



**Marinette County
4-H Newsletter
August-September, 2026**

Extension Marinette County
1926 Hall Avenue, Resource Center
Marinette WI 54143-1717
715-732-7514 • Toll-free 877-884-4408
<https://marinette.uwex.edu>
sarah.ferdon@wisc.edu
nancy.servais@wisc.edu

Greetings Marinette County 4-H Families!

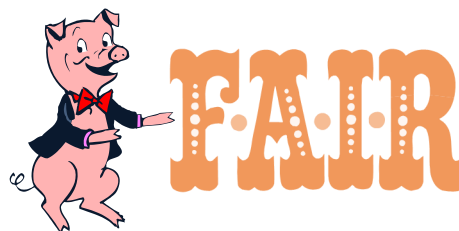
As summer winds down, I find myself reflecting on the incredible energy, creativity, and dedication our 4-H youth have poured into their projects and experiences over the past year. Whether it was making memories at camp or one of our travel experiences, exploring new skills, or simply working hard behind the scenes at home—your commitment has not gone unnoticed.

Now it's time to shine! The county fair is our chance to celebrate a year's worth of learning, growth, and perseverance. I can't wait to see the pride on your faces as you showcase your projects, demonstrate your knowledge, and cheer each other on. This is what 4-H is all about—supporting one another while chasing the things that spark joy and passion in our lives. As we look ahead to fall, we're also preparing to turn the page and begin a brand-new 4-H year. That means new opportunities, new goals, and more chances to grow. Whether you're trying something for the first time or diving deeper into something you love, I encourage you to keep following your spark. The best is yet to come. Thank you for making this summer one to remember. Let's finish strong and step into the new year with confidence and excitement!

Your Marinette County 4-H Team,
Sarah and Nancy

Sarah Ferdon
4-H Program Educator
sarah.ferdon@wisc.edu
715-732-7516

Nancy Servais
4-H Support Staff
nancy.servais@wisc.edu
715-732-7514



4-H ONLINE RE-ENROLLMENT BEGINS IN EARLY SEPTEMBER

After Aug 31, the 2025-2026 enrollments are locked and cannot be changed.



All members (youth and adult) will need to start an enrollment when the rollover occurs tentatively set for the first days of September or after regardless of when they last submitted an enrollment.

Please remember that even though you enrolled once, adult volunteers and youth have to re-enroll each year. DO NOT make a new record. Please use the original profile that you created.

LOOK INSIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION.



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



Discover the endless opportunities with Wisconsin 4-H's updated Project Guide! The new Project Guide will go into effect soon, with the start of the new 4-H year, be easy-to-use and useful in exploring sparks and finding project ideas. This will be a helpful tool for youth and families as well as club and project leaders. Take a look at the new Project Guide on the website and continue checking the page for tips on utilizing this tool to its fullest!

https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/statewide-events-and-opportunities/#program_guide

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR FALL FORUM 2026

Fall Forum will be held November 6-8, 2026, at the Holiday Inn, in Stevens Point.

Fall Forum is a statewide conference that brings youth and adult leaders together to connect, collaborate, celebrate, and build skills. It is for youth in grades 7-13, adult volunteers, and staff. It's a great opportunity for youth and volunteers to discover and explore their sparks and make new friends from across the state. Registration will be open in 4HOnline from September 1 – September 15, 2026, after the 4-H Online roll-over occurs.

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/statewide-events-and-opportunities/fall-forum/>

OUTSTANDING CLUB AWARD

The Outstanding Club Award will again be using the paper application. Award criteria includes: leadership, activities and community service participation, meeting structure. The application deadline is **September 23** to the 4-H office. Forms will be included with the club packets distributed at the Fair. Awards will be given out during our annual achievement event.

4-H RECOGNITION NOMINATION

Who has touched your life this 4-H year or made a difference in your club or the county program? Who would you like to nominate? Categories include: Friend of 4-H, Volunteer of the Year, Outstanding 4-H Alumnus and Outstanding Youth Leader. Nomination forms with award criteria will be included in the club packets at the Fair. The deadline is **September 23**. Awards will be given out at the annual achievement event.

RECORD BOOK PROCESS & DATES

The purpose of a record book is to: 1) set goals for yourself; 2) share and record what you've learned; 3) reflect on accomplishments or give thought to how you may or may not do something differently next time. It is also the current way to apply for several county-wide awards. Record books are not associated with fair checks in any way. Please see the "Record Book Check Sheet" that will be included in your leader's County Fair packet. Be careful to include all activities you participated in. Merit in a project is achieved by going above and beyond, such as giving a talk or demonstration on the topic or helping others learn the project by providing education or help. Upon completion of your record book, turn it into your club leader. He or she will complete the Record Book Check Sheet or you can complete it together.

Record Book Due Date & Judging Schedule: Record books are due to your club general leader at a date he or she specifies. General leaders must have record books (with completed 4-H Member & Leaders Record Book Check Sheet and "Marinette County 4-H Award Nominations" sheet [given to leaders in club fair packet]) to the 4-H Office by 4:30 p.m. on Tues., September 29th. If you are judging, books may be brought in with you on Thurs., October 1st. Judging begins at 5:00 (or whatever time you can attend) in the Resource Center Conference Room. One leader or parent from each club is asked to help with judging. Food will be provided by the 4-H Leaders Assoc., but you must call the 4-H office by Tuesday noon to let them know if you are coming and if you have any dietary restrictions.

4-H TRIPS

Teens interested in attending trips should fill out the Marinette County Sponsored Event Application. First round is due Oct. 1. All information regarding age requirements and trips will be included in the leaders packet at the Fair. Following that, applications are due Feb. 1 and with interviews at the Feb. 4-H Association Meeting.



4-H Arts Camp provides youth in grades 6-8 an opportunity to explore different types of art including theater, music, visual arts, dance, and photography while making new friends, developing skills, and enjoying new experiences.

You'll rotate through the different arts tracks each day, participate in various group activities throughout, and close with a ceremony for parents and families, celebrating the results of your Arts Camp experiences. You'll also meet new friends, participate in camp games, and enjoy the great natural setting of Upham Woods, a 300-acre environmental education center on the Wisconsin River near Wisconsin Dells.

Register between July 15 – August 15, 2026:

<https://26wi4hartscamp.4honline.com/>

For more information and costs, visit:

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/statewide-events-and-opportunities/arts-camp/>

NATIONAL 4-H WEEK WINDOW DISPLAY

The theme for National 4-H Week in 2026, which is **October 4-10**, is "Beyond Ready". The week aims to highlight celebrating how 4-H equips youth with skills for a changing world.

Information about your 4-H club, a telephone number, and other relevant information should be displayed. Please notify the 4-H Office by Wed., Sept. 23, if you plan to participate and where your display will be located. Take a photo of your display for judging ... may take it before putting the display in the window to avoid a possible glare. The 4-H Leaders Association gives \$10 towards costs.



The Marinette County 4-H community gathered to celebrate leadership and tradition during its annual coronation ceremony and dinner banquet on August 2 at the Pound Town Hall. Surrounded by friends, family, and dedicated supporters sharing a delicious meal, the evening honored both the outgoing and incoming youth leaders. The highlight of the event was the official crowning of the new 4-H royalty court: King Trent Van De Walle, Queen Emilie Gerken, Princess Grace Gromala, and Princess Rebekah Retza. Attendees warmly thanked outgoing Queen Madison Fronsee and Princess Cordelia Peterson for their exceptional year of service. The difficult task of selecting the new court fell to judges Deb Heitman, Kim Harding, and Alexandria Broderick—all former royalty themselves—while committee members Dorothy Kaminski, Jennie Pillath, and Ashley Torzala ensured the event ran seamlessly. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the decorating committee for transforming the hall and to everyone who prepared the wonderful food. Congratulations to all the newly crowned royalty; the community looks forward to seeing all the wonderful things you accomplish in your new roles.



Pictured from left to right are Princesses Rebekah Retza and Grace Gromala, King Trent Van De Walle, Queen Emilie Gerken and Marinette County 4-H Educator Sarah Ferdon.

CONGRATULATIONS

JUNE DAIRY MONTH WINDOW DISPLAY WINNER

Congratulations to Forever Green 4-H Club for taking first place. Beaver Four Leaf Clover 4-H Club took honorable mention.

2026-27 PROJECT YEAR BEGINS OCT. 1

Our new enrollment year for 2027 begins on October 1.

Members and leaders must re-enroll each year by November 30. Regular members must be in 3rd grade or older. Cloverbuds (children in 5K through 2nd grade) should be listed in your club enrollment.

Cloverbuds can participate in club activities. They can exhibit at the County Fair, only in the Cloverbud category, and do not receive premiums.

Re-enrollment deadline is November 30, 2026.

*New members can join at any time, but must enroll by May 1 to enter in the Fair.

*May 1 is also the deadline to add or drop projects.

***You must be enrolled in a project in order to exhibit at the Fair in that project.**

WISCONSIN 4-H CLUB & GROUP ANNUAL AUTHORIZATION FORM DUE SEPTEMBER 1

4-H club general leaders received this form either at an association meeting or through snail mail prior to this newsletter. This document replaces the former charter renewals.

The 4-H Charter indicates that a 4-H Club or Group is organized in accordance with the objectives of the Wisconsin 4-H program. The University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Extension grants 4-H Charters which formally authorizes a Wisconsin 4-H Club or Group to use the 4-H Name and Emblem for educational purposes in accordance with laws and regulations established by Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Annual Authorization grants 4-H Clubs and Groups official charter status, allowing them to use the 4-H Name and Emblem. The information submitted in this document will be reviewed by the 4-H Program Educator and shared with the WI 4-H Program State Office.



National 4-H Council will continue to hold CWF 2027 as a dedicated track within Ignite 2027- the premier experience for teens to discover their sparks. CWF @ Ignite will take place from March 15-21st in Washington D.C. Registration for the 2027 CWF-Ignite will be open in 4-H Online from August 1-27, 2026. For more information and costs, visit:

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/statewide-events-and-opportunities/citizenship-washington-focus/>



FAIR NEWS

FAIR PASSES

Family Fair Passes for families of youth exhibitors are still \$25 per family. Each club needs to collect a list (club name and members of each family living in the house) and money to turn into the 4-H Office no later than August 3. NOTE: The Family Pass only includes immediate family members living in the same household. **Please make checks payable to: Marinette County Fair.**

NEW PREMIUM BOOKS THIS YEAR

Please do not use copies of prior year(s). There have been several changes and additions to the new premium books and would not like to have your exhibit entered in the wrong category.

WISCONSIN STATE FAIR—August 6-16th.

FOOD STAND DONATIONS

If there are clubs that still need to donate and do not want to donate money, they can donate additional plastic spoons and forks.

Please give your donation to either Margaret Graese or the 4-H Office prior to the Fair.

Contact Margaret with questions at 715-927-3577.



MEAL TICKET INFO FOR FOOD STAND

Meal tickets are still \$50 this year. Only youth exhibitors (including FFA) and leaders will be able to purchase meal tickets. Parents of the youth exhibitors will not be able to purchase them unless they are leaders. **Please make checks payable to: Marinette County 4-H.**

▪Lunch and dinner will need to be used on the same day assigned. They will need to be used up by 9:00 pm of that day and 4:00 pm on Sunday.

▪New this year will be the inclusion of one meal on Wednesday.

NOTE: There will be NO sharing of meal passes.

NOTE: The food stand will NOT be offering breakfast this year. (In lieu of that, we will work to open a little earlier as food is ready, with the full menu ready by official time of 11 am.)

FOOD STAND DRESS ETIQUETTE - FROM THE FOOD STAND COMMITTEE

Hats must be worn and hair pulled back. Do NOT wear flip flops, sandals, short shorts or mini skirts. Comfortable closed toe shoes should be worn. T-shirts or sleeved shirts must be worn; NO spaghetti straps permitted.



MEMBERS WORKING AT FOOD STAND

Members **must work a full shift** or more or contact the Extension office to do alternative positions to receive some of the awards or travel. The basic guidelines are as follows (Parents should not work a member's shift for the member to receive the credit):

1. 4-H members (3rd grade and up) are to work a full shift or more in the food stand.
2. Members purchasing meal passes **must** work a full shift in the food stand.
3. Members participating in the county-sponsored event form activities **must** work a full shift in the food stand and are strongly encouraged to work an extra shift at the fair or help with clean up on Saturday before the Fair, set up on Tuesday before the Fair, Wednesday morning (as the food stand will be open on Wednesday afternoon with a limited menu) or clean up on Sunday evening of the Fair or Monday morning the day after the fair or, if needed, during the Fair.
4. Clubs should wait at the back door of the food stand when their shift will be starting to get instructions from the food stand manager before the shift starts.
5. All members/people working in the stand need to be working during their shift. You need to eat before or after your shift, no leaving during your shift to eat.
6. Drinks are **NOT** free while you are working in the stand or at any other time.
7. **NO** cell phone use while you are working in the stand.

REMEMBER: **NO** DRINKING/EATING DURING YOUR SHIFT.



Take care to fill out food stand sign-up sheets as they will be checked after the Fair to verify volunteer obligations. If you are not available to help during your club's shift at the food stand, contact the 4-H office for an alternative volunteer opportunity.

Shifts available to clubs to work at the Food Stand can be found at the end of this newsletter. Help is also needed on Saturday, August 22nd for clean-up and set-up before the Fair, Wednesday, August 26th, to help serve—will have limited menu, and Sunday, August 30th, after the Fair for clean-up and take down, and Monday, August 31st, for final clean-up and take down.



Peshtigo National Bank is proud to continue their support of youth in agriculture by offering a Fair Project Scholarship Program for 2026! This scholarship is open to participants in the Shawano, Portage, Brown, Marathon, Marinette, Oconto, and Langlade County Fairs, and is designed to recognize the hard work, dedication, and creativity of our area's young fair exhibitors. Applications for PNB's Ag Scholarships are open through August 28. For more information and to access the application form, visit <https://pnbwi.com/2026-fair-project-scholarships.html>



The following article was taken in part from 'Extension Insider' with permission from Judy Mae Bingman:

In the Midwest, it's fair season.

When I was serving as a club leader (between staff gigs), I wrote this note to my members.

8 things that matter at the 4-H fair

Remember this:

1. **It's never about winning;** it's about being part of something bigger than yourself.
2. **It's never about being perfect;** it's about being your personal best.

3. **It's never about beating someone else;** it's about beating your last effort.
4. **It's never about losing;** it's about learning what you can to do better the next time.
5. **It's never quitting,** never giving in or giving up, never selling out or selling yourself short.
6. **It's learning to lose gracefully and win graciously** in the ring or in life.
7. **It's learning that sometimes the break goes your way and sometimes it doesn't,** and there's nothing you can do about it but play the game you are there to play.
8. **It's about respecting your competitor and respecting the rules of the game and knowing the minute you stop either one, you've lost.**

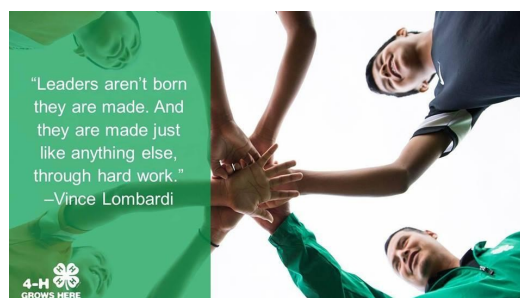
I wish I could promise you that the fair is going to work out the way you want. I wish I could tell you that you'll have the success you worked for. I wish I could tell you that you'll be recognized for your hard work, your kindness, your dedication, your grit. I wish I could tell you that others who didn't work as hard won't stand ahead of you in the ring, won't get the bigger trophy or the prettier ribbon.

Now, go back and read that again, except this time, instead of "the fair," substitute "your life."

You see, the 4-H fair isn't just about your project. It's about learning to deal with what life throws at you, with failure and success and everything in between.

It's about doing your best and allowing that to be the reward you seek. It's about learning that you can only control your actions, your decisions, and your happiness.

It's your first lesson in learning to let the things that are out of your control simply be. It's practice for what comes next in career, school, and life.



PLEASE REMEMBER TO SAY "THANK YOU"

Remember to say thank you to your award sponsors and to acknowledge all awards received, whether received at the County Fair, Achievement Day, or throughout the year. Sponsors give because they believe in 4-H and in you the youth!!! Let's show them we appreciate their efforts and give them a word of thanks.

ATTENTION ANIMAL EXHIBITORS

■When entering your animal for the Fair, also list a non-animal exhibit or poster in that particular project, in case your animal gets sick so that you can still have something entered.

■If you are showing two or more different animals, talk to the Superintendents involved so that classes can be adjusted for everyone to exhibit.

■If you are a dairy, livestock &/or horse exhibitor, please remember to keep trash out of the manure. This inc. cans, paper cups, twine, wire, medication containers & needles. Please use the trash barrels in the barns.

CLOVERBUDS

These young members do not need to submit entry forms to show at the Fair. They do need to fill out a 3"x5" card w/name, age, club, & item being entered, and take it to the Clothing Bldg. Cloverbuds will have face-to-face judging from noon to 8 pm on Wed. or you can drop off the items without seeing the judge. Cloverbuds may enter up to eight items.

CAMPING NEAR THE FAIRGROUNDS

4-H families wanting to camp during the Fair may call the Village Clerk at 715-856-5341 to camp at Evergreen Park, in Wausaukee. The park is across the creek on the north side of the Fairgrounds.

BARN DECORATING AND COSTUME CONTESTS TO BE HELD AT THE FAIR

The 250th Anniversary of the USA (Sesquicentennial) will be celebrated on July 4, 2026, marking 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In honor of this, the Fair Association has decided to hold a Barn Decorating Contest at the Fair in August. They are asking clubs to decorate around the theme of America's 250th Anniversary.

The theme of this year's costume contest at the Fair will also be America 250.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TIMES TO BRING ANIMALS TO THE FAIRGROUNDS

All animal entries except horses will be entered on Wednesday, August 26th, from 3-7 pm. Dairy may come in at this same time or Thursday from 7:30-10 am. Horses will be entered on Thursday, from 9 am-12 pm.

FACE TO FACE JUDGING

Face-to-face judging provides an opportunity for the youth to communicate with the judge (one-on-one) on details of his or her exhibit. This judging style gives the judge the opportunity to directly ask questions. It provides an opportunity to understand why the exhibit was selected for construction, if there were any problems with it & tools used to create the exhibit. The judge can then use this discussion to decide the placing.

PREPARING YOUR ITEMS TO EXHIBIT

Be sure to read the rules in the Fair premium listing. Entry tags need to be securely attached before judging. Remove and keep the bottom part of the entry tag. It is used as a claim check to pick up your items on Sunday at 5 p.m.

ANIMAL SCIENCE



POULTRY TESTING DATES

Rich Kempka will be testing birds August 15 at the Marinette County Fairgrounds. All testing starts at 10 am. If you have any questions, contact Rich at 920-672-9540.

NEXT LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Livestock Meeting will be held August 3, 7 pm, at the Fairgrounds. YQCA is also due then.

**"4-H IS A COMMUNITY OF YOUNG
PEOPLE ACROSS AMERICA WHO
ARE LEARNING LEADERSHIP,
CITIZENSHIP AND LIFE SKILLS"**

MINUTES

Marinette County 4-H Leaders Association July 20th—Fairgrounds

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Jennie Pillath. Attendees were Jennie Pillath, Sue Deschane, Julia Lepinski, Dorothy Kaminski, Sarah Ferdon, Anne Biernasz, Barb Kolosowski, Lisa Witak, Laura Race, Tracey Johnson, and Margaret Graese.

Motion made to approve the secretary's report from the 6/15/26 meeting as presented in the July 2026 newsletter by Lisa Witak, second by Barb Kolosowski. Carried.

Motion to approve the treasurer's report and the start up cash for the food stand (same amount for each day like last year) by Sue Deschane, second by Margaret Graese. Carried

Update from Sarah Ferdon

- 4-H Camp MAROCOSHA that was held June 22 to 26 was GREAT!!

Updates were provided for the various Committee reports.

- Food Stand
 - Meeting with Mursau's Piggly Wiggly in Coleman on Tues, 7/21, to get the food order in.
 - Working through the items not ordered through Piggly Wiggly and getting those orders in as well (milk from Rank's, brats from Johnsonville, misc items from Webstaurant store, etc.).
- Fair Board - none
- Raffle
 - Reminder the tickets need to be filled out completely with name, address and phone number!
- Awards and Trips - none
- Royalty
 - Interviewed 4 candidates and invites have been sent for the crowning "ceremony".

Old Business:

- Peshtigo Parks & Rec Flower Pots
 - Pots are done but not sure where they are located.
- Summer Trip
 - Noah's Ark in the Dells is a go for Tuesday, Jul 21st. and have a full bus!!! (& a couple additional are following!)

New Business:

- Record Book Sheets Order so all on the same path – walked through the order and found the project information sheets for animals are missing from the county website. Lisa and Sarah are going to review and work with Nancy.

Discussion Only:

- 2 clubs participated in the window display for June dairy month – need to check on the judging to provide results.

Next meeting will be Monday, September 21, 2026, at the Pound Town Hall at 6:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn at 7:03 PM by Lisa Witak, second by Sue Deschane. Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Graese



■ Please return to the Extension Marinette County Office, 1926 Hall Ave., Marinette WI 54143. by August 3.

4-H FOOD STAND SIGN-UP SHEET

Name of Club: _____

Number of Workers: _____

Contact Person: _____

Telephone No. _____

List adults who will be working the shift: _____

SHIFTS

***HELP NEEDED SATURDAY &/OR TUESDAY BEFORE THE FAIR. Saturday—Badger Buds (Ben and Lisa Patterson).**

***LOOKING FOR A FEW VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WORK ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, AS THE FOOD STAND WILL BE OPEN FROM APPROX NOON—8:00 OR 9:00 PM WITH A LIMITED MENU.**

**PERSON(S) ABLE TO WORK ON WEDNESDAY: (PLEASE INCLUDE CLUB AND CONTACT #):
Wednesday, Noon to 4 pm—Badger Buds. Wednesday, 4-9 pm—Stargazers.**

***ALSO HELP IS NEEDED TO DO THOROUGH CLEANING OF STAND AFTER THE FAIR SUNDAY & MONDAY:**

Thursday, August 27	Friday, August 28	Sat., August 29	Sun., August 30
10:45 am to 2:45 pm <u>EOTT</u>	10:45 am to 2:45 pm <u>B4LC</u>	10:45 am to 2:45 pm <u>MIM</u>	10:45 am to 2:00 pm <u>B4LC</u>
2:30 pm to 6:30 pm <u>MGG</u>	2:30 pm to 6:30 pm <u>MGG</u>	2:30 pm to 6:30 pm <u>KK</u>	1:45 pm to close (5) <u>FG</u>
6:15 pm to 9:00 pm <u>MGG</u>	6:15 pm to 9:00 pm _____	6:15 pm to 9:00 pm <u>GO</u>	

REMEMBER the 4-H Fair Food Stand is one of the main sources of income for 4-H. Each club must sign up for at least one shift. **Clubs with 10 or more members over the age of 10 need to sign up for two (2) time shifts (younger kids can work during both shifts).** All regular members are expected to work. One teen or adult is needed to help in the kitchen. Each club should have two adults to work with their members. Clubs with only young members and/or few members should sign up for the early morning shifts or work with another club. LARGER CLUBS ARE ASKED TO TAKE BUSIER SHIFTS, FRIDAY & SATURDAY. Clubs NOT signing up for a shift will be assigned a shift that has been left vacant. Below, please list your first, second and third choice. Be sure to list both the day and time shift. The times scheduled will be on a first come, first served basis.

1st Choice: _____ 2nd Choice: _____ 3rd Choice: _____

If you need to share a shift with another club, state that: _____

