

# Clover Connection NEWSLETTER

**MAY, 2026**



Registration is open for Wisconsin 4-H Summer Academy 2026, where youth in grades 8-11 can explore an expanded 13 tracks to discover fun and exciting pathways to their futures!

During this Career and College Readiness experience, June 14-18 on the UW-Madison campus, young people from across the state will be empowered on their quest to get beyond ready for life and for work. Summer Academy helps youth explore career and hobby pathways hands-on in various fields like agriculture, STEM, leadership, arts and more!

All youth will explore campus, experience life in a residence hall, and earn from experts and professionals at UW-Madison and Madison College. Not to mention making friends with youth from around the state and enjoying Madison!



Registration, for just \$150, is open through April 26!  
Bus transportation routes will be available.  
Learn more at  
[go.wisc.edu/4HSummerAcademy](http://go.wisc.edu/4HSummerAcademy)



## **Want your club to shine in the next 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](mailto:kerry.hill2@wisc.edu)!**

## **Need a Paper Copy of the Newsletter?**

If you would like to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, please reach out to Kerry, [kerry.hill2@wisc.edu](mailto:kerry.hill2@wisc.edu), with your name and address you would like the newsletter sent

## **POLK COUNTY LEADERS FEDERATION MEETING**

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.

**MONDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> ,  
STARTING AT 7PM**

## **POLK COUNTY AMBASSADOR MEETING**

The next Polk County 4-H Ambassador meeting will be held on Monday, May 18th starting at 6PM

## MAY

02: Beef Fitting and Showmanship Clinic, Polk County Fairgrounds  
09: Kuhl Show Pigs Clinic  
09: Cloverbud Day Camp, 9AM at the Amery Community Center  
09: Registration due for Sewing Workshop  
09: Robotics, Sphero & EV3 Sessions, 1PM-3PM, First Presbyterian Church of SCF  
16: STEAM GAZE, 9:30AM-3PM, Kellogg PEAK Initiative, Milwaukee  
18: Swine DNA Kits Due into the Polk County Extension Office  
18: Polk County Ambassador Meeting, 6PM  
18: Polk County Leaders Federation Meeting, 7PM  
21: Sewing Workshop, Make a Tie Apron, 6-7:30PM, First Presbyterian Church of SCF  
28: Sewing Workshop, Make a Tie Apron, 6-7:30PM, First Presbyterian Church of SCF

## JUNE

01: LEGO Brick Building Challenge Submissions Due!  
07: LEGO Brick Building Challenge Viewing Party, 6pm  
07: Rabbit Workshop, 2pm-3pm. Polk County Fairgrounds  
9-12: Badger Dairy Camp, UW-Madison  
14-18: Summer Academy, Madison WI  
20: Robotics Sphero & EV3 Sessions  
27: Interstate Livestock Show, Polk County Fairgrounds  
27: Robotics Sphero & EV3 Sessions  
30: Area Animal Science Day, Clark County  
June 30-July 2: 4-H Camp, Camp Kiwanis

**Limited Space - Register Early**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**POLK & BARRON COUNTIES**

**SUMMER CAMP**

**3RD-6TH GRADE (BASE CAMP)**  
**7TH-8TH GRADE (OUTPOST)**

**JUNE 30-JULY 2**



**REGISTRATION**

**Camp Registration opens March 31 at 8AM in 4-H online (wi.4honline.com)**

**Camp Kiwanis**  
15987 St Croix Trail N. Marine on St Croix, MN 55047

The poster features three photographs: a group of campers in blue shirts, a group in yellow shirts holding a banner, and a person with a blue tarp. It also includes a camera icon and a hat icon.

# MAY

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2 ~Beef Fitting and Showmanship Clinic
3	4 <i>Teacher Appreciation Week!</i> 	5	6 <i>National Nurses Day</i> 	7	8	9 ~Cloverbud Day Camp ~Kuhl Show Pigs Clinic ~Robotics Sessions
10 <i>Happy Mother's Day</i>	11	12	13	14	15 <i>National Chocolate Chip Day</i> 	16 ~ STEAM GAZE
17	18 ~Swine DNA kits are due ~Ambassador Meeting ~Leaders Fed. Meeting	19	20 <i>World Bee Day</i> 	21 ~ Sewing Workshop	22	23
24	25 <i>Happy Memorial Day</i> 	26	27	28 ~ Sewing Workshop	29	30
31						



All workshops will take place at the First Presbyterian Church of SCF, located at 719 Nevada St., St Croix Falls

Sewing (Basics plus) Make a Tie Apron: 3 Sessions. Tuesdays, April 21st, April 28th, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:30PM. Cost \$8. Please register participating youth Name, Age, Parent's Name, and Contact info. by April 9th for all 3 sessions.

Please send all registrations and questions to Shirley at [smillerfrey@gmail.com](mailto:smillerfrey@gmail.com)



Registration is open for the 2026 4-H Robotics Project Workshops for youth aged 9 to 19 interested in robotics. Participants will work with Sphero Ball programming, and EV3 robot construction and programming, preparing for the Pre-Fair Run Off.

All workshops, along with the Pre-Fair Run Off, will take place at the First Presbyterian Church of SCF, located at 719 Nevada St., St Croix Falls

Sphero & EV3 Sessions:

- Sat., May 9th, 1PM-3PM
- Sat., June 20th, 1PM-3PM
- Sat., June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1PM-3PM

Please note: Our Pre-Fair Run Off is tentatively set for Saturday, July 11th, 12:30 - 5:00 PM or until completed.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CLOVERBUD DAY CAMPS!

We're looking for adult volunteers to help with easy activities and crafts at our Cloverbud Day Camps!

- Camps run Saturdays from 9 AM to 1 PM
- All activities are simple, we'll provide step-by-step instructions
- No experience needed!

Interested in volunteering at future Cloverbud Day Camps? Please email Kerry Hill, [kerry.hill2@wisc.edu](mailto:kerry.hill2@wisc.edu), for more information and upcoming day camp dates!



## BEEF SHOWMANSHIP & FITTING CLINIC SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MAY 2ND

9AM-9:55AM: Unloading Animals  
 10AM-: Showmanship Practice/Instruction Starts  
 12PM: Lunch Break  
 1:30PM; Fitting Instruction Starts  
 3:30PM: End

The Instructors of the clinic are Katie Dillion and Jason Capatske. Lunch will be provided by Quality Meats

# Scales & Tails



A Cloverbud Day Camp

SATURDAY, MAY 9,  
 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
 AMERY COMMUNITY CENTER



Cloverbuds are invited to a one-of-a-kind learning adventure at our upcoming Cloverbud Day Camp

We will have a special appearance by Snakes Discovery, showcasing live reptiles along with an engaging presenter who will educate Cloverbuds about each creature. Campers will uncover fascinating facts about reptiles, explore their habitats, and, will have the chance to safely see and touch live reptiles under expert supervision.

After the reptile program, Cloverbuds will enjoy lunch together, followed by a variety of crafts and activities.

Register your Cloverbud by following the website listed below or scanning the QR code.

<https://forms.gle/Y2V2hNyAFqZ3DuQV6>



## We Need A Couple of Adult Volunteers to Help Out!

Volunteers will help supervise Cloverbuds during the live reptile presentation, assist with crafts and activities, manage lunch, and facilitate transitions throughout the day.



Are you interested in lending a hand at the Cloverbud Day Camp? If so, please click the link below or scan the QR code to sign up as a volunteer!

<https://forms.gle/ewZfRY3kfCQk7EsM9>





# BADGER DAIRY CAMP

Interested in learning more about the dairy industry through hands-on workshops? Want to prepare for your college or career of interest? Excited to meet new friends with similar interests? Join us at Badger Dairy Camp from July 9 – 12!

Our program offers hands-on workshops, tours, and activities at UW-Madison CALS for students aged 12 to 17. Dairy industry leaders will cover topics like land and water resources, animal health, and farm business. College prep workshops will be grade-level specific. Campers will experience student life, staying at Dejope Residence Hall with double occupancy and roommate requests available.

To learn more please visit the website by scanning the QR code or by typing in the link!

<https://go.wisc.edu/238uzq>



# LEGO Brick Build Challenge

## Vehicles



**Due Date:** June 1, 2026

**Submit here:** <https://go.wisc.edu/96x8z9>

**Topic:** Build a Vehicle

We would love to see your brick builds!

Save the Date:  
Viewing party June  
7<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm

**Instructions:** Please submit one entry per individual or team. Both youth and adults are welcome to participate. When submitting, indicate whether the entry is from an individual or a team. Each submission/model may include up to three photos taken from different perspectives.



Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## 4-H FOOD STAND SIGN-UP!

We want to get the schedule made out so everyone gets a copy in the July newsletter. Everyone taking a 4-H sponsored trip and/or attending 4-H Camp must take a shift at the Food Stand either with your club, or as an individual. We need around 8 to 12 people per shift working (3 adults and the rest can be kids). The clubs who have more helpers may want to split the 4 hour shift into 2 hour increments. If you have a large club, we encourage you to sign up for more than one shift. **When your club decides, which shift you would like to work, please contact Kerry at the Extension Office, [Kerry.hill2@wisc.edu](mailto:Kerry.hill2@wisc.edu) or call at 715-485-8600.**

**All shifts need to report outside of food stand door (across from the 4-H office door) 15 minutes early for on-the-job training. Please wait for further instructions before going into the food stand.**

### Wednesday (FULL)

4pm-7pm: Lucky Horseshoe

### Saturday

10am-2pm:

2pm-6pm:

6pm-10pm

### Thursday (FULL)

10am-2pm: Scenic View

2pm-6pm: Forest View

6pm-10pm: Cedar Lake

### Sunday (FULL)

10am-4pm: Shooting Stars

### Friday

10am-2pm:

2pm-6pm: Northern Lights

6pm-10pm:

## Guidelines for Youth Working in the Food Stand

Youth should be twelve years old to work in the food stand.

Youth under twelve can work in the food stand, but need to have adult supervision.

There should be only 8-12 people working in the food stand TOTAL. At least three of those people need to be adults.

If two clubs are working together, please arrive before your designated training time to decide who is working in the food stand. Everyone young and old MUST bring a CLEAN cap or visor to wear working the 4-H Food Stand. Exceptions are individuals able to tie all hair back including bangs. Thank you ahead of time for your cooperation



# PRE-FAIR JUDGING FOR 2026

**SATURDAY, JULY 11**

- Dept. 20J: Photography
- Dept. 24J: Robotics
- Dept. 26J: Clothing
- Dept. 27J: Knitting and Crocheting
- Dept. 28J: Home Furnishings (Environment)
- Dept. 29J: Family Living

## STEAM GAZE: A Creative Fusion of Art & Science!

### What is STEAM GAZE?

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

Participants will explore a variety of STEAM topics, including chemistry, environmental science, theater, music, and visual arts, while engaging in activities designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving skills.

Youth will be supported throughout the day by professional staff and older 4-H youth leaders.

STEAM GAZE is open to both 4-H members and non-4-H youth.



### Event Information

**Milwaukee**

May 16th, 9:30 AM - 3 PM  
Kellogg PEAK Initiative,  
Milwaukee

**Register Now!**

<https://go.wisc.edu/sp2dd7>



POLK COUNTY FAIR

# FAIR SIGN CONTEST

2026 Theme

**GRAND TRADITIONS  
NEW MEMORIES**

## REQUIREMENTS

- Sign must be 4 feet x 8 feet
- Must Include:
  - Dates - July 23-26, 2026
  - Location - St. Croix Falls
  - Club Name
- Installed by July 1st

## JUDGING & AWARDS

Judging will be based on creativity and advertisement value, conducted by the Polk County Fair Board.

1<sup>st</sup> place - \$200 2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$100

All clubs submitting a photo will receive \$50.

## SUBMISSIONS

**NEW FOR 2026!**

All photo submissions should be emailed to Lindsay at [lindsay.spindler@wisc.edu](mailto:lindsay.spindler@wisc.edu) by July 10<sup>th</sup>. No need to print yourself this year!

# Livestock Upcoming Events.

2026

## YQCA CLASSES

12:30 pm  
February 22, March 1, 8, & 15  
Polk County Government  
Center  
Pre-registration required at  
[yqcaprogram.org](http://yqcaprogram.org)

FEB  
22

### SHEEP KICK-OFF EVENT

2:00-4:00 pm  
Polk County  
Government Center

FEB  
22

### DAIRY KICK-OFF EVENT

1:00-3:00 pm  
Polk County  
Government Center

MAR  
1

### BEEF KICK-OFF EVENT

2:00-4:00 pm  
Polk County Justice  
Center

MAR  
8

### SWINE KICK-OFF EVENT

1:30-3:30 pm  
Polk County Justice  
Center

MAR  
15

### GOAT KICK-OFF EVENT

2:00-4:00 pm  
Polk County Justice  
Center

MAR  
15

### SHEEP WORKSHOP

3:00-5:00 pm  
Justice Center  
Learn about tagging,  
docking, and selecting  
your show lambs!

APR  
18

### BEEF CLIPPING CLINIC

Time: TBD  
Emerson Farm, 1197  
95<sup>th</sup> Ave. Amery

APR  
25

### SHEEP/GOAT WEIGH IN

9-11 a.m.  
Polk County Fairgrounds  
Pre-registration required.

MAY  
2

### BEEF FITTING AND SHOWMANSHIP CLINIC

Time: TBD  
Polk County Fairgrounds

MAY  
9

### KUHL SHOW PIGS CLINIC

Join Kuhl Show Pigs  
to learn more about  
how to elevate your  
swine project!



<https://polk.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/quality-meats/>

# Upcoming events.

2026

**MAY  
18**

## **SWINE DNA KITS DUE**

All Swine DNA kits are due at the Polk County Extension Office

**JUNE  
10**

## **SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP CLINIC**

6:00 pm at Wood Family Farm

**JUN  
27**

## **INTERSTATE LIVESTOCK SHOW**

Polk County Fairgrounds

**JUN  
30**

## **AREA ANIMAL SCIENCE DAY**

Clark County

**JUL  
11**

## **ALL EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS DUE!**

NEW FOR 2026! All educational requirements and YQCA are due by July 11

**JUL  
22**

## **ENTRY DAY FOR POLK COUNTY FAIR**

Please check fairbook and

**JUL  
27**

## **SHEEP/SWINE BARN TAKE DOWN**

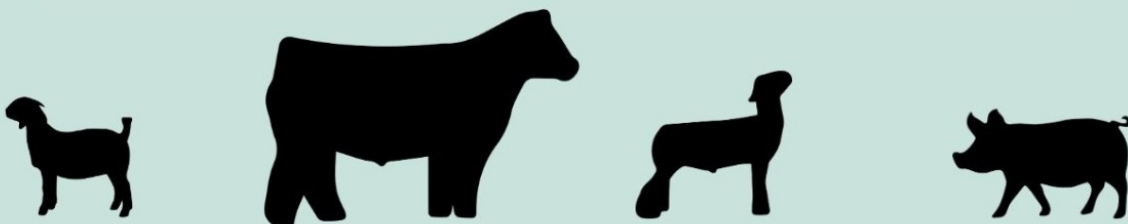
All families should plan to assist with the take down and cleaning of the sheep/swine barn

**AUG  
11**

## **QUALITY MEATS APPRECIATION PICNIC**

6:30 pm  
Polk County Fairgrounds

All exhibitors are required to attend TWO educational events sometime during the year between the end of the previous fair and the current fair weigh-in. This applies to exhibitors of all species. In addition to these two educational events exhibitors must also have Youth Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) certification to participate in the Polk County Quality Meats program.



# CLUB NEWS

## Indian CREEK



The Indian Creek 4-H Club showcased its poultry expertise at this month's meeting, where a delightful collection of chicken photographs was captured during their engaging demonstration. These images highlight the club's dedication to poultry education and offer a charming glimpse into their activities.



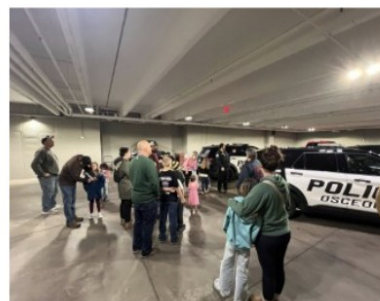
## Knotty PINE

Knotty Pine organized their annual Spring Clean-Up event at Rose Lee WPA and Clear Lake WPA last Sunday, April 12, 2026.



## Pleasant LAKE

The Pleasant Lake 4-H Club had the opportunity to tour the Osceola Police Department, gaining insight into the operations behind the scenes. They discovered the requirements to become a police officer and even explored the interior of a police car.



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Polk County Office  
100 Polk Plaza, Suite G600  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810  
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# CLOVER CONNECTION



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

UW-MADISON EXTENSION

