

Cloverline

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

Getting Back to It

August for me is the time I throw back into my family as a last-ditch effort to take advantage of summer weather and break. Even so, I'm grateful once school starts. Our family is no stranger to consistent routines, but it just helps whenever others are on the same wavelength, too. Here is hoping you feel pleasantly prepared for the next school year and got all the summer bucket list items done to your satisfaction!

Now, welcome to our own little corner of organization – the seasonal Cloverline. This is the space where we'll put our consistent events, activities, requests, etc. and will get printed and mailed to you 4 times a year, covering 3 approaching months. Will it be perfect? Absolutely not. But a lot of thought and energy has been poured into this, to make it worth your while. Four sections: Membership, Events, Giving Back, and Celebrations are here to connect you to what we do and why.

Outside of the Cloverline, we'll continue to catch the group meetings, the odd events that don't make deadlines, the opportunities that just pop up and put them in the Sprout and Spotlight. Don't forget we have our 4-H Calendar, too! Check it out for the upcoming events we have scheduled, and other calendars linked (like the goat project and dog project, etc).

One more thing! Our goal this year is to offer credit card payment options for our events. (EEP this is a big leap for us). Even on 4-HOnline. Our first event we'll try this on is Archery Workshops, which will open for registration mid-November. Clover College might be a huge undertaking, but we will try our best!

As with all things, thank you for your patience and enthusiasm! We love our 4-H community and are so very much looking forward to the 2026-2027 year. Start re-enrolling Sept 2!

Emily A Crook

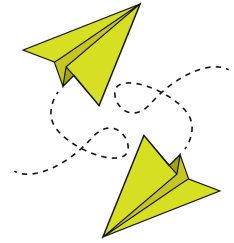
Emily Crook
La Crosse County 4-H Educator

Andrea Thill
4-H County Administrative Assistant



La Crosse County 4-H Enrollment

- Started: 1925
- 2026 Enrollment: 550 youth, 80 adults
- Grades: 5K-13th (If youth turns 19 after Dec. 31)
- Program Year: October 1 – Sept 30
- Where to enroll: [4-HOnline](#)
- Enrollment/Re-Enrollment for 2026-2027 Opens: Wed. Sept 2, 2026.



Why 4-H?

Kids in 4-H have shown growth in areas of self-esteem, confidence, and responsibility. In particular, 4-H does an excellent job at helping kids hone their leadership, public speaking, and community service skills. We take a lot of pride in helping kids learn by doing the activities that interest them, and in turn they take those skills and help coach younger youth interested in the same things.

What does it look like?

Families who join 4-H will attend a community club meeting together, which typically meet once per month. These club meetings generally take 60-90 minutes unless there are other events tacked on. From there, youth can join project groups, which will have additional meetings, or attend county-wide, state, or national workshops and events geared towards their interests.

Community Clubs

La Crosse County has several clubs that families can join. Please see the chart below to understand club sizes and locations. To join a particular club, or to swap clubs, please reach out to the Extension Office. Community clubs are organized by youth officers and their adult volunteers and are focused on activities that youth want to do throughout the year. In August and September, clubs will meet to discuss and vote on topics as well as elect their youth officers. Club meetings should follow a framework of Laughing, Leading, and Learning. We try to "connect" before content, then provide opportunities for youth to vote or guide the club, and that is followed by an educational or bonding activity.

Projects

4-H Projects are another word for interests. We select projects when we enroll so that others know we're interested in them. That way, if a group of youth step forward and want to organize a new project group, we have an easy way to reach out to all of those with the same interests. If the state program offers workshops, we can inform those particular members as well. The La Crosse Interstate Fair also needs to know who has experience in their projects, so those kids can exhibit them at the fair. The deadline we have to let the fair know which projects your kids are learning about is April 1st, every year.

Project Groups

Project groups are also organized by youth officers and adult volunteers, and meet regularly to help youth learn more about specific projects or interests. In La Crosse County, our project groups are:

- Dog
- Goat: Meat and Dairy
- Horse
- Shooting Sports: Archery and Air Rifle
- Ambassadors (Youth Leaders)

Do you have projects that you feel we should support more?



We Belong

Not just to our community, but to our state and national organization. Almost every county in Wisconsin has its own 4-H program, which may be governed a bit differently depending on the needs in each community. And each state has ITS own organization within the nation, too. Florida 4-H looks a bit different than Wisconsin 4-H. All of it though, is funded through federal and state grants, county budgets, and donations. We are governed by our local counties, the state, and the USDA.

Literature

Anytime your 4-H member has a new interest, check out the [Project Guide](#), and peruse the resources available to you. Many projects do not have a mentor or group to help direct it, but it is more self-guided, or your club may have a meeting about the subject. So, youth will order curriculum, or workbooks, to help guide them through a project focus. We have many workbooks available in the office, and the Leaders' Association provides up to 5 free books for each youth annually. This is why we do NOT want you to order books through 4-HOnline or Shop 4-H as we cannot provide a discounted method. Please instead use our [Literature Request Form](#).

Cost

Each community club is responsible for setting their own dues, which helps them establish supplies and additional expenses like snacks, etc. Some clubs secure sponsorships or raise funds to help offset the cost. The Leaders' Association organizes a food stand at our annual fair to supply the county 4-H program with:

- Event Support: They take off \$5 of every fee at Clover College for attendees, most state and national travel receive a 75% scholarship, and all other county-wide events are usually free to attend.
- Curriculum Support: They provide free curriculum for every 4-H member.
- Fair Support: We acknowledge that 4-H loves the fair, it's where kids get to show off their knowledge and receive accolades. La Crosse 4-H provides the ribbons for the fair and assists with other fair opportunities as well.

There is no cost in 4-HOnline at the time of enrollment.

Volunteers

Through it all, we rely heavily on adults to help guide youth as officers, participants, students, mentors, and human beings. Our volunteers go through an annual training that focuses on youth safety, risk management, and policy. Every two years, adults must pass a background check. And our volunteers often educate themselves further with completing additional trainings (like Supporting Youth Mental Health), or attending events like Fall Forum, where they can meet other volunteers and get support or learn best practices. We have so many different types of volunteers, from club and group project leaders, to Leaders' Association Board members, Clover College instructors, camp chaperones, club activity leaders, workshop consultants, food stand committee members, and more. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please sign up in 4-HOnline or reach out to the Extension Office to see what would fit the best!

Membership Evaluation vs Record Books

In 4-H, we try to provide moments of reflection with each activity, but sometimes the events get away from us. So instead, we offer forms and workbooks to try and capture the growth within a year. But what even are they?

- A [membership evaluation](#) is a document a member fills out when they want to be considered for trips and scholarships. This focuses on highlights of their entire 4-H experience and helps staff summarize their accomplishments in reference letters and job applications. It also helps us know what trips the youth is interested in attending that year.
- A [record book](#) is a document that summarizes a year of accomplishment in one specific project or interest. This gets into more detail about the specific goals a youth has in that project, what steps the youth took to complete that goal and what they learned overall. Usually youth fill out a general record book for their project, but at this site, there are more specific record books for some projects.

Neither of these are required for 4-H members to do, but they are wonderful tools to help make your 4-H experience more rewarding and memorable.

Celebrations!

Let's devote a space to highlight youth accomplishments!

La Crosse County 4-H Drill Teams

The La Crosse County 4-H Drill Teams attended their 1st Competition of the Year on Saturday, June 27th in Evansville, WI at the KMRR Drill Team Competition. Team Glamour competed in the Novice Division along with 4 other teams, placing 2nd! Team Glitter competed in the Intermediate Division, also placing 2nd!

This is a record-breaking year of 16 riders in total; requiring us to divide into 2 teams. The teams have been practicing every week since the beginning of March to prepare for the season. We have 4 new riders on the each team this year & they have definitely committed themselves! Both teams are teaching & mentoring each other; continually learning & growing together.



Riders on this year's Team Glitter are (L to R): Avery Arms, Lexi Marinelli, Lorelei Wessel, Olidia Berlin, Lyza Yahnke, Reese Stegall, Jessica Graffunder & Sophie Hanson.



Riders on this year's Team Glamour are (L to R): Grace Loecke, Cailin Vik, Jade Wessel, Adriana Olson, Emma DeFlorian, Peggy Olson, Brystol Jerome & Brooklyn Marinelli.

Foods Revue

Another astonishing participation in the annual Foods Revue on June 30, 2026 we had 19 exhibits and some tough competition. Congratulations go to the following top award winners:

Dane Miller, Lucky Lakers – Outstanding Cloverbud & People's Choice

Isaiah Rozman, Home Runners – Outstanding Cloverbud

Allison Katona, Bangor Township – People's Choice

Kira Miller, Lucky Lakers – Merit

Stella Towne, Lucky Lakers – People's Choice

Lauren Kunce, Lone Lumberjacks – Merit

Caden Olson, Home Runners – Cake Decorating People's Choice

Rosie Elsen, Smith Valley – Cake Decorating People's Choice



And to all the youth who participated – way to go! Cloverbuds: Jonah Clark, Bangor Township; Lauren Hurtz, Salem Seekers. Foods & Cake: Isaac Clark, Bangor Township; Micah Rozman, Home Runners; Summer Rozman, Home Runners; Ella Miller, Lucky Lakers; Caleb Clark, Bangor Township; Amber Olson, Home Runners. A huge thank you also goes out to Laura Miller, Lucky Lakers volunteer, and Sandra Elsen, leader of Smith Valley 4-H, who co-managed the superintendent responsibilities!

Clothing Revue

Our Clothing Revue on July 8, 2026 saw 5 beautiful exhibits. Congratulations to:

Ella Miller, Lucky Lakers – Blue
Kira Miller, Lucky Lakers – Merit, Blue
Lauren Kunce, Lone Lumberjacks – Blue
Vera Piggush, Smith Valley – Blue
Rosie Elsen, Smith Valley – Best in Show, Blue
(from left to right in the picture)



A big thank you goes out to Sandra Elsen, Smith Valley leader, as she stepped in as Superintendent this year. This event grew 100% from last year, here is hoping more youth continue to sign up. One of these entries went to state fair as well (go Kira!)

Welcome to Clover Island... arrrrr

La Crosse County had 28 youth, counselors and chaperones participate in our annual Summer Camp from July 29-31. Despite an abnormal amount of obstacles (4 stings camp-wide within the first hour of camp, a sprained toe, and an amazingly bad bus ride home); reports are in that camp was indeed memorable for all the good things it brought: hilarity, teamwork, memories, and some fake mustaches. Each group was responsible for acquiring points through riddles, developing a sea chanty, and following all the rules. Overall our program had 134 campers, counselors and chaperones; we filled the camp! It was an amazing experience and we cannot WAIT to do it again. Applications for counselors and chaperones will come out in February, and camper sign up will hit in March. Thanks for wonderful time – our campers make me so proud to be their Educator!



Camp send off!



Hallie Hart, St. Joe's Ridge Runners, was on the winning team – the Mermaids! Their 'award' was the hat and eye patch. ARRRRRR



AYOY!

September, October, & November 4-H Events & Gatherings

Leaders' Association Board Meetings

Dates: Thursdays, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12

Time: 7:00 pm meeting, 6:45pm Open Forum

Location: Hamilton Town Hall (N5281 WI-108, West Salem, WI)

Who: Board Members, Volunteers and Youth members ages 14+



At these meetings the board will discuss reports from past events, updates to upcoming events, potential changes to programs and county-wide policies, and seek out other members to join the board in November. Meetings are typically 60-90 minutes and move quickly with subcommittee reports. Board members do not need to be club or group leaders; current and past members are interested parents, grandparents, 4-H alumni, and 4-H youth leaders. Anyone enrolled in 4-H can attend a meeting, if interested in joining the board please reach out to the Extension Office.

Available positions on the board in November: Vice President (3 yr term), Bangor Rep (1 yr left), La Crosse/Onalaska Rep (2 yr term), West Salem Rep (1 yr left), At-Large Rep (2 yr term).

Ambassador Meetings

Dates: Sundays, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 22

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: La Crosse County Admin Center (212 6th St N, La Crosse) entry off of 7th street

Who: Youth in grades 7+ interested in participating in and providing leadership opportunities

Ambassadors help us tailor county-wide events to the needs of our current 4-H youth. They are consistently updating programs and providing input to improve things. Annually, their events might change by the membership, but in the past they have hosted a Cloverbud Day Camp, had an overnight educational trip to Madison, WI, and created new awards and events in our county. This is a vibrant focused group of youth who want to implement change in their community. Anyone interested in joining should reach out to the Extension Office to receive the next meeting's agenda!

Pump House Artists Reception

Date: Tue. Sept 15

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Location: Pump House Regional Arts Center (119 King St, La Crosse)

Who: Anyone!



Join us for light refreshments and peruse the art our 4-H members have created! These pieces were chosen by judges at the county fair. This reception is a come-and-go event, no registration necessary, and is a chance for us to celebrate the artists and their families, but anyone is welcome to attend!

The Pump House Exhibit dates: Sept. 9 – Oct 17.

***If your item was selected for the Pump House Exhibit:** Please drop off the item with the purple tag of information to the Extension Office by Friday, September 4 at 4:30pm. Do NOT take items to the Pump House. We set the display up and take all the items with us from the Extension Office. Items are available for pick up from the Extension Office on Wed. Oct 21.

Items not picked up by November 1st are subject to our discretion. We typically hang onto them for a while, but may use them as art in the office, take them home for our own decorations or toss them.

Craft Fair



Date: Sat. Oct. 10

Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Location: Onalaska Omni Center (255 Riders Club Rd, Onalaska)

Who: Anyone!

Youth are hosting their wares for sale at the Onalaska Omni Center's annual Craft Fair! Our site is usually off from the main event, but accessible from the same entrance. Youth, clubs and families who host a table will learn basic business skills in customer service, cost analysis, marketing, and the ebb and flows of sales. Sign up to host a table is in 4-HOnline, and curriculum created by the Ambassadors is available at registration as well. Please sign up by Sept 30 if you plan to host!

State and National Programs

Registrations for travel opportunities are opening soon in 4-HOnline. Actual month of travel is in parentheses. For more detailed information on these events, please visit the WI 4-H Events and Opportunities Site (where you'll see way more opportunities, too!)

- NOW: Fall Forum (November) | Youth Leaders and Adult Volunteers | Stevens Point, WI
- Nov Reg: American Spirit (June) | Grades 8-10 | Northeast USA & Canada
- Nov Reg: Space Camp (April 30-May 2) | Grades 6-8 | Huntsville, Alabama

***Scholarships Available!** The Leaders' Association sponsors up to 75% of the costs of these experiences. Please email the Extension Office to learn about this process and if you have any questions!



Officer Summit



Date: Sat. Nov 14

Time: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Location: La Crosse Admin Building (212 6th St N, La Crosse)

Who: Youth grades 5+ and adult volunteers

Designed to help clubs and groups improve their teamwork, participants will learn the advantages of their own leadership style, how to be more inclusive in their clubs, how to improve youth-adult partnership in manageable ways, connect with others in their roles, and learn how to access resources available to them! Sign up is in 4-HOnline; youth do NOT have to be currently elected in the position they want to learn more about. This is also a fantastic way for club leadership to become a cohesive team!

National 4-H Week

Dates: Sun. Oct 4 – Sat. Oct. 10

Who: Everyone in 4-H!

You can celebrate the week however you feel inspired. We have some ideas that would be awesome to see!

Sunday: Share your favorite 4-H memory at the dinner table

Monday: Wear your 4-H gear to school (and see who else is a 4-H member that you didn't know!)

Tuesday: Share your 4-H pictures from the past year with the Extension Office

Wednesday: Sign up for a new project in 4-HOnline

Thursday: Invite a friend to your next 4-H meeting

Friday: Send your club/group leaders a thank you for their support and service

Saturday: Help out at the food stand, or show up at the craft fair and show your support of 4-H!



Rotary Lights Parade



Date: Nov. 26, 2026

Time: Usually 4:30-7:00 pm

Location: La Crosse Riverside Park (100 State St, La Crosse)

Come bedazzled with lights and your Christmas Spirit! We will have our float lit up and ready. We just need the kids to smile, sing, and be merry. (We might need a float tow, too). If anyone wants to assist with tree decoration (which happens mid-November) or float preparation, and if anyone wants to walk either sign up in 4-HOnline or email us at lacrossecounty4h@lacrossecounty.org.



Giving Back

HELP NEEDED: Oktoberfest Races – Food Stand

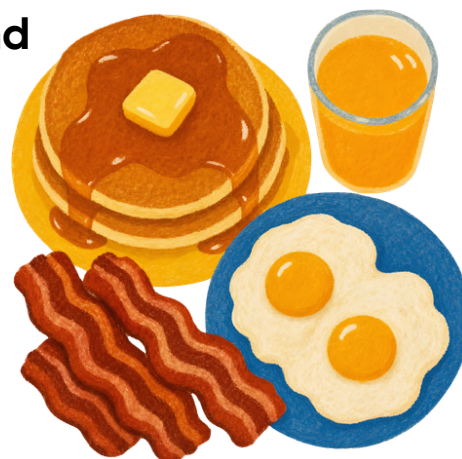
Date: Sat. Oct. 10

Time: 7:30 – 11:30 am

Location: La Crosse Interstate Fairgrounds

Food Stand (County M, West Salem)

Needed: 3-4 adults, 3-4 youth (3rd grade+)



Date: Sun. Oct 11 – Pancake Breakfast Help needed!

Time: 7:30 – 11:30 am

Location: Meet at Food Stand, work at Exhibition Hall

Needed: 3-4 adults, 5-6 youth

We need adult help and youth help at both of these events. Saturday duties for adults: set up, cashier, prepare food, clean up; for youth: set up, serve food, clean up. Sunday duties include: transporting things from food stand to exhibition hall, cashier, light service of food, bussing tables. **We always need help at these events and never have enough!** Sign up is in 4-HOnline or email us at lacrossecounty4h@lacrossecounty.org if you want to help!

WANTED: Your 4-H pictures or videos for 2026-2027

We really want to showcase all the amazing things our 4-H families and clubs do. Do you have a picture that is just too awesome to not share? Or an event that was legendary you need it documented for all of time? To share your pictures, make sure to include either the event, youth or club name and date in the file name. You can either upload the file into our [google form](#) (requires a google account), or send it via facebook message to: Extension La Crosse County (or if you want to send it to Emily, that's fine, too).

THRIVE Survey

This fall, Wisconsin 4-H will be inviting members (ages 13-18) to complete a survey about their 4-H experience. The survey will help Wisconsin 4-H AND La Crosse County to learn about the quality of our programs, and it will be sent by e-mail in the first week of October. Youth who complete the survey will be entered into a raffle to win a \$25 gift card, and some 4-H swag from La Crosse! Deadline to finish survey is usually the end of November. Missed your link? Reach out to the Extension Office to get the link to your specific survey! Anyone interested in 5 years of results are welcome to check out our feedback site once its developed!

Food Stand Strategy

Any adults interested in assisting the food stand co-management team with strategic planning, please reach out to the Extension Office! We plan to meet with facilitators Heather Quackenboss, HDR Educator; and Charlotte Peters, Community Development Educator, both from La Crosse Extension, to discuss the food stand and see how we can improve involvement and functionality. If you would like to participate, let us know!



Clover College Instructors Needed

Date: Sat. Feb 27, 2027

Time: 90 minutes classes, can instruct 1, 2 or 3

Location: Bangor Elementary (701 14th Ave S, Bangor)

Who: Any youth (with parent) or adult interested in sharing a skill!

Sign up Deadline: Tue. Dec 1



This is our biggest event and a wonderful chance for kids (and adults!) to try something new! Most classes have kids leaving with a project to show at fair, but not all need to, sometimes it's fun just to learn a new hobby or skill. Some classes we've offered in the past are: archery and air rifle, ceramics painting, cookie decorating, sign language, knitting/crocheting, aerospace, woodworking, first aid, juggling, electricity, bike maintenance, winter camping and more! Here are some ideas Emily would love to offer (only if it helps inspire you):

- Basics in babysitting
- Personal finance/Build your own business (for kids!)
- Food Stand Training (Order Taking & Customer Service skills)

Instructors do not need to be currently involved in 4-H, often times they end up being someone you know who has a cool hobby they don't mind sharing. Youth can work together or with a parent to teach a course, too. So get the word out and sign up to teach a class!

County-wide Event Feedback

We usually have a county-wide event each month, and would love to know your thoughts. Should we keep them all, drop some, or eh? Also on this form is an opportunity to give us ideas for NEW events!

Upcoming Newsletters and Dates

Winter Newsletter Dec. Jan. and Feb items Publication Date: Nov 15			
<u>DATES</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>REGISTRATION</u>
Thursday, December 10th, 2026	Volunteer Holiday Party (West Salem, WI)	Adults	Email Office
Saturday, January 2nd, 2027	Archery Workshop (Omni Center)	3+	4-H Online
Clover College Issue List of classes Publication Date: Jan. 1			
Saturday, February 27th, 2027	Clover College (Bangor Elementary)	ALL	4-H Online
Spring Newsletter Mar. Apr. May Items Publication Date: Feb 15			
Friday, April 23rd, 2027	Expressive Arts Festival (French Island)	k-13	4-H Online

Appendix

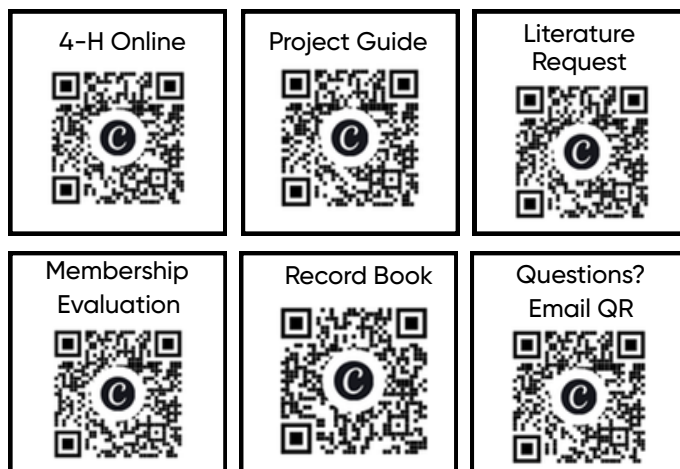
Club Name	# of Members	Meeting Location
Bangor Township	47	Bangor
Barre Badgers	86	Barre
Brown's Valley	10	Farmington
Burr Oak	28	Farmington
Coulee Clovers-River City	4	La Crosse
Country Lanes	9	TBD
Home Runners	39	Onalaska
Lone Lumberjacks	31	Varies
Lower Big Creek	39	Bangor
Lucky Lakers	55	Onalaska
Mormon Coulee	19	La Crosse
Northside Stars	24	La Crosse
Pleasant Valley	5	Hamilton
Rockland-Fish Creek	30	Rockland
Salem Seekers	32	Varies
Smith Valley	26	Medary
St. Joe's Ridge Runners	57	Greenfield
Striped Strivers	30	Burns
Union Mills	45	Holmen

Project	# of Members	Meeting Information
Dog	72	April - West Salem
Goat	78	Fair Grounds, Holmen, Onalaska
Horse	73	La Crosse Interstate Fair Grounds
Shooting Sports	127	Holmen & Onalaska
Ambassadors	15	La Crosse

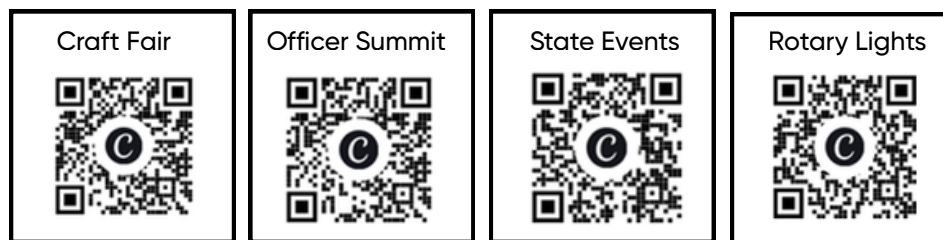


JOIN THE CLUB

Membership & Enrollment



Events & Gatherings



Giving Back



**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - EXTENSION
La Crosse County Offices
212 6th St N Suite 2200
La Crosse WI 54601**

**NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LA CROSSE, WI
PERMIT NO. 588**

The Cloverline 4-H Newsletter is produced quarterly by the Extension La Crosse County Office, 212 6th St. N. Suite 2200, La Crosse, WI, 54601 in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin-Extension, Madison, WI. Wisconsin Relay-711.

4-H Contact Information:

- LaCrosseCounty4H@lacrossecounty.org
- 608.785.9593
- 608.789.4808 (fax)

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.

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