# Cloverline



It's Time

Every time daylight savings time ends, I'm reminded that time is such a construct of the mind. And of course, nature. I mean, the earth turns with such regularity, we plot every waking moment to it. Still, our perception of it fleets with every passionate focus, and crawls with every desperate intention. Personally, I've struggled with it my entire life. Patience is a virtue that continues to escape me, no matter how slowly I force myself to go.

So I bring you to a moment in this time, to simply sit in it. Breathe. Light a candle, hold an intention. Smell fresh juniper, bask in a brilliant sunrise or sunset this season; the cold makes such beautiful skies. Winter is the time to pull in; rest, revel in the harvest of your health and happiness, and challenge what needs to change in the coming year.

The chaos will always swirl around you, but I hope you find moments this season to anchor down, snuggle up, and charge your being in whatever ways you need it.

Have a healthy winter my friends. I hope you savor the season.

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

Emily A Crook

Emily Crook
La Crosse County 4-H Educator

Andrea Thill
4-H Administrative Assistant



# Membership

## Projects and Education

So you enrolled in 4-HOnline, reviewed the La Crosse 4-H Project Guide, and picked your projects. Now what?

You should look at the curriculum out there that's tied to your project! In 4-H, we have a handful of groups that meet to provide opportunities for the following specific projects:

- Dog Project
- Goat Project
- Horse Project
- Shooting Sports
- Ambassadors/Youth Leaders

Each of these groups will host meetings or workshops to help educate youth on the specific knowledge and skills pertaining to their project. Some groups meet monthly, others will start meeting more in the spring. You can visit these group sites here: https://lacrosse.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/4-h-projects/ for more information.

There are WAY more projects available to youth than those, however, and these projects need additional resources for more of a home-study approach. And for that, we provide curricula, or workbooks for youth to work through on their way to understanding more about their projects.

For more information on this curriculum, please visit:

- WI 4-H Project sites: https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/projects/

1. Each project area will have a list of resources: workbooks, pdfs, videos, and events, to help connect youth with opportunities available to them.

- Shop 4-H: https://shop4-h.org - all nationally approved curriculum is sold here. But don't buy them from this site! We have them in-house to give you. You get your first 5 books free!
- Make a note of what curriculum you need, and submit it in OUR form here: Literature Request Form

And then – stay tuned! Sometimes we have projects waiting to form a group in the wings (like a potential LEGO project or Pocket Pets Project!). IF YOU or someone you know would like to help get a project group off the ground, reach out to Emily in the 4-H office and we'll walk you through the process!

## Volunteer Re-Enrollment Due Dec. 1

All clubs and groups that meet, should have at the very least, two approved volunteers present at each meeting. Should volunteers NOT be enrolled at the time of meetings, then they are taking on a risk of liability that, should an accident happen, or someone get hurt, they will be held accountable and responsible for whatever happens. It is truly in your best interest, as a 4-H volunteer, to re-enroll as soon as possible.

Other volunteers, like Leaders Board members, Food Stand Managers, Camp Chaperones, and Camp Medics should also be enrolled. However, volunteers that are more episodic, like Clover College instructors, or guest speakers do NOT need to enroll. They are seen as guests, and not responsible for custodial care of the youth.

To re-enroll, volunteers need to submit enrollment in 4-HOnline, complete the 26-27 Annual Leader Training in 4-HOnline, and then submit a background check (every 2 years) that comes from HireRight.

Once volunteers submit an enrollment, Emily will email them weekly to remind them to complete these requirements. Should anyone have issues or needs to withdraw their submission, just let Emily know!

# Celebrations!

Let's celebrate the 4-Hers who accomplished some awesome things!

## Horse: WI 4-H State Gymkhana & Horse Expo

The weekend of September 12-13, Wisconsin 4-H hosted their annual Horse Expo and State Gymkhana competitions.



Youth who participated in the Expo Judging are: Addy Apfel, Alexis Marinelli, Ava Jandt, Brooklyn Marinelli, Brooklyn Tate, Brystol Jerome, Emma Jandt, Maclaine Heilman, Olida Berlin & Rylee Lyga. Each one placed in the Top 10, Grand or Reserve in at least one category!



Youth who participated in Gymkhana: Brystol Jerome, Reese Stegall, Adriana Olson, and Cailin Vic. All top tens and Brystol received Reserve Champion in LT Special! Way to go ladies!

## Pump House Artist Reception

On Tuesday, September 15, from 5-7pm, the 4-H office hosted an artists reception for youth and their families to see our 4-H art display at the Pump House Regional Arts Center. These pieces, around 75, were selected at the county fair in July to be displayed for the month of Sept 13-Oct 17. We were excited to see so many attend, around 50 people, despite the construction in front of the building!



## WI 4-H Arts Camp

This year, Evelyn Davis and Ella Miller, both of Lucky Lakers 4-H, attend WI 4-H Arts Camp from Oct. 3-4, 2026 at Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center in Wisconsin Dells. This camp provides youth in grades 6-8 opportunities to explore different types of art including theater, music, visual arts, and photography! Participants rotated through different art tracks each day, and closed with a ceremony for parents and families celebrating their experiences. Registration for the 2027 camp will come out mid-July in 4-HOnline, so if you want to sign up – keep your eye out!

## 4-H Craft Fair

La Crosse 4-H hosted its annual Craft Fair to celebrate National 4-H week, in collaboration with the Onalaska Omni Center on Saturday, Oct 10, 2026. While our table entries were a little lower than usual, we had consistent traffic and every table made multiple sales. Thank you for participating: Lucky Lakers 4-H, Emmett Crammond, Lauren Kunce, the Schroy family, and Sophia Lewis and family!















## Oktoberfest Races Food Stand

Thank you to all those who helped serve customers breakfast on Sat. Oct. 10 and Sun. Oct 11 at the Oktoberfest Races at our Food Stand at the fairgrounds. These pictures were of our Ambassadors helping at the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday. The Leaders Association really appreciates you stepping up to help!





# December, January & February
# 4-H Events & Gatherings

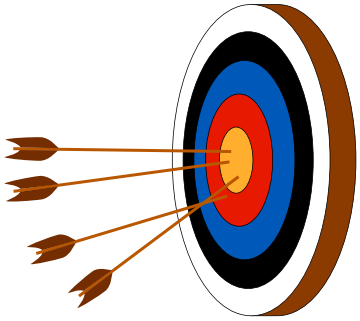


## Volunteer Holiday Party

Date: Thur. Dec. 10, 2026
Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm – dinner is served at 6, ceremony will start at 7
Location: American Legion Post 51 (148 Leonard St S, W Salem)
Who: Adults only (cash bar present)
Cost: Free, but bring a $15 wrapped gift to pass
RSVP: Email lacrossecounty4h@lacrossecounty.org with the name and number in your party

Please join us in celebrating our 2025-2026 year with community, conversation, and a delicious meal. We will be honoring the 2025-2026 recipients of the Honor Leader awards (see our next newsletter for who received these!), and Friend of 4-H Awards – Turners Ridge Wood Workz, and the Onalaska Omni Center. For future nominations of these awards, please reach out to Emily Crook, we love to get ideas from all members!

## Shooting Sports: Winter Archery Workshops



Dates: Saturdays: Jan. 2, 16, 30; Feb. 13 & 20; March 13, 2027
Times: 8:00; 9:00; or 10:00am
Location: Onalaska Omni Center (255 Riders Club Rd, Onalaska)
Grades: 3+
Cost: 4-H Members $15; Community Members $20
Registration: 4-HOnline or Paper Form Deadline: Tuesday, December 15, 2026

Youth will learn safety and shooting basics with support from trained program leaders. The experienced archer will also have the opportunity to refine their skills as well. Participants will practice in a fun, engaging way with the opportunity to compete in some friendly competitions. In addition, participation in this program will help youth fulfill the safety session requirements needed to compete in the La Crosse Interstate Fair Archery Tournament.

**Youth do not need to bring their own equipment; all needed equipment is available for use. No sandals or open-toed shows will be allowed, long hair needs to be tied back and no loose clothing should be worn to the program. Attendance on the first two sessions is mandatory so that youth receive the proper safety training.**

The Shooting Sports Committee is seeking interested parents and guardians to assist coaches with safety supervision on the shooting line for all youth, during workshop sessions. No prior archery experience is required. Parent volunteers play an important role in helping maintain a safe and positive learning environment for all participants. If you are interested in volunteering, please indicate your interest during registration or contact the program coordinator for more information.

This popular program fills up fast and spots are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. No spots will be held without payment received in full. 4-H members must be enrolled in 4-HOnline for the 2026-2027 year prior to registration to pay the discount price.

## Leaders Association Board Meetings

Dates: Thurs. Jan. 7 & Feb. 11, 2027
Time: 7:00-8:00pm
Location: Typically the Hamilton Town Hall, West Salem

Our Leaders Association helps govern our county-wide program, and they provide an opportunity for volunteers and youth to weigh in on decisions that affect membership, programming, and fundraising. Depending on the results of our election in November, we'll most likely need additional people to fill seats on our board. This is a wonderful way to gain more information about 4-H and how it operates "behind the scenes." One board member told us she loves being involved in this group because her suggestions get implemented right away and it's cool to see! Board terms start in January, so while at the time of this newsletter, we do not have the current listing of the new board, you are welcome to check out their site, here: https://lacrosse.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/4-h-leadership/ and see who is on it at any given time, and read previous meeting minutes, too!

## Ambassador/Youth Leader Meetings

Dates: Sun. Jan. 24, Feb. 28
Time: 6:30-7:30pm
Location: La Crosse County Admin Center (212 6th St N, La Crosse)

LA CROSSE AMBASSADORS

We'll continue our leadership training by learning about SWOT analyses and different leadership styles. We will also start working on Summer Destination decisions and county-wide theme competitions for 2027-2028 program year. More coming soon! If youth in grades 7+ are interested in joining this group – reach out to Emily and she'll include you in the communication. Or just show up to a meeting!

## WI 4-H Opportunities

The state program has amazing opportunities – in-state, out-of-state, and virtually for kids to dive deeper into their 4-H experience. ALWAYS be on the lookout for invitations in 4-HOnline to register for these things. Additionally, you can check out the statewide events program guide for the 2026-2027 year!
During the next few months watch for the following registrations in 4-HOnline:

- ArtBEAT! Grades 3-5 at Upham Woods (Jan-Feb)
- Space Camp | Grades 6-8 | Huntsville Alabama (Nov-Dec)

Don't forget the Leaders' Association offers substantial scholarships for these!

## Clover College Information

Date: Saturday, February 27, 2027
Time: 8:45am-2:30pm
Location: Bangor Elementary School (701 14th Ave, Bangor)

*A separate mailing will hit your inbox after Christmas with all the details for each course, as well as registration information.*

This is our giant day of discovery in 4-H! We offer 3 classes with a variety of offerings for each age group, with minimal cost to you. Right now we're still in the process of determining classes, but for a teaser, I can promise: a Cloverbud experience; a babysitting class, wood turning class, and more!

Lunch will be offered to everyone that will include a main entre, drink, side, dessert and fruit option, provided by Home Runners 4-H for a modest $8.00 per lunch ticket. Lunch tickets will be available for purchase prior to the event at the office if you need to include it with your credit card payment. Or cash/check payment the day of the event.

## YQCA Course

In-person session:
Date: Sat. Feb. 27, 2026
Time: 1:00-2:15 pm
Location: Bangor Elementary School (701 14th Ave, Bangor, WI)
Cost: $3 (for in-person session) or $12 for virtual at-home session

YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) program provides an educational opportunity annually for youth who participate in the ethical treatment, care, and sell of livestock animals. The La Crosse Youth Livestock group has requirements for youth to attend a YQCA course if they plan to participate in the livestock auction in the 2027 fair. New this year: there is no pre-test requirement for the course, however, in order to receive your certificate, you'll need to complete a post-test once your session shows completed in the software. To register for this class visit: www.yqcaprogram.org and either complete your virtual session, or sign up to attend the in-person session offered during Clover College. You have the option to include your payment for this session with your other Clover College courses. If you do this, you'll receive a coupon following your payment you should use when registering at the YQCA site.

The Leaders' Association continues to offer $3 reimbursement for anyone completing a YQCA course. Simply email the 4-H office a copy of the certificates for which you'd like reimbursements. Don't forget to send a certificate to La Crosse Youth Livestock (email: lacrosseyouthlivestock@gmail.com) to fulfill your requirement as well!

## Goat Project

### Caprine Christmas

Date: Sun. December 13th, 2026
Time: 3:00 pm
Location: Halfway Creek Lutheran church in Holmen (W6016 County Road W, Holmen, WI 54636)

### Project Meeting

Date: Sun. February 28, 2027
Time: 3:00 pm
Location: Halfway Creek Lutheran church in Holmen (W6016 County Road W, Holmen, WI 54636)

## Horse Project

### Project Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 17th
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: Bangor First Responders Building (106 15th Avenue North, Bangor, WI 54614)

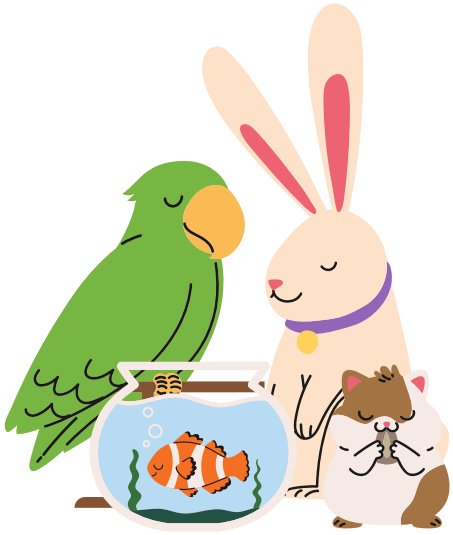
## Dog Project

### Project News!

This year, volunteer leadership of the Dog Project will start transitioning. Meeting dates and times are coming. Look for communication from the office and the Sprout and Spotlight as things pop up!

## Pets Project Group Forming!

We are looking for families interested in attending meetings for a Pocket Pets Project group. These are animals that, well... can sort of... fit in your pocket! Reptiles, Amphibians, Hamsters, Gerbils, Fish, Guinea Pigs, Rabbits (pets only please!). Do you have any of these as a pet? Want to meet others who have them to? Want to share information about your pet in a show and tell format? If you do – please email Elise Sisler, at esisler@wisc.edu and we will get you on our list to invite you to the first meeting!



## 62nd Annual Holiday Fair  & More

This beloved La Crosse tradition brings festive fun for all ages. Shop a wonderful variety of handmade vendors, enter for exciting door prizes, and enjoy special photo opportunities with Santa Claus—plus so much more!
Hours:
Thursday & Friday: 12pm-7pm
Saturday: 9am-5pm
Sunday: 10am-3pm
Admission: Tickets are available at the door only. $5.00 admission | Ages 12 & under free with an adult







## Rotary Lights - Riverside Park

November 27, 2026 – December 21, 2026
The park open nightly at 5pm and gates close after the last car in line at 10pm with the following exceptions:
Christmas Eve – 5pm to 9pm
Christmas Day – 5pm to 9pm
New Year's Eve – 5pm to 11pm

Please note: November 30 is all abilities night, lights and music will be subdued from 5-8pm.

And remember, it's FREE.
"We ask for voluntary food and cash donations"

## La Crosse Winter Farmers Market

We are excited to welcome the La Crosse Winter Farmers Market to Valley View Mall! Starting in November, shop local all winter long and discover a variety of locally grown, made, and produced goods—all from the comfort of Valley View Mall.

The Winter Farmers Market will take place every other Saturday from November through April, from 9:00 AM–1:00 PM.

2026–2027 Market Dates:
🍂 November: 14 & 28
🎄 December: 12 & 26
❄️ January: 9 & 23
❤️ February: 6 & 20
🌱 March: 6 & 20
🌷 April: 3 & 17

📍 Valley View Mall
3800 State Road 16, La Crosse, WI




Come support local farmers, makers, and vendors while enjoying a fun community shopping experience. Shop local, support local, and spend your Saturdays with us at Valley View Mall!

# Giving Back

## NEEDED: Rotary Lights Volunteers

Our organizational volunteer date for Rotary Lights is the same day as the parade actually: Friday. November 27, 2026, 4-7:30pm. We get to judge the floats in the parade! (Rotary Lights assigns us what date and type of job we get each year!)

We need 4 adults, and one driver yet for our float. If anyone is interested, please reach out to Emily at the office and she will fill you in on the details!
Otherwise – youth keep signing up in 4-HOnline for this so I know you're coming!

## NEEDED: Leaders Board Volunteers

We typically have one or two vacancies on our board that need to be filled this time of year. Commitment is one meeting per month for 1-2 hours for a term of 1 or 2 years. If interested, please reach out to Emily!

Leaders Board volunteers do not need to have 4-H experience, they provide valuable perspective when we are adapting programs, updating policies and fundraising, and keeping the program moving forward. If you have these skills, please reach out to Emily!

## 2027 Summer Camp Leadership



Dates for the 2027 Summer Camp at Upham Woods are: Wed. Aug 4- Fri. Aug 6.
All youth in grades 3-8 – your chance to register will be open in March!

For 4-H members in grades 9+ interested in being a camp counselor, please reach out to Emily! Once the application becomes available, I will send it out to you. This is a sought after role in our program. Camp counselors make camp the BEST memory of a youth's summer. And in the past 4 years we've really made camp a fun experience for all. YOU get to choose our theme in June, you also gain real leadership experience with your team. AND your camp experience is free!

NEEDED: ADULTS! For adults interested in being a camp chaperone, please reach out to Emily! You also will have an application I will send you as soon as possible. Chaperones support the camp counselors, and also work to make this a memorable experience for campers. You will have an opportunity to teach a short class if you'd like, too! Bonus is your camp experience is free, and so is the experience of one of your kids!

## Your Service Opportunities!



We know clubs are out and about this season: caroling at senior centers, writing cards, making meals at the warming center, tying blankets, ringing bells for buckets – in all that you do, we are proud of you. These activities are you taking ownership in your community and making it just a touch better. Thank you for making 4-H look so good out there. AND, don't forget to drop your pictures or send them to us via messenger of all the great things you do!

## Upcoming Newsletters and Dates

| Winter Newsletter \| Dec. Jan. and Feb items \| Publication Date: Nov 15 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DATES | EVENT | GRADE | REGISTRATION |
| 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 |

## Holiday Hours

As a general rule – our office is pretty low-key during the holidays. Here's what to expect for availability if you have questions or need assistance with something:
Office is closed:

- Nov. 26 & 27, 2026 – Thanksgiving
- Dec. 24 & 25, 2026 – Christmas
- Jan. 1, 2027 – New Years

Emily is out of the office Wed. Dec. 23 – Jan. 4 – with the odd bit of checking emails in there.



# 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 |

4-H Online

Project Guide

Literature Request

WI 4-H Events

Rotary Lights

Shooting Sports Website

Shooting Sports Sign Up

Farmers Market

Annual Holiday Fair

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

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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.

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