



Pepin Pacer

Pepin County 4-H Newsletter



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
PEPIN COUNTY

November, 2025

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Extension Pepin County website:

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4-H Online:

<http://wi.4honline.com/>

Let's take a look back at some highlights of 4-H's history ...

GREENWICH, N.Y. — 4-H is an organization that has played a role in the development of youth for over a century. In honor of National 4-H Week happening October 1-7, take a look back at some of the highlights of 4-H's history.

The beginnings of 4-H can be found in the passage of the Morrill Act of 1862. The Morrill Act created the land grant system which established universities dedicated to agricultural training and research. A second Morrill Act passed in 1890 established more colleges, mainly schools that are now Historically Black Colleges & Universities. These new universities were conducting agricultural research and discovering new products and practices such as milk sanitation and corn seed hybrids. However, schools were having a hard time disseminating their findings because farmers were often unwilling to adopt these new findings.

While more seasoned farmers were distrusting of their findings, researchers found that younger people were usually more interested and willing to try these new ideas. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries there were concerns that rural students were not receiving adequate agricultural education. Many felt that their education was not connecting well to the lifestyle of the rural areas where they lived. To bridge this gap, researchers and teachers brought their new ideas and findings to public schools and communities by forming youth clubs that taught various aspects of farming, including the universities' new discoveries.

There is not a definitive founder or founding date of 4-H. The group emerged from many youth clubs that formed at similar times but in different places in the U.S. 1902 is typically considered to be the beginning year of 4-H since several clubs were formed that year. A.B. Graham, a school principal in Clark County, Ohio began a youth program in early 1902 with the help of Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station and Ohio State University. Not long after Graham's group was formed clubs were started in Winnebago County, Illinois by O.J. Kern, Wright County, Iowa by O.H. Benson, and Page County Iowa by Jessie Field Shambaugh.

Every month we will hide a special symbol somewhere in that month's Pacer. If you are the first person to call (715) 672-5214 or email (gwen.prom@wisc.edu) the Extension Pepin County and tell us where that symbol is found you will win \$5 and be named in next month's Pepin Pacer as the "4-H Fast Finder".

Good Luck Hunting!

This is this month's symbol :





Chippewa 4-H Club
Typically meets 2nd Sunday of month.
Contact Nicki Moline @
715-442-5371

Pepin/Buffalo 4-H Shooting Sports Club
Typically meets Monday & Tuesday nights
@ 6:30 p.m. in Pepin Sportsman's Club,
January-March. For 3rd Graders and older.
Contact Nicole Schonke @
612-644-7525

Lima Lads & Lassies 4-H Club
Typically meets 3rd Sunday of month.
11:00 a.m., Durand City Hall
Contact Wendy Brantner @
715-495-4472

Community Health Youth Leaders (CHYL)
Durand /Arkansaw In-School Club
6th - 8th Graders
Typically meets (2) Fridays a month
in Room #009 during lunch
Contact Sky Holt @
715-279-7677



Pepin County 4-H Parent/ Leader Federation Meeting
Tentatively - January 10, 2026 @ 6:00 pm
Hide-A While, Mondovi

Volunteer in Pepin County 4-H and help make our 4-H program stronger.
Typically, meetings are held in February, April, June, August,
October and December, normally held in the Boardroom at the
Government Center in Durand.
Call the Extension Office for more information.



4-H Fast Finder for the Month:

LILY DERRICKS

Congratulations for being our
4-H Fast Finder this month!

We hope you enjoy the
Pepin Pacer !

Enroll Today As An Adult Volunteer -4-H relies on all volunteers, as little or as much time as you can invest! Anyone who may lead an activity even at the club level, must be enrolled. As is part of the Youth Protection process in 4-H. Then we have enrollment and screening information and you are covered by secondary liability insurance. To show your interest in volunteering for Pepin County 4-H complete a survey at :

<https://forms.gle/Zr44jDpHD23Pu5af6>

Or scan the QR code:



ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS: It has come to our attention that there have been some bugs in the 4Honline trainings. To remedy this please take a screenshot of the top left corner of the training and send to Gwen Prom at gwen.prom@wisc.edu – (there's a box that will say "% complete" and it should say 100% if you have completed all the content. There should also be a list of training headings with checkmarks that are all green if it is complete).

WISCONSIN 4-H THRIVING SURVEY

Opens November 5, 2025!

Information will be sent to 4-H members ages 13-19
using the family email address listed in 4-HOnline

Design by: Jordan Blue, Chippewa County 4-H Program Educator

Happy Birthday

NOVEMBER 6-ADELYNN MACKE-CHIPPEWA CLUB

NOVEMBER 9-ELIANA HARTLEY-LIMA LADS & LASSIES CLUB

NOVEMBER 28-AIDEN MARQUARDT-CHIPPEWA CLUB

NOVEMBER 30-FINLEY BREDOW-SHOOTING SPORTS CLUB

Be a Leader in Your Club

A 4-H club should work together as a team. No position is more important than another. Adult volunteers support club officers, and club officers support adult volunteers. Presidents, vice presidents, secretaries, treasurers, historians, reporters, and other officers all do their part to keep the club running smoothly. Members play a role in that too. What part of the team do you want to be? For more



information see the [Wisconsin 4-H Youth Leader Resources webpage](#)

Re-Enroll for the New 4-H Year

4-H Online 2.0 is the online enrollment and registration system for Wisconsin 4-H. Go to <http://wi.4honline.com> to access the system using your family account information. **PLEASE ENROLL SOON.**

For step by step instructions, the 4-H family enrollment guide can be found at :
https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/files/2020/09/4HOnline.v2.Family.Enrollment.Guide_.pdf

Contact your 4-H Leader or Gwen Prom at (715) 672-5214 or gwen.prom@wisc.edu with questions.

Cedar Crest Ice Cream and the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation have teamed up to present the “Cedar Crest Ice Cream 4-H Flavor Creation Contest” for Wisconsin 4-H clubs. All Wisconsin 4-H clubs are eligible to submit their ideas for a new ice cream flavor, along with a flavor description and interesting flavor name. Entries are being accepted now through November 15!

For contest information , rules, and entry form, visit:

<https://cedarcresticecream.com/4H-Flavor-Contest/>





UW-MADISON EXTENSION



**THANK YOU TO ALL
WHO PARTICIPATED!**

The September meeting of the Lima Lads & Lassies 4-H club consisted of planning our meeting schedule for the 2025-2026 4-H year. We talked about community service projects that we would like to continue with in the coming year. We elected new club officers for 2025-2026. President is Elizabeth Wayne. Secretary is Corrina Brunner. Treasurer is Jacey Brunner. Sunshine Awards is Drew Jereczek .

We had 2 new families join our club. The first family is Celsey Weiss and her son Ryker. Ryker's siblings, Maverick and Abigail, came along too even though they are not old enough to be club members yet. The second family is Nick and Katlyn Lodermeier and their son Jasper. The boys are eager to jump right in and have fun with our club.

Last week was National 4-H Week. Club members were given locker magnets to put on display at school to promote 4-H. The Durand Community Library has pamphlets telling about 4-H in our county and information on how to join one of the clubs. Club members were asked to wear their club t-shirt to school on Wednesday to show their support of 4-H.

For our October meeting we gathered at Club 10 for the annual 4-H Achievement Awards Banquet on October 12th. We started the banquet with getting things ready for a community service project. The 4-H Parent/Leader Federation purchased trinkets to hand out during the Durand Improvement Group Trunk or Treat event on October 25th on Main Street in Durand. We put 4-H labels with information on how to join 4-H onto mini flashlights, pop-its, and glo-sticks. Since almost all of our members are of trick-o-treating age we will be giving our trinkets to DIG members to hand out during the event. Then we had a terrific lunch of pizza, pasta, salad, breadsticks and pop. Following lunch we had a presentation of awards. All of the club officers were recognized for their service to the club. Our Most Active Members were Leah Brion and Cayden Bauer. Bleeds Green was Alivia Hurtgen. Willing Worker was Cayden Bauer. Most Welcoming Family went to Hannah, Nick and Leah Brion. Strives to Lead was Elizabeth Wayne. The Key Award went to Mara Brunner. Honorable Mention for Record Books went to Elizabeth Wayne for her age group. Leah Brion got 1st Place for her Record Book in her age group.

After the awards were all handed out all the families we welcome to go bowling.

Our next meeting will be either November 1st or November 2nd depending on what the weather will be like. Our activity will be to put up Christmas decorations in Memorial Park and Riverview Park. If anyone in the community has any outdoor decorations that they are thinking about getting rid of please consider donating them to our club to put on display at our city parks. Contact the Pepin County Extension Office at 715-672-5214 if you would like to donate any decorations and a pick up can be arranged.

Submitted by Wendy Brantner





DISCOVER PEPIN/BUFFALO SHOOTING SPORTS CLUB!

We are very excited to continue the Pepin/Buffalo Shooting Sports Club! Thank you, Nicole and Jim Schonke for your continued leadership in the shooting sport project!



What's the same:

Same great practices at the Pepin Sportsman's Club - N 10076 Sand Ridge Rd, Pepin WI
3rd grade and 8 yro and older
No experience necessary
Equipment provided
Fee: \$10-



What's different:

Shooting sports is now an official club. You can enroll in the Shooting Sports Club as your main club in 4honline 2.0 or inform our office and we can put it as your secondary club.



Club and Practice Schedule:

Monday and Tuesday nights,
January 12- March 31
Prac: 6:00-7:30 pm
Meeting: 7:30-8:00 pm

QUESTIONS



Pepin County 4-H



(715) 672-5214



sky.holt@wisc.edu





**Looking for a club to join?
Looking to help the community?
Animals? People? Giving learning
opportunities?**

**Then we are what
you're looking for!**

**Come join 4-H to get involved in
these AWESOME activities!**

**It's not just
about farming!**

Meeting Schedule:

Sept. 12, 26

Oct. 3, 17

Nov. 7, 21

In the library 10:35-11:25

Cultural Baking Series

Dec 4, 11, & 18

Grades: 4th and up

This virtual series explores new baking techniques and ingredients while in your own kitchen.

**REGISTRATION CLOSES at
NOON, NOVEMBER 17, 2025**



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Register for the Cultural Baking Series held at 6:30 PM on Dec 4, 11, & 18 via Zoom. We will learn new baking techniques, try new-to-us ingredients, and explore our cultural connection to food. This series is recommended for those in 4th grade and up. Families will receive a recipe book and ingredient list by email. There is no fee for this program. Your family will need to purchase ingredients and supplies. We will be making: Swedish Crackers, Cornmeal cranberry cookies, and Helbeh (Middle Eastern Fenugreek Cake)

[Cultural Baking Series Registration](#) - **Registration closes Nov 17 at Noon**

2024-2025 Achievement Program List

Cloverbuds

Harper Biederman
Elsie Macke

Torsten Davidson
Aiden Marquardt

Mady Derricks
Raelynn Welter

Callie Duwell

Oakley Hurtgen

Most Welcoming Family

Chippewa Club
Moline Family

Lima Lads & Lassies
Brion Family

Club Most Active Members

Chippewa Club
Mya Moline
Dominic Moline
Archer Sterry

Lima Lads & Lassies
Leah Brion
Cayden Bauer

Willing Worker

Chippewa Club
Alliah Sterry

Lima Lads & Lassies
Cayden Bauer

Bleeds Green

Chippewa Club
Elyse Seifert

Lima Lads & Lassies
Alivia Hurtgen

Strives to Lead

Chippewa Club
Anders Seifert

Lima Lads & Lassies
Elizabeth Wayne

American Spirit Experience

Anders Seifert
Nolan Seifert
Alliah Sterry

Members that Completed their 4-H Stories

Leah Brion
Lily Derricks
Owen Ingli
Emmett Seifert

Nick Brion
Mady Derricks
Dominic Moline
Nolan Seifert

Alison Derricks
Alivia Hurtgen
Mya Moline
Alliah Sterry

Declan Derricks
Oakley Hurtgen
Anders Seifert
Archer Sterry

Gideon Derricks
Amelia Ingli
Elyse Seifert
Elizabeth Wayne

Honorable Mention 4-H Stories

Lily Derricks Mya Moline Elizabeth Wayne

Top Outstanding 4-H Stories

3rd -5th Grades
Alivia Hurtgen

6th -8th Grades
Nolan Seifert

9th – 13th Grades
Anders Seifert



4-H Club Yearly Reporting

Lima Lads & Lassies –
Sami Poeschel and Jacey Brunner

4-H Club Officers**Chippewa 4-H Club**

ADULT LEADER: Nicki Moline
 President: Anders Seifert
 Vice President: Archer Sterry
 Secretary: Owen Ingli
 Treasurer: Nolan Seifert

Lima Lads and Lassies 4-H Club

ADULT LEADER: Wendy Brantner
 President: Elizabeth Wayne
 Secretary: Sami Poeschel
 Treasurer: Jacey Brunner
 Sunshine Award Person: Leah Brion
 Photographer: Kristin Wayne

Pepin Buffalo Shooting Sports 4-H Club

ADULT LEADER: Jim and Nicole Schonke
 President: Jameson Sterry
 Secretary: Finley Bredow
 Treasurer: Gideon Derricks

Community Health Youth Leaders (CHYL)

ADVISOR: Sky Holt/Payton Freund/ Jessica Schrauth
 LEADERS:
 Layla Heath
 Briar Schantner
 Emmi Swanson

4-H Parent Leader Federation

ADVISOR: Sky Holt
 President: Dale Bauer
 Vice President: Nicki Moline
 Secretary: Val Cataract
 Treasurer: Gwen Prom

**4-H Key Award - Mara Brunner**

WE are looking for a
JUNIOR FAIR BOARD MEMBER
 for a two year term! This position
 comes with a scholarship and
 meeting stipends! Reach out to
 Lisa at lisakees@yahoo.com to
 find out how to apply!

Applicants should be involved in youth projects at the fair and
 available for monthly meetings on Wednesday evenings.

In collaboration with the UW-Eau Claire Nursing program and the Pepin County Together Community Health Improvement Plan are conducting a survey related to water contaminant awareness and concern. This survey is only 6 questions and should take no more than five minutes. Your participation is appreciated!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N97JB5Q>

CONTACT: Jeffrey Englert |
 Reg. Nurse, UWEC BSN Completion
 Student | 715-829-1177 |

LEGO CLUB NOVEMBER DATES:

NOVEMBER 7, 14, 21

3:45 – 4:45 PM
IN THE DURAND LIBRARY

ALL YOUTH GRADES 1-5
WELCOME!





In *Wicked: For Good*, Elphaba and Glinda prove that one choice can change everything. Now it's your turn. Whether it's a kind note, helping a neighbor, or brightening someone's day. Your good deed matters. Through November 21, join the #4HForGood Challenge. Do a good deed, snap a pic of your , and share your story with #4HForGood. Tag @4H and 4 friends to spread kindness. Together, schools, workplaces, families, and communities can spark a ripple of good.

For more information see the 4-H Statewide Opportunities page at:
<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/>

2025-2026 State & National Experiences Calendar

Last updated on 8/28/2025

What?	When?	Where?	Who?	How much?	How to register	Staff Leads & Adult volunteers
Arts Camp go.wisc.edu/ArtCamp	October 4 - 5, 2025	Upham Woods Wisconsin Dells, WI	Grades 6-8	\$150 (tiered pricing) Billed individually	2025 Registration closed August 29. <i>Stay tuned for 2026 details!</i> Payment due: October 4, 2025	1 adult / 10 youth track leads & advisory support application via 4HOnline registration
Fall Forum go.wisc.edu/4Hfallforum	October 31 - November 2, 2025	Green Lake, WI	Grades 7-12 & 4-H Volunteers	\$65 (day only) \$185 (2 nights) Billed individually	Registration in 4Honline open September 3 - 26, 2025 Payment due: October 15, 2025	Youth must identify a chaperone or will be assigned to one. All 4-H volunteers are welcome to attend.
Youth as Partners in Civic Leadership go.wisc.edu/yncl	November 14 - 16, 2025	Upham Woods Wisconsin Dells, WI	Grades 9-12 & Adults (21 or older)	\$180	Registration in 4Honline open June 13 - October 3, 2025 Payment due: October 15, 2025	1 adult / 10 youth
National 4-H Congress 2025 go.wisc.edu/4HCongress	November 28 - December 2, 2025	Atlanta, GA	Grades 9-12; maximum age 18 on January 1 of program year.	\$1,500	2025 Registration closed June 30. See 2026 details below! Payment due: October 24, 2025	1 adult / 10 youth 2 adult advisors selected 2 staff leads
ArtBEAT! go.wisc.edu/ArtBeat	March 13 - 15, 2026	Upham Woods Wisconsin Dells, WI	Grades 3-5	\$150 (estimate; tiered pricing) Billed individually	Registration in 4Honline open January 12 - February 8, 2026 Capacity is limited. Payment due: March 13, 2026	1 adult / 10 youth track leads & advisory support
Citizenship Washington Focus @ Ignite by 4-H go.wisc.edu/CWF	March 24 - 29, 2026	Washington, DC	Grades 10-12	\$2,800	Applications in 4Honline open September 4 - 29, 2025 Capacity is limited. Payment due: October 15, 2025	1 adult / 10 youth 2 staff leads
Ignite by 4-H STEM Track Animal Science Track go.wisc.edu/igniteby4h	March 25 - 29, 2026	Washington, DC	Grades 10-12	\$2,500	Applications in 4Honline open September 4 - 29, 2025 Capacity is limited. Payment due: October 15, 2025	1 adult / 10 youth 2 staff leads

2025-2026 State & National Experiences Calendar						Last updated on 8/28/2025	
What?	When?	Where?	Who?	How much?	How to register	Staff Leads & Adult volunteers	
National 4-H Conference go.wisc.edu/NationalConf	TBD	Washington, DC	Grades 10-12	\$2,000 (estimate)	Application process TBD Five youth delegates selected Payment due: TBD	1 adult / 10 youth 2 staff leads	
Space Camp go.wisc.edu/SpaceCamp	April 23 - 27, 2026	Huntsville, AL	Grades 6-8	\$1,300 (estimate)	Registration in 4-Home open November 15 - December 14, 2025 Capacity is limited. Payment due: March 19, 2026	1 adult / 10 youth 2 adult advisors selected 2 staff leads	
Summer Academy go.wisc.edu/4HSummerAcademy	June 14 - 18, 2026	Madison, WI	Grades 8-11	\$600	Registration in 4-Home open March 6 - April 26, 2026 Payment due: May 10, 2026	1 adult / 10 youth Track leads & advisory support All staff are invited to serve as leads	

2025-2026 State & National Experiences Calendar						Last updated on 8/28/2025	
What?	When?	Where?	Who?	How much?	How to register	Staff Leads & Adult volunteers	
American Spirit East go.wisc.edu/AmericanSpirit	June 19 - 28, 2026 July 3 - 12, 2026	East Coast	Grades 8-10 at time of registration	\$3,000 (estimate)	Apply in 4-Home, open November 1 - November 30, 2025 Capacity is limited. Payment due: May 15, 2026	1 adult / 10 youth 2 staff leads per week	
2026-2027							
What?	When?	Where?	Who?	How much?	How to register	Staff Leads & Adult volunteers	
National 4-H Congress 2026 go.wisc.edu/4HCongress	November 27 - December 1, 2026	Atlanta, GA	Grades 9-12; maximum age 18 on January 1 of program year.	\$1,500 (estimate)	Registration in 4-Home open June 1 - 30, 2026 Payment due: October 23, 2026	1 adult / 10 youth 2 adult advisors selected 2 staff leads	



What is the approximate number of feathers on a wild turkey?

a) 500
b) 1,500
c) 5,000
d) 7,500



In what year did the first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade take place in New York City?

a) 1920
b) 1924
c) 1945
d) 1957



Which Native American tribe played a significant role in the first Thanksgiving?

a) Cherokee
b) Apache
c) Wampanoag
d) Iroquois



Wisconsin 4-H Distance Learning Programs



4-H Discovery Kit

Explore Head, Heart, Hands, and Health with fun 4-H activities!

Audience: Grades 5K-2

Session Dates: Jan. 13, Jan. 27, Feb. 10, Feb. 24 from 6:30 - 7:30 PM

***Fee of \$5 for the kit**

Learn more and
Register at:
<http://virtual.wi4h.org>

Design Your Landscape Kit

Learn how to plan, sketch, and bring your own landscape design to life!

Audience: Grades 3-8

Session Dates: Jan. 26, Feb. 9, Feb. 23 from 6:30 - 7:30 PM

***Fee of \$5 for the kit**



Exploring Careers in Agriculture Program

Explore different career options in agriculture and get inspired through conversations with professionals from across the ag industry.

Audience: Grades 7-10

Session Dates: TBD

***Fee of \$5 for the curriculum guide**

Registration
closes Nov. 16th
for each!



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2026 4-H American Spirit Experience: Empowering Youth Through History & Leadership

Are you a 4-H member in grades 8–10 who loves history, travel, and making new friends? The 4-H American Spirit Experience might be the perfect adventure for you!

The 4-H American Spirit Experience empowers youth to take ownership of their learning and leadership through a 10-day educational journey exploring history, culture, and civic identity across the East Coast and Canada. While staff and volunteers support and facilitate the experience, youth are at the center, not just as participants, but as leaders, learners, and changemakers. They actively shape the experience by presenting content, leading discussions, reflecting on their learning, and building a vibrant community with peers from across Wisconsin.

2026 Travel Dates:

June 18–29, 2026

July 3–12, 2026

Program Highlights:

- *Visit historic sites like Lexington & Concord, Salem, and Gloucester

- *Explore American and Canadian culture (passport required!)

- *Lead activities and discussions with fellow youth

- *Build lifelong friendships and leadership skills



Application Details:

Open November 1–30, 2025 in 4H Online: youth and a parent/guardian must complete the application together. Important...A completed application does not guarantee participation. Final selections will consider group composition, eligibility, and application timing.

Estimated Cost: \$3,000

Invoices will be sent to counties in April 2026. Counties and participants are encouraged to collaborate on payment plans and fundraising.

Eligibility:

Open to youth in grades 8–10 (older youth may inquire with Amber Rehberg at amber.rehberg@wisc.edu)

Each week is limited to 45 youth, so apply early!

**Don't miss this chance to experience history, culture, and leadership in action.
Mark your calendar for November 1!**

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

YOUTH AS PARTNERS IN CIVIC LEADERSHIP 2025

We are dedicated to advancing youth voice in Wisconsin and we advocate for a youth voice and build mentoring, networking, and learning opportunities.



WORKSHOP & ACTIVITIES:

- Healthy Livings
- Interpersonal Relationships
- Diversity/Multicultural Engagement
- Ending Bullying and Youth Violence
- Advocacy Roundtable
- Talent show

**OPEN TO YOUTH AGES 14-18 AND
ADULTS 19 OR OLDER SHARING
DECISION-MAKING ROLES**

*At least 2 adults per group of 10



**REGISTRATION OPEN IN
4H ONLINE THROUGH
OCTOBER 3, 2025**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE SCAN OR VISIT
GO.WISC.EDU/YPCL**



Positive Youth Development Institute
DIVISION OF EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

SAVE THE DATES

STATE 4-H LIVESTOCK EVENTS

4-H MEATS JUDGING CONTEST
JANUARY 31, 2026

SKILLATHON AND QUIZ BOWL
MARCH 21, 2026

**BOTH EVENTS HELD AT THE
UW MADISON CAMPUS**



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



SAVE THE DATE

STATE 4-H DAIRY QUIZ BOWL

FEBRUARY 7, 2026

**UW GREEN BAY
STEM INNOVATION BUILDING**



National 4-H Artificial Intelligence Challenge

How can you use AI to solve problems in agriculture?

On October 1, National 4-H in partnership with Google introduced the 4-H AI Challenge. The challenge is open to youth in two age categories: Level 1: Ages 13 – 15 and Level 2: Ages 16 – 18. Youth work in small teams with an adult advisor to develop novel solutions to agriculture issues in their community. Projects will be submitted through ProjectBoard and must be entered by November 15, 2025. Resources including instructions, FAQs, and judging rubric is found on the Challenge website. Projects will be judged on a national level with cash prizes for first, second, and third place. Questions about the Challenge can be sent to Dr. Mark Light at North Carolina A&T or Alexa Groff at Iowa State University.

The poster features a dark blue background with a circular inset on the left showing a green field with a tractor and a circuit board overlay. On the right, a person is wearing a VR headset. The title 'ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CHALLENGE' is in large, bold, white letters, with 'BY 4-H' and a green four-leaf clover logo below it. A clock icon and the text 'Registration Deadline: Nov 15th, 2025' are on the left. A large green oval contains the text 'National 4-H AI Challenge: How can you use Artificial Intelligence to solve problems in Agriculture?'. On the right, a dashed box contains the text 'Create your project and upload it in ProjectBoard', another dashed box contains 'Youth in 6th - 12th grade', and a QR code is at the bottom right. The URL 'https://events.projectboard.world/4HAIinAg' is at the very bottom.

**ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE
CHALLENGE**

BY 4-H

🕒 *Registration Deadline: Nov 15th, 2025*

***National 4-H
AI Challenge:***
How can you use Artificial
Intelligence to solve
problems in Agriculture?

Create your
project and
upload it
in ProjectBoard

Youth in
6th - 12th
grade



<https://events.projectboard.world/4HAIinAg>

2026 Conservation Speech Contest Guidelines



State Contest
Wednesday, March 4th, 2026
 Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI



Contest Divisions

1. Elementary Division... (3-5 minute speeches, *required*) Students enrolled in grades 5-6
2. Junior Division..... (4-6 minute speeches, *required*) Students enrolled in grades 7-8
3. Senior Division..... (5-7 minute speeches, *required*) Students enrolled in grades 9-12

Subject Matter

Speeches must promote the conservation of natural resources and the protection or enhancement of environmental quality. Topics should address soil and water conservation issues. Emphasis should be placed on the subject as it relates to your locality or to the state of Wisconsin.

Authenticity and accuracy of information is important, and the speaker should demonstrate familiarity with the subject matter. Feel free to contact Natural Resource professionals as they can provide knowledge on numerous topics. The internet is a rich resource; however, not all internet sources are reliable. When using the internet, be sure to consider your source!

All speeches should be backed up by facts. Both sides of an issue should be presented in a fair and non-accusatory manner. Using names of people or businesses for slander will not be accepted and shall result in disqualification.

Visual Aids

Use of visual aids (posters, charts, etc.) is prohibited; however, notes may be used.

Speeches

A speech, in part or whole, used in this contest in previous years may not be used again. However, speeches used for other speaking events may be used. Group presentations are not allowed.

County Contest

An individual student may only enter in one County level speech contest, either in the County in which they reside or in the county in which they attend school. If the County an individual lives in does not host a speaking contest, the individual may seek permission from another County to enter their contest. The winners of each division in each County may compete in the Area Association contests. Students must compete in a County and/or Area contest to qualify for the state contest. All contest entry forms must be signed by a parent or guardian.

Area Contest

Local County winner will advance to their area contest. Please view our website for your area contest dates, <https://wisconsinlandwater.org/our-work/youth-education/poster-speaking-contest>. The results of the Area contest (including the parental/guardian signature, legible names, addresses and counties of residence of the winners) shall be sent by the Area contest coordinator to all County contest coordinators immediately following the contest for State contest set-up and publicity purposes.

The Area association committees and coordinators are responsible for arranging the participation of its three winning speakers (1st place in each division) in the state contest.

Contest Scheduling

County and Area Association contests should be completed by **Friday, February 6, 2026.**

State Contest

State contest entry forms for each area contest winner must be received at the WI Land+Water office no later than **Friday, February 6, 2026.**

The state contest will be held in the morning of Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI.*

Registration will be from 9:00am-9:30am.

First place winners in each division are invited to present their winning speeches at the 2025 WI Land+Water Annual Conference Luncheon that same day at **11:00am.**

State contest RSVP must be completed by **Monday, February 9, 2026** and emailed to kim@wisconsinlandwater.org.

**If you are planning to come in the night before and wish to book a hotel room. Please contact the Chula Vista Resort directly and mention WI Land+Water Annual Conference to receive the state rate at the Chula Vista Resort.*

All state contest entry forms must be completely filled out and **signed by a parent or guardian** and emailed to kim@wisconsinlandwater.org no later than Monday, February 9, 2026 in order for the student to be eligible to compete.



2025 State Speech Winners



Adalyn Howe
Columbia County
Elementary Division



Lydia Visger
Columbia County
Junior Division



Briella Brusveen
Columbia County
Senior Division



2026 Conservation Awareness Speaking Contest County Level Entry

****Please fill out completely and legibly****

COUNTY ENTRIES DUE: _____

TITLE OF SPEECH _____

STUDENT

First Name _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Address _____

City _____ State WI Zip _____

County where you live _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Grade _____ Age _____ Parent/guardian name (printed) _____

REQUIRED Signature of parent or guardian certifies that the information provided is accurate and allows local land conservation departments, WI Land+Water, and NACD to utilize the photos for educational or promotional purposes:

X _____ Date _____

Please check the appropriate grade level.

☐ Elementary
5-6 grades

☐ Junior
7-8 grades

☐ Senior
9-12 grades

LOCAL MEDIA

Name of your local newspaper: _____

Newspaper Telephone Number: _____

Newspaper Email: _____

SCHOOL

☐ Public School ☐ Private School ☐ Home School

Teacher Name _____

School Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State WI Zip _____

E-mail address _____ Phone _____

COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT (filled out by Land Conservation staff or YE Area rep)

County _____ Area _____

Contact _____ Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State: WI Zip _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____



2026 Conservation Poster Contest Guidelines

"Soil. Where it all Begins"

Details

- Open to grades K-12; public, private or home school students
- Each poster must go through the following contest process: Local/County, Area, State, Nationals.
- The National Poster Contest theme is: **"Soil. Where it all Begins"**

Contest Rules

- Poster size must be 12" x 18" or 14" x 22".
- The 2026 National Contest Theme, **"Soil. Where it all Begins"** must be written on each poster.
- All posters shall be created by an individual student, rather than a team of students.
- Any media may be used: paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper or other materials on regular posters. (Computer-generated posters will not be accepted)
- To be eligible for judging, each entry must have a completed and signed entry form attached to back.

Posters Due to County

- Poster Due Date: 01/09/2026
- Local entries due to: Emilie Bonnerup
- Phone: 715-672-7242 x146
- Address: 740 7th Ave W, Durand

County Contest

- County: Pepin
- Date of County Contest: 01/16/2026
- Location: Pepin County Board Room
- 1st place from each division moves to Area

Area Contest

- Area: West Central
- Date of Area Contest: 01/20/2026
- Location: Chippewa Co. Courthouse
- 1st place from each division moves to State

State Contest

- Posters Due: February 6, 2026
- Dates of State Contest: March 4-6, 2026
- WI Land+Water Annual Conference, Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells

National Contest

- Submitted by December 1, 2026
- National Contest entries submitted by WI Land+Water



Poster Evaluations

Conservation Message 50%
Visual Effectiveness 30%
Originality 10%
Universal Appeal 10%



Contact your County Land/Water Conservation Department for details on how to get started and/or:
<https://wisconsinlandwater.org/our-work/youth-education/poster-speaking-contest/contest-dates>



2026 Conservation Awareness Poster Contest

County Entries Due: 01/09/2026

STUDENT

First Name _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Grade _____ Age _____ Parent/guardian name (printed) _____

REQUIRED Signature of parent or guardian certifies that the information provided is accurate and allows local land conservation departments, WI Land+Water, and NACD to utilize the photos for educational or promotional purposes:

X _____ Date _____

Please check appropriate grade level.

☐ Grades K-1

☐ Grades 2-3

☐ Grades 4-6

☐ Grades 7-9

☐ Grades 10-12

LOCAL MEDIA

Name of your local newspaper Courier-Wedge

Newspaper Telephone Number 715-672-4252

Newspaper Email thewedge@nelson-tel.net



SCHOOL

☐ Public School ☐ Private School ☐ Home School

Teacher Name _____

School Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State WI Zip _____

E-mail address _____ Phone (____) _____



COUNTY LAND/WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT (to be filled out by local rep)

County Pepin Area West Central

Contact Emilie Bonnerup Title Admin Outreach Specialist

Address 740 7th Ave W

City Durand State WI Zip 54736

E-mail Address ebonnerup@co.pepin.wi.us Phone (715) 672-7242 x146



Youth who join 4-H are often excited about the many, many projects they can choose to explore. There are so many Sparks (or things they want to learn about)! Yet, if their Spark doesn't have a local project leader to support their learning, that excitement can turn to questions. They may not know how to get started on their own. Clover to the rescue!! Clover is an online smorgasbord of sparks, interactive activities, and fun. It was created by the National 4-H Council in collaboration with more than 100 universities throughout the United States. And it's FREE and ready for youth, parents, and educators to dive into. **Go to 4-h.org/clover**

4-H Volunteer Information and Resources - we have provided loads of great information to help you feel comfortable and confident about the basics of 4-H . Explore the Volunteer Resources website at:

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/resources/volunteer-resources/>



**SCAN THE QR CODE
AND SHOW YOU ARE
4-EVER GREEN**



Check Out These Event Calendars

The calendars below show events available in surrounding areas and statewide. To filter by county or event type, use the check boxes on the left to narrow the results.

* To find 4-H specific events see this site

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/calendar/>

* To find workshops, classes and other events hosted by University of Wisconsin-Extension see this site:

<https://extension.wisc.edu/events/>

Badger Talks is pleased to present a LIVE series of talks on topics that intend to inspire, delight, and pleasantly distract in a time we are all needing positive experiences. Tune in to hear experts on a variety of interesting and engaging topics. For more information see:

<https://badgertalks.wisc.edu/badger-talks-live/>



