



**Marinette County  
4-H Newsletter  
December 2025—January 2026**

Extension Marinette County  
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**Seasons Greetings Marinette County 4-H!**

I have had a busy and exciting start as your new 4-H educator. It's been wonderful to meet club leaders and members at various meetings and events. Thank you for making me feel so welcome! I am looking forward to attending Achievement Day in January to recognize all of the hard work and achievements of our youth and leaders. There is much to celebrate!

As we head into the winter season, we encourage all youth, and their families, to stay engaged and explore the many ways 4-H can make this winter season meaningful. From hands-on activities that spark creativity to programs that promote growth in science, agriculture, and community service, there are endless possibilities to get involved.

Let's make 2026 your best 4-H year ever!

Please reach out if there are events that you'd like me to attend...my schedule is filling up quickly!

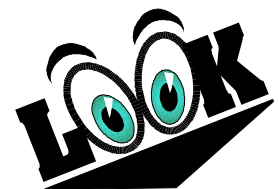
Your Marinette County 4-H Team,  
Sarah and Nancy

Sarah Ferdon  
4-H Program Educator  
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4-H Support Staff  
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**LOOK INSIDE FOR IMPORTANT  
INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING  
ACHIEVEMENT DAY AND OTHER NEWS.**



# REMEMBER: MEMBERS HAVE TO RE-ENROLL IN 4-H ONLINE EVERY YEAR!

## ASSOCIATION BOARD ELECTIONS - SEEKING TO FILL OFFICER POSITIONS

Board elections will be held during Achievement Day/ Leader Recognition. Association meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd Monday of every month (rotating locations) with the exception of Aug. & Dec. (no meeting). In addition to descriptions below, board member responsibilities include planning the annual 4-H calendar & annual budget & working with Extension Program Educator to determine 4-H policies and goals, determine training needs, make decisions about the county 4-H program and carry out other business of the Association. This is a great way to get involved!

**President:** (two year term) Presides at all meetings of the Leaders Association and acts as Chair of Board meetings. President and Extension Program Educator work together to solve problems and plan educational opportunities.

**Secretary:** (two year term) Keeps minutes of all meetings of the Leaders Association & turns them into the 4-H office for the newsletter. Brings copy of minutes to each meeting. Works with the Extension Office in getting out correspondence/communications when necessary.



## ANNUAL 2025 4-H MEMBER & LEADER ACHIEVEMENT DAY— PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND

You are invited to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of our members and leaders! There is lots to celebrate in Marinette County!

**Who:** **All** 4-H members, parents & families, volunteers and leaders

**When:** **January 11, 2026 at noon. Grover Town Hall.**  
**Each club is asked to bring a dessert/sweet. Your hosts, Golden Opportunity and Middle Inlet Moonshiners, will provide drinks, hot dogs, buns and snacks.**

The following members will be recognized during our annual achievement event: All youth who submitted a record book or easy completion form, Cloverbuds who submitted books, James Crowley Dairy Leadership award winner, National 4-H week window display winners, June Dairy Month window display, 4-H graduates, Golden Clover award winners, Outstanding Youth Leader award winner; and more. Also, leaders and youth who served on county-wide committees, members of the 4-H Leaders Association Board, members or leaders that coordinated a special 4-H event or project, volunteer of the year award winner. All 1st, 10th, 20th, 25th, 40th & 45th year leaders will be recognized.

**Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> | 12pm**  
Oshkosh Arena | 1212 S Main Street, Oshkosh, WI



**Join us for 4-H Day with the Wisconsin Herd!**

**Just for 4-H Families:**

- Pre-Game Watch sitting courtside & autographs
- High Five Tunnel with Herd Players




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

### NEW VIRTUAL WINTER ACADEMY

Registration will be available soon for our NEW Winter Academy. The Winter Academy is open to grades 8-10 and is an opportunity for youth to gain experience in problem solving strategies and to prepare for successful career pathways. Completion of the 2026 Winter Academy grants a coupon code for the 2026 Summer Academy! Keep an eye out for more registration details and program information on our website:

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/winter-academy/>

**NEW WINTER ACADEMY**  
VIRTUAL

 Grades 8-10



- January 21, 2026
- January 28, 2026
- February 4, 2026

**Free to attend!**

 Completion of the Winter Academy program will earn participants a 30% coupon code off registration for Summer Academy in the same year!



  Positive Youth Development Institute  
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### THRIVING MODEL SURVEY CLOSES DEC. 5

Reminder that the #4HThriving Model survey is currently open to Wisconsin 4-H'ers ages 13-19! This short survey will help staff and volunteers strengthen our local program. Those who complete the survey will be entered to win a \$25 Amazon gift card! Information will be sent out to eligible participants to the email used in 4HOnline. Complete the survey before it closes on Dec. 5th. We can't wait to hear your feedback!

**4-H THRIVING MODEL SURVEY**  
**OPEN NOW!**

Parents/Guardians of youth ages 13-19:  
Please check your email for directions and access to the survey.



**COMPLETE THE SURVEY FOR A CHANCE AT WINNING A \$25 GIFT CARD!**

UW-MADISON EXTENSION

### 4-H SPACE CAMP

Registration for 2026 4-H Space Camp is open in 4HOnline for youth in grades 6-8 who are newcomers to Space Camp. Space Camp will take place from April 23-27, 2026. This educational experience is a wonderful opportunity for youth to learn about aerospace, STEM, explore Space Camp, meet new people, and more! You can read more on the website: [go.wisc.edu/spacecamp](https://go.wisc.edu/spacecamp)

**April 23-27, 2026**

**Huntsville, Alabama**

**Wisconsin 4-H SPACE CAMP**  
OPEN TO YOUTH GRADES 6-8

**Get involved in:**

- Simulated Space Missions
- Learning and using Space Simulators
- Building and launching your own model rockets
- Real space training simulation
- etc.

**Cost is \$1300**

**Registration open from Nov 15-Dec 15 via 4HOnline**

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## **TRACTOR SUPPLY (TSC) PAPER CLOVER PROMOTION UPDATE**

The Paper Clover Campaign has started and will be ending December 14, 2025.



## **ROYALTY COMMITTEE STILL NEEDS YOUR HELP**

The Royalty Committee needs help to locate articles and/or pictures of the Queen Contest from 1987 to 1999.

Royalty was called the Queen Contest until 2000 when it was taken over by a new committee. The committee was given a binder with articles/pictures thru 1986; there are no articles/pictures from 1987 to 1999. Below is the list of those involved during that time frame. If anyone knows how to reach out to them, please have them contact me: Dorothy Kaminski by phone 920-471-2775 or email [dlkaminski74@gmail.com](mailto:dlkaminski74@gmail.com)

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Lisa Diktanas    | Becky Fairchild  |
| Candie Labunski  | Amanda DeGroot   |
| Cheryl Scholtz   | Andrea Soderberg |
| Lisa Johnston    | Amanda Tachick   |
| Terry Erickson   | Janel Beaver     |
| Jennifer DeGroot | Erin Block       |
| Kimberly LaPlant | Amy Patz         |
| Heather Hillers  | Kim Piontkowski  |
| Corrie Kirk      | Katie Brissette  |
| Cheryl Risner    | Caitlyn Gleason  |
|                  | Robin Panske     |

Thanks for any help we can get to complete this project.



**MARK  
THIS  
DATE**

**4-H CAMP MAROCOSHA  
JUNE 23-26, 2026**

**Camp Counselor  
Applications Available  
Soon.**

## **2025-26 PROJECT YEAR BEGAN OCT. 1**

Our new enrollment year for 2026 began on October 1.

Leaders had to re-enroll by November 1 and members had to re-enroll 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.

\*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.

We hope that your 4-H club will have a special promotion to tell the benefits of 4-H in your respective communities. Invite your friends to join!!

## **4-H TRIPS**

Teens interested in attending trips should fill out the Marinette County Sponsored Event Application. First round was in October. All information regarding age requirements and trips was included in the leaders packet at the Fair. Next round of applications are due Feb. 1 and with interviews at the Feb. 4-H Association Meeting.

## **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.





Big congratulations to Aimee Elkins! Aimee received the 2025 Achievement in Service Award from the National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals (NAE4-HYDP) at this year's National 4-H Conference in Atlanta, Georgia! This award honors Aimee's outstanding career of leadership and professional service to the 4-H. The Conference, themed "Georgia on My Mind, 4-H in My Heart," brought together 4-H professionals from across the country to celebrate innovation, leadership, and service in youth development.

## MINUTES

### Marinette County 4-H Leaders Association Meeting Monday, Mon, Nov 17<sup>th</sup>

The meeting was called to order at the Crivitz Fire Station at 6:00 PM by Jennie Pillath. Attendees were Jennie Pillath, Sue Deschane, Julia Lepinski, Anne Biernasz, Dorothy Kaminski, Debra Kaminski, Tabitha Fendrick, Lisa Witak, Sarah Ferdon, and Margaret Graese.

Motion made to approve the secretary's report from the 9/15/25 meeting as presented in the newsletter by Anne Biernasz, second by Sue Deschane. Carried.

Motion to pay Wally Hitt and Barb Kolosowski \$100 each for the set-up and cleaning of the food stand by Margaret Graese, second by Anne Biernasz. Carried

Motion to approve the treasurer's report and to pay bills by Lisa Witak, second by Sue Deschane. Carried

Updates were provided for the various Committee reports.

- Raffle
  - Discussion on raffle process and establishment of raffle committee
    - \*There will be a raffle committee meeting at 5:30 pm before the Feb 16th Leaders Association meeting at the Crivitz Fire Dept.

- Royalty
  - Changing so the coronation will be with a small dinner in early August.

### Old Business:

- Record Books
  - Another date has been set to finish discussing and finalizing the changes to the record book sheets. Meeting date is Wed, Dec 10th at 6 pm at the Crivitz Fire Station.
    - \* Discussed not having a completion form anymore and are revamping the activity page using a little bit of the completion page. Will also need to write a short paragraph about each project (in place of the questions) and will need to write a 4-H story. Not changing the pages required for the animal projects.
- Achievement Day
  - Date is Sunday, Jan 11th at noon at the Grover Town Hall.
    - \* Middle Inlet Moonshiners and Golden Opportunity are the clubs in charge and will bring buns & any other wanted snacks to go with hot dogs and nacho chips & cheese. Each club to bring a dessert. (Next year Pike River and Merry Go Getters will be the clubs in charge.)
  - Will have a short meeting at Achievement Day to hold election of officers (President and Secretary).
- Movie
  - 4-H Leaders Assoc is sponsoring a movie in February (Date TBD) and includes \$5.00 towards concession for members and leaders.
  - Motion made for the 4-H Leaders Assoc to sponsor a second movie for an extra \$75 and to include \$5.00 towards concession for members and leaders by Margaret Graese, second by Lisa Witak. Carried.

### New Business:

- Looking for volunteers to help decorate the tree in Wausaukee in Payant Park on Sunday, Nov 30th from 12:30 to 2:30 pm.

### Discussion Only:

- Need to look at the By-Laws and address same club leaders being officers.

Next meeting will be Monday, January 19, 2026, at the Pound Town Hall at 6:00 pm – if it is decided to still have it. Will decide/confirm at Achievement Day.

Motion to adjourn at 7:10 PM by Dorothy Kaminski, second by Anne Biernasz. Carried

Respectfully submitted, Margaret Graese

**2026**  
**4-H County Activities & Special Projects**  
**Volunteer Sign-Up - Due February 27**

YOUTH and ADULTS—As you plan your new 4-H year, please consider sharing your time and talent in one or more of our county activities and special projects. Please sign up to serve in your area of interest for the coming year. Whether you are new or are already helping in an area, please complete this sign-up sheet. If there is more than one person to a sheet, please put name next to choices. Committee sign-ups are on an annual basis. You need to sign up each year to be on the Committee.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Please put your name next to the group you'd like to help with & return to the Extension Office. Limit of three (3) committees per person.**

\_\_\_ **Awards and Trips** - provides leadership in promotion of 4-H trips, works with Leaders Association and the County 4-H Office to determine candidate selection process. Meets February and October or as needed.

\_\_\_ **Raffle/County Fundraising** - develops annual fundraising plan, makes recommendations on and helps coordinate and promote planned fundraisers.

\_\_\_ **Food Stand** - provides leadership in developing 4-H food stand policies and procedures, recommends menu items, orders food and supplies, helps to evaluate, etc. Meets April-September, 1-2x/month as needed.

\_\_\_ **Scholarship** - reviews scholarship procedures, assists in selection of scholarship winners.

\_\_\_ **Royalty** - Prepares candidates, helps with all aspects of contest, secures judges, facilitates Royalty coronation at the Fair, awards & follow up. Meets April-August.

\_\_\_ **Record Book** - Helps update current project sheets and forms.

☐ Yes ☐ No I am interested in serving as a Committee Chair or Co-Chair. List Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

**4-H ACTIVITY COORDINATOR or COMMITTEE** — Plan and implement special county activities. Can be youth or adult or youth/adult team. Duties include assisting with promotion and coordination of event, selecting judges, event follow up.

\_\_\_ Speaking Contest & Music Fest (normally held in February/March)

\_\_\_ Drama & Variety and Demonstration Contest (normally held in April)

\_\_\_ Super Saturday/Project 101 Day

\_\_\_ Fair help (office or at fair) (August)

\_\_\_ Other. Please list: \_\_\_\_\_

***Thank you! Please return to the Extension Office by February 27th.***