants (youth/adult, 4-H and non 4-H). The cost is \$0.30/person/day. Please fill out this form to request insurance: <https://forms.gle/Pk9S1xxmXfHmYtgE8>



St. Croix County Fairgrounds Use Request

If your club or group would like to use the fair grounds please fill out this form and it will initiate the process to start. Once receive you will be contacted by Sky or Gail around the use of the grounds.



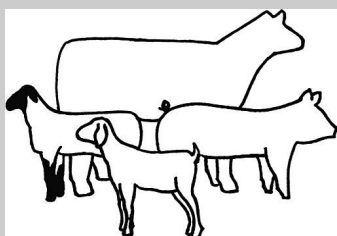
Use this form to request the fairgrounds for 4-H use:
<https://forms.gle/59Yz3G4bhFnwytJY6>

Livestock Committee News

Rules Meetings:

Tuesday, January 9 @ 6:30 pm
Saturday, January 13 @ 9:30 am

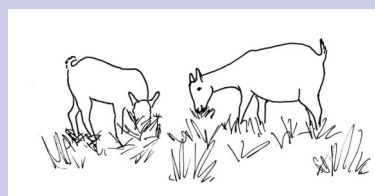
At the UW Extension Office,
Baldwin



Sheep & Goat: Lambing & Kidding Clinic

When: Saturday February 3rd, 2024 10:00 AM
Where: Peterson Hyway Farm
W6621 610th Avenue Ellsworth, WI 54011

Get your sheep or goat clinic done early this year! Please join us at the Peterson Hyway Farm for a lambing and kidding clinic. Please keep an eye on the communicator, your emails and the Facebook St Croix County Livestock Events Page for updates in case it needs to be rescheduled due to weather.



Interstate Livestock Show

SAVE THE
DATE FOR
THIS YEAR'S
SHOW! JUNE
22, 2024



Zoom link: <https://go.wisc.edu/xc9heu>
Contact Lindsay for more details at lindsay.spindler@wisc.edu

Interested in contributing your ideas to the 2024 Interstate Livestock Show? Join our Zoom Meeting on February 20th, 2024 at 7:00 pm. We are looking for both youth and adult voice to shape this year's show! Zoom link: <https://go.wisc.edu/xc9heu>

Contact Lindsey Spindler for more details at lindsay.spindler@wisc.edu

COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITY:

One of St. Croix Counties amazing 4-H volunteers has decided to take a step back from some of their volunteering roles. They have worked hard to support 4-H youth in the **Foods and Nutrition Project** and have left the project ready and waiting for new leadership. Does this sound like it is right in your wheel house, if so please reach out for more information to laura.hinz@wisc.edu or sky.holt@wisc.edu



St. Croix County Youth Horse Project

All Horse project parents and youth are welcome and encouraged!

Upcoming 2024 Youth Horse Project Meetings - Ag Center

Youth Meeting 7:00 / all project meeting 7:30

- Monday January 8th
- Monday February 5th
- Monday March 4th
- Monday April 1st
- Monday May 6st
- Monday June 3rd
- Monday July 1st
- Monday Aug 5th (project recap meeting)
- No Sept meeting
- Monday Oct 7th – 2024 Year-end banquet



New Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Map Tool Launched For Poultry Owners

Attention poultry owners:

In the past weeks, there have been six cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in backyard domestic and commercial flocks in the state.

As wild bird migration continues this fall and winter, additional cases may be detected in the state. DATCP urges all poultry owners to be proactive to protect their birds from the disease. Please take time to review and ensure that everyone who has contact with your poultry are following biosecurity practices to reduce risks to your birds.

In an effort to help producers determine if their poultry are located in an active control area or surveillance zone: <https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents2/HPAISurveillanceZoneAndControlAreaResource.pdf>, DATCP has launched a new map tool: <https://widatcp.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=41c12066a88043288d7ca51abf8fa641>.

HPAI is highly contagious and often fatal to domestic poultry. The disease can be spread by contact with infected birds, commingling with wild birds or their droppings, equipment, or clothing worn by anyone working with the animals. All Wisconsin poultry owners are encouraged to protect their flock by practicing proper biosecurity.

The mapping tool can be accessed through DATCP's HPAI webpage.: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/HPAIWisconsin.aspx

Be sure to monitor flocks for any changes in behavior and call (608) 224-4872 to report any birds that may appear sick or that have recently died.

DATCP also reminds Wisconsin poultry owners to register their premises here: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/PremisesRegistration.aspx State law requires that all livestock owners register where their animals are kept. Registration helps animal health officials communicate with flock owners during disease outbreaks.



For your 4-H Information

New for 2024 Fair. All youth wanting to exhibit an animal projects must complete Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) to show animals at the St. Croix County Fair. *All animals except: Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Mice, Mink, Opossums, Dogs and Cats.* For more information or to complete YQCA please use this link:

<https://yqcaprogram.org/>



Dog Project News

St. Croix County dog project –
an exciting year ahead!



To suit a variety of skill and interest levels, there are a variety of program elements in the dog project and we want to clear up any confusion, since we have a lot to offer year-round. The core required season is spring (April-July) for everyone to get ready for obedience and showmanship at the St. Croix County dog show in July. Everything else is optional and dependent on what skill level you are at.

New dog project members enrolled via 4-H online by March 1, 2024: You are welcome to participate in any of the education sessions this winter, but you are not eligible to bring your dog. Training will begin in April for you, and in May for you and your dog as a team. You will train up until the county fair. If you want to train beyond that (August-October) you can discuss with your trainers and find out what you'd be eligible to do. What you are eligible to do depends on your skill level in obedience training.

For all dog project members – just the basics: No matter what skill level you are at, if you are wanting to do only the basic or minimal amount of training in the dog project, that would mean that you'd go to the mandatory meeting in April and then participate in at least 5 of the 10 sessions of obedience training offered May-July (Thursday evenings). This is the minimal requirement for showing at the County Fair.

Educational classes: These are open to all youth in 4-H, whether enrolled in the dog project or not. The classes are offered as optional learning opportunities for you and your family and are not required, except the Dog Behavior and Dog Bite Prevention class is a prerequisite for those who are eligible and want to train in agility and rally.

Training classes for youth/dog teams: Obedience and showmanship training is offered just May-July and is open to all dog project enrollees – no matter what skill level.

Agility and rally training will be offered throughout much of the year, so youth/dog teams can stay tuned up and keep learning. Agility and rally training is open to youth/dog teams that have passed the basics of obedience and are training at the novice level or higher – they also have participated in the Dog Behavior and Dog Bite Prevention education session.

Committee meetings: These business meetings are held quarterly for the dog project volunteer leaders and any other parents or youth who want to help plan the program logistics.

Dog Project 2024 – Year At a Glance

Questions? Please reach out to dogprojectstcroix@gmail.com or message our Facebook group @St.Croix County 4-H Dog Project Members



January 28, 2-4pm	Dog Bite Prevention presentation. This is a mandatory class for those wanting to start training in agility and rally. Open to all dog project members and attendance is strongly encouraged. This educational session will include valuable information about dog behavior and safety, held at UWEX 1960 8th Ave. Baldwin, WI.
February 4, 3-4 pm and running consecutively on Sundays	Agility and Rally Training. This is held indoors at Overdale Kennel, N8694 County Road B, Spring Valley Wi. 54767. If interested in participating, please email dogprojectstcroix@gmail.com by January 15th . Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance of (or have attended in previous years) the Bite Prevention Seminar. • Completion of Pre Novice (2+ years in project) • Dogs must be up to date on vaccines required by the dog project. • Special note that all dog project members may attend to observe any practices regardless of years in project, <i>without dogs</i>. This class will run for a consecutive 8 weeks, dates are subject to change.
February 24	Clover College. Dog project committee members will be offering a dog-themed class again this year. Stay tuned for more details.
February 25, 2-3pm	Tricks that Transition! and Attention Development. This is held indoors at Overdale Kennel, N8694 County Road B, Spring Valley Wi. 54767. <i>Youth/Dog teams must have completed Beginner Pre-Novice (in obedience) and should attend as a team. Dogs must be up to date on all vaccines required by the dog project. First year dog project members are welcome to come observe without their dogs.</i>
February 29 Thursday, 7 pm	St. Croix County 4-H Dog Project committee meeting. This is a business meeting for the project leaders, held at UWEX 1960 8th Ave. Baldwin, WI. Any parents or youth who want to participate in the planning discussions are welcome.
March 16	Showmanship Seminar. This educational session is open to all dog project members. No dogs please. More details coming soon!
<i>Required - Spring Training Season: April-July</i>	<i>Spring training for the youth/dog teams in obedience is required for all members and is foundational for expanding to additional disciplines. This is preparation for the St. Croix Co. Dog Show.</i>
April 4 & April 7 Times TBD	Mandatory Dog Project Kick Off Meeting. Held at the UWEX, 1960 8th Ave. Baldwin, WI. All dog project members MUST ATTEND ONE of the two dates offered.
April 25th Time TBD	Dog obedience orientation for Beginners ONLY. Times and places TBD.
May 2 nd and running consecutively on Thursday evenings	Dog obedience and showmanship weekly training on Thursday evenings. Times and places TBD.

Dog Project 2024 – Year At a Glance

Questions? Please reach out to dogprojectstcroix@gmail.com or message our Facebook group @St.Croix County 4-H Dog Project Members



June 6, 7pm	St. Croix County 4-H Dog Project Committee meeting.
June 27th	Dog Project Fun Show. Time and details TBD.
July 13	Dog Project County Fair Show
<u>Optional</u> - Summer Training Season: Aug.-Oct.	<i>Training continues for those qualified and interested to show at the WI state dog show. Annual project year wrap-up.</i>
Aug./Sept.	Optional agility, rally, obedience, showmanship practices resume to prepare for State 4-H dog show participants. Times and places TBD.
Sept./Oct.	Dog project promotional events at White Pine Berry Farm and Camp St. Croix. Dates and Times TBD.
Oct. 4-6	State 4-H Dog Show
<i>Winter Break: Nov.-Dec.</i>	

4-H Volleyball News:

4-H kids were able to grow their volleyball skills and have fun playing on Sunday nights from November 5th - December 10th at Clear Lake High School. Some kids attended every night and many others came when they could. Everyone did a great job! Shout out to Alyssa Fouks (4-H alumni) and Matthew Pribble for helping with the middle school kids!

4-H Volleyball for 2nd - 4th graders

When: January 7 and 21

Time: 6:00 - 7:00

Where: Clear Lake High School Gym

What: Volleyball skills and games for beginners. We will be using a short net and a regular net to help kids develop their skills.

Call me with any questions.

Gina Schneider 715-965-0782



Heritage Dairy Heifer Calf Applications Due: February 1

The St. Croix County 4-H Dairy Committee is sponsoring a Registered Dairy Calf Award to one outstanding 4-H member. Interested members are asked to write a short essay (100 words or less) on “What would owning your own registered dairy calf mean to your 4-H experience?” Applicants are also asked to list their involvement in 4-H and dairy project activities.



Applications can be found online at <https://stcroix.extension.wisc.edu/files/2023/12/Heritage-Calf-2024.pdf> and are due February 1, 2024. All applications should be emailed to Mary Luckwaldt at luckwaldt123@yahoo.com.

The dairy committee will pay registration transfer fees. Previous winners are not eligible. Decisions of the judges are final. Application is open to 4-H members of all ages. This is an excellent opportunity to add a registered dairy calf to your 4-H project experience. Be sure to thank your 4-H Dairy Committee members for making this possible!

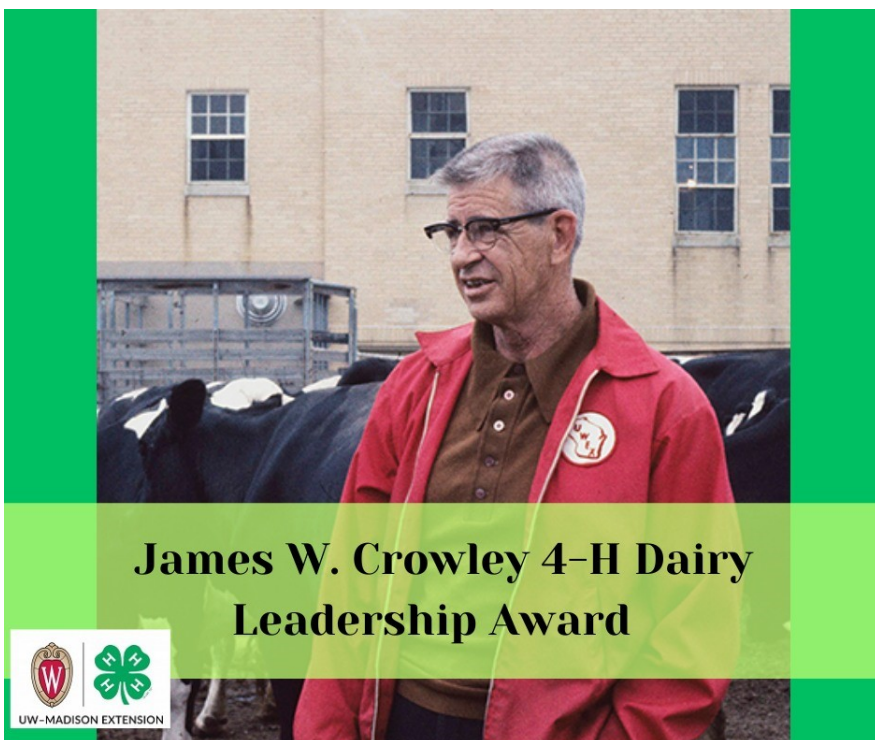
James W. Crowley Dairy Leadership Award

The 4-H Dairy Leadership Award provides recognition to youth who have excelled in their dairy project. As of 1989, the James W. Crowley Dairy Management and Extension Fund assumed sponsorship of this award.

Applications due February 1.

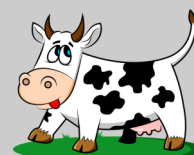
Applications can be found on the Extension Website: <https://stcroix.extension.wisc.edu/files/2023/12/2024-Crowley-Application-Essay-Questions.pdf>

Please forward completed application to Mary Luckwaldt at luckwaldt123@yahoo.com



Dairy Committee

Committee Meeting:
Monday, February 12 at 7 pm
@ UW-Extension Office, Baldwin



ST. CROIX COUNTY FAIR

ST CROIX COUTNY FAIR

HAPPY NEW YEAR! On behalf of the SCCF Board we want to send our very best wishes to everyone for a Happy and Healthy 2024! Just a reminder to mark your calendars for July 17-21, 2024 for “All Roads Lead to the Fair” and start making plans for all the exhibits you will be entering at the fair. Online Fair Entry begins April 1 and closes May 31.

Help Wanted. The Fair is currently looking for people to fill the following positions and roles for the fair. If interested, please contact Gail Maier for more information at stcroixcofair@gmail.com.

Grounds Supervisor: mowing, trimming and equipment maintenance.

Grounds Flower and Plant Supervisor

Open Class Department Superintendents:

Flowers & Houseplants

Clothing

Natural Sciences

Woodworking

Junior Fair:

Youth Exhibit Building Superintendents

Coordinators/Superintendents for all Junior Fair Departments

Fair Board Meetings. Fair Board Meetings. Generally held the second Thursday of each month. The next meeting for the Fair Board will be February 8, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Extension Office. The Annual meeting with the election of Directors (nominees welcome!) and Officers will be followed by the monthly business meeting.

Best wishes to all for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!



Premium Checks

Premium checks were issued in October. If you haven't cashed your check, it is now void. To be issued a new check you will have to come to a fair board meeting either in February or March, present your uncashed check and request a new check from the treasurer. Contact Gail Maier about meeting times and places for these months. mmaiergail@aol.com



FRIENDS OF THE FAIR

Friends of the St. Croix County Fairgrounds

Friends extend best wishes for a great 2024!

As we view 2023 in the rearview mirror, we are truly amazed and gratified by the results! Thanks to the support and generosity of many, we finished strong - commodity drive, donations, raffles and most of all, the morphed Maytober. A big thank you to all who helped make a reality of our stretch goal – being in a position to keep our commitment of a \$50,000 grant towards the Tiffany Creek Shelter. We also made four Club Development Grants and provided partial funding of the Heritage Calf Project.

Great news:

1. The Tiffany Creek Shelter is right on track thanks to the hard work of the committee led by Dean LeMay. At this writing the foundation is complete and the sewer nearly complete. The modular building manufactured by Huffcutt is scheduled to be completed and set in place this winter.
2. We recently received a very nice donation from the Roberts Ribbon Reapers 4-H Club!!
3. Our relationship with Jody Close, Smith Auctions remains strong – a big thank you to Jody for his continued support!

Looking ahead to 2024, we anticipate a record setting year due to the universal appeal of up to date, ADA compliant shower and toilet facilities coupled with a storm resistant building. Based on FEMA standards of 5 square feet per individual, the building will provide storm protection for 200 plus people, a big plus for those staying overnight on the Fairgrounds.

Please keep tuned as Friends works through our fund raising plans for 2024. Please feel free to contact Friends' Board Members with your suggestions – all ideas are welcome. We also welcome new members to our team – if interested, contact Chris Libbey at (651) 247-0395



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL 4-H!

Did you know that monies can be directly donated to our St. Croix County 4-H Program. Through the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation you can donate directly to Support St. Croix County 4-H. Share this information with any and all 4-H Supporters! Go to the Extension St. Croix County Website: <https://stcroix.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/4-h-resources/>



You can help grow 4-H

Nearly 150,000 Wisconsin youth are learning and growing through the wide variety of 4-H programs that receive funding from the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation. Go to our county support page to learn more about 4-H in the county and how you can get involved.

100% of the funds donated through our county web page goes to support our county 4-H program.

You can make a difference!

Visit www.Wis4HFoundation.org to connect with OUR county

Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Celebrates the Arts Contest

The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Celebrates the Arts is a contest, to be held annually for the purpose of:

- Promoting 4-H Arts Programming
- Raising Funds to Support 4-H Art Programs
- Telling the 4-H Story
- Raising Awareness of the WI 4-H Foundation and the 4-H Program

Contest ends January 15, 2024. All information found here:

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/2023/10/30/wisconsin-4-h-foundation-celebrates-the-arts-contest/>



Hatching—An EGGSeptional Poultry Project Experience



There are an EGGSeptional number of topics to explore as part of the very popular 4-H Poultry Project. Some examples of these include breeds, body parts, feathers, eggs, animal nutrition, bird health and safety, business economics, and even industry-related careers. That said, few topics are more exciting and impressionable than chick embryology and the incubation and hatching process that makes it possible. From the first moment of incubator set-up until the last chick leaves

the brooder box for life in the coop, members will be growing their science abilities and building important life skills. Learn More Here: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/2023/12/18/hatching-an-eggseptional-poultry-project-experience/>

2024 Citizenship Washington Focus

Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) is a 4-H civic engagement experience for high school youth. For seven days, teens from around the nation will gather to have meaningful discussions and hear from prominent speakers, influential leaders and engaging young people who have created an impact. They will connect with 500 other teens as they learn the skills needed to lead in their local communities and become change agents to build a brighter future. Learn more at <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/citizenship-washington-focus/>

CWF is hosted in Washington, DC and is scheduled for June 15-22 2024. Interested applicants need to complete the following tasks:

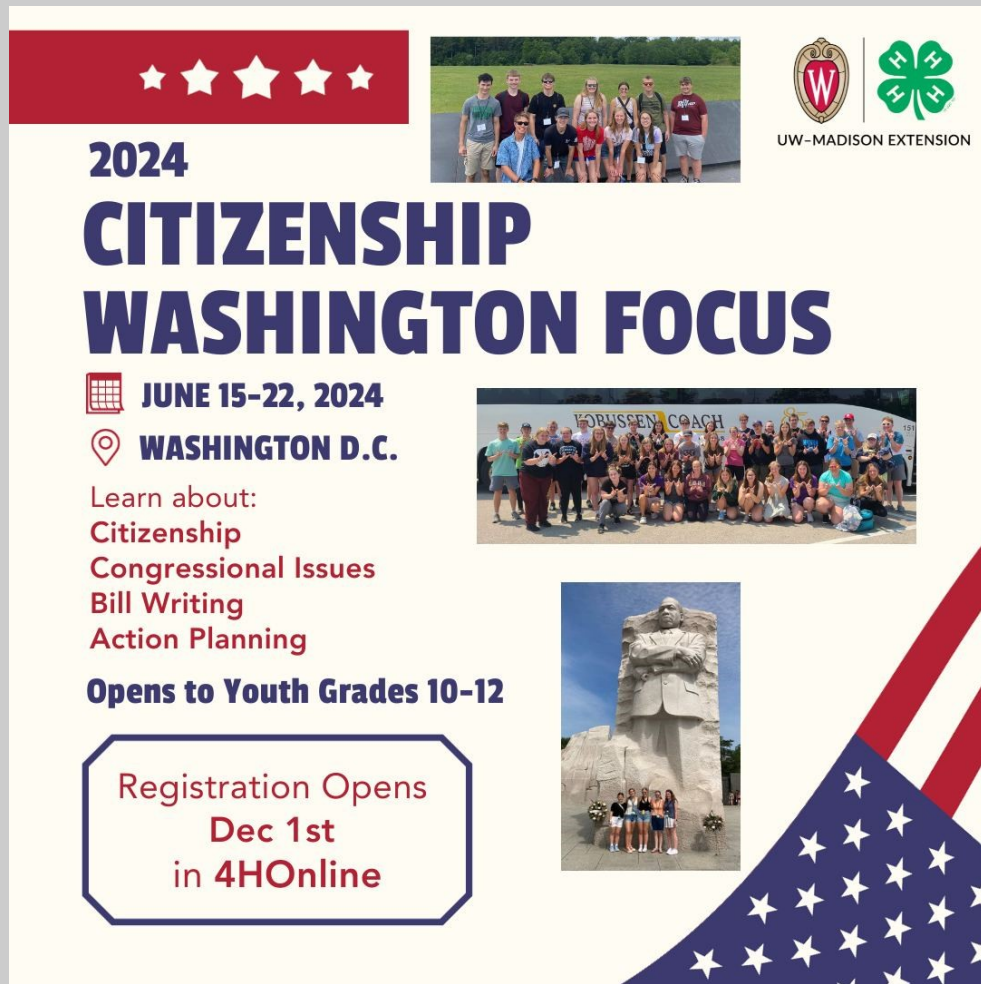
Complete the CWF application via 4honline by January 2, 2024

Submit a \$500 deposit by January 15, 2024

Work with your local 4-H county/tribal program to learn about local scholarship opportunities + make a fundraising plan for the remaining balance

The full cost of this experience is estimated at \$2500 per person, which includes: Airfare from Wisconsin to Washington, DC (exact airport(s) TBD); Seven nights of room & board at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda; Most meals; DC-area transportation, site visits, and program materials.


This experience typically fills quickly; don't wait to apply!




The graphic features a red banner at the top with five white stars. Below it is a group photo of participants. To the right are the UW-Madison Extension and 4-H logos. The main title '2024 CITIZENSHIP WASHINGTON FOCUS' is in large blue letters. Below the title, a calendar icon indicates 'JUNE 15-22, 2024' and a location pin icon indicates 'WASHINGTON D.C.'. A list of topics to learn about includes 'Citizenship', 'Congressional Issues', 'Bill Writing', and 'Action Planning'. It states 'Opens to Youth Grades 10-12'. A registration box says 'Registration Opens Dec 1st in 4HOnline'. Another group photo is shown, along with a photo of the Lincoln Memorial. The bottom right corner features a large American flag graphic.

2024

CITIZENSHIP WASHINGTON FOCUS

 **JUNE 15-22, 2024**

 **WASHINGTON D.C.**

Learn about:

- Citizenship**
- Congressional Issues**
- Bill Writing**
- Action Planning**

Opens to Youth Grades 10-12

Registration Opens
Dec 1st
in 4HOnline

Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Higher Education Scholarship Opportunities

The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation will award more than \$20,000 in scholarships to outstanding Wisconsin 4-H members and alumni pursuing higher education in 2024. Wisconsin 4-H Foundation scholarships are awarded to students based on demonstrated personal growth through 4-H, development and leadership in 4-H, academic performance and future educational goals. Continue reading to learn more about how to apply for a scholarship! <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/2023/12/01/wisconsin-4-h-foundation-higher-education-scholarship-opportunities/>



Hello 4-H Meats Judging Enthusiasts!

4-H Meats Judging Contest

Mark your calendars for the upcoming State 4-H Meats Judging Contest on Saturday, February 3, 2024. If you have participated in the past or this is the first time you are hearing about the contest, we would love to have you join us for this day of learning, fun, and competition.

What is the 4-H Meats Judging Contest? Have you been to your local meat market or grocery store lately and think you could choose the best cut of meat out of the case? Have you ever watched a live animal contest and thought you could choose what animals would provide the best meat products? This is your opportunity to put those skills to work. This contest tests the knowledge of youth in the placement of carcass and retail cut classes, carcass grading, and retail cut identification. Top senior teams earn the opportunity to compete at national competitions.

Who can participate? You must be a currently enrolled WI 4-H member to participate in this contest.

Junior – Age 8-13 as of January 1, 2024. Youth must be in or completed 3rd grade, 8-year-old

Cloverbuds **cannot** participate.

Senior – Age 14-18 as of January 1, 2024. (Sr. team members cannot exceed grade 12, regardless of age)

Grade 13 Members - WI 4-H members that are in the 13th grade are eligible to compete at this state contest as individuals but not as a member of a team.

Even if your county has not participated in the past, round-up some 4-H friends and take advantage of this fun opportunity to show your knowledge of the animal species and industry.

Looking for more information, where to register, or resources to study from? Check out the links below:

4-H Meats Judging – Saturday, February 3, 2024

Location: Meat Science and Animal Biologics Discovery Building, UW Madison Campus

Deadlines: (more information located in the registration materials):

-Estimated number of participants (needed to order PPE): January 20, 2024 - through Google form

-Contest final registration: January 20, 2024 - <https://244Hmeatsjudging.4honline.com> (Directions for registration are in the packet)

More information and registration available at:

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/meats-judging-contest/>

Contest educational resources and study materials are available on the UW-Madison Youth

Livestock site: <https://youthanimalsciences.wisc.edu/resources/meat-judging/>

If you have any questions, please contact Jill at jill.jorgensen@wisc.edu / phone at 920-391-4659 or Bernie at borourke2@wisc.edu.



OTHER NEWS

Applications for the WROF, Inc. Premier Scholarship Program

Applications for our Premier Scholarship Award Program will open on Friday, Jan. 5, 2024 and close on Wednesday, March 6. Students, please visit our website, www.wrof.org to apply online. We will only accept applications submitted online.

This year, we will be awarding five outstanding high school seniors from rural Wisconsin with each a \$3,000 scholarship award to pursue post-secondary education.

Here are the criteria we will use when choosing the five recipients:

- The high school senior has lived in rural Wisconsin for at least two years. "Rural" is defined as traditional rural areas and rural towns with a population of 25,000 or less.
- The high senior is attending a public or private school in Wisconsin.
- The high school senior is pursuing post-secondary education and plans on returning to rural Wisconsin upon graduation.
- The high school senior will pursue a degree in a field that will support the economic health and well-being of rural communities in Wisconsin. This includes fields in agriculture, healthcare, large animal veterinary care, environmental studies, and sustainable practices.
- The high school senior has financial need.

Three letters of recommendation are requested and help in the selection process, but are not required.

Selection will be completed by an ad hoc committee.

The scholarship award will support tuition and educational expenses, up to \$1,500 per semester, and will continue if a 2.5 GPA is maintained.



Registration is open for Winter 2024 online courses!



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
HORTICULTURE PROGRAM

Plant Diagnostics: The Step-by-Step Approach to Identifying Plant Problems

Registration now open! <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/plant-diagnostics-course/>

2024 Master Gardener Onboarding

Registration now open! <https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/onboarding-registration/>

Do you want to be a Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener? Have you completed an approved learning opportunity? If you answered yes to both these questions, then now is the time to join the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program by registering and completing the 2024 Onboarding course.

This course serves as an orientation to the Program and covers its requirements. Upon completion, you will be prepared to address needs and opportunities in your community and throughout the state as a Master Gardener.

RAISING WISCONSIN'S CHILDREN

Conference 2024

Join a free, online conference designed for parents and families. Participants will get practical, positive parenting ideas from experts and explore how to help children grow.

JANUARY 9, 2024
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, CST



[Click or scan to register for this free online conference.](#)



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

STRONG *People*™

STRONG BODIES



Join us for strength training classes!

These classes are designed for mid-life and older adults and include progressive resistance training, balance training, and flexibility exercises.

Classes are twice weekly for 10 weeks, led by Selena Freimark, UW- Madison Division of Extension Health & Well-Being Educator.

What: StrongBodies Class

Dates: January 9 – March 14, 2024

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3-4 (class) with optional mindfulness education from 4-4:30

For information and to sign up:

stcroix.extension.wisc.edu/strong-bodies/

Contact: Selena Freimark, Selena.Freimark@wisc.edu or 715-531-1947



UW– Madison, Division of Extension Non Discrimination

Periodically, UW-Madison takes steps to ensure that our partners know and understand our policy of non-discrimination. This is to remind or notify you that the University of Wisconsin Madison, Division of Extension does not discriminate in the treatment of individuals in the admission or access to its programs and activities, in the provision of services, or in employments.

Further, UW-Madison will not participate with organizations or in activities, which discriminate on the basis of any of the prohibited categories of discrimination. Categories of prohibited discrimination include: race, color, gender/sex, creed, disability, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or parental status, arrest or conviction record, or membership in the National Guard, State Defense Force, or any other component of military services.

Consistent with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons who need materials in alternative format or other accommodation must write or call the UW-Extension contact person for the specific program or call the main telephone number of St. Croix County UW-Extension (715) 531-1930, 1960 8th Ave., Suite 140, Baldwin, WI 54002 at least 10 working days prior to the event. Individuals who need TDD/TTY access, can call 711 for relay assistance.

The University of Wisconsin Madison, Division of Extension staff in St. Croix County thanks you for collaborating with our many educational endeavors. We appreciate your support and working relationship as we provide educational programs designed to empower the diverse citizens of St. Croix County.

St. Croix County 4-H

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