



# Jefferson County 4-H Newsletter

UW-MADISON EXTENSION

July & August 2025

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## Jefferson County Extension Office

Open Monday – Friday:  
8:00am - 4:30pm

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## Congratulations Jefferson County 4-H Scholarship Recipients!

Joey Shoop, Kayla Kehoe, Elliot  
Small, Rylee Brattlie, Megan  
Doherty, Ellie Ebel



## AG in the Classroom Essay Contest

Cadence Filer, Secretary and active member of the Jefferson Boosters 4H Club, was selected as the winner of not only Jefferson County, but also Wisconsin Farm Bureau District 1, for her essay titled "The Mighty Oak, Memories and Me" in this year's Ag in the Classroom essay contest. Their website states, "The Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Essay Contest is an annual program that challenges 4th and 5th grade students to research and write an informative essay. The contest prompt explores Wisconsin history, geography, and economics through the lens of Wisconsin Agriculture and supports Wisconsin academic standards." This year's theme was - A Wisconsin Tree and Me: How Trees Grow Food and Fiber.

Here is what Cadence had to say about the experience. "My mom and I found out about the Ag in the Classroom contest through our club and the monthly newsletter for Jefferson County 4-H. I wanted to try and write something since it was the last year I could enter, but was unsure as writing isn't my favorite thing to do. My mom told me to just try since it was a great experience and something I could remember doing when I'm older. I found out that the topic was about Wisconsin trees. I knew I could write about a special tree at my Djaja and Busha's house ( what I call my Great Grandparents in Polish) that I grew up swinging on a tire swing, because it meant so much to me and my family and had a lot of memories. I then had to just find some information about trees in Wisconsin to add to my story. It was a shock and I got to tell my mom right away at lunch when I found out I won. She was so proud and happy. My whole family wants to read my story now and I'm super excited that it is being judged at the state level. It feels good to be honored and recognized for just sharing a story about a simple tree that has so many memories and is special to me."

As the winning essay, Farm Bureau committee volunteers Ashley Schlender and Randy Mitchell presented Cadence with her award and prizes and celebrated her accomplishment by having an ice cream party in her 5th grade classroom at West Elementary in Jefferson. Both her mom and one of her Booster club leaders work at the school and were able to join in the fun. Her essay is now being judged at the State level for 2025 and she is excited to see what happens!



# July & August 2025 4-H CALENDAR

For a complete list of dates and events please visit the online 4-H Calendar. ([Click here for calendar](#))

Date	Time	Meeting	Location
July 9-13		Jefferson County Fair	Fair Park
July 15	7:00pm	Hores & Pony Countywide Project Meeting	Fair Park
July 16	6:30pm	Youth Livestock Meeting	Extension Office
July 22	7:00pm	Junior Leaders	Extension Office
July 22	7:000p m	Livestock Committee Meeting	Extension Office
July 28	7:00pm	Dairy Committee	Extension Office
August 5	7:00pm	Horse Committee Meeting	Extension Office
August 12	7:00pm	Livestock Committee Meeting	Extension Office
August 15		Newsletter Items Due to Meghan	
August 19	7:00pm	Horse & Pony Countywide Project Meeting	Extension Office
August 20	6:30pm	Youth Livestock Meeting	Extension Office
August 25	7:00pm	Dairy Committee	Extension Office
August 26	7:00pm	Junior Leaders	Extension Office
August 31		Livestock Project Record Books & Point Cards Due	Extension Office





## PROJECT NEWS

**Information for specific projects is listed in this section. If you need help with a project not listed please call the EXT Office at 920-674-7295. Projects are listed in alphabetical order. If you want to lead a countywide project please contact the Extension Office for more information.**

**(Click here for online 4-H calendar)**

### Cloverbud Project

Project Meetings will resume in the fall! Have a great summer! Questions? Reach out to the Extension Office at 920-674-7295.

### Dairy Project

The next Dairy Committee Meetings will be held on July 28 and August 25 at 7:00pm at the Extension Office.

### Dog Project

Watch for info in the 2025-2026 4-H year!

If you have any questions about the dog project, contact Kate Anderson at (920) 723-3614 or 2mtmanderson@gmail.com.

### Lego Project

Watch for info in the 2025-2026 4-H year!

If you have questions about the Lego project, contact Charles Johnson crjohnson.51510@gmail.com or 920-342-9783.

### Livestock Project

Includes: beef, dairy, goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep and swine.

The next Livestock Committee Meeting will be held on June 10 at 7:00pm at the Extension Office.

Upcoming Events:

- July 9-11: Livestock Skill-a-thon Contest will be taking place from 10:00am-12:00pm at the 4-H Booth.

### Natural Science Project

**2025-July/Aug Natural Science, Adventures, & Environmental**

**Project Info**

**Exhibit a Project Activity and Enjoy the Fair and Summer**

**Time for the finishing touches !**

For those exhibiting at the county fair, it is time to put the finishing touches on your exhibits. Remember that the humidity is not a friend when drying paint or glue on your projects.

**In June you were encouraged to double check what you signed up to exhibit. Did you Print the pages from the Fair Book for Dept 15. Read the general Rules and any special ones listed for the Divisions. Did you Locate and highlight the specific information you needed to know for exhibiting at the fair. Hopefully you were ready and presented the items or information listed for the Class number you signed up to exhibit. Checked the schedule, saw judging times and noted that Archery is listed for Sunday, July 13th**

**Cloverbud members are Sprouts Static Exhibitors with all projects judged on June 29th. Junior Natural Sciences also judged on June 29th.**

**It will be great to see your entries displayed.**

**Enjoy the summer**

**Take pictures and make notes of all the things you enjoy.** Take time to **sit and watch** the **birds** and **bugs** as you have a snack . **Listen for the wind** in the leaves of the trees or **smell** the campfire at night when camping. Maybe just **feel** the tree bark with your fingertips. Or even just **lay** in the grass **and watch** the clouds go floating by. **Make up a poem** about what you see. **Enjoy your backyard or beyond with friends or on a vacation.**

**Visit County or State Parks, Conservation Area or Community Programs**

There are many summer activities available in our county or near by. It is a great time to enjoy any or all of them. Look for their listings and plan to check them out.

Stop by the **Hoard Museum in Fort Atkinson** and see if they have **the special exhibit about Habitats**. The seven Habitat stations around the outside of the Museum offered great information.

Any of the activities and events can be part of the 4-H Natural Science Project Areas for next year. If you have Natural Science project questions, need information, or are looking for more info text/call or email Sharon at 920-650-7110 or [rwses@idcnet.com](mailto:rwses@idcnet.com). You may also contact the Natural Sciences Superintendent, Cheryl Mierendorf, 920-723-5138. I'll be looking for your Fair Exhibits!

**Enjoy outdoor activities whenever and wherever you can. Be safe and respectful of others and all wildlife. See you in September.**

### Plant & Soils Science Project

**2025 July- Aug Plant & Soils – Crops, Vegetables, Flowers & House Plants Enjoy! Exhibit! Earn Clover Award Points!**

**It's Fair Time!**

Did you sign up to exhibit? Or are you planning on attending the Fair to see and learn about the many different exhibits? Find one you would like to do next year.

**Earn Clover Award Points!**

Join me during Fair and share about plants and pollinators Contact me(Sharon) or the 4-H Booth at the Fair for the time and place of this activity.

**For those exhibiting.**

Watch your plants daily. Turn houseplant pots so plants grow straight, not leaning to one side reaching for light. Keep plants in a protected place, watch for bugs and water regularly.

Hopefully you are able to keep up with the stormy weather, protecting your garden plants. Changes to them can happen quickly. Protect them, the best you can, from weather and insect damage. (tip—try using row cover materials) Enjoy them and/or prepare some as a Fair exhibit.

**Double check what you signed up to exhibit.**

If you have not printed the pages from the Fair Book for **Dept 13**

**Plant & Soil Sciences and Dept 14 Flowers.** I encourage you to do so. **Mark and Read Carefully** how to prepare each of your entries. **Make a card for each entry, listing the details for that entry and use it as you prepare your exhibit. Take it to the Fair with you for a reference as you talk to the judge. Also mark your calendar with the judging dates and times.**

**Cloverbud members are Sprouts Static Exhibitors with all projects judged on June 29th. Juniors will be judged on July 8th for Departments 13 and 14.**

**Double check the Fair website for any changes.**

#### To Do

**Note rule #7 under Dept 14** asks for a note card identifying plants and flowers being exhibited. *Make a copy from the Fair Book and have it with your exhibit or take the information with you and fill one out when you check in your exhibit.. If you need help you may contact Sharon. (see below)*

Also use **A2935 Evaluating & Judging Flowers & Indoor Plants** or **A3306 Exhibiting and Judging Vegetables** as a guides for preparing your exhibit. Remember they are guides for preparing and not the details for our county exhibits. If you have not seen or printed them go to the website [learningstore.uwex.edu](http://learningstore.uwex.edu) . Choose view PDF and download the publication to save and/or print. Keep for a hands on reference.

If you have a problem or would like to discuss a question, text/call or email Sharon at 920-650-7110 or [rwses@idcnet.com](mailto:rwses@idcnet.com). Also, you can contact the Fair Superintendents, Jeannie Taylor, 920-650-6319 or Paulette Timm, 920-699-5931.

#### In August,

**Enjoy your plants and harvesting from your garden with your family.** You may want to experiment with successive planting or do some companion planting for late summer or fall

**Compact bush beans** provide plenty of **creative companion planting options** in any type of garden. In intensive **raised bed gardens**, you might anchor the ends of double rows of bush snap beans with summer savory or upright dill plants, two herbs often paired with green beans in the kitchen.

**Or, try this companion planting idea intended to protect beans from pests.** Plant bush beans after spring radishes, cilantro or arugula, with a few of the bolting plants left behind. Radish, cilantro and arugula flowers attract beneficial insects, and can help to confuse pests in search of beans. You can also inter plant bush beans with onions to deter pests from both crops.

**Enjoy** your good garden vegetables and smell your flowers. Send me pictures!

May you have a great summer.

Sharon at 920-650-7110 or [rwses@idcnet.com](mailto:rwses@idcnet.com).

## Rocketry Project

Watch for info in the 2025-2026 4-H year!

Questions? Reach out to the Extension Office at 920-674-7295.

## Shooting Sports

Watch for info in the 2025-2026 4-H year!

If you have questions about the shooting sports project, contact David Saxby at [jeffersonwi4hshootingsports@gmail.com](mailto:jeffersonwi4hshootingsports@gmail.com)

## LEADER NEWS

### Leaders Board Meeting

The next Leader's Board Meeting is on Thursday, September 18 at 6:30pm at the Extension Office.

### Leaders Association Meeting

The next Leader's Association Meeting is on Thursday, August 21 at 6:30pm at the Extension Office.

## OLDER MEMBERS

### Junior Leaders

The next Junior Leaders meeting is on June 24 at 7:00pm at the Extension Office.

Junior Leaders is for youth in 6th -12th grades. Any 4-H member in those grades is welcome to join our group!

If you have any questions, please contact Alyssa at 920-723-9039 (call/text) or [jakewith07@yahoo.com](mailto:jakewith07@yahoo.com)

## CLUB NEWS

### Farmington All Stars

The Farmington All-Stars met Tuesday June 3 at the Farmington Town Hall.

Before the official meeting, members weeded and the planted flowers in front of the town hall in appreciation for the town letting the club use its facilities for meetings for all of these years.

After reviewing the treasurer's and secretary's reports, the club heard about several upcoming volunteering activities. The club has agreed to work the Watertown Agribusiness Club's Dairy Breakfast over Father's Day weekend. The club's official shift is Sunday morning from 9:30 to 12:30 but members can also volunteer from 6:30-9:30 on Saturday morning and have it counted toward the Farmington All Stars' service.

In addition, club members are welcome to volunteer at the Jefferson Dairy Breakfast June 28 at the Kutz Dairy Farm, for which a new nonprofit has been created.

The club then heard updates about the Jefferson County Fair and planned to create a new club banner and animal project banners to display at the fair. Jefferson County 4-H is looking for volunteers to man its food booth in cooperation with the Jefferson County Farm Bureau and club members can sign up for that.

The All-Stars plan to host the annual fair picnic on the Friday night of Fair, and plans are being made for an August meeting, probably at the Farmington Ballpark.

- Michael Wilson, Reporter



## 4-H COMMUNICATIONS

### 4-H Family Newsletter

The 4-H Family Newsletter is a source of information for families to learn about opportunities, activities, workshops, deadlines and other information about Jefferson County 4-H. Leaders and members may submit articles. The newsletter is assembled and distributed through the EXT Office. The newsletter also serves as the essential source of information for Jefferson County Fair, Meat Animal Project Committee (MAP) and other important project and activities.

If you are hosting a project meeting, activity or event that the entire county would benefit from, please be sure to submit your article to the EXT Office by the 15th of each month. This includes any project meeting dates, community service or fundraisers that might be relevant to members outside your club. This is an easy way to help grow your programs and events. Spread the word! Please note the EXT Office may edit submissions based on newsletter space.

### Weekly Clover Connection

The Clover Connection is sent via email through 4honline each week usually on Mondays. The Clover Connection includes important information for the upcoming week. Please watch your email each week for important news and changes.

*Note: If you "unsubscribe" to these emails, you will NOT receive any emails through 4honline.*

### 4-H Calendar

For up to date information on what is happening in 4-H, check out the [4-H Calendar](#). Dates are being added, changed, or cancelled all the time. Watch the calendar for updates!



# ★ CLOVERBUD DAY CAMP 2025 ★



# **YOUTH EXHIBITORS**

## **PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN THE SKILLATHON AT THE JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIR!**



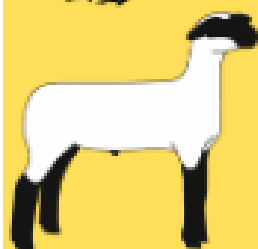
**Where: In the Lobby in the Activity Center**

**Times to Participate in the Skillathon**

**Wednesday: 10:00am- 1:00pm**

**Thursday: 8:00am- 1:00pm**

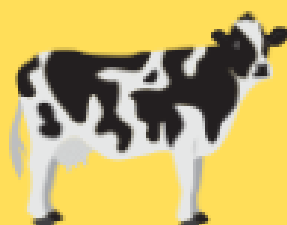
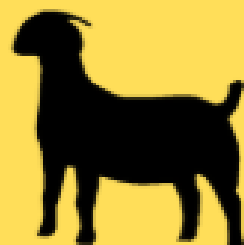
**Friday: 8:00am-1:00pm**



BY PARTICIPATING IN THE  
SKILLATHON THE WINNER  
WILL RECEIVE A PRIZE!



**If you bring your Livestock Point Card for  
EVERY test you take you get 5 points!**



**Skillathons Offered- Junior, Intermediate, Senior:**  
**Horse, Dairy Cow, Beef, Sheep, Swine, Meat Goat,**  
**Dairy Goat, Rabbits, Poultry**



# FARMER'S OLYMPICS



**AGES  
12 & UP**

The Farmer's Olympics is a fun and competitive event where teams of four go head-to-head in seven exciting farm-themed challenges.

**SUNDAY, JULY 13  
12:00PM**

**REGISTER ONLINE:**

**HERE**

**\$20  
PER TEAM**

**DRAFT HORSE ARENA**  
(WEST SIDE OF JEFFERSON  
COUNTY FAIR PARK)



**ACTIVITIES:**

**COW PIE DISCUS  
MANURE RAKE TOSS  
HEN PECK  
& MORE!**





# 4-H AWARDS & BANQUET INFORMATION

## Awards Banquet Program Cover Contest

Calling All 4-H member! Do you like to draw? Would you like your art work showcased at the countywide level? Here's your chance to help design the Program Cover for the upcoming 4-H Awards Banquet! We are looking for hand-drawn (not digital) cover art that features our theme "Celebration of 4-H". All drawings should be 8 1/2 x 11 and must be submitted to the Leaders Board via the UWEX no later than September 15th. Winner will be selected at the September Board meeting.

## Clover Award

Anyone in 4-H can apply and receive a Clover Award just by participating! The Clover Award program recognizes 4-H members for the things they do in 4-H. By participating in activities members earn points towards five levels of recognition. If you are doing things in 4-H start filling out your Clover Award today! You can earn a Clover Award in one year, or it may take a couple of years. The more active you are the easier it is to get points. Check out the easy to complete application by clicking here - [Clover Award Application](#). Applications are due September 1st.

## Project Award

Apply for a Project Award! You may apply for up to 3 project awards per year. Please continue to use whatever method you want to show your growth and leadership in a particular project area. You can make a video, do a scrapbook, write a speech, make a display or be as creative as you want. Project Awards are separate from Record Book Awards. [Project Award Applications](#) are due September 1st.

## Officer Books

Officer Books Club officers - Treasurer, Secretary, Reporter/Historian are encouraged to keep a record book throughout the year of the club's happenings. Sample books are available at the EXT Office or on the [website](#). They are due to the EXT office by September 1st.

## Key Award

The 4-H Key Award is intended to be the top honor a county can give to any 4-H member. The Wisconsin 4-H Key Award recognizes 4-H participants who have demonstrated consistent growth in their 4-H involvement, developed and applied their leadership skills, and actively participated in the functions of their 4-H club and community. Older 4-H members are encouraged to apply for the 4-H key award. The application is based on participation in activities, an essay showing how 4-H has helped you to gain life skills and the completion of a leadership project. If you are interested in

applying or at least starting the application process please contact the Extension Office. Key Award applications are due September 1st.

## Record Book Award

Every 4-H member is highly encouraged to complete their year with a Record Book. Please check with your club, as some clubs have a Record Book requirement. Youth wishing to participate in the Record Book Award must have their Record Book turned in to the EXT Office by September 1st. Your club leader can bring it in, or you can bring it in as an individual. Click here for the [Member Record Book](#). Click here for the [Cloverbud Record Book](#).

## Nominations Sought for 4-H Volunteers

This year we will be awarding TWO Volunteer Awards at the Awards Celebration. The "Volunteer of the Year Award" (a volunteer 10 years or less) and "Lifetime Volunteer of the Year Award" (A volunteer over 10 years of service). Often leaders are not comfortable nominating themselves, but each of us has worked with some outstanding volunteers. Click here for the [Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form](#). Click here for [Lifetime Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form](#). Nominations are due by September 1st. with a Record Book

## Friend of 4-H Award

We are looking for individuals and businesses who go above and beyond to help the 4-H program through their donations of service, time, money, etc. Do you know of someone who is not a leader or member but does so much for 4-H? Or someone who is a leader or member but does things for 4-H as part of their occupation? Nominate them for the Friend of 4-H Award. We get few nominations each year and want to make sure our supporters know how much we appreciate them. Click here for the [Friend of 4-H Nomination Form](#). Nominations are due by September 1st.

## Green and Gold Award

Do you have a volunteer, youth or adult, in your club that goes above and beyond? Nominate them for the Green and Gold Award. This award may be given to youth and certified leaders within your club that have demonstrated a consistent effort of volunteer services to their club, county, project and/or the association. Adult volunteers must be certified leaders with Jefferson County 4-H. Click here for the [Green and Gold Nomination Form](#). Nominations are due by September 1st.

# DIRECTORY

## Leader's Association Board

Name	Club	Phone
Cindy Jaquith, President	Stone School	920-723-9517
Rachel Thom, President Elect	Country Roots	920-728-5144
Deb Ebel, Secretary	Jefferson Boosters	715-563-2986
Becki Durkee, Treasurer	Lake Ripley	608-444-4509
Angie Greving, Director	Farmington All Stars	608-295-4959
Alyssa Jaquith, Director	Stone School	920-723-9039
Lisa Small, Director	Ixonia Victory	920-285-7204
Kimberley Kreger, Director	Ideal Clever Clovers	920-723-1191
Karen Gefvert, Director	Rock River Clovers	608-617-2772

## Countywide Project Leaders

Project	Name	Phone
Clothing	Kimberly Kreger	920-723-1191
Dairy	Bill Uecker	920-285-9125
Dogs	Kate Anderson	920-728-3614
Horse & Pony	Jordan Soleska	<a href="mailto:jchpchair@gmail.com">jchpchair@gmail.com</a>
Junior Leaders	Alyssa Jaquith	920-723-9039
Lego	Charles Johnson	920-342-9783
Livestock	Justin Thom	262-490-1313
Plant & Natural Sciences	Sharon Schweitzer	920-650-7110
Poultry	Joy Brattlie	608-220-3933
Rabbits	Joy Brattlie	608-220-3933
Rocketry (Aerospace)	Brett/Roald Ager-Hart	920-674-4963
Shooting Sports	David Saxby	<a href="mailto:jeffersonwi4hshootingsports@gmail.com">jeffersonwi4hshootingsports@gmail.com</a>

## Extension Jefferson County Staff

Name	Program Area	Phone	Email
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Meghan Splinter	Support Staff—Administrative Assistant	920-674-7297	<a href="mailto:msplinter@jeffersoncountywi.gov">msplinter@jeffersoncountywi.gov</a>
Jerry Wilcenski	4-H Program Educator	920-674-7299	<a href="mailto:wilcenski@wisc.edu">wilcenski@wisc.edu</a>
Steven Chmielewski	Community Development Educator	262-548-7781	<a href="mailto:steven.chmielewski@wisc.edu">steven.chmielewski@wisc.edu</a>
Alison Pfau	Regional Dairy Educator	920-674-7298	<a href="mailto:alison.pfau@wisc.edu">alison.pfau@wisc.edu</a>
Lisa Krolow	FoodWise Program Coordinator	262-741-4957	<a href="mailto:lisa.krolow@wisc.edu">lisa.krolow@wisc.edu</a>
Chrissy Wen	Area Extension Director	262-741-4951	<a href="mailto:christine.wen@wisc.edu">christine.wen@wisc.edu</a>
Josh Kamps	Regional Crops Educator	608-673-0680	<a href="mailto:joshua.kamps@wisc.edu">joshua.kamps@wisc.edu</a>
Julie Hill	Horticulture Outreach Specialist	262-374-4191	<a href="mailto:julie.hill@wisc.edu">julie.hill@wisc.edu</a>