

CLOVER CONNECTION

SEPTEMBER 2026



**ENROLLMENT BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 2ND**

ENROLLMENT FOR 4-H WILL OPEN SEPTEMBER 2ND ON 4-H ONLINE

Enrollment for the 2026-2027 Wisconsin 4-H year opens on September 2, 2026. All youth and volunteers should complete their enrollment or re-enrollment through 4-HOnline at <https://v2.4honline.com/>. If you need assistance, detailed enrollment instructions are available at <https://go.wisc.edu/8dv491>. We look forward to another great year in 4-H!

Returning Volunteer Re-Enrollment Reminder

Returning Wisconsin 4-H volunteers must complete re-enrollment between September 4 and November 1. Required trainings and background checks are due by December 1, with volunteer approvals completed by December 15. Remember, submitting an enrollment form alone does not grant volunteer approval status. Only approved 4-H volunteers may provide custodial care of youth.



September

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 ~ Registration opens for Fall Forum	2 ~ Enrollment starts for 4-HOnline	3	4	5 National Cheese Pizza Day 	6
7 Office Closed 	8 ~ Registration closes for National Dairy Conference	9	10	11 ~ Ambassador Applications due	12	13 ~ .22 Youth Shoot
14	15 ~ Registration closes for Fall Forum	16	17	18 National Cheeseburger Day 	State Horse Expo Show	
21 ~ Ambassador Meeting ~ 4-H Leaders Federation Meeting	22	23	24 World Gorilla Day 	25	26	27 National Dairy Conference
28	29 ~Enrollment Open House	30				
National Dairy Conference						

SEPTEMBER

- 01:** Registration opens for Fall Forum
- 02:** 4-H Online Enrollment begins for 2026/27 year
- 07:** OFFICE CLOSED, Happy Labor Day
- 08:** Registration closes for National Dairy Conference
- 11:** Applications due for Polk County Ambassadors
- 13:** .22 Youth Shoot, starts at 10am at Balsam Lake Rod and Gun
- 15:** Registration closes for Fall Forum
- 18-20:** State Horse Expo Show
- 21:** 4-H Ambassador Meeting, 6pm at the Polk County Fairgrounds
- 21:** Leaders Federation Meeting, 7pm at the Polk County Fairgrounds
- 29:** 4-H Enrollment Open House, 6:30-8:30pm at Joy Lutheran Church (501 WI-35, Centuria)
- 27-30:** National Dairy Conference

OCTOBER

- 01:** Project Planning Meetings, Cat and Photography starting at 6:30pm
- 01:** Project Planning Meetings, Goat, Llama, Exploring/Cloverbuds, Shooting Sports, Environmental Sciences/Nature Space/Adventures starting at 7pm
- 2-4:** Arts Camp, Upham Woods, Wisconsin Dells
- 06:** Project Planning Meetings, Beef, Poultry, Rabbits, and Youth Leadership/Citizenship starting at 7pm
- 08:** Project Committee Meetings, Swine and Horse starting at 7pm
- 15:** Project Planning Meetings, Aerospace/Models/Robotics/STEM/Computers and Food and Nutrition starting at 6:30
- 15:** Project Planning Meetings, Sheep, Dogs, Plant and Soil Sciences, and Woodworking starting at 7pm
- 17:** Awards Banquet, 5:30pm at Our Lady of the Lakes Church, 507 W. Main St. Balsam Lake
- 20:** Project Planning Meetings, Visual Arts/Folk Arts, Home and Family, and Communication/Expressive Arts, and Dairy starting at 6:30
- 26-30:** Office Closed for NAE4-HYDP Meeting

**ALL are
Welcome at
the Project
Planning
Meetings**

2026 AWARDS BANQUET

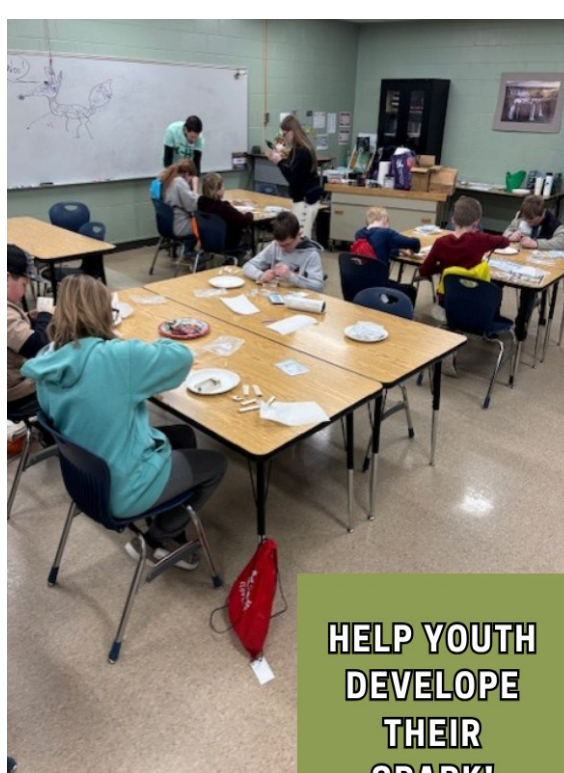
A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS FOR POLK COUNTY 4-H!

**This year, we are replacing
our traditional Awards
Night with an Awards
Banquet.**

**Mark your calendars for
Saturday, October 17,
starting at 5:30PM at
Our Lady of the Lakes
Church, 507 W. Main
Street, Balsam Lake.**

We invite all Polk County 4-H families to join us as we celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of our members, leaders, and volunteers throughout the year. This special evening will provide an opportunity to recognize achievements, enjoy a meal together, and celebrate another successful 4-H year.

Additional details, including registration information, meal details, and RSVP instructions, will be shared in the coming weeks. Be sure to watch your email and other Polk County 4-H communications for updates.



**HELP YOUTH
DEVELOPE
THEIR
SPARK!**

SHARE YOUR SKILLS WITH YOUTH!

**Have a Hobby,
Talent, or Skill You'd
Love to Share?**

Our county 4-H program is looking for enthusiastic adult volunteers who would be willing to teach a one-time class or workshop for youth!

We know our volunteers have an incredible variety of talents and experiences. Whether you enjoy painting, woodworking, cooking, photography, sewing, gardening, crafting, fishing, robotics, public speaking, outdoor skills, or something completely unique, we'd love to help you share your knowledge with young people in our community.

We're exploring a series of hands-on learning events throughout the year where volunteers can lead a project, activity, or skill-building session for youth. These workshops will give members the opportunity to try new things, discover interests, and learn directly from caring adults who are passionate about their hobbies and skills.

What Could You Teach?

The possibilities are endless! Some examples include:

- Painting, drawing, or other art techniques
- Woodworking
- Cooking and baking
- Photography
- Gardening and plant care
- Fishing and outdoor recreation
- Small engines or mechanical skills
- STEM activities and technology projects
- Leadership and public speaking

What's Involved?

As a volunteer instructor, you would:

- Teach a one-time workshop or activity
- Share your knowledge and experience with youth
- Guide participants through a hands-on project or skill
- Help create a positive and welcoming learning environment

Our 4-H staff will work with you to help plan the event, coordinate registration, and provide support as needed

Why Volunteer?

By teaching a class, you'll help youth:

- Develop new skills and interests
- Build confidence through hands-on learning
- Explore potential hobbies and career pathways
- Connect with positive adult role models

Your expertise can make a lasting impact on a young person's life.

Interested?

If you would be willing to teach a workshop or would like to learn more, please contact Lindsay Spindler, lindsay.spindler@wisc.edu AND please come to the committee meeting night for your specific project. We would be happy to help you plan out your workshop.



BECOME A POLK COUNTY AMBASSADOR TODAY!

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 11TH, AND OUR FIRST MEETING WILL BE SEPTEMBER 21ST!

What are 4-H Ambassadors?

4-H Ambassadors represent the Polk County 4-H Program, helping youth develop leadership skills and support key programs. They serve as positive role models and participate in activities that enhance teamwork skills.

Each ambassador will be given a 4-H Ambassador shirt and 4-H name badge after selection.

Activities Ambassadors Assist With:

- Polk County Fair Judging Helpers (July 21-25, 2027)
- Day Camps (October, January, March, July)
- Area Parades (Summer)
- County and Regional events (Throughout the year)
- Leaders Fed. Board Meetings (6 per year)
- Awards Program (October 17th)
- Talent Expo (April)
- NW Golf Classic (June)
- Other community service and service learning projects

<https://go.wisc.edu/93kq63>



SIGN UP NOW

2026 POLK COUNTY FAIR HERDSMANSHIP

LARGE HERD CATTLE

1. Beaver Brook Badgers
2. Forest View
3. Bone Lake Beavers

SWINE

1. Frederic FFA
2. Indian Creek
3. Cushing 4-H

SMALL HERD CATTLE

1. Indian Creek
2. Cedar Lake
3. Cattail Clovers

SHEEP

1. Amery FFA
2. Cedar Lake
3. Little Butternut

HORSE

1. Little Butternut
2. Northern Lights
3. Little Falls Livewires

GOAT

1. Cedar Lake
2. Deronda Diplomats
3. Jolly Milltown

Enrollment Open House

Interested in getting involved in Polk County 4-H? Not sure what projects to sign up for? Join us at our Enrollment Open House to get help enrolling for the new year and learn more about ways to get involved in 4-H.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH
6:30-8:30 PM
JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH - 501 WI-35, CENTURIA, WI 54824

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON DIVISION OF EXTENSION PROVIDES EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN EMPLOYMENT AND PROGRAMMING IN COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL LAW

.22 YOUTH SHOOT

When: Sunday, September 13th

Time: Registration starts at 10am, Shooting starts at 11am

Where: Balsam Lake Rod and Gun

Participants must be 12 years old and have completed a hunters safety course. Please have your safety card with you at registration.

HELPFUL TOOLS AND RESOURCES

2026/2027 4-H Project Guide

<https://go.wisc.edu/7q2t99>



Leaders Fed. Financial Assistance Policy

<https://go.wisc.edu/30s73k>



Statewide Events and Opportunities

<https://go.wisc.edu/fnf99k>



Volunteer Resources

<https://go.wisc.edu/28s85q>



WI 4-H Policies

<https://go.wisc.edu/6zxa82>



Project Meetings

Polk County Justice Center

Balsam Lake

October 1, 6:30 PM

- Cat
- Photography

October 1, 7:00 PM

- Goat
- Llama
- Exploring/Cloverbuds
- Shooting Sports
- Environmental Sciences/Nature Space/Adventures

October 6, 7:00 PM

- Beef
- Poultry
- Rabbits
- Youth Leadership/Citizenship

October 8, 7:00 PM

- Swine
- Horse

October 15, 6:30 PM

- Aerospace/Models/Robotics/STEM/Computers
- Foods & Nutrition

October 15, 7:00 PM

- Sheep
- Dog
- Plant & Soil Sciences
- Woodworking

October 20, 6:30 PM

- Visual Arts/Folk Arts
- Home and Family
- Communication/Expressive Arts

October 20, 6:30 PM

- Dairy

Everyone is invited to attend these meetings! Help us plan workshop opportunities by providing your input. We would love to hear from you what you want to learn and do throughout the 2026-2027 4-H year!



2026-2027 AMBASSADOR & LEADER FEDERATION MEETINGS

6:00 4-H Ambassadors

7:00 Polk County 4-H Leader Federation

MON
9/21/26

4-H Building

Polk County Fairgrounds
St. Croix Falls

MON
11/16/26

Community Room

Polk County Justice Center
Balsam Lake

MON
1/25/27

Community Room

Polk County Justice Center
Balsam Lake

MON
3/22/27

Community Room

Polk County Justice Center
Balsam Lake

MON
5/17/27

4-H Building

Polk County Fairgrounds
St. Croix Falls

MON
7/12/27

4-H Building

Polk County Fairgrounds
St. Croix Falls

Leader Federation
ONLY this date.

POLK COUNTY EXCELLED AT THE WI 4-H DAIRY JUDGING CONTEST IN MADISON!

CONGRATS TO BOTH THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR TEAMS!

Polk County Junior Team

Claire Haase, Axel Jensen, Ryker Johnson, Tessa Snook

- Reasons - 3rd team
- Ayrshires - 2nd team, Ryker 1st
- Holsteins - 1st team, Axel 4th, Ryker 5th
- Jerseys - 4th team, Ryker 2nd
- Milking Shorthorns - Ryker 1st
- TAOs - 4th team, Ryker 3rd

Ryker Johnson - High Individual Overall
Polk County - 4th Team Overall

Polk County Senior Team

Jacob Binversie, Agnes Haase, Amelia Koeppen, Darby Trent

- Ayrshires: Darby 4th
- Brown Swiss: 3rd team, Darby 2nd
- Holsteins: 3rd team
- Milking Shorthorns: 1st team, Jacob 2nd
- Reasons: Darby 7th

Darby Trent: 4th High Individual and earned a spot on the WI team to judge at NAILE this Nov.
Polk County - 4th Team Overall

Thank you to their dairy judging coaches - Karrie Melin Swenson, Ethan Dado, Kirsten Klugow, and Seth Snook - for all their guidance and coaching this season and to all the farms who welcomed them for practices!





Fall Forum is a statewide conference that brings 4-H youth and adult leaders together to connect, collaborate, celebrate, and build excitement and energy for a new year of 4-H. It is for youth in grades 7-13, adult volunteers, and staff. It's a great opportunity for youth and volunteers to build their personal leadership skills and make new friends from all across the state. Everyone will leave inspired and ready for a great 4-H year!

Register Now!

Registration open from Sept. 1-15, through your 4-H Online account.

For more information, visit
<https://go.wisc.edu/002a8t>

November 6-8, 2026

Holiday Inn Convention Center, Stevens Point, WI



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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!



NATIONAL 4-H
DAIRY CONFERENCE



SEPTEMBER 27TH-30TH

Registration is now open through September 8th, 2026

For more information and to register, please visit:

<https://national4hdairyconferencedot.org.wordpress.com/>

CONGRATULATIONS TO POLK COUNTY FOR WINNING THE JUNIOR DAIRY EDUCATION DISPLAY MEDIUM DIVISION AT THE 175TH WISCONSIN STATE FAIR

Congratulations!



Celebrating 175 years
of Wisconsin Dairy
at State Fair!

Junior Dairy Education Display
Medium Division Winner
POLK COUNTY



Club News

Pleasant Lake

Pleasant Lake 4-H Club members recently visited residents at Evergreen Senior Center to share highlights from this year's county fair. Members enjoyed talking about their fair experiences, showcasing their projects, and displaying the ribbons they earned.



Pleasant Lake members kept busy this month with another exciting club outing. Along with attending the Senior Living Fair, several members and their friends traveled to Wild Mountain Waterpark for a day of summertime fun. The outing provided a wonderful chance for youth to connect, enjoy time together, and strengthen friendships outside of regular club activities.



Bone Lake Beavers

Pleasant Lake 4-H Club members participated in the Lucky Days Bed Races with both a boys' team and a girls' team competing. The event was full of fun, teamwork, and community spirit. Congratulations to the girls' team, who raced their way to a second-place finish and earned the title of the day's second-fastest bed!



Forest View

In June, Forest View 4-H Club members visited the Alden Fire Station to learn about firefighting and fire safety. Members had the opportunity to see the equipment used by firefighters, learn about their important role in the community, and gain a better understanding of what it takes to respond to emergencies. The visit was both educational and enjoyable for everyone involved.



4-H Camp



Fair Highlights



4H

Fair Highlights



4H Fair Highlights



Fair Highlights



University of Wisconsin - Extension
Polk County Office
100 Polk Plaza, Suite G600
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Phone: (715) 485-8600

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2026

September

CLOVER CONNECTION NEWLETTER

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

UW-MADISON EXTENSION

