

Clover Connection

NEWSLETTER

JULY & AUGUST, 2026

DAIRY DISCOVERY DAY

A Cloverbud Day Camp

Join us on Saturday, August 29, from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at Four Hands Holsteins in Amery for a fun-filled dairy adventure!

In partnership with Four Hands Holsteins, Cloverbuds will learn about dairy cows, discover where milk comes from, and explore what it takes to run a successful dairy farm through hands-on activities and farm experiences.

Register Now!

<https://shorturl.at/aHZBc>




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



With summer in full bloom and our involvement in 4-H activities keeping us on our toes, we're frequently out in the community rather than in the office. If you're considering a visit, we kindly ask that you give us a quick call beforehand. This way, we can ensure that someone is available to assist you. We don't want to overlook anyone, and calling ahead allows us to provide you with the best possible experience.

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.

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

JULY

01: Fair Entry Changes MUST be made by July 1st

01: All fair signs must be up

04: HAPPY 4th OF JULY!

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: Fair Prep and Clean Up Day, 5pm

15: Ambassadors Meeting/Volunteer at the New Family Orientation, 5pm 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

18: Fair Prep and Clean Up Day, 8am

22: All Fair Exhibits must be in place by 7PM

23-26: POLK COUNTY FAIR

30: Record Book Workshop, 6:30pm, Justice Center

AUGUST

15: Last day to register for Art Camp

18: Quality Meats Appreciation Picnic, 6:30pm at the Polk County Fairgrounds

29: Cloverbud Day Camp, 9am-1pm at Four Hands Holsteins

YOUTH AS PARTNERS IN CIVIC LEADERSHIP

NOVEMBER 13-15, 2026
UPHAM WOODS,
WISCONSIN DELLS

WHAT IS YPCL?

The mission of the Youth as Partners in Civic Leadership Conference (YPCL) is to advance youth voice in Wisconsin by increasing the capacity for youth and adults to share civic leadership in local communities, schools and organizations. We advocate for a youth voice and build mentoring, networking and learning opportunities.



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Teams of high-school-age youth (ages 14-18) and adults (21 or older) sharing decision-making roles in communities, schools and organizations (19 to 20 year olds are also welcome but should register as adults.) Groups are limited to 10 people with the preferred ratio of 5 youth to one adult (at least two adults per group of ten).

WORKSHOPS & ACTIVITIES

- Ending Bullying and Youth Violence
- Interpersonal Relationships
- Diversity/multicultural Engagement
- Advocacy Roundtable
- Talent Show
- Healthy Living

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Identify a team of youth and adults who intend to work together after the conference. Registration cost is \$200/person, which includes meals and lodging.

Open Online from May 5- October 4.

Registration will be in 4HOnline with a direct link. Each participant must register individually.

**Scholarships
are
Available!**

JULY

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 Fair Entry changes must be made by today! Fair signs must be up by today!	2	3	4 
5	6 National Fried Chicken Day 	7	8 Pullorum Testing	9	10 Fair signs must be submitted to Lindsay	11 Pre Fair Judging and Pre Fair Run Off, Polk County Fairgrounds
12	13 4-H Leaders Federation Meeting	14	15 Fair Prep & Cleanup Day 4-H Ambassador Meeting New Family Fair Orientation	16	17	18 Fair Prep & Cleanup Day
19	20 National Ice Cream Day 	21	22 ALL fair exhibits must be in place by 7pm	23	24	25
				POLK COUNTY FAIR		
26 	27	28	29	30 Record Book Workshop	31	

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!

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

THE NEXT RECORD BOOK WORKSHOP WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 30th STARTING AT 6:30PM

LOCATION: Justice Center, Balsam Lake

Here's your golden ticket to snag some assistance in assembling your record book masterpiece!

FALL FORUM

NOVEMBER 6-8, 2026
STEVENS POINT, WI

The Fall Forum is a statewide training weekend for youth and adult leaders, organized by Wisconsin 4-H Leadership Ambassadors with county and state staff. It aims to promote connection, collaboration, and enthusiasm for a new year of 4-H learning among participants.



The Fall Forum aims to:

- Educate youth and adult volunteers
- Foster partnerships between youth and adults
- Create a welcoming environment for discussion across counties and regions
- Encourage diverse thoughts and perspectives
- Promote strategies to engage underserved and underrepresented groups

Counties are encouraged to send delegations of both youth and adults.

- Youth 7th - 13th grade
- Adult volunteer leaders
- Staff are invited and encouraged to attend as your schedule permits

2026 REGISTRATION INFO WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON!

Arts Camp

OCTOBER 3-4, 2026

CAMP UPHAM WOODS, WISCONSIN DELLS

4-H Arts Camp provides youth in grades 6-8 an opportunity to explore different types of art including theater, music, visual arts, dance, and photography while making new friends, developing skills, and enjoying new experiences.

The purpose of Arts Camp:

- Promote expression and participation in the arts.
- Support youth teaching opportunities that blend education, creativity, and reflection.
- Raise awareness and encourage participation in the arts at the club level.



\$135, \$160, or \$180 for youth campers
\$150 for leadership team/camp counselors
\$75 for Adult Chaperones

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: go.wisc.edu/q2up8b

REGISTER BETWEEN JULY 15 AND AUGUST 15: 2026 REGISTRATION LINK COMING SOON

Scholarships
are
Available!

WE ARE EXCITED TO BRING BACK THE ACTION CENTER AT THE POLK COUNTY FAIR THIS YEAR!

The Action Center is a fun, interactive space where community members can share their craft, skill, hobby, or talent with youth attending the fair. Whether you enjoy painting, knitting, woodworking, gardening, baking, fishing, photography, music, or any other hands-on activity; we would love to have you involved!

- Sessions are only 1 hour long
- Sign up for one session or several
- Great opportunity to inspire and connect with youth in our community

We are currently looking for individuals, families or clubs willing to lead an activity or demonstration at the Action Center.

Help us make the fair fun, engaging, and educational for local youth!

Sign Up Here! <https://go.wisc.edu/s9gt7q>



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: Cushing

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 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

POLK COUNTY FAIR INFORMATION



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!

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 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!

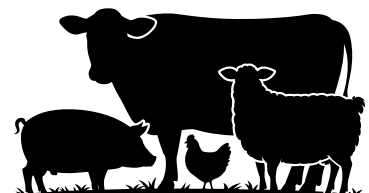
Fair Entry Reminders!

All entries, regardless of when they are judged, are to be brought to the fairgrounds no earlier than 1pm, and in place by 7pm on Wednesday, July 22nd.

Exceptions are junior, open and senior flowers, which must be in place by 6pm Wednesday.

Each entry will have an entry tag. You can pick up your entry tags at the Administration Building starting at 12:30pm Wednesday, and attach the entry tag to exhibits before you bring them to be judged.

ALL ENTRIES MUST STAY IN PLACE UNTIL 4:30PM ON SUNDAY, JULY 26TH NO EXCEPTIONS!!!



QUALITY MEAT EXHIBITORS IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

ALL PAPERWORK MUST BE THOROUGHLY COMPLETED PRIOR TO CHECK-IN. PAPERWORK NOT FILLED OUT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. THE FOLLOWING PAPERWORK IS TO BE TURNED IN AT THE SHOW BARN OFFICE:

- YQCA Completion Certificate - 1 certificate per exhibitor
- Education Card – You must have attended and received signatures or signed attendance sheet from 2 approved educational events. 1 card per exhibitor
- Feed Sheet – 1 sheet per animal, filled in completely.
- Drug History Sheet – Please make sure you fill out the animal identification portion of the sheet and PRINT and sign the bottom of the form. 1 sheet per animal.
- Buyer Contact Form – Each family must contact at least 2 NEW buyers and submit the completed forms. New buyer means anyone who did not purchase an animal in last year's Quality Meats Auction. Also, new buyers cannot be from the same organization. For example, you cannot contact Countryside Co-op in Amery because they have a location in Durand, which purchased an animal last year.

Please bring all your paperwork to the office by family. It helps us to process your paperwork quickly and smoothly. It also speeds up the line so you can get your animal/s weighed in on time. Showmanship participation is required of all exhibitors who wish to sell in the auction. Please make sure that you participate in at least one showmanship class for one of your species.

QUALITY MEATS AUCTION

Saturday, July 25th at 6pm in the Show Barn

ALL PAPERWORK NEEDS TO BE TURNED IN BY 6 PM WEDNESDAY!

All species will be weighed in and scanned on Wednesday. Please see this newsletter for the weigh-in times for your species. You will not be allowed to participate in the Quality Meats portion of the fair if your animals are not weighed in on Wednesday of the fair. Hogs should be unloaded at the scale house and not the hog barn. Light weight hogs will have the option to return home if they have not entered the barn. Once they have entered the barn they must go to slaughter.

All steers will be unloaded into the designated steer unloading area east of the tin barn on Wednesday starting at 1pm. This is a "holding area" for steers to calm down before being weighed-in or stalled. Committee members will be on hand to monitor steers.

Paperwork must be turned in at the Show Barn Office prior to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday of the fair. We recommend you turn in your paperwork early because it will get very busy at the office when the weigh-ins start. Quality Meats Committee members will be in the office during that time to check-in paperwork. Once your paperwork is signed off by a committee member you will receive a color-coded weigh-in card for each animal. Turn in this card when you weigh-in your animal.

MARKET ANIMAL ARRIVAL CUTOFF WEDNESDAY, JULY 23RD:

- Hogs: 10:30
- Market Goats and Sheep: 1:00 p.m.
- Market Beef: 4:00 p.m.

MARKET ANIMAL WEIGH-IN TIMES:

- Hogs: 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- Market Goats and Sheep: 1:30 p.m.
- Market Beef: 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

MARKET ANIMAL ULTRASOUND TIMES:

- Hogs: 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Market Goats and Sheep: 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
- Market Beef: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

All of this information has been shared previously in either the Polk County Fair Book, this “Clover Connection”, mailings from the Extension Office, or at meetings and is put here as a reminder for exhibitors.

- No common livestock watering tanks are allowed. Each exhibitor must provide and use their own watering buckets.
- All breeding beef and dairy animals need to have a metal ear tag, a breed registration number, a breed registration tattoo, or a USDA ear tag on the animal prior to being brought to the county fair. Tags can be obtained from your veterinarian.
- For all swine, sheep and goats, please read carefully the Animal Health Rules on pages 19-27 of the Polk County Fair Book for specific instructions.
- Exhibitors are asked for cooperation in animal bedding packs not to be deeper than 8” (which follows along with the Wisconsin State Fair rules).

Your cooperation is appreciated. If you have any questions, please call the Polk County Extension Office, at 715.485.8600.

QUALITY MEATS EXHIBITORS – APPRECIATION PICNIC INFORMATION

We will be having an exhibitor, volunteer, and registered bidder picnic and awards presentation at the fairgrounds on Tuesday August 18th starting at 6:30 pm.

This event will provide an opportunity for all exhibitors to personally thank all the people and business that support the quality meats animal projects through awards sponsorship and attend the auction.

THE LOAD-OUT SYSTEM

Will be implemented for livestock exhibitors when leaving the fair on Sunday. Each barn will have a color designated to it; and numbers will be handed out on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in each barn by the Barn Superintendent.

Announcements will be made in the Show Barn prior to the Little Britches Show. This load out system applies to all animals including rabbits and poultry where animals are not carried out. This system is used to expedite safe load-out of animals and supplies. Exhibitors can help by being ready to load when it's their turn. If everyone works together and helps each other out during this process, it will run more smoothly. Trailer parking will be designated in the Northeast farthest part of the parking lot. Trailers cannot be parked near the barns or in exhibitor parking areas.

If you have questions, please contact either Karrie Melin-Swenson, Fair Livestock Committee Co-Chair at 715-557-0811, or Hans Johnson at 715-781-3902

LIVESTOCK SKILL-A-THON & JUDGING TIMES

- Hogs Wednesday, July 22nd 7:00 p.m.
- Sheep Wednesday, July 22nd 2-4pm.
- Goats Wednesday, July 22nd 7pm.
- Beef Thursday, July 23rd 6pm

ALL EXHIBITORS WELCOME

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

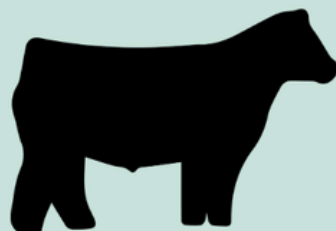
All families should plan to assist with the take down and cleaning of the sheep/swine barn

**AUG
18**

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.



C L U B N E W S

Cattail CLOVERS

This spring, members of the Cattail Clover 4-H club demonstrated their commitment to community service by preparing and delivering 35 lunches to local farmers during the busy planting season.



The service project was made possible through funding from a Farm Neighbors Care Grant, which helped cover the cost of supplies and meals. Club members worked together to assemble the lunches and personally deliver them to farmers in the community.



By reaching out to support local agricultural producers, members gained a deeper appreciation for the important role farmers play in providing food and sustaining rural communities. The club is grateful for the opportunity to give back and thanks Farm Neighbors Care for helping make this meaningful project a success!



The club also toured Juniper Jewel, where members received a behind-the-scenes look at the business and learned about gardening, plants, and horticulture. The visit provided a fun and educational experience, helping members expand their knowledge of local agriculture and plant sciences.



PLEASANT Lake

Members of the Pleasant Lake 4-H Club celebrated June Dairy Days by handing out cheese sticks, cow tattoos, and cow slap bracelets to shoppers at Dick's Fresh Market in Osceola. The activity helped promote Wisconsin's dairy industry while providing an opportunity for members to engage with the community.





SNAPSHOT DAY

A statewide search for aquatic invasive species

Registration now open: <https://wav.extension.wisc.edu/events/>



When:

August 7, 2026 from
8:30am - 12pm

Where:

Bone Lake North Boat
Landing Point Shelter
2453 Bone Lake Park Ln
Luck, WI 54853

Join Polk County Land and Water Resources Departments and Wild Rivers Conservancy and become one of **200 volunteers** across Wisconsin who are helping protect a river or lake near you!

Register to help protect Wisconsin's rivers, lakes, and wetlands from aquatic invasive species that may negatively impact habitat, wildlife, recreation, and health!

Ages 8+ welcome.
No prior experience is needed!



UW-MADISON EXTENSION



This event is open to all. The University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law. You may request an interpreter, materials in an alternative language and/or format, and/or other services to make this event more accessible. Contact oaic@extension.wisc.edu. Make your request 25 days before the event. There is no added cost to you for these services.

University of Wisconsin - Extension
Polk County Office
100 Polk Plaza, Suite G600
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
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July & August CLOVER CONNECTION



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

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