



Pepin Pacer

Pepin County 4-H Newsletter



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
PEPIN COUNTY

August, 2026

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Extension Pepin County Staff

UW- Madison Division of Extension
Pepin County provides educational programs and information in 4-H, youth development, and human development and relationships. Our research based resources are available and open to all people.

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Extension Pepin County website:

<http://pepin.extension.edu/>

4-H Online:

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

8 Things to Remember at the County Fair

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 county 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.

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

August 24, 2026 @ 5:30 pm

Administrative Conference Rm, Pepin Co. Government Center

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:

WREN BRENNER

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

**We hope you enjoy the
Pepin Pacer !**



TELL YOUR 4-H STORY YOUR WAY



Presentation/Format (pick one):

- ~ Booklet (handwritten or computer generated)
 - i. One sided pages only
 - ii. Maximum 8 written pages, maximum 10 additional pictures/drawing pages
- ~ Power Point – maximum 15 slides or maximum 8 minutes
- ~ Video - MP4 format with maximum 8 minutes run time
- ~ Traditional record book



Submitted on a USB drive with your name and grade on it

Age groups

Cloverbud (Format can be halved – 4 pages, 5 additional; 7 PPT slides; 4 minute video)
 3rd – 5th grades; 6th – 8th grades; 9th – 13th grades

Record Books will be judged on content (1 through 5 of the criteria below) as well as creativity.

Have FUN and start your goals now!

Include in your story:

1. 4-H Member Profile – (Name, club, grade, picture(s) of you)
2. Your 4-H Goals (you can select project(s), it can be taking a leadership role/expanding a leadership role(s), it can be travel opportunities, community service, etc.)
 - a. What do hope to learn?
 - b. What do you plan to accomplish?
3. Your Reflections – the BIG picture

Examples:

 - a. What did you learn?
 - b. How did you grow?
 - c. What would you do different?
 - d. How has being a 4-H member helped you set goals and develop new interests?
 - e. How has 4-H influenced your future goals (personal and/or career)?
4. Outreach - How did you help your club and/or county grow? (Community service, team work, leadership, etc.)
5. Value
 - a. Money made, personal time, personal value, etc.
 - b. What are you most proud of and why?
6. Parent and/or 4-H Club Leader Statements – Please have your parent and/or 4-H Club Leader write a few sentence about their thought of your 4-H journey this year. The statement should be signed by the Parent or 4-H Club Leader.

Dunn County 4-H & Pepin County 4-H are teaming up for an outdoor adventure at Caddie Woodlawn Park. Youth will explore nature and try hands-on pioneer-style activities like butter making, pinecone bird feeders, and other woodland crafts. This fun, skill-building day celebrates creativity, teamwork, and the natural beauty of the park.

August 10 | 9-11:30am at Caddie Woodlawn Park

Open to ALL youth but geared to grades K-3

FREE for Pepin Co. 4-H members thanks to Parent Leader Fed. / others \$5

Registration closes August 3rd Registration link:

https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/.../SV_ekuibSykqyXCmPQ



**JOIN DUNN AND PEPIN
COUNTY FOR**

WOODLAND MAKERS & EXPLORERS



**AUGUST 10TH
9AM-11:30AM
CADDIE WOODLAWN PARK**

**Open to kindergarten
through 3rd grade.**



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

An AA/EEO employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX and ADA requirements.





4-H Online End of Year Rollover

4-H Online will perform End of Year processing. Like last year, access to 4-H Online for families will need to be shut down this year to give time to make some system changes, but the timeline will be much shorter.

4-H Online Shutdown

Due to the way the calendar falls with the weekend and Labor Day, the following schedule will be in place:

- Monday August 31 12:00 Noon(ish) – Access to 4-H Online for Families will be turned off.
- Wednesday September 2 8:00 AM – Access to 4-H Online for families will be restored.



CWF is a dedicated track at Ignite-the premier experience for teens to discover their sparks to explore and experience civic engagement, citizenship, and gain leadership skills. This is a week-long experience in the Nation's Capitol where you can tour National museums, visit the Mall, and experience Federal government in action!

Explore more at go.wisc.edu/CWF.

Citizenship Washington Focus @ Ignite

March 15-21,
2027



Discover your spark in
Washington, D.C!



Registration open
August 1-27, 2026



Arts Camp is an opportunity for youth in grades 6-8 to explore many types of art including:

- ✿ Drawing, ✿ Painting
- ✿ Theater, ✿ Dance
- ✿ Culinary, ✿ Nature arts
- ✿ Music

4-Hers can join us at Upham Woods in Wisconsin Dells to grow their creative skills, connect with new friends, and explore sparks. Registration will be open from July 15-August 15.

Learn more:

<http://4h.extension.wisc.edu/.../statewide.../arts-camp>



The Great Wisconsin Quilt Show sponsored by PBS Wisconsin invites youth quilters and sewists, ages 15 and under, to enter the annual Kids' Quilt Challenge by Aug. 9.

Quilts will be displayed during The Great Wisconsin Quilt Show at the Alliant Energy Center in

Madison, and participants are invited to attend a public awards presentation at the event on Saturday, Sept. 12.

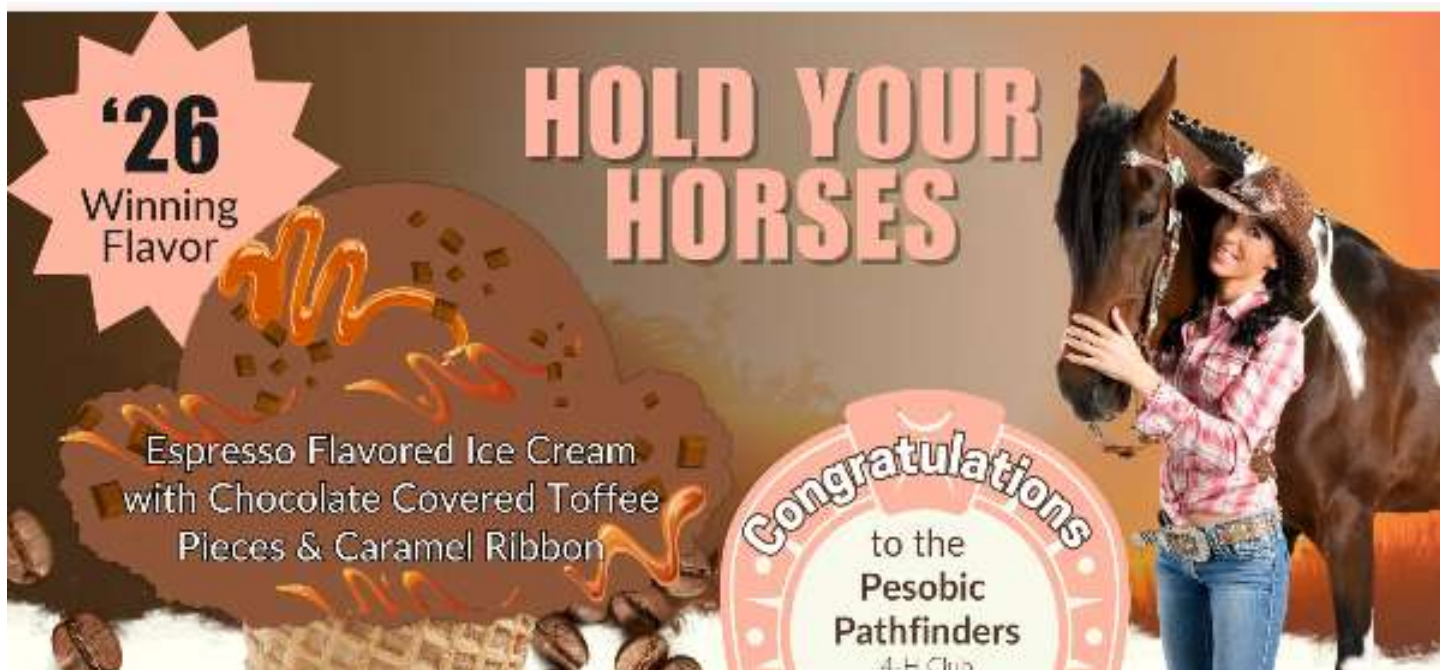
The Kids' Quilt challenge awards gift card to the top three quilts—a \$200 prize for first place, \$100 for second place and \$50 for third place. Quilts will be judged on workmanship, creativity and overall appearance. Learn more

at quiltshow.com/quilt-contest.





Parades are a fun way to showcase 4-H spirit and connect with the community. Before your club hits the parade route, take a few minutes to review the POLICIES for a safe and successful parade season! Don't forget to get driver's authorization for the person pulling the float in the parade, too!



This year's winning flavor was created by the Pesobic Pathfinders 4-H Club out of Merrill. Remarkably, this marks the second time in three years that the local club has won the statewide contest. Their creation, "Hold Your Horses," features espresso-flavored ice cream packed with chocolate-covered toffee pieces and a rich caramel ribbon.



The Fair Theme for 2026 : “Where Town and Country Come Together”





New This Year

Since DATCP has waived PRRS and PEDv testing requirements, we have made the decision that our swine show is now non-terminal. You're welcome to take your pig home at the end of the fair if you are not selling it in the auction.

Health Inspection Needed for Swine

All swine need to be inspected by a vet at maximum 30 days before the fair and a hard copy of the vet inspection paper must accompany the animal at weigh-in.

Make sure your health certificate has this statement on it from your veterinarian:

"The entire herd of origin on the farm was inspected within 30 days before the show and no apparent disease was present at the time of inspection"

YOUTH FAIR SET-UP

SUNDAY, JULY 26 | 12:00-4:00PM

A meal is provided for everyone helping



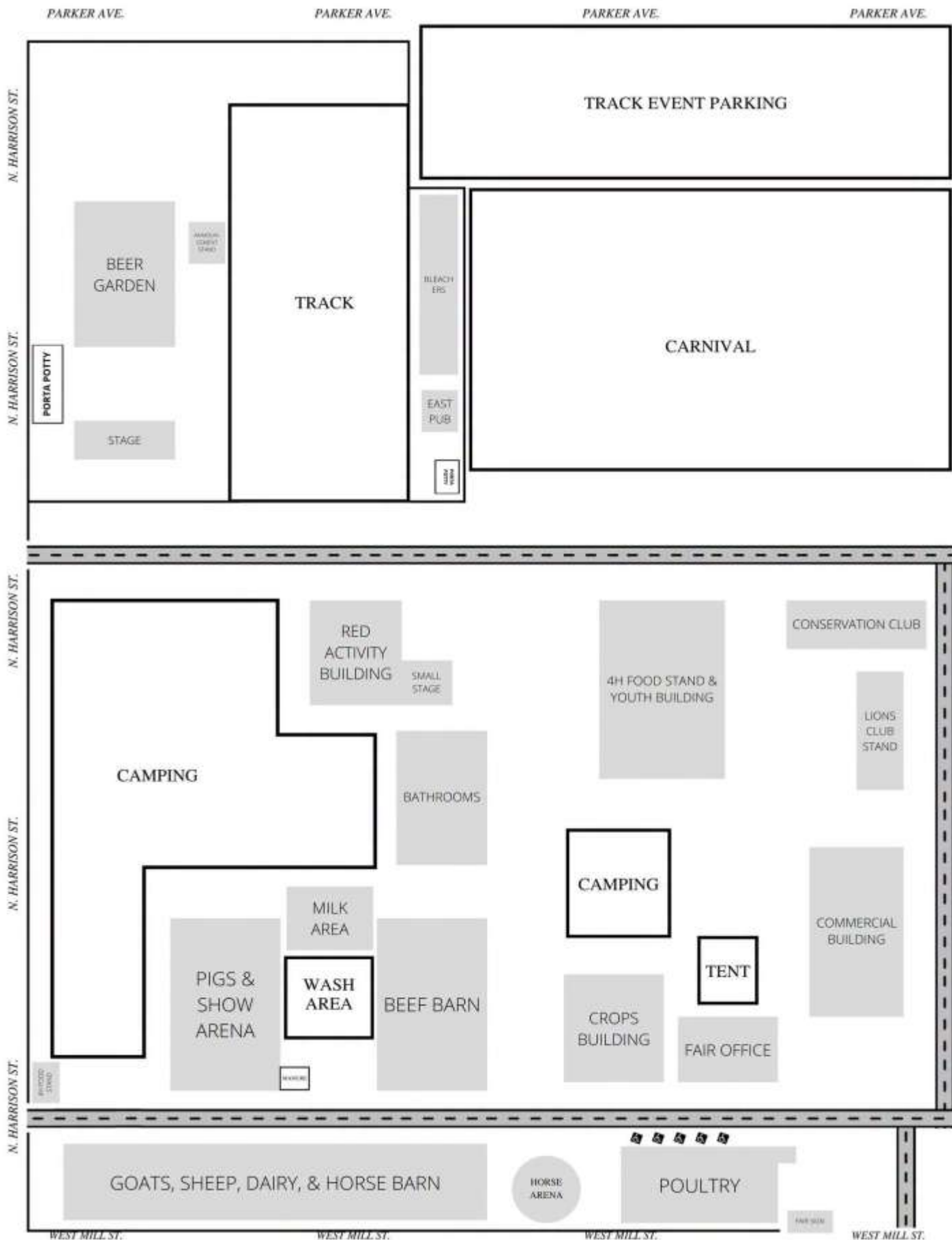
BARN DECORATING

dates and times

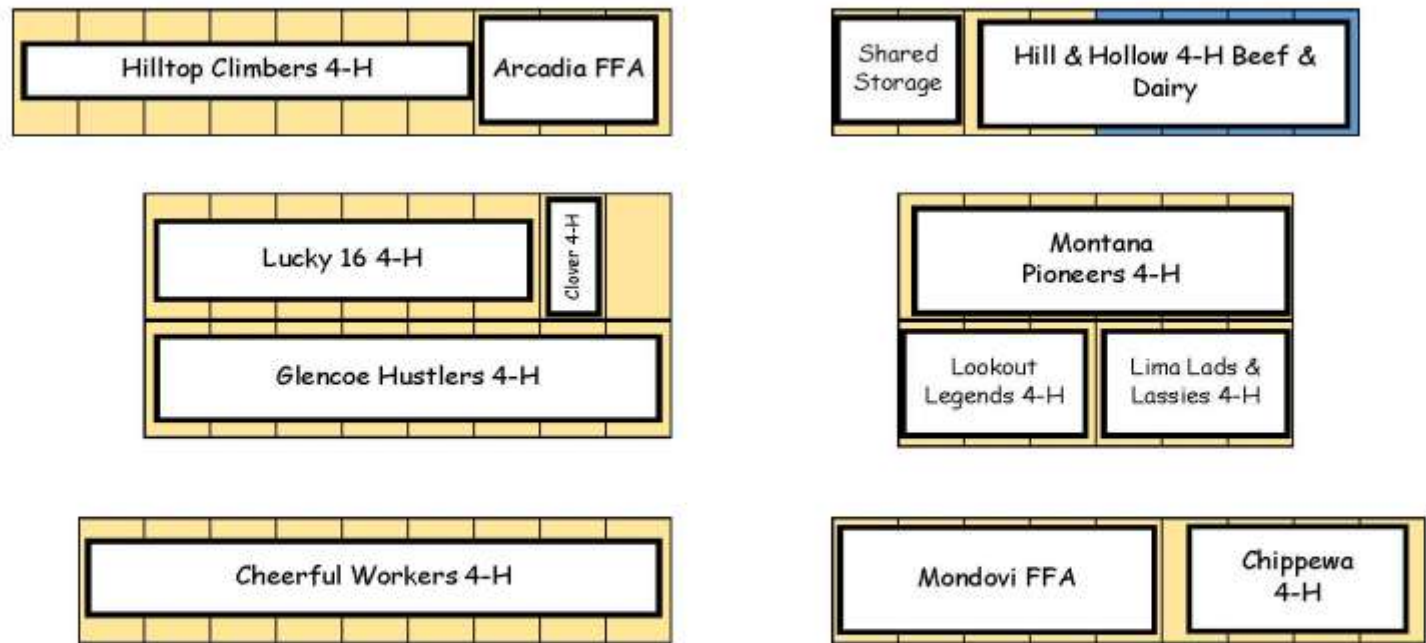
Sunday (July 26): After set-up - 5pm

Tuesday (July 28): 10am-8pm

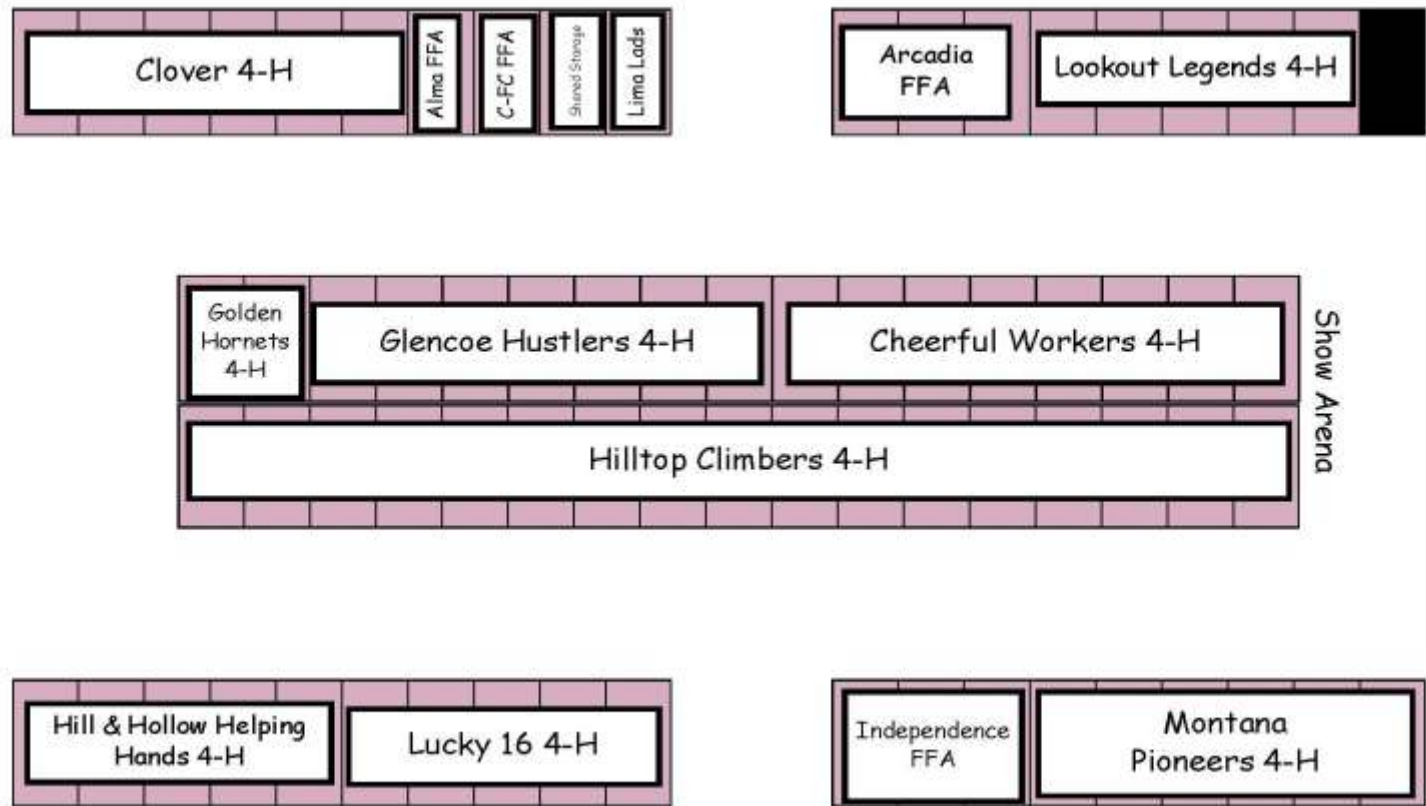


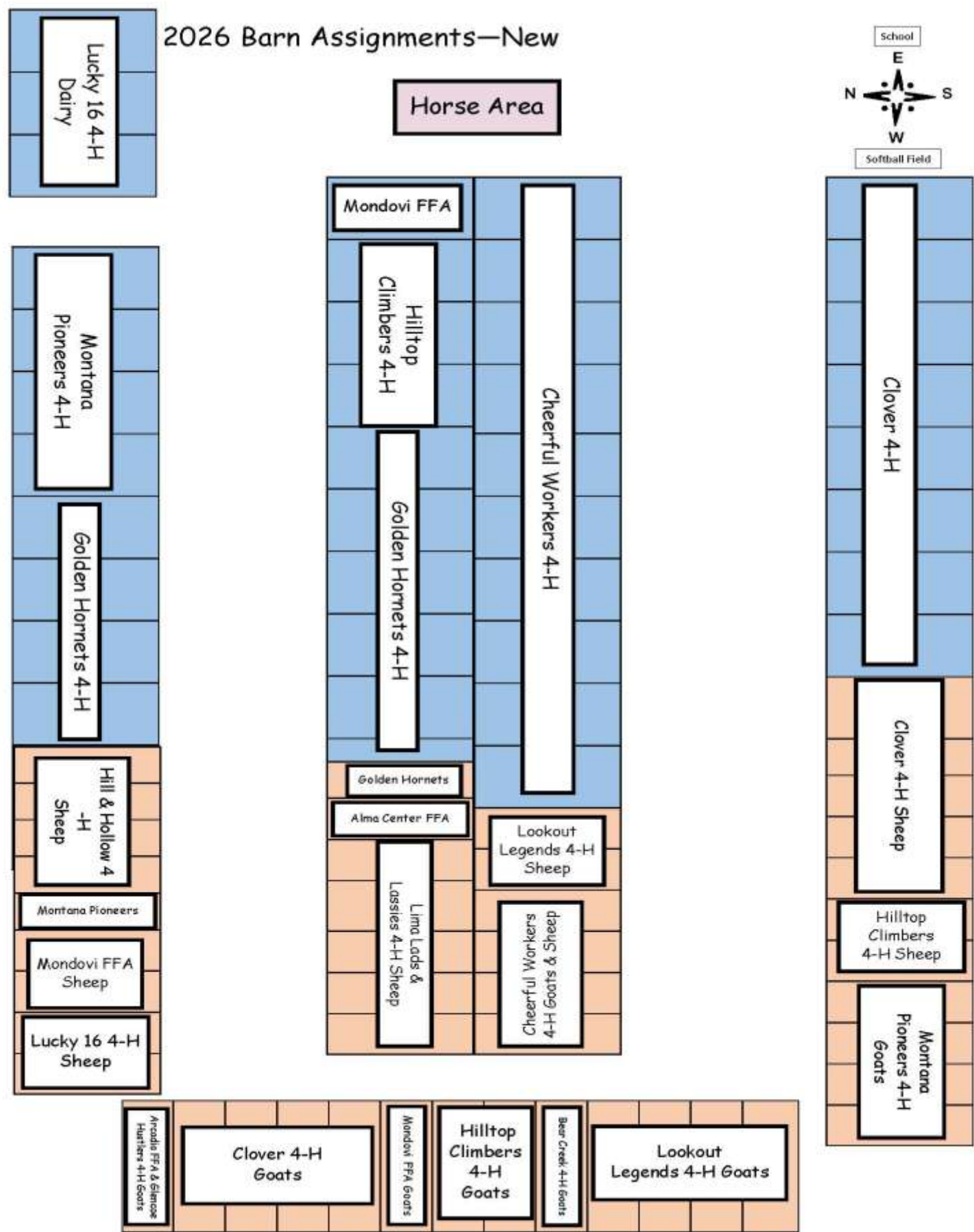


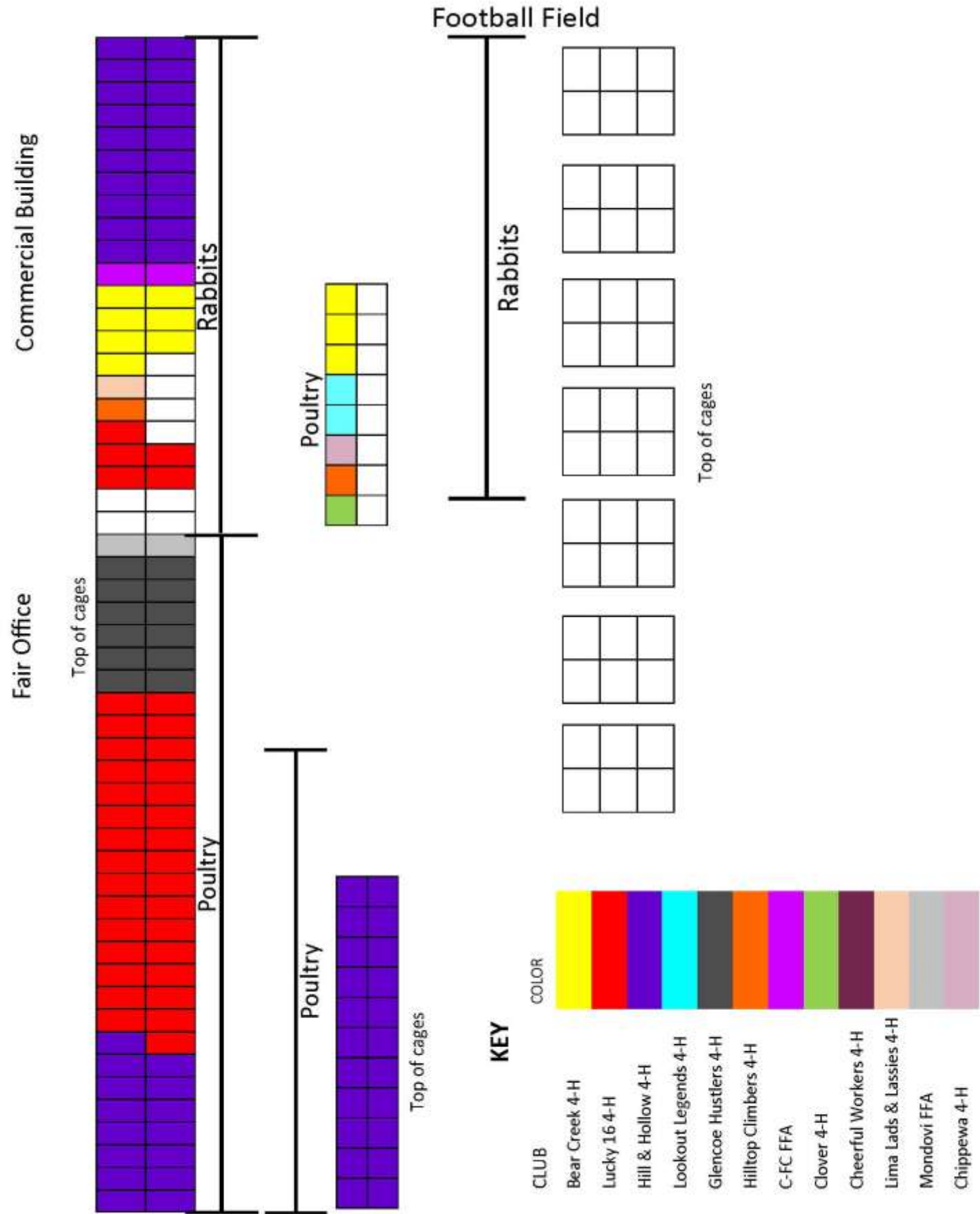
2026 Barn Assignments—Red Barn



2026 Barn Assignments—Swine Barn







2026 Buffalo/Pepin Fair Herdsmanship FAQ

Q: What is judged in herdsmanship?

A: There are 8 categories judged in herdsmanship: the animals' feed and water quality, the animals' grooming and cleanliness, if the animals have space to lay down, if the animals are secured, the aisles' cleanliness, bedding and feed storage, decorations, and clear animal information signs. Each category is scored from 0 (very poor or absent) to 5 (excellent).

Q: Who judges herdsmanship?

A: Each 4-H Club or FFA Chapter must assign an older member (9th grade or older), volunteer, or parent to judge for their club.

Q: When does my club judge herdsmanship?

A: The herdsmanship judging schedule will be released on **July 23rd**. It will be emailed to club and chapter leaders. During the fair, it can be found in the Fair Office.

Q: What happens if my club/chapter does not judge during their assigned time?

A: Any club or chapter that does not complete their assigned judging time will be disqualified from the herdsmanship awards.

Q: What does the herdsmanship judge need to do?

A: Each judge will complete a Google Form while walking around the barns. This form is organized by species; each club/chapter has their own section. The questions are on the 8 categories judged in herdsmanship. Before this, they will go to the Fair Office and choose 1 of 3 ways to judge:

1. Use a tablet provided in the Fair Office to complete the Google Form
2. Use the QR code in the Fair Office and complete the Google Form on their own personal device
3. Use a paper judging form to record their scores. After, they **MUST** complete the Google Form in the Fair Office electronically

Q: When will I hear the herdsmanship results?

A: Results will be announced at the 4-H Awards Ceremony on Sunday at 3 pm.

Q: Do I need to be by my animals when the herdsmanship judge is around?

A: Yes and no. Clubs/chapters are not scored directly on being by their animals or answering judges' questions. This year, a new award has been created: Most Notable Comment. This rewards clubs and chapters that go above and beyond in answering questions from the judges and the public. More information about this new award will be released shortly before the fair.

If you have any further questions about herdsmanship, contact Buffalo & Pepin 4-H Program Outreach Associate Payton Freund at payton.freund@wisc.edu or 715-279-6387 or Pepin County Extension at 715-672-5214.

2026 Buffalo County Fair Judging Schedule

Pre-Fair Events

Wednesday, June 24 - 6:00pm Foods Revue (Roger Marten Community Center)
 Wednesday, July 15 - 6:00pm Clothing Revue (Roger Marten Community Center)
 Saturday, July 18 - 9:00am Equine Show (Midnight Riders Show Arena)
 Saturday, July 25 - 9:00am Dog Show (Fairgrounds // Show Arena)
 Saturday, July 25 - 12:00pm Cat & Small Animal Show (Fairgrounds // Crops Building)
 Saturday, July 25 - 1:30pm Exotic Animal Show (Buffalo County Fairgrounds // Dairy Barn)

Thursday, July 30, 2026

9:00am Cloverbud (Red Activity Building)
 2:00pm Poultry (Poultry Barn)
 5:00pm Flowers and Houseplants (Crops Building)
 5:00pm Plant and Soil Science // Crops (Crops Building)
 5:00pm Plant and Soil Science // Garden (Crops Building)
 5:00pm Natural Science (Crops Building)
 5:00pm Swine (Show Arena)
 5:00pm Clothing (Youth Building)
 5:00pm Animal Science (Crops Building)
 5:00pm Woodworking and Electricity (Crops Building)
 5:00pm Computers (Youth Building)

Friday, July 31, 2026

9:00am Beef (Show Arena)
 9:00am Rabbits (Poultry Barn)
 *Rabbit Pee Wee Show (Poultry Barn) - Following the Rabbit Show
 9:00am Family Living & Child Development (Youth Building)
 9:00am Knitting and Crocheting (Youth Building)
 9:00am Photography (Youth Building)
 9:00am Mechanical Science (Crops Building)
 9:00am Cultural Arts (Youth Building)
 9:00am Communications (Youth Building)
 9:00am Health, Social, and Political Science (Youth Building)
 9:00am Youth Leadership (Youth Building)
 9:00am Foods and Nutrition (Youth Building)
 9:00am Booths (Crops Building)
 9:00am Home Environment (Youth Building)
 12:30pm Meat Goats and Dairy Goats (Show Arena)
 1:00pm Sheep (Show Arena)

Saturday, August 1, 2026

9:00am Dairy (Show Arena)

Post-Fair Events

Tuesday, August 4 - 9:00am Carcass Judging (Gunderson Food Service)
 Wednesday, August 5 - 7:00pm Carcass Show (Gunderson Food Service)

Buffalo & Pepin 4-H

Fair Goosechase



**Starts:
July 30
6 AM**

- 1. Create a Team of 3-4 4-H Members**
- 2. Download the Goosechase App**
- 3. Use the QR Code to join the 2026
Buffalo/Pepin Fair 4-H Goosechase**
- 4. Complete the challenges during the
fair (until Sunday, August 2, 6 PM)**
- 5. Top 3 teams win prizes!**
- 6. Winners announced after the fair
on Extension social media**

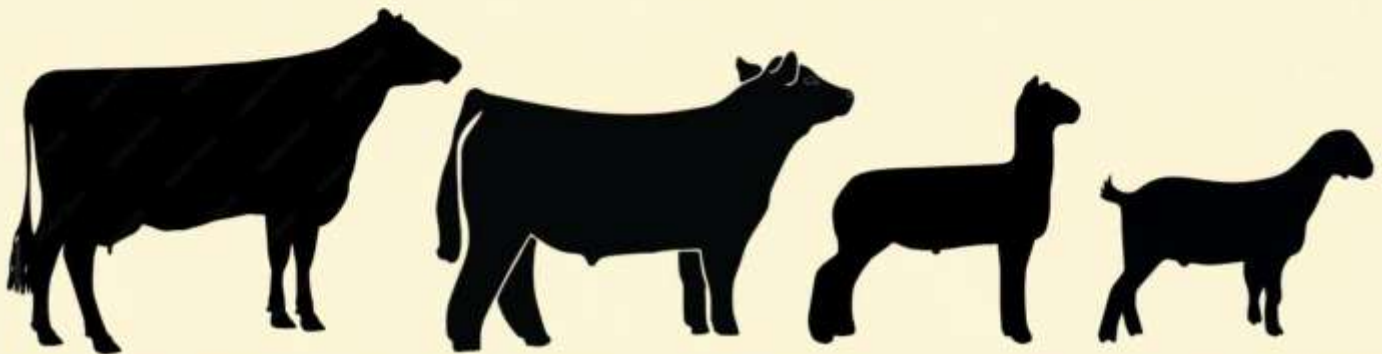
**A join code and QR code will be posted Wednesday, July 29.
Or, you can find posters around the fairgrounds!**

Where Town & Country Come Together

Alumni Livestock Show

Saturday, August 1st at 3pm - Show Arena

Please Join us to Show or to Watch!



Dairy, Beef, Sheep, and goats will be shown in their own classes. We may split classes depending on number of entries.

Criteria:

- Must be aged out of showing through 4-H/FFA
- Prior showing experience not needed
- Must find your own animal to exhibit.
- Free Entry

To Sign Up: Please stop in the Fair Office by Saturday, August 1st at 12pm or contact Lindsay Larson.



Upon entering the show ring, you will be asked a series of introduction questions on the microphone. You then will show your showmanship skills off to the judge(s)*.

**Judge(s) will be the Champion Senior Showman's of each species*

Lindsay Larson: 715-461-0511

National Honey Bee Day is August 15!
Honey bees help pollinate many of the fruits, vegetables, and flowers we enjoy every day. These pollinators play a huge role in keeping our gardens, farms, and ecosystems healthy.

Celebrate these tiny but mighty helpers by learning about bees, planting flowers, or enjoying some local honey!



STATE 4-H HORSE EVENTS

STATE GYMKHANA SHOW
SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

STATE HORSE EXPO SHOW
SEPTEMBER 18, 19, & 20, 2026



SAVE THE DATES STATE 4-H DOG EVENTS

**STATE 4-H DOG OBEDIENCE,
SHOWMANSHIP, AND RALLY;
SPEAKING, PHOTO, AND POSTER CONTESTS**
SEPTEMBER 26 & 27, 2026
LANGLADE CO. FAIRGROUNDS, ANTIGO

STATE 4-H DOG AGILITY SHOW
OCTOBER 11, 2026
OVERDALE CANINE SPORTS, SPRING VALLEY



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More Information:

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/.../agriculture.../dogs-project/>



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/>



Join the statewide search for aquatic invasive species!

Snapshot Day is a statewide, one-day event connecting volunteers, water lovers, and local conservation groups in a search for aquatic invasive species (AIS). This year, Snapshot Day will take place on Saturday, August 8th at over 20+ locations in Wisconsin.

By participating in Snapshot Day, you can help protect Wisconsin's rivers, lakes, and wetlands from these invasive plants and animals that may negatively impact habitat, wildlife, recreation and health. This event is coordinated in partnership with UW–Madison Division of Extension, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, local partners, and YOU!

Learn more at:
<https://wv.extension.wisc.edu/events/>

WHERE WILL YOU JOIN US ON SNAPSHOT DAY?

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Use the decoder above to find the answer

What kind of tree fits in your hand?

Answer:



Drought and Watering of Ornamental Plants

Hot, dry weather can be tough on trees, shrubs, and flowers, but a few simple watering practices can make a big difference. Learn how to water more effectively and help your plants stay healthy through periods of drought. [Read more...](#)



Keeping your Grass Alive During Periods of Extended Drought

Brown grass doesn't always mean it's dead. Learn how lawns respond to drought and follow these water-wise steps to help your grass survive and recover when rain returns. [Read more...](#)



Alternatives to Lawn : Groundcovers

If parts of your lawn struggle in shade, sit unused, or need constant upkeep, consider these beautiful groundcover alternatives that reduce maintenance, support pollinators, and create a more resilient landscape. [Read more...](#)

FIND ANSWERS TO YOUR
AG QUESTIONS

go.wisc.edu/agquestions

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Need an answer to your question? From the farm, field, tractor or barn, use the new UW-Madison Division of Extension [Ask Your Ag Question form](#).

Connect with Extension experts from Wisconsin and receive research-based responses and resources to answer your most pressing questions. Fill out the form to get connected with an expert, program, article or resource you need.



Mental Health FIRST AID
from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING

Mental Health First Aid

Training for agricultural
professionals and service providers

Just as CPR teaches you how to help someone having a heart attack, Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to help someone experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge. This skills-based course helps you identify, understand, and respond in crisis and non-crisis situations.

COST:

No charge (estimated value \$100)

QUESTIONS:

joy.kirkpatrick@wisc.edu or 608-263-3485

Instructors: Joy Kirkpatrick & Beverly Doll,
UW-Madison Extension educators

Training requires participants to use webcam and microphone during the virtual live training days.

UPCOMING TRAININGS:

Tues/Wed, July 28 & 29, 2026

12:30 – 3:30 pm (must attend both days).

Participants must complete a 2-hour online self-paced course prior to the 6-hour instructor-led training via Zoom.

REGISTER AT:

<https://go.wisc.edu/11mr82>

This training is funded by the North Central Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Center; 2025-2026 is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under award 2025-70028-45437.

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**Want to become a
better gardener?**



GROWING & CARING FOR PLANTS IN WISCONSIN

Foundations in Gardening

Sept. 6–Dec. 12, 2026 | 100% Online | Self-Paced Course

Early Bird registration (\$299): July 13–Aug. 9

Regular registration (\$349): Aug. 10–24



**SCAN HERE
FOR MORE INFO**

go.wisc.edu/FoundationsInGardening



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UW-Madison Division of Extension Horticulture Program

Have a gardening Question?



Lawn and garden questions



Plant diagnosis



Soil testing information



Landscape and gardening information



Plant identification



Plant disease testing information



Insect identification

hort.extension.wisc.edu/ask-a-gardening-question

For more in-depth questions that go beyond quick answers, we suggest that you or your client **book a one-on-one session with the Horticulture Help Desk.**

Appointments are available in **15 or 30 minute time slots** from **1:00 to 3:00 PM** on **Mondays and Thursdays** (and **Fridays 10 to Noon** if needed.)

During the booking process, **you may choose to meet via zoom** or request a **phone call follow up.**

Book your appointment at go.wisc.edu/HortHelpDesk

HAVE A FOOD PRESERVATION OR HOME SAFETY QUESTION?

ASK AN EXPERT!

Wisconsin residents can call the AnswerLine for **trusted, research-based** help with food safety and household questions. Staffed by trained Extension professionals, the service offers **reliable guidance you can count on.**

We Can Help With:

- ✓ Safe food canning, freezing, and drying
- ✓ Preserving jams, jellies, salsa, and more
- ✓ Caring for kitchen equipment
- ✓ Seasonal safety tips



Get In Touch:



PHONE NUMBER
1-866-540-4636

Monday-Friday
9 am-12 pm & 1-4 pm



LEARN MORE
go.wisc.edu/AnswerLine



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



This resource is made possible through a partnership with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

SUMMER MAZE

Find your way through the maze to reach the sun in the center.

Happy Summer!

START HERE

