



The Wisconsin 4-H MOVEMENT

CLOVER CONNECTION

Polk County

December 2024

Family Members & Volunteers, We Need You!

Your involvement and support in our program is truly valued. We could not offer the incredible opportunities available to youth without dedicated volunteers like you.

To enhance our program's effectiveness, we are implementing a new strategy aimed at increasing participation at the county level. A key goal for the Polk County 4-H Program is to establish genuine Project Development Committees (PDCs) to create more opportunities for young people. We need your assistance to achieve this. Please follow the link below to access a brief Google form that will help me align our volunteers' diverse skills with the needs of our 4-H program.
<https://go.wisc.edu/v2w25t>

WE WANT
YOU!

Congratulations National Champions!

The Wisconsin 4-H Dairy Bowl team from Polk County, competed at the National Dairy Bowl Competition in Louisville, KY, and brought home the title.

The entire team also placed in the top ten on the written test.

The team consisted of Kallie Andersen, Evelyn Braaten, Suki Gatica, and Darby Trent. Patti Hurtgen and Gwen Dado coached the team. Congratulations again to the Polk County team - we are so proud of you!



RE-ENROLL IN 4-H TODAY!

WE ENCOURAGE ALL MEMBERS TO RE-ENROLL BY JANUARY 1ST.

WONDERING "WHY?"

Here are the top 5 reasons:

- You will not have to worry about enrolling at the last minute and potentially make mistakes that will impact your fair entry
- Members will be covered by our 4-H insurance at 4-H events
- Leaders will have an updated list of all members
- Families will get the Newsletter
- Members can receive broadcast email

Please call the Office if you have questions, 715-485-8600

**THIS WILL BE YOUR
LAST NEWSLETTER
IF YOU HAVE NOT
RE-ENROLLED!**

DECEMBER

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	3	4 National Cookie Day 	5	6	7 Cloverbud Day Camp Beef Weigh-In National Cotton Candy Day 
8	9 M.E. Workshop National Llama Day 	10	11	12 National Gingerbread House Day 	13	14
15 National Cupcake Day 	16	17 National Maple Syrup Day 	18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice 
22	23 Office Closed	24 Office Closed 	25 Office Closed 	26 Office Closed	27	28
29	30 Office Closed	31 Office Closed 	1 Office Closed 			

DECEMBER

1: CWF APPLICATION REGISTRATIONS OPENS
7: CLOVERBUD DAY CAMP, 9AM-1PM AT JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH
7: BEEF WEIGH-IN STARTING AT 8AM LOCATED AT THE POLK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS SCALE BUILDING
9: ME WORKSHOP, 6:30PM AT THE LUCK LIBRARY
16: DEADLINE TO HAVE ANY CLUB OR PROJECT INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE IN THE NEWSETTER
20: ART AMBASSADOR REGISTRATION CLOSES
23: OFFICE CLOSED
24: CHRISTMAS EVE, OFFICE CLOSED
25: MERRY CHRISTMAS! OFFICE CLOSED
26: OFFICE CLOSED
30: OFFICE CLOSED
31: NEW YEARS EVE: OFFICE CLOSED
31: CWF REGISTRATION CLOSES

January

1: NEW YEARS DAY: OFFICE CLOSED
3: M.E. FORMS ARE DUE INTO THE EXTENSION OFFICE BY 4:30PM
13: DAIRY COMMITTEE MEETING STARTS AT 6PM AT JUSTICE CENTER
17: CAMP COUNSELOR APPLICATIONS DUE!
23: ROBOTICS PROJECT ORIENTATION, 6:30 AT THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SCF
27: AMBASSADOR MEETING STARTS AT 6PM AT THE JUSTICE CENTER
27: LEADERS FEDERATION MEETING STARTS AT 7PM AT THE JUSTICE CENTER

February

2: YOQA 12:30 JUSTICE CENTER
2: SHEEP KICK-OFF, 2:00PM AT THE JUSTICE CENTER
14: HAPPY VALENTINES DAY
22: CLOVER COLLEGE, AMERY HIGH SCHOOL
23: GOAT KICK-OFF, 12:30 AT THE JUSTICE CENTER
23: DAIRY KICK-OFF, 2PM AT SCF HIGH SCHOOL
24: DESSERTS & DISCUSSION, 7PM JUSTICE CENTER

CALLING ALL

— 4-H'ers —

7TH GRADE & UP

Join us for the upcoming M.E (Member Evaluation) Writing Workshops for help Developing and Writing your M.E. Forms, Scholarship Forms, or completing any "after High School" education applications. "Why is the completed M.E. Form Important?" This form is the primary paperwork you need to have completed to apply for trip experiences and possible trip experience financial assistance.

DATES Monday, December 9th 6:30pm

This workshop will take place at the Luck Library (301 So. Main St., Luck, WI). Please RSVP to Shirley at smillerfrey@gmail.com

AMBASSADOR MEETING



MONDAY, JANUARY 27 **6:00PM**
Polk County Justice Center

MONDAY, MARCH 24 **6:00PM**
Polk County Justice Center

POLK COUNTY 4-H LEADERS FEDERATION MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 27
Polk County Justice Center
7:00PM

MONDAY, MARCH 24
Polk County Justice Center
7:00PM

The Polk County 4-H Leaders Federation Board oversees the 4-H Program, making key decisions about financial resource allocation and educational direction. Each club can send one adult and one youth representative, ensuring youth have an equal voice. The board meets six times a year.



2025 MARKET BEEF INITIAL WEIGH-IN

**Will be held Saturday
December 7th at the Polk
County Fairgrounds scale
building from 8 am to 10 am. All
animals to be weighed must be
pre-registered by visit the
Google Form:**

**[https://forms.gle/xtvKG4VFRP
Xstuu3A](https://forms.gle/xtvKG4VFRPXstuu3A)**

**If you have any questions
please contact Craig Scholz
612-751-3236 or Jake Loen
715-557-0138.**

Adult Volunteers NEEDED!

for

CLOVERBUD DAY CAMPS

**We are looking for adult volunteers for
Cloverbud Day Camps! This is a great chance
to positively impact young children's lives by
supporting their learning in a fun
environment. Volunteers will facilitate
activities, ensuring safety and enjoyment.
Whether experienced or new to volunteering,
your help is invaluable. Contact the Extension
Office, 715-485-8600, to volunteer or to
learn more about this opportunity!**

**Our next Cloverbud Camp will be
on December 7th**



WHAT'S UP With Your CLUB?

**Want your club to shine in the
next Clover Newsletter? It's a
piece of cake! Just whip up a
fun little article about your
club's latest shindig and don't
forget to snap a pic with all the
fabulous members in it!**

**Share your club's community
contributions by emailing Kerry at
kerry.hill2@wisc.edu!**

4-H YOUTH APPLICATIONS ARE DUE FRIDAY, JANUARY 3RD TO:

**Polk County Extension Office
100 Polk County Plaza,
Suite G600
Balsam Lake, WI 54810**

Applications and the application checklist can be found under the "Forms & Applications" page on the Extension website.

Here is a helpful list of items you will need to have completed in order to submit your application.

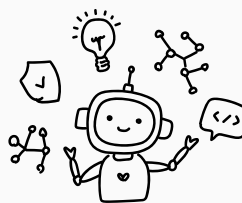
- Key Award and Educational Experience Cover Letter
- Member Evaluation Form (M.E)
- 4-H Leader Evaluation and Recommendation Form

In addition to turning in these forms you will be required to complete an interview with our Polk County Awards Committee. Interviews are TBD, but will be conducting in-person or on Zoom. You will be contacted after submitting your materials for our Awards Committee chair to schedule this interview. Please contact Shirly Miller-Frey if you have any questions, smillerfrey@gmail.com

UPCOMING PROJECT MEETINGS, KICK-OFFS, AND EVENTS!

- Beef Kick-Off, March 9 at 12:30pm at the Justice Center
- Swine Kick-Off, March 16 at 12:30pm at the Justice Center
- Dino Hunt for Shooting Sports, May 9 at 6pm at the Balsam Lake Rod & Gun Club
- Fair Shoot for Shooting Sports, Explorers only, shotgun and rifle, June 14 at 9am at the Balsam Lake Rod & Gun Club
- Fair Shoot for Shooting Sports, Junior & Senior Division, shotgun and rifle, June 28 at 9am at the Balsam Lake Rod & Gun Club

ROBOTICS PROJECT ORIENTATION



Thursday, January 23 from
6:30-8pm at the First
Presbyterian Church of SCF
(719 Nevada St.)

This orientation is necessary for everyone signed up for the project. Please contact Shirley for questions, smillerfrey@gmail.com

Dairy Committee Meeting and Kick-Off!



The Dairy Committee Meeting will be held on January 13th starting at 6pm at the Justice Center

The Dairy Kick-Off will be on February 23rd starting at 2pm at SCF high school



Sheep Kick-Off will take place on February 2nd starting at 12:30pm at the Justice Center

There will be a YQCA ahead of this meeting so keep an eye out for that in the coming newsletters.

Goat Kick-Off will take place on February 23rd starting at 12:30pm at the Justice Center



There will be a YQCA ahead of this meeting so keep an eye out for that in the coming newsletters.

Mark Your Calendar

**CLOVER COLLEGE WILL
BE ON SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 22 LOCATED
AT AMERY HIGH
SCHOOL.**

Citizenship Washington Focus Trip



**2025 CWF - 1 WEEK IN LAKE
JUNE/EARLY JULY (FINAL DATES
AVAILABLE LATE 2024)**

WHAT IS CITIZENSHIP WASHINGTON FOCUS?

Citizenship Washington Focus, or CWF for short, is the premier week long 4-H citizenship and leadership experience. CWF brings 4-H delegations from all over the country to stay in Washington D.C., our Nation's Capital! Participants learn about the roles of Senators and Representatives in the United States' government and how these parts work together to form an effective Congress. Additionally, youth get to see and experience government in action by meeting with their State's members of Congress and watching a House of Representatives meeting.

**OPEN TO YOUTH IN GRADES 10-12TH
REGISTRATION IS OPEN FROM
DECEMBER 1-31 ON 4-H ONLINE**

ART BEAT

4-H ArtBEAT! is the introductory program for Wisconsin 4-H expressive arts and was created for 4-H members in grades 3-5, their parents and leaders. ArtBEAT! provides an opportunity for youth and their parents to experience different art forms in a camping environment at the Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center in Wisconsin Dells.

**More information to follow.
Registration will open
early 2025**



State Arts TEAM

This year all State Arts Team members will be part of the Wisconsin State 4-H Arts Ambassadors. Arts Ambassadors will learn about leadership, interpersonal skills and how to promote the 4-H Expressive Arts. By applying for any of the Arts teams you are also applying to be a part of this new state group, while still getting to focus on your art spark. Drama, Visual Arts & Comm/Media will all be part of the AA program.

**Applications for State
Arts Teams open
November 15th in
4HOnline and are due
December 20, 2024.**



**For more information or to
apply, please use the QR
code or go to, bit.ly/3CPFbmT**

BARRON-POLK TALENT EXPO

Do you have a talent in music, speech, dance, acting, or video making? Get ready for the 2025 Barron-Polk Talent Expo!

Club entries for skits and plays are strongly encouraged!

More information to follow

SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH



THERE'S STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR SPACE CAMP!

Register NOW - December 15th through 4-HOnline.
Open to youth in grades 6-8



Blast off to Space Camp for a thrilling three-day escapade in Huntsville, Alabama! Kids get to dive into the life of an astronaut, unlock NASA's top-secret mysteries, and discover the wonders of the cosmos. It's the perfect chance to trade in the mundane for a galaxy of fun, forge new friendships, and level up those leadership skills!



Don't forget the Holiday Fun Cloverbud Daycamp!

Saturday, December 7th, 9am-1pm
Joy Lutheran Church, Centuria, WI



Hello, Cloverbuds in grades K - 2! Prepare to unleash your creative spirit this holiday season! Join us for a delightful time as we construct gingerbread houses, decorate cookies, create paper chain snowmen, design your own ornaments, and SO MUCH MORE! Let the holiday magic commence!

Space is limited, please register
using the QR code, or visit:
bit.ly/3Z4M1wB



We Need Your Help!

We are seeking volunteers to lead fun workshops at the 2025 4-H Clover College on February 22 at Amery High School. This event, hosted by St. Croix County 4-H in partnership with Polk County 4-H, gathers over 100 kids (grades K-5) to explore 4-H activities in workshops. We need instructors to teach workshops on crafts or skills you are passionate about, such as woodworking, gardening, cooking, or robotics. **All workshop costs will be covered or reimbursed.** Volunteering at the Clover College is a wonderful opportunity to share your knowledge and make a positive impact in the community.

If you're interested in volunteering, please register online by December 15 to secure your spot and help make this event a memorable experience for everyone involved.

Space is limited, please register
using the QR code, or visit:
bit.ly/3Z5ntmS



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CAMP COUNSELOR FOR OUR ANNUAL PO-CROIX-BAR 4-H CAMP?

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!

COUNSELORS MUST BE CURRENTLY IN 9TH GRADE OR OLDER. APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY JANUARY 17, 2025. CONTACT YOUR 4-H PROGRAM EDUCATOR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED ANY ASSISTANCE.

YOUTH WILL BE NOTIFIED BY MID-FEBRUARY IF THEY ARE SELECTED TO BE A CAMP COUNSELOR FOR 2025. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE AVAILABLE ON THE DATES LISTED ON THIS APPLICATION FOR TRAININGS. NEW COUNSELORS WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO COMPLETE AN ONLINE TRAINING MODULE.

REGISTER HERE [HTTPS://GO.WISC.EDU/XRR3U3](https://go.wisc.edu/xrr3u3)



Madison, Wis. (November 1, 2024) – The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation has kicked off a contest that challenges all 4-H members to explore their creativity.

The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Celebrates the Arts Photography Contest is open to any current Wisconsin 4-H member, and the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation is awarding cash prizes. The contest will be held virtually, with photos of all entries submitted electronically. Entries are being accepted now through January 31, 2025.

The contest is broken into three categories:

1. General Photography
2. 4-H Experience Photography
3. Clovers on Film

A winner will be chosen in each category with a Best of Show award given to one entry chosen by the judging committee. Category winners will receive a \$50 cash award. The Best of Show entry will receive an additional \$100 cash award. Other photographs may be recognized but will not receive a cash award.

To be eligible for the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Photography Contest, youth must be a 4-H member enrolled in 4H Online for the 2024-2025 4-H Program Year. Entrants do not need to be enrolled in any specific project to participate.

Entry Information

- Entries will be accepted from Friday, November 1, 2024, until midnight on Friday, January 31, 2025.
- A photo of the entry and the completed entry form must be submitted through the contest website: <https://wis4hfoundation.org/celebrate-the-arts/>
- Each photographer may submit up to one entry in each of the three categories but may submit only one entry in each category.

For official contest rules and requirements and how to submit, please visit:

<https://wis4hfoundation.org/celebrate-the-arts/>.

Club Happenings

The Lucky Horseshoe 4-H club got their craft on and stitched together some snuggly tie blankets to spread warmth and fuzzy feelings by donating them to the Salvation Army!



The Bone Lake Beavers were on a mission, ringing the Salvation Army bell at Wayne's in Luck like it was the hottest concert in town!



The Bone Lake Beavers went on a food-gathering spree and snagged a whopping 109 lbs of goodies for the Amery Food Shelf!



December Newsletter

University of Wisconsin - Extension
Polk County Office
100 Polk Plaza, Suite 600
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Phone: (715) 485-8600

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