



4-H Connections Newsletter

March/April 2026

Educator's Corner

Hi, I'm Miranda Dawson. I am the new 4-H Associate Educator for Outagamie and Brown Counties. I have been in this role for just a few weeks now and am very happy to be here. Before joining 4-H, I was the FoodWise Nutrition Educator for Outagamie County. I am very excited to continue educating the youth of our community!

Over the next few months, as I settle into this new role, I will be working with local elementary schools, afterschool programs, and public libraries to put on events and educational series. My main focus areas to begin are ChickQuest, nutrition lessons, emotional health lessons, and renewable energy lessons. I will also be helping with day and overnight camp this summer.

I am very much looking forward to strengthening existing partnerships with local schools and youth-serving sites, as well as expanding my outreach across the two counties. As I learn more about my role in the 4-H program, I hope to meet the needs of partners across the area and provide enriching, joyous learning experiences for our youth.

Miranda Dawson

4-H Associate Educator

Miranda.Dawson@wisc.edu

NEXT LEADERS MEETING:

Monday, April 27 | Center Town Hall | 7:00 pm

All leader meetings are open to ALL 4-H youth and adult leaders. We encourage regular attendees to bring someone new from your club each month. This is a great way to meet others and grow as an organization!

6:30 pm: Snacks provided by Buchanan Badgers, Country Slickers, River Valley Hawks, Wide Awake Forward



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
OUTAGAMIE COUNTY

3365 W Brewster St
Appleton, WI 54914

920-832-5123

outagamie.extension.wisc.edu

Calendar

Note: Not all dates are listed on this page! Please make sure you read the newsletter, and check your email so you don't miss anything!

March

- 1 Dog Project Training | Winnegamie Dog Club | 3:00 - 5:30 pm
- 2 CPF Scholarship Application DUE | 1:00 pm**
- 3 Meat Processing Workshop | Haen Meat Packing | Pre-registration required
- 7 Drama Festival | Seymour High School Auditorium | 8:00 am - 1:30 pm
- 10 Meat Processing Workshop | Haen Meat Packing | Pre-registration required
- 14-15 ArtBEAT! | Upham Woods | Check-in 9:00 am
- 14 Rabbit Carrier Building Workshop | Town of Osborne Hall | Pre-registration required
- 14 Livestock Educational Meeting | Seymour Municipal Building | 9:00 - 10:30 am
- 15 Dog Project Training | Winnegamie Dog Club | 3:00 - 5:30 pm
- 21 Paint-A-Turtle Cloverbud Ceramic Event | Cindy Meulemans' Shop | 9:00 am
- 23 Music, Speaking and Talent Festival Registrations DUE**
- 24 Horse Association Meeting | Center Town Hall | Business 6:00 pm, Educational 7:00 pm
- 27 Foods Revue Registrations DUE**
- 27 "Taste the Passion, Feel the Heat" Cooking Contest Registrations DUE**
- 29 Dog Project Training | Winnegamie Dog Club | 3:00 - 5:30 pm

April

- 3 Extension Outagamie County OFFICE CLOSED
- 4 Summer and Day Camp Registration Open to Members**
- 6 Pumpkin/Sunflower Contest Participant List Due to Extension Office from Main Leaders
- 11 Foods Revue | Center Town Hall | 9:00 am - noon
- 11 "Taste the Passion, Feel the Heat" Cooking Contest | Center Town Hall | 9:30 am - noon
- 11 Paint-A-Gnome Friend | Cindy Meulemans' Shop | 9:00 am
- 12 Dog Project Training | Winnegamie Dog Club | 3:00 - 5:30 pm
- 15 Fair Online Entries Opens | Deadline May 25
- 17 Summer and Day Camp Registration Opens to All**
- 18 Music, Speaking and Talent Festival | Seymour High School Auditorium | 9:00 am
- 26 Dog Project Training | Winnegamie Dog Club | 3:00 - 5:30 pm
- 27 Leaders Association Meeting | Center Town Hall | 7:00 pm
- 28 Horse Association Meeting | Center Town Hall | Business 6:00 pm
- 28 Horse Project Field Trip | Fenway Foundation for Friesian Horses, Hortonville | 6:30 pm

Upcoming Events

Drama Festival

March 7 | Seymour High School Auditorium | 8:00 am - 1:30 pm - Doors open at 7:00 am

Please join us to see what our amazing youth have been working on. They have been memorizing lines and perfecting their performances. It should be an entertaining and enjoyable event. Bring the family and sit back and relax as you enjoy each group as they perform at the Outagamie County 4-H Drama Festival! **Admission is free!**

Concessions will be available for purchase. Proceeds will go to the 4-H Youth Leaders Association.

Paint-A-Turtle: Cloverbud Ceramic Event

March 21 | 9:00 am

\$5 per Cloverbud | Registration limited to 25

Location: W3928 Kropp Rd. Seymour (Shop is connected to Cindy Meulemans' house)

There will be various turtle options to choose from. Payment should be made payable to OC 4-H Leaders Association and mailed to the Extension Office in advance of the event.



Paint-A-Gnome Friend

April 11 | 9:00 am

\$17 per member

Location: W3928 Kropp Rd. Seymour (Shop is connected to Cindy Meulemans' house)

Come and paint a gnome all cleaned and fired, paints included. You can chalk it or antique it. Payment should be made payable to OC 4-H Leaders Association and mailed to the Extension Office in advance of the event.



Music, Speaking & Talent Festival (MST)

Mark your Calendar for Saturday, April 18, Seymour High School. One registration per person or group. Registrations are due March 23 and can be found <https://bit.ly/MST2026>.

Guidelines and Class Divisions are listed on the next page, and on our website

<https://outagamie.extension.wisc.edu/files/2025/12/Music-Speaking-and-Talent-Guidelines-2026.pdf>

Music, Speaking and Talent Festival

No more than 3 entries per participant among all classes, A, B, and C

Music & Talent: Class A & B

Time limit is 5 minutes per session.

No more than 2 class A or B entries per participant (not including large/club groups) - 1 per entry number.

Speaking: Class C

A. Cloverbuds - Time limit is 1-3 minutes (2-3 minutes for entry 7)

B. Grades 3-5 - Time limit is 2-5 minutes (5-7 minutes for entry 7)

C. Grades 6-8 - Time limit is 3-5 minutes (6-8 minutes for entry 7)

D. Grades 9-13 - Time limit is 5-8 minutes (7-10 minutes for entry 7)

No more than 2 class C entries per participant - 1 per entry number.

Speaking - Class C

1. Interpretive Reading of Prose
a. Participant selects written prose. Prose is ordinary language. It can include stories, play cuttings, narratives, or anything not written as a poem. The material is read with personal interpretation being presented. Un-memorized

2. Interpretive Reading of Poetry
a. Participant selects poetry. It may be a single poem, a cutting from a single poem, or several related poems. Poetry is rhythmical. The composition is then read with personal interpretation being presented. Un-memorized

3. Interpretive Reading of Original Prose or Poetry
a. Participant writes a poem or prose (story). The material is read with personal interpretation being presented. Un-memorized

4. Memorized
a. Participant selects or writes prose or poetry. The material is then memorized and presented without notes in an interpretive fashion. If desired, props may be used for this category.

Music Performance - Class A

1. Solo or Duet - Vocal

2. Solo or Duet - Instrumental

3. Solo or Duet - Combination of vocal and instrumental

4. Solo or Duet - Dance

5. Duet - Combination of vocal, dance, and instrumental

6. Trio or Larger - Vocal

7. Trio or Larger - Instrumental

8. Trio or Larger - Dance

9. Trio or Larger - Combination of vocal, dance, and instrumental

Talent - Class B

1. Single or Duo Act

2. Trio or Larger Group

5. Interpretive Team Reading

a. Participants select a prose, poetry, or drama selection that would be suitable for two to five individuals.

b. The grade category is determined by the oldest member. Please list all grades on the registration form.

c. Un-memorized. Props, costumes, and make-up are not to be used. This is not play acting; it is interpretive team reading.

6. Original Speech

a. Participant writes an original speech on any subject. A speech is not a story; it is one main idea that is developed and supported with facts.

7. Demonstration Speech

a. Participant writes an original demonstration on any subject. Demonstration speeches inform audiences about a topic or instruct them in performing a particular task, like preparing a recipe or using a product. Learning about demonstration speeches, their importance and how to format them effectively can help you feel confident when presenting them.

Upcoming Events

Foods Revue

April 11 | Center Town Hall | 9:00 am

8:30 am - Set-up and registration

9:00 am - Judging begins

The Foods Revue is an opportunity for 4-H youth to showcase a complete menu and table setting while only having to prepare one food item chosen from the appropriate grade level list.

Youth will need to prepare:

- A food item from categories listed
- Table setting (placemat or tablecloth, napkin, glass, plate, and the silverware needed for your planned meal)
- A centerpiece
- Card with complete menu
- Card with your food item recipe

This event is open to all 4-H members and Cloverbuds. Registration can be found here <https://bit.ly/26FoodsReviewRegistration>, deadline for registration is Friday, March 27.

The following categories will be available:

- Cloverbuds: simple dessert, sandwich, muffin, or snack
- Grades 3-6: appetizer, breakfast item, sandwich, or dessert
- Grades 7-13: appetizer, breakfast item, entrée, homemade soup, or dessert

Contact Jean Schroeder with any questions at 920-660-3842 or js3creeks@gmail.com.

"Taste the Passion, Feel the Heat" - Cooking Contest

The contest takes place during the 4-H Foods Revue. Participants must have their entries to the Center Town Hall no later than 9:30 am.

Registration can be found here <https://bit.ly/26CookingContest>, deadline is Friday, March 27, 2026. Prepare and bring a crockpot of your favorite Chicken Soup or Chili made from scratch to the contest to be tasted and judged by those attending the Foods Revue and Cooking Contest. Please register which recipe(s) you plan on preparing, Chicken Soup or Chili or Both. The contest is open to anyone who is involved in the 4-H program as a youth, parent, grandparent, leader, or mentor. Please bring a card with the recipe or list of ingredients. Awards will be given to the top 3 winners with highest scores.

Any questions contact Jean Schroeder at 920-660-3842 or js3creeks@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Dairy Night at the Green Bay Blizzard Game

May 29 | Green Bay Blizzard Football Game

Dairy Night is a special game that celebrates agriculture, youth organizations, and fundraising opportunities while giving members and their families the opportunity to enjoy a Green Bay Blizzard football game together. More details to come at a later time!

Outagamie County Fair "Barn in the U.S.A."

June 24-28

Entry Day for all static exhibits will be Tuesday, June 23.

Online entries will open Wednesday, April 15 and close on Monday, May 25.

Action Center Stage

Attention all 4-H members, clubs and leaders!! We are interested in YOU sharing your talent on the Action Center Stage during the 2026 Outagamie County Fair. From theatrical and music talent to creative activities, WE NEED YOU!! Please consider a time that you could take a moment to share and shine!

Single talent spots are great or consider a group performance or activity.

Please contact Lisa at sprangerslisa@gmail.com to register. We look forward to seeing YOU on the stage!!

Pie Contest BEST PIE at the Outagamie County Fair

June 26 | 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Who will be the winner of the Best Pie at the Fair?

Bring your baked pie to the Action Center Stage, Building: TBD at this time, between 1:00-3:00 pm on Friday, June 26.

No pre-registration is necessary. For more information contact: s.vanderzanden44@gmail.com

Two Divisions:

1. 4-H Division-Open to all Outagamie County 4-H Clubs, Youth Leaders and Adult Leaders Organization. One pie per group or club.
2. Open to the public, one pie per person, no commercial business

Simple Rules:

1. Fruit Pies Only, single or double homemade crust.
2. Must use an 8" or 9" disposable pie tin.
3. Include recipe on a 3 x 5 card (optional).
4. Pies and tins will not be returned.
5. Judging to start at 3:00 for both divisions.

First place winners in each division will receive: rights to claim the "Best Pie" at the 2026 Outagamie County Fair, an engraved pie plate and their name added to the winner's banner.

Come and have fun entering the contest, watching and sampling...while they last!!

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Horse Project Events

March 24, 7:00 pm, Center Town Hall

Arabians and side saddle with Kathy Filen. All 4-H members are welcome.

Friesian Field Trip

April 28, 6:30 pm, 3398 Hwy 76, Hortonville

Are you ready for a Friesian frenzy? Friesian field trip, Fenway Foundation for Friesian Horses. Feel these fantastic Friesians at this rescue and research farm with the 4-H horse project.

Bits & Pieces

Follow Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development on Social Media

Subscribe to the links below to stay updated on current information!



Wisconsin 4-H News

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/home/news/>

Follow Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development on Social Media

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wisconsin4h/>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/wisconsin4h/?hl=en>

Follow Outagamie County 4-H on Social Media

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Outagamie4H/>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/outagamiecounty4h/>

Website <https://outagamie.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/>

Pumpkin and Sunflower Contest

4-H members and cloverbuds are eligible to enter the Pumpkin & Sunflower Contest that will be held in October. Members must sign up with your club's main leader by the end of March. Main leaders submit the number of seed packets your club would like to the Extension Office by April 6. All youth participating must use the seeds provided. The variety of seeds ordered can produce pumpkins approximately weighing up to a maximum of 200 pounds. Main leaders, watch your email for more information. Seeds will be distributed at the April 27 4-H Leaders Association meeting to those clubs that pre-register.

Community Service Grant

A grant providing additional funds for 4-H youth to implement educational and community service activities, sponsored by the 4-H Leaders Association. Any 4-H club can apply. The application is one page and can be submitted throughout the year. Information can be found under the Scholarship and Grant Opportunities tab on our website.

<https://outagamie.extension.wisc.edu/files/2021/12/Community-Service-Grant.pdf>

Project Updates

Are you ready for a Friesian frenzy?

FRIESIAN FIELD TRIP

Fenway Foundation for Friesian Horses

Feel these fantastic Friesians at this rescue and research farm with the 4-H horse project.



APRIL 28TH, 2026
6:30PM
AT: 3398 WI-76 Hortonville,
WI 54944

Project Updates



KATHY FILEN

ARABIANS AND SIDE SADDLE

Snacks and
Prizes!

Tuesday March 24th 2026
Center Town Hall, Highway 47
7:00 PM

All 4-H members welcome!

Project Updates



Outagamie County 4-H Shooting Sports: Spring & Summer Events

The Outagamie County 4-H Shooting Sports Committee is offering multiple Spring and Summer events. These events are open to all Outagamie County 4-H Members ages 9 and up for the 2025-2026 4-H Year. Events are \$5 each and payment is required to the Extension Office prior to the event.

Sign up for each event using the linked Google Forms below.

Air Rifle Events:

All equipment provided.

Participants may bring their own safety glasses and ear plug/shooting muffs if preferred.

[Outagamie County 4-H Shooting Sports - Air Rifle Event Saturday March 28, 2026](#) 8 am - 10 am

Genesis Impact Sports: 327 Randolph Drive Suite D, Appleton, WI (Near Simon's Cheese)

(This event requires at least 10 participants due to range fees.)

[Outagamie County 4-H Shooting Sports - Air Rifle Event](#)

[Saturday May 16th, 2026](#) 8 am - 10 am

Shiocton Shooting Range-Pistol Range: N5684 Lake Park St. Shiocton, WI

Archery Events:

All equipment provided. Participants may use their own archery equipment if it is in safe working condition.

[Outagamie County 4-H Shooting Sports - Archery Event](#)

[Saturday April 25, 2026](#) 8 am - 10 am

Memorial Park, Combined Locks: 405 Wallace Street, Combined Locks, WI

[Outagamie County 4-H Shooting Sports - Archery Event](#)

[Saturday June 13th, 2026](#) 8 am - 10 am

Memorial Park, Combined Locks: 405 Wallace Street, Combined Locks, WI

[Outagamie County 4-H Shooting Sports - Archery Fun Shoot \(3D targets, games, challenges\)](#)

[Saturday August 22nd, 2026](#) 8 am - 10 am

Memorial Park, Combined Locks: 405 Wallace Street, Combined Locks, WI



Outagamie County 4-H Shooting Sports Needs Your Help!

We are seeking both Adult and Youth Leaders to join the Shooting Sports Committee and assist in Air Rifle and Archery Events. Training provided by WI 4-H Shooting Sports Program.

Also seeking a location for holding year-round Shooting Sports Events and Program Equipment Storage.

Contact: 4Hssoc@gmail.com

Project Updates

Save the Date! 2026 4-H Summer Camp!!!!

Tuesday, July 7: Cloverbud Day Camp (grades K-2), Extension Office

Wednesday, July 15: Adventure Day Camp (grades 3-7), Extension Office

Tuesday, July 21: Art Day Camp (grades 3-7), Extension Office

August 2-5: Summer Camp (grades 3-8), Army Lake Camp

Outagamie County 4-H has some awesome camp opportunities set up this year! Cloverbud Day Camp for youth in grades K-2, and Adventure and Art Day Camps for grades 3-7 will be held at the Outagamie County Extension Office from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm.

Summer camp is Sunday, August 2 through Wednesday, August 5 at Army Lake Camp in East Troy, WI. Base Camp is for youth in grades 3-6, and Outpost Camp is for youth in grades 7-8.

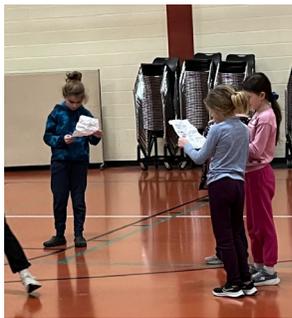
For more information, please visit our website under the 4-H Camp tab.

<https://outagamie.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-camp/>

Registration opens to 4-H Members April 4 and to everyone April 17!

Club Corner

B-Square by Eliza



B-Square's January meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm, beginning with a special announcement from guest speaker Joe of the Greenville Civic Club, who shared what the Civic Club does and announced how much B-Square earned by volunteering at Fright Night. Following, roll call had a fun question of members sharing their preferences for indoor or outdoor activities during snow days. Emery then led an icebreaker where the members asked each other questions. In recognition of the club's 85th anniversary, B-Square discussed a new community support project to celebrate the milestone. After the meeting was adjourned, the members had an indoor snowball fight!

Club Corner

Fast Trackers by Jenna



The meeting was started with member reports. First Maria talked about her dog Mac. Next was Ryder who talked about his canyoning trip to Canada. Then Clara talked about a horse show. Finally, Maggie talked about ghost crab hunting.

Two members, home from college, were recognized as graduating members of the club. Jessie and Sawyer. They both received a shelf with all of their accomplishments listed from the years they were in Fast Trackers. Congratulations. Members that participated in Youth Leader Secret Santa gave a report on funny things that happened during Secret Santa. Families that went to Living Tree talked about caroling at the nursing home. We finished with the pound sale. Everyone brought in a food item that weighed a pound and wrapped it up so we could bid, then whoever got to \$5 had to pay that much and got to keep the item. We will be using this money for community service.

Buchanan Badgers by Lincoln

The January meeting was held on January 12 at St. Mary's Church. The club celebrated Brady's birthday this month. During old business, we discussed how members were reminded to complete the club bylaws survey. Families from the club donated gifts to families. Appreciation was extended to everyone who participated in the 'Adopt a Family' project. Members will make cards for the residents at the St Paul home. During the new business Members discussed the upcoming Tria Frog Treats trip, where participants will learn about the freeze-drying process. A save-the-date was announced for the brat fry on May 16 at the Kaukauna Piggly Wiggly which will help raise money for the club. Several members shared demonstrations at the meeting. Kendra showed a photo of herself and her sister at a concert and brought confetti she collected there. Chloe demonstrated a clay cup she made in art class. Zeke shared photos of his goat that he showed at the fair. Joplyn demonstrated a cowboy boot artwork that she outlined with a Sharpie and painted with a blue background. The club activity for the month was bingo, and everyone had a great time. The next meeting will be held at 6:30 on February 9, 2026. The club is always looking for new members.

Fairview by Mayson

For our February meeting we made Valentine's Day cards for Good Shepherd Nursing Home. We found out that we won a club pizza party for the 100 hours of community service contest. We also talked about doing a fundraiser and filled in a goal on our project records.



Cloverbud T-Shirt Order

This t-shirt is available to anyone who is interested! We didn't do a Cloverbud t-shirt order last year due to the Centennial t-shirts.

Sizes available: Youth S-XL, Adult S-5XL

The cost for non-Cloverbuds is \$16.00 each t-shirt. *Add \$3.00 for 2XL, \$4.00 for 3XL, 4XL and 5XL

For Cloverbuds, the cost will be \$5.00. (The Cloverbud committee had funds approved to subsidize the Cloverbud t-shirts.)

All orders/money due by May 15th to allow processing and distribution before fair time. Send payment to the Extension Office. Checks should be made payable to OC 4-H Leaders Association.

Orders and payments are due May 15!



Name of Cloverbud(s)/Member _____

Parent Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

4-H Club _____

Size	# of shirts
Youth Small	
Youth Medium	
Youth Large	
Adult Small	
Adult Medium	
Adult Large	
Adult XL	
Adult 2XL	
Adult 3XL	
Adult 4XL	
Adult 5XL	

Number of Cloverbud Shirts _____ at \$5 = \$ _____

Number of 4-H Member _____ at \$16 = \$ _____ (+\$3 for 2XL, \$4 for 3XL, 4XL and 5XL)

Send order and check payable to:

Outagamie County 4-H Leaders Association
 Attention: Nicole
 3365 W Brewster St, Appleton WI 54914



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OUTAGAMIE COUNTY

Phone Number 920-832-5123
Fax Number 920-832-4783 **711 Wisconsin Relay**

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 or format, or other services to make events more accessible, by contacting Alicia Schroeder-Haag at Alicia.Schroederhaag@wisc.edu or 920-832-5127 three weeks prior to an event. There's no added cost to you for these services.

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*Serves Multiple Counties