

Clover Connection

NEWSLETTER

JUNE, 2026

! All Fair
• Entries are
now due by
June 15th.

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!

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, with your name and address you would like the newsletter sent

WI 4-H AREA ANIMAL SCIENCE DAYS

Registration is Open

**GRANT COUNTY
JUNE 19TH**

**CLARK COUNTY
JUNE 30TH**



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, JULY 13TH
POLK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

POLK COUNTY AMBASSADOR MEETING

Ambassadors will meet on Wednesday, July 15th at 5pm. Ambassadors will be helping with the New Family Orientation starting at 5:30pm.



CHECK INBOXES AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR
REGISTRATION INFORMATION

JUNE

01: LEGO Brick Building Challenge Submissions Due!
07: LEGO Brick Building Challenge Viewing Party, 6pm
07: Rabbit Workshop, 2pm-3pm. Polk County Fairgrounds
07: Poultry Kick Off Meeting, 5pm at the Polk County Fairgrounds, Poultry Barn
08: Golf Classic, Kilkarney Hills Golf Course
14-18: Summer Academy, Madison WI
19: Area Animal Science Days, Grant County
20: Robotics Sphero & EV3 Sessions
20: Fair Entries Due!
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

JULY

01: Fair Entry Changes MUST be made by July 1st
01: All fair signs must be up
08: Pullorum Testing, 5-8PM at the Polk County Fairgrounds, Small Animal Barn
10: All fair signs must be submitted to Lindsay
11: Robotics Pre Fair Run Off, 12:30-5PM, First Presbyterian Church of SCF (719 Nevada St, St Croix Falls)
11: Photography Pre Fair Judging, 11am in the 4-H Building at the Polk County Fairgrounds
11: Clothing Pre Fair Judging, 11am, in the 4-H Building at the Polk County Fairgrounds
11: Knitting and Crocheting Pre Fair Judging, 11am, in the 4-H Building at the Polk County Fairgrounds
11: Home Furnishings Pre Fair Judging, 11am, in the 4-H Building at the Polk County Fairgrounds
11: Family Living Pre Fair Judging, 11am, in the 4-H Building at the Polk County Fairgrounds
13: 4-H Leaders Federation Meeting, 7pm at the Polk County Fairgrounds
15: Polk County Fair Family Orientation, 5:30-7:30, Polk County Fairgrounds, 4-H Building
15: Registration Due for Club Booths at the fair
22: All Fair Exhibits must be in place by 7PM
23-26: POLK COUNTY FAIR

Meet our new Summer Intern!



My name is Chesney Bankenbush and I am currently a student at the University of Wisconsin - River Falls majoring in Agricultural Studies with a minor in Agricultural Engineering.

I grew up on a farm in South East WI, and that's where I developed my passion for agriculture and youth leadership through my many years in 4H, where I participated in showing poultry, cattle, horses, vet science, and shooting sports.

Throughout my time in 4H, I was a reporter, corresponding secretary, and secretary for many years.

I also mentored younger members in Equine education and I was a horseless horse youth leader.

I now serve as President of Sigma Alpha at UWRF and enjoy working with youth through leadership and community involvement!



JUNE

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 ~LEGO Challenge Due	2	3	4 National Cheese Day 	5	6
7 ~LEGO Challenge Viewing Party ~Rabbit Workshop ~Poultry Kick Off Meeting	8 ~Golf Classic	9 National Donald Duck Day 	10	11	12	13
14 National Childrens Day 	15	16	17	18	19 ~ Area Animal Science Days, Grand County	20 ~Robotics Schero & EV3 Sessions FAIR ENTRIES DUE!
SUMMER ACADEMY, UW-MADISON						
21 	22	23	24	25	26	27 ~Interstate Livestock Show, Polk County ~Robotics Schero & EV3 Sessions
28	29	30 ~Area Animal Science Days, Clark County				

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, for more information and upcoming day camp dates!

ROBOTICS WORKSHOPS

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., June 20th, 1PM-3PM
- Sat., June 27th, 1PM-3PM

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

POLK COUNTY FAIR 2026 PULLORUM TESTING

All birds 4 months and older will need to be tested to be shown at the fair. Turkeys need additional testing over 4 months.

Testing will be held on Wednesday, July 8th from 5pm to 8pm at the Small Animal Barn at the Polk County Fair.

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.

1st place - \$200 2nd 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 by July 10th. No need to print yourself this year!

4-H FOOD STAND SIGN-UP!

We still need clubs to sign up to help staff the 4-H Food Stand! Each shift requires 8–12 volunteers (including at least 3 adults), and we rely on club participation to make this experience run smoothly for everyone.

We understand that Saturday of the fair can be especially busy and challenging for scheduling. To help make it more manageable, clubs are welcome to partner with another club and split a shift. Larger clubs may also consider dividing a 4-hour shift into two 2-hour rotations so more members can participate. If your club has the capacity, we strongly encourage you to sign up for more than one shift, your extra support truly makes a difference!

Wednesday (FULL)

4pm-7pm: Lucky Horseshoe

Thursday (FULL)

10am-2pm: Scenic View

2pm-6pm: Forest View

6pm-10pm: Cedar Lake

Friday

10am-2pm: Indian Creek

2pm-6pm: Northern Lights

6pm-10pm: Pleasant Lake (will need help)

Saturday

10am-2pm:

2pm-6pm:

6pm-10pm: West Sweden (will need help)

Sunday (FULL)

10am-4pm: Shooting Stars

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

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.



Polk County Fair Family Orientation

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 5:30 TO 7:30 PM

4-H BUILDING AT THE FAIRGROUNDS

Are you a new exhibitor at the Polk County Fair? Perhaps you've participated before but still have some questions about showcasing your entries!

During this event, 4-H Ambassadors will:

- Provide tours of the fairgrounds
- Explain the check-in process
- Demonstrate how to participate in exhibit judging

Bring your questions and discover how to successfully navigate entry day at the Polk County Fair!

POLK COUNTY FAIR PREP AND WORK DAYS SET FOR 2026

The Polk County Fair Society has set the following work days to get ready for the 2026 fair!

Work dates will be:

- Wednesday, July 15th 5pm-8:30pm
- Saturday, July 18th 8am-12pm

POLK COUNTY FAIR INFORMATION



Pre-Fair Judging for 2026

All pre fair judging will take place at the fairgrounds in or outside of the 4-h building unless stated otherwise.

**SATURDAY
JULY 11**

AEROSPACE	8AM-2PM
CLOTHING	11AM-6PM
DOG SHOW	8AM-2PM
FAMILY LIVING	11AM-6PM
HOME FURNISHINGS	11AM-6PM
KNITTING AND CROCHETING	11AM-6PM
PHOTOGRAPHY	11AM-6PM
ROBOTICS	12:30-5PM

LOCATED AT THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ST. CROIX FALLS, 719 NEVADA ST.



Club Booth Registration

Help us celebrate the theme "Grand Traditions, New Memories" by creating a club booth to showcase your 4-H club! 4-H has been an instrumental part of Polk County Fair history and we would love to see what your club is working on to keep those traditions alive.

Please register by July 15th to make sure there is room for your booth in the 4-H Building on the fairgrounds. Tables will be provided to set up your display.

Booths may be set up any time on Wednesday, July 22. Please contact Lindsay at lindsay.spindler@wisc.edu with any questions.



CAT PROJECT MEMBERS; PET PAL & CAVY PROJECT MEMBERS!

This year the Polk County Fair Cat Show will be held prior to the Polk County Fair, on **Friday, July 17th**. All cats will be vet checked at 5:30pm and all cage decorating will be done by show time. Show time is at 6pm. Cats are to be left in cages until show is done. Please see the Polk County Fair Premium book for cage dimensions and more details.

PET PALS AND CAVIES WILL JUDGE THIS DAY, AFTER THE CAT SHOW!

Pre-Fair Archery & Shoot for Air Rifle, .22, muzzleloader and trap shooting categories,

will be held on June 20th starting at 9am at the Balsam Lake Rod and Gun Club.

ARCHERY will also take place at the same location and time. All youth must be checked in and at thier stations by 12:30. Pellets and .22 shells will be available for purchase.

For questions please contact Chad or Stacey Lutsey at chad.lutsey@gmail.com or 715-541-4241

BEYOND THE CLOVER: ADVENTURES IN 4-H

MY EXPERIENCE AT THE CITIZENSHIP WASHINGTON FOCUS (CWF) TRIP JOSEPHINE KUHL, BEAVER BROOK BADGERS

MY EXPERIENCE WITH CWF IN WASHINGTON D.C.



My name is Josephine Kuhl, and in March I attended the Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) trip through 4-H. At first, I didn't know what to expect, but it quickly became one of the highlights of my year. When we arrived in Washington, D.C., we explored the city by visiting museums, monuments, and memorials. I was especially excited to learn that CWF is a national conference because it gave me the chance to meet people from different states and U.S. territories, and I made many new friends.

We saw the Wisconsin tribute statues, the Old Senate Chamber, the Old House of Representatives, and much more. I even had the chance to sit in the actual Senate chamber, which was especially memorable. We also met Senator Tammy Baldwin, asked her questions, and learned about the issues she is working on.

Every pin I collected represented a new connection. My friends and I collected many pins and displayed them on our name tags. One of my favorite items from the pin trade was a hand-crocheted potato that I named Tator from Idaho, but even more special was getting to meet people from all over the country.



The nighttime monument tours were another highlight. Seeing the memorials and monuments lit up made them even more impressive, and because many were close together, we were able to visit nearly all of them in just a few hours.

Through CWF, I learned more about our government, our nation's history, and the importance of leadership and citizenship. I also learned how much I enjoy meeting new people and hearing different perspectives. One of the biggest things I would like to bring back from this experience is the confidence I gained from speaking up, asking questions, and stepping outside of my comfort zone. I also hope to bring back the leadership skills, new ideas, and sense of connection I experienced at CWF and use them in my local 4-H club and community. Overall, CWF was an unforgettable experience that helped me grow as a leader, learn more about our country, and make friendships I will always remember.



Some of my favorite parts of the trip were our day on Capitol Hill, the nighttime monument tours, and the pin trading. During our Capitol Hill visit, I learned a great deal about our nation's capital.



The pin trade was also a great way to connect with people throughout the conference. Each state had a special pin that represented something unique about it. For example, Wisconsin's pin featured the state outline filled with cheese.



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
7th @ 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

Upcoming events.

2026

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>MAY 18</p> <p>SWINE DNA KITS DUE
All Swine DNA kits are due at the Polk County Extension Office</p> | <p>JUNE 10</p> <p>SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP CLINIC
6:00 pm at Wood Family Farm</p> |
| <p>JUN 27</p> <p>INTERSTATE LIVESTOCK SHOW
Polk County Fairgrounds</p> | <p>JUN 30</p> <p>AREA ANIMAL SCIENCE DAY
Clark County</p> |
| <p>JUL 11</p> <p>ALL EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS DUE!
NEW FOR 2026! All educational requirements and YQCA are due by July 11</p> | <p>JUL 22</p> <p>ENTRY DAY FOR POLK COUNTY FAIR
Please check fairbook and</p> |
| <p>JUL 27</p> <p>SHEEP/SWINE BARN TAKE DOWN
All families should plan to assist with the take down and cleaning of the sheep/swine barn</p> | <p>AUG 18</p> <p>QUALITY MEATS APPRECIATION PICNIC
6:30 pm
Polk County Fairgrounds</p> |

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.



With summer right around the corner and 4-H activities keeping us busy, we are often out of the office working in the community. If you're planning to stop by, we'd really appreciate a quick call ahead so we can make sure someone is here to help you. We don't want to miss anyone who'd like to visit, and calling ahead helps us give you the best possible experience.

Thank You!



CLUB NEWS

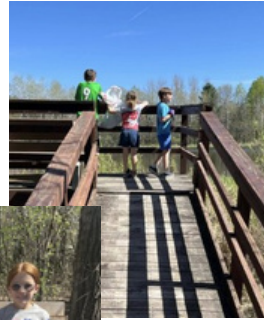
FOREST VIEW

The Forest View 4-H Club contributed to a cleaner community by engaging in a roadside trash pickup event!



PLEASANT LAKE

The Pleasant Lake 4-H members embarked on a nature walk through the village of Dresser, where they encountered turtles, birds, swans, and even a cheerful rabbit.



They aim to sell some pumpkins to fund club events and use others for a community Halloween haunted house later this fall.



Deronda DIPLOMATS

The Deronda Diplomats recently participated in a community service project that brought together members of all ages.



Jolly MILLTOWN



Jolly Milltown participated in community service by picking up road sides for the Milltown township. They did a great job putting their hands to work for greater service.



During the journey, they collected trash to help preserve the environment, protect local wildlife, and maintain the community as a wonderful place to live.



The members of Pleasant Lake have also planted 280 pumpkin mounds.



Older youth participated in roadside cleanup for safety and beauty, while younger members spread mulch around the church to enhance the grounds and support local upkeep efforts.



Cloverbud Day Camp

RECAP!

On Saturday, May 9, Polk County 4-H hosted an exciting Cloverbud Day Camp featuring the Snakes Discovery Program. Youth learned about reptiles from around the world and even had the opportunity to safely handle them.

Participants then rotated through hands-on craft stations focused on reptiles found in Wisconsin. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped that day and to Chad and Stacy Lutsey, who led an additional amphibian station where youth learned about local species and painted their own frog or turtle.





  Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-13

Illustrate what you envision empowered youth look like 50 years from now by creating an AI Image or creating your own visual art.

Beyond Ready Tomorrow:
Youth Empowerment
50 Years from Now

DEADLINE
JUNE 5, 2026

\$250 worth of gift card prizes. Five \$50.00 gift card prizes will be disbursed to contest winners.

What will the future look like...
and how will YOU shape it?

<https://go.wisc.edu/2x2za3>



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

The day offered a fun and interactive way for Cloverbuds to explore wildlife and learn something new.

SUMMER

L I F E G U A R D I L Z C Y R U T C Q N
 G J E H P J E L L Y F I S H R Z I L U E
 Z S T A R F I S H N N D W T R E U I O M
 N C X Y Y Q G X O P L X P P X R S G C J
 H V D K Z U J J Z H T E Y O N T M H E U
 C S A N D C A S T L E N E L O Y I T C N
 A U X Y O H A M M O C K R F O J W H R E
 E N M V N R U B N U S Y I P G S S O E W
 B P Q V N T A W F I P I F I A V H U A Q
 H Q M G F I R E F L Y C P L L S P S M H
 X E I S A Y G C Q Y C R M F N V C E O A
 L T N S U N S C R E E N A J M C O R A L
 Y A N L U A H Z A A I X C P K A O N X G
 L O O E E O Q O L S B P O P S I C L E Y
 U B W M Q S E A S H E L L M D E D D I W
 J L X O W A T E R M E L O N G O A T Q A
 Q I B N Z C O O K O U T U K U C U H Z M
 I A G A X F I E L C Y C I B A E M I N Y
 F S V D U D R A O B F R U S V A X I N E
 F K V E O U P O C O C O N U T N C C J G

BEACH
 BICYCLE
 CAMPFIRE
 COCONUT
 COOKOUT
 CORAL
 CRAB
 FIREFLY
 FLIPFLOP
 HAMMOCK

ICE CREAM
 JELLYFISH
 JULY
 JUNE
 LAGOON
 LEMONADE
 LIGHTHOUSE
 LIFEGUARD
 MINNOW
 OCEAN

POPSICLE
 SAILBOAT
 SANDCASTLE
 SEASHELL
 STARFISH
 SUNBURN
 SUNSCREEN
 SURFBOARD
 SWIMSUIT
 WATERMELON



University of Wisconsin - Extension
Polk County Office
100 Polk Plaza, Suite 6600
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Nonprofit
Permit No. 9

June

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

