



4-H is a **community** of **young**
people **across America** who
are learning **leadership**,
citizenship, and **life skills**.

april 2024

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Cloverline

Choices

It's no secret these days, one of the key methods to prevent meltdowns, defiance and bad relationships with our kids is to offer them choices. They range from "you can put on your shoes, or you can have mom do it" to "UW-La Crosse or Western Tech."

I have a feeling a lot of the older youth these days are struggling with too many choices. As an event organizer, I've seen it brewing in the early 2000s with commitment phobia. While the pandemic helped us focus for a moment on our priorities, a lot of options are still out there for everything. How do we help our kids with making decisions, especially with big ones or anxious kids?

The good news is what we do in 4-H sets them up for a lot of trial-and-error practice as they get older. The Do – Reflect – Apply approach works here. Researching the pros and cons, anticipating consequences from the choice, assessing any risks involved are all the things they do in their projects, service and leadership opportunities. It's a skill set that serve them well into adulthood.

The best part of this though? Is that youth gain an early understanding that every choice, regardless of outcome, leads to learning. And that can instill the confidence they need to make powerful decisions.

We're always making happy accidents.

Emily Crook
Positive Youth Development Educator
La Crosse County Extension



UW-MADISON EXTENSION
LA CROSSE COUNTY

volunteer section >>>

Community Volunteer Opportunity - Ruby's Pantry

Ruby's Pantry distributes food at Pop-Up Pantry locations across Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and North Dakota.

Journey Lutheran Church will host a Ruby's Pantry food distribution on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 4:30-6:00. The pantry will be held as a drive thru in their church parking lot at 2703 Sand Lake Road, Onalaska, WI. They are located between Onalaska and Holmen.

On the day of the distribution, guests will register from their vehicle for a food share, which is a \$25 donation. One share usually consists of 2-3 boxes of food. From there, the guests will drive to different stations and have food placed in their trunks by volunteers.

Approximately 40 volunteers are needed each month. Volunteers will need to register on the Ruby's Pantry website prior to helping. The link to volunteer is <https://www.rubyspantry.org/become-volunteer>. If you want to volunteer as a group/club, just the leader or chaperoning needs to complete a volunteer application. Volunteers between the ages of 5-9 need to be with a parent or guardian (i.e. grandma/grandpa, coach, etc.).

Leaders Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 11th, 2024

Time: 6:45 p.m. (Open Forum)
7:00pm (meeting)

Location: Hamilton Town Hall in West Salem
(N5105 Leonard N, West Salem WI, 54669)

At the next meeting we'll review the proposed 2024-2025 budget.

youth leadership >>>

Ambassador Meeting

- **Date:** Sunday, April 28th, 2024
- **Time:** 1:00pm
- **Location:** Room 1107, La Crosse County Admin Center
(212 6th St N, entrance on 7th street side)

At the next meeting, we'll confirm the summer activities and discuss elections to be held in May.

ONALASKA, WI

**3RD WEDNESDAY OF
THE MONTH**

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

**JOURNEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2703 SAND LAKE ROAD
ONALASKA, WI**

**Ruby's
PANTRY**

Volunteer Appreciation Week

In honor of Volunteer Appreciation Week, join us for one of two zooms to Connect with Volunteers! Local 4-H programs rely on caring adult volunteers, and we want to celebrate you and build connections! All 4-H volunteers are encouraged to join in an hour-long zoom to network with other 4-H volunteers, and enjoy small group discussions to share ideas and learn from others. To register for the zoom, click on one of these links:

April 22nd Noon - 1:00 p.m. - <https://go.wisc.edu/tz4033>

April 22nd 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. - <https://go.wisc.edu/3xz625>

We hope this sharing opportunity will provide new ideas and connections across the 4-H program statewide!

APRIL 21 - 27 4-H Volunteer Appreciation Week



Thank you to the volunteers who have made contribution to the 4-H community - we cannot do this program without YOU!

FROM EMILY, KASEY, & ANDREA





HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH

animal sciences>>>

Fur, Fin & Feather

The Fur, Fin and Feather Show is open to all youth in grades 3-13. There are some classes available for K-2nd. The show gives our youth an opportunity to show their rabbits, poultry, cats and small pets, with face-to-face judging. They get pointers and learn hands-on about their animal and how to improve when showing at the fair.

Date: Saturday, April 27th, 2024
Time: 10:00am - Noon
Location: Barney Center, 1000 E. Montgomery Sparta WI

The Teaching Show is hosted by La Crosse, Monroe, Richland and Vernon County 4-H. Full rules, regulations, and paper entry forms can be found: <https://vernon.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/4-h-opportunities/>

Horse Project Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 10th, 2024
Time: 5:30pm
Location: Bangor First Responder Building

Horse Camp

Date: Saturday, May 18th, 2024
Time: 7:30am - 4:00pm
Location: La Crosse Interstate Fairgrounds

To register, please fill out the Horse Camp Registration Form here: <https://tinyurl.com/5hbjp8y3>. Registration is due to the UW-Extension office by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1st, 2024.

Mandatory Dog Project Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 16th, 2024
When: April 16th 2024
Location: West Salem American Legion 148 Leonard St West Salem

We will be going over some basic things needed for class this year along with expectations. If you are unable to attend and are still interested in being in the project, please reach out to Lisa Gray packgr@hotmail.com and Tia Gray tia.gray2021@gmail.com prior to the meeting and we will find another time to go over the meeting details with you.

2024 YQCA

What: Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Training.
WHO: REQUIRED FOR ALL LIVESTOCK PARTICIPANTS
How: Online Training here <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
Cost: \$12 (\$3 reimbursed by Leader's Board with submitted completion certificate!)

When you complete your training, YOU need to save a copy of your completion certificate and:

- Email it to lacrosseyouthlivestock@gmail.com to meet your requirement for fair.
- Email it to lacrossecounty4h@lacrossecounty.org for \$3 reimbursement.

Any questions? Please reach out to us at 608-785-9593 or either of the emails above.



la crosse interstate fair section

July 17th - 21st, 2024

Fair Clerk Signup

What do fair clerks do you ask? They help the judge of each department keep thoughts and exhibits organized. They write down who receives what ribbons, merit awards, and general feedback if necessary. It's a great way for kids to learn more about the fair process and that department as well as a great way to get some volunteer experience. If youth or adults are considering other positions at the fair like being a superintendent or a judge – this is a great way to start! If interested, fill out the signup genius here: <http://tinyurl.com/2c8s8mdr>.

Food Stand Club Leader Meeting

Foodstand signup for club shifts is on April 24 at 6:30 at the Hamilton Town Hall. It is highly recommended to have a representative from each club there. **THIS MEETING IS SUPER IMPORTANT.** Our annual fundraiser IS the food stand and club slots are determined by membership numbers in your club. In order for youth to receive scholarship, and in order for our program to even function, we need as much participation in the food stand as possible. Please secure either a food stand manager/representative for your club to attend this meeting, or have the club leader attend.

Fair Mentor Program

This idea came from the recent surveying we did for our county (thank you Piggush family!)– let's try it out!

Is your family experienced in exhibiting at the county fair? Or are you still a bit shaky? For years we've wanted to help new families with their fair experience but weren't sure how. So for the 2024 year – we're piloting something new: the 4-H Fair Mentor program.

If you have an exhibit you're struggling in, or have some advice to share – consider filling out this form by June 1st: <https://forms.gle/TdwN6RGEJWZAYF6Y6> The earlier you sign up the more opportunities you'll have to be matched.

Families will be matched based on their willingness to participate. And just because you have experience in one exhibit, that doesn't mean you know them all – you're welcome to request a mentor, too! This is family involvement – youth will not be directly contacted by others in this program.

Clothing and Foods Revues – SAVE THE DATE!!

Both events will be held at the La Crosse County Admin Center (212 6th St N, La Crosse), registration information to follow in the May Cloverline!

Clothing Revue: Sunday, June 23, 6:00-7:30pm

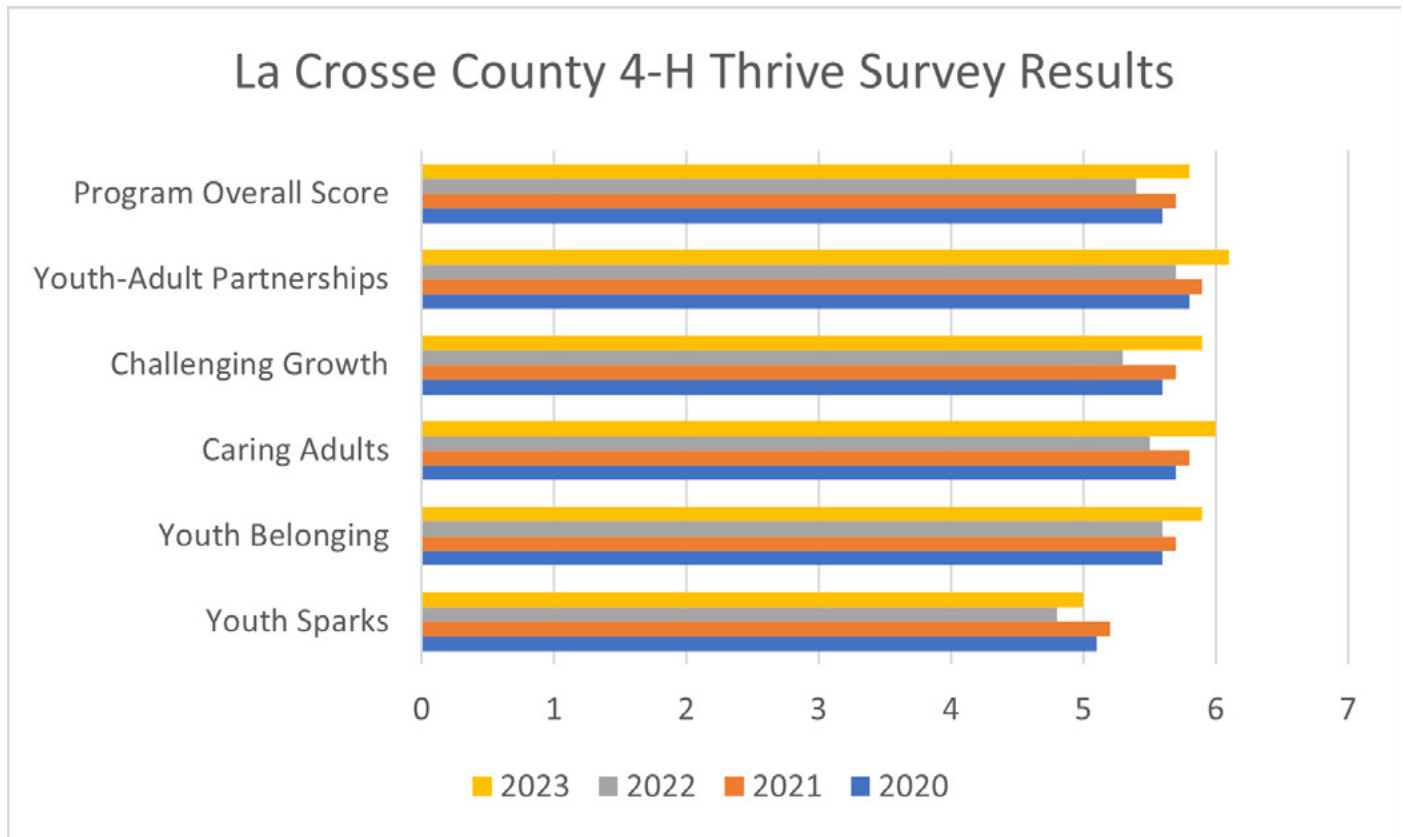
Foods Revue: Monday, June 24, 5-8pm, Dinner will be provided.

thriving results >>>

The 4-H Thriving Model predicts that youth who participate in 4-H programs that provide a high-quality developmental context will thrive, and thriving youth achieve key developmental outcomes. To determine scores for Program Quality, youth members age 13 and up were invited to take an online survey asking them questions about their 4-H experience.

The survey was developed by Mary Arnold, Oregon State University and Ryan Gagnon, Clemson University. Wisconsin served as a pilot state for administering the survey in 2020 & 2021. After analyzing data, the scores are provided which assess each component of the model on a scale of 1-7, 7 meaning outstanding program quality. In La Crosse County, 42 youth completed the survey in 2023, which 18% is of the total 238 possible.

Here is a graph of the last 4 years of Thrive survey data rankings for our county:



The data suggests that the program quality in La Crosse County 4-H is very good (1 being worst, 7 being best), and yet there is always room to grow. Youth sparks continues to be the lowest score, meaning youth struggle to feel supported in their passions. However, youth – adult partnerships has increased significantly as has youth belonging. With these two areas improving, providing the foundation for youth to pursue their passions, I believe youth sparks will increase as well in 2024. Our county programming will continue to offer project-specific workshops as well as county fair programming as much as possible.



shooting sports >>>

Swag!

La Crosse County 4-H Shooting Sports program is offering merchandise once again! This link is where you go: 4hshootingsports.com Share it with family and friends – it makes great holiday, graduation and birthday gifts!



Archery Invitational 2024

When: Saturday, April 6th, 2024

Time: 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., or 10:00 a.m.

Where: Archery Country (1231 Oak Forest Dr., Onalaska, WI 54650)

***Registration has closed ***

Holmen Archery Program

When: Sundays

April 14th, 21st, & 28th, 2024

May 5th & 19th, 2024

June 2nd, 2024

Who: Youth in Grades 3+

Time: 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., or 11:00 a.m.

Where: Arrows in the Square (N7681 Caseberg Coulee Rd., Holmen WI 54636 (Outside))

***Registration has closed ***

extra opportunities >>>

Minnesota 4-H Photography is excited to offer another multi-state photography contest open to youth in grades K-13!

Select your best photo (with no or minimal editing) and submit it with up to two sentences that explains why it's special to you! More information and rules for the challenge can be found at: 4-H Hit Me with Your Best Shot Photo Contest | UMN Extension with rules available here.

Submit one (1) jpg or jpeg image and statement to fourhphoto@umn.edu by 11:59 p.m. (CST) on May 1, 2024. Volunteer 4-H photography judges will provide feedback via a slideshow. Top photos will be recognized with a prize and random prize drawing winners will also receive a gift.

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/325vpz5j>

Questions? Email fourhphoto@umn.edu



summer camp registration open!

Dates of Camp: July 31 – Aug 2, 2024

Location of Camp: Upham Woods

Transportation: Included

Cost: \$150/youth – community member or \$75/youth for 4-H member

Deadline to Enroll: May 1, 2024

ENROLL HERE: <https://forms.gle/SrQK4hqE361RtYKp8>

Send payment to: La Crosse County Extension, 212 6th St N, La Crosse WI 54601

Some details: We are camping with the 4 other counties in our Area 13 again, the registration isn't specific to our county, so I will follow up with all those who register. New this year – a required zoom for all participant families prior to camp and new camp family handbook coming soon! Transportation and 4-H Scholarship is provided by the Leaders Association.

We still need counselors! And Chaperones still welcome, too! Reach out to Emily if interested: emily.crook@wisc.edu.

2024-2025 Event Dates

- 4-27-2024: Fur, Fin, Feather
 - 6-23-2024: Clothing Revue
 - 6-24-2024: Foods Revue
 - 7-17 to 7-21-2024: La Crosse Interstate Fair
 - 7-31 to 8-02-2024: Summer Camp
-
- 1-04-2025: Archery & Pellet Gun Program Begins
 - 4-05-2025: Archery Invitational

FORMS SECTION

There will ALWAYS be paper options, and if you'd like paper copies, please just let us know and we will provide them for you.

yqca training: <https://yqcaprogram.org/>

fair clerk signup: <http://tinyurl.com/2c8s8mdr>

fair mentor program: <https://forms.gle/TdwN6RGEJWZAyF6Y6>

horse camp registration: <https://tinyurl.com/5hbjp8y3>

minnesota 4-h photography: <https://tinyurl.com/325vpz5j>

summer camp: <https://forms.gle/SrQK4hqE361RtYKp8>



april 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Archery Invitational
7	8	9	10 Horse Project Meeting	11 Leaders Board Meeting	12	13
14 Holmen Archery Program	15	16 Mandatory Dog Project Meeting	17	18	19	20
21 Holmen Archery Program	22	23	24 Food Stand Leader Meeting	25	26	27 Fur, Fin, Feather
28 Holmen Archery Program Ambassador Meeting	29	30				

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

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University of Wisconsin—Extension
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The Cloverline can be found in color and with hyperlinks online at <https://lacrosse.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/cloverline-newsletter/>

We thank all who volunteer their time and talents to contribute to this newsletter.