



Jefferson County 4-H Newsletter

UW-MADISON EXTENSION

January 2026

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Jefferson County Extension Office

Open Monday – Friday:
8:00am - 4:30pm

Jerry Wilcenski

4-H Program Educator

wilcenski@wisc.edu

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Administrative Specialist

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920-674-7440

864 Collins Road
Jefferson, WI 53549
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Christmas Line Dancing

6:00-10:00pm
January 2nd
Open to the General Public!

\$5 Entry Fee

Jefferson County Fair Park
Activity Center

Activities Available

- Line Dancing
- Silent Auction
- Local Baked Goods
- Various Drinks
- Walking Tacos

January 2026 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
Dec 24-Jan 2		Jefferson County Extension Office Closed	
January 4	12:00pm	Dairy Quiz Bowl Practice	Extension
January 5	6:00pm	Meats Judging Practice	Extension
January 6	6:00pm	Rabbit Project Meeting	Extension
January 6	7:00pm	Poultry Project Meeting	Extension
January 7	7:00pm	Horse Committee Meeting	Extension
January 11	4:30pm	Archery Safety Meeting (Junior)	Oconomowoc
January 11	5:15pm	Archery Safety Meeting (Intermediate)	Oconomowoc
January 11	6:00pm	Archery Safety Meeting (Senior)	Oconomowoc
January 12	6:00pm	Meats Judging Practice	Extension
January 13	6:00pm	Beginning Carcass Meeting	Extension
January 13	6:00pm	Archery Safety Meeting (Junior)	Watertown
January 13	6:45pm	Archery Safety Meeting (Intermediate)	Watertown
January 13	7:00pm	Sheep Meeting	Extension
January 13	7:00pm	Swine Kick-Off Meeting	Extension
January 13	7:30pm	Archery Safety Meeting (Senior)	Watertown
January 15		Newsletter Items Due to Jerry	
January 18	4:30pm	Archery Project Meeting (Junior)	Oconomowoc
January 18	5:15pm	Archery Project Meeting (Intermediate)	Oconomowoc
January 18	6:00pm	Archery Project Meeting (Senior)	Oconomowoc
January 19	6:00pm	Cloverbud Project Meeting	Extension
January 19	6:00pm	Meats Judging Practice	Extension
January 20	6:00pm	Archery Project Meeting (Junior)	Watertown
January 20	6:45pm	Archery Project Meeting (Intermediate)	Watertown
January 20	7:30pm	Archery Project Meeting (Senior)	Watertown
January 25	4:30pm	Archery Project Meeting (Junior)	Oconomowoc
January 25	5:15pm	Archery Project Meeting (Intermediate)	Oconomowoc
January 25	6:00pm	Archery Project Meeting (Senior)	Oconomowoc
January 26	6:00pm	Dairy Educational Meeting	Extension
January 26	6:00pm	Meats Judging Practice	Extension
January 26	7:00pm	Dairy Committee Meeting	Extension
January 27	6:00pm	Lego Project Meeting	Extension
January 27	6:00pm	Archery Project Meeting (Junior)	Watertown
January 27	6:45pm	Archery Project Meeting (Intermediate)	Watertown
January 27	7:30pm	Archery Project Meeting (Senior)	Watertown

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

Are you in 5K-2nd grade and interested in seeing what 4-H is all about? Join our Cloverbud Project! We will explore different areas of what 4-H has to offer.

We're so excited to be hosting Cloverbud meetings again this 4-H year. After most of the meetings, we'll send your Cloverbud home with a few more activities to extend their learning about the topic. Registration is required—<https://forms.gle/EePUV9hkXjMual5s8>

Cloverbud Meetings will be held at 6:00pm at the Extension Office one Monday a month during the months of October, November, January, March and May.

- Monday, January 19 - 6:00pm— Extension Office
- Monday, March 16 - 6:00pm— Extension Office
- Monday, May 18 - 6:00pm— Fair Park

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

Dairy Project

The next Dairy Committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 26 at 7 pm at the Extension Office. There will be a Dairy Educational Meeting at 6pm at the Extension Office on January 26.

All dairy youth and adult volunteers are encouraged to attend! If you have any questions or ideas please reach out to Tracy Brandel mtbrandel@gmail.com or Ashley Schlender ashleyschlender@gmail.com.

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.

Horse Project

The next Horse Committee Meeting will be held on January 7 at 7:00pm at the Extension Office.

The next Horse & Pony Countywide Committee Meeting will be held on January 20 at 7:00pm at the Extension Office.

Lego Project

The next Lego Project Meeting will be held on January 27 at 6:00pm at the Extension Office.

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 Youth Livestock Committee is hosting a Christmas Line Dancing Fundraiser on January 2nd at the Jefferson County Fair Park from 6:00pm-10:00pm. There will be fun activities, a silent auction, food, dancing and more! We hope you can join!

Upcoming Meetings:

January 2—6pm-10pm—Christmas Line Dancing Fundraiser—Fair Park
 January 5—6pm—Meats Judging Practice—Extension
 January 6—6pm—Rabbit Meeting—Extension
 January 6—7pm—Poultry Meeting—Extension
 January 12—6pm—Meats Judging Practice—Extension
 January 13—6pm—Beginning Carcass Meeting—Extension
 January 13—7pm—Swine Kick-Off Meeting—Extension
 January 13—7pm—Sheep Meeting—Extension
 January 19—6pm—Meats Judging Practice—Extension
 January 26—6pm—Meats Judging Practice—Extension

Natural Science Project

Natural Science Projects include Beekeeping, Birds, Insects, Fishing, Forestry, Wildflowers, Hunting & Wildlife, Adventures, and Environmental projects.

If you have questions about the Natural Science project, contact Sharon at 920-650-7110 or rwses@idcnet.com.

Plant & Soil Science Project

Include these project areas – Crops, Vegetables, Flowers, House Plants and Plant Crafts

Text 920-650-7110 or email, rwses@idcnet.com with question, comments or concerns.

Shooting Sports

Shooting sports is a great life skill to learn at a young age. With 4-H shooting sports the kids will learn the basic fundamentals of safety, awareness, posture, eye dominance, accuracy vs consistent grouping and much more. We want the kids to enjoy shooting sports along with knowing the responsibilities there is to shooting this type of equipment. We have 3 age groups with shooting sports; Junior is 3rd-5th grade(8-11yrs). Intermediate is 6th-8th grade(12-15yrs). Senior is 9th-1 year after high school graduation(16-19yrs). We split our shooting sports season into 2 groups; Indoor and outdoor. Indoor we do only archery and outdoor we do 3D archery, air pistol, air rifle, .22lr pistol, .22lr rifle, shotgun (trap), and muzzleloader. Each discipline is \$5 for the season. Safety Meetings are required to have before shooting per 4-H nationally. Safety meetings and first practices can not be on the same day. But they will still be able to shoot if wanted.

Indoor dates:

Safety meeting/equipment check and to do some shooting on 1/11 and 1/13. Practices Sundays and/or Tuesdays 1/18 and

1/20 to 3/22 and 3/24. Each archer is required to have 3 practices to be eligible to participate in the County Competition.

Outdoor dates:

Outdoor shooting will start in April. There will be another email sent out as the time comes closer. Sundays; air rifle/ pistol, shotgun, .22lr rifle. Mondays; 3D archery, .22lr pistol, muzzleloader.

Sundays: Oconomowoc Sportsmans Club

Mill Rd, Sullivan, WI 53178

4:30p.m (junior), 5:15p.m (intermediate), 6p.m (senior)

Tuesdays: Watertown Archers

212 Market St, Watertown, WI 53094

6:00p.m (junior), 6:45p.m (intermediate), 7:00p.m (senior)

Times might change depending on attendance.

Instructors

We are in need for more instructors for both indoor (archery) and outdoor (rifle, pistol, shotgun, muzzleloader, archery). Signing up to be an instructor doesn't mean you need to devote every week to shooting sports. You can help out with what you can and give some ease to the other instructors when you are available to help out. If interested you can reply-all back to this email.

Leader Certification Training Workshops – Wisconsin 4-H (link)

State 4H Shoots

There are multiple shoots around the state held by other 4H counties. Last year we had a handful of kids go to them and had a good time with them. Kids 14 years old and older that have attended the state shoots can be eligible to shoot at the 4H Nationals in Nebraska.

If you have questions about the shooting sports project, contact David Saxby at jeffersonwi4hshootingports@gmail.com

LEADER NEWS

Leaders Board Meeting

The next Leader's Board Meeting is on Thursday, February 19 at 6:30pm at the Extension Office.

Leaders Association Meeting

The next Leader's Association Meeting is on Thursday, March 19 at 6:30pm at the Extension Office.

OLDER MEMBERS

Junior Leaders

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.

CLUB NEWS

Farmington All Stars

The Farmington All-Stars 4-H Club met Dec. 2 at the Bark River Lanes bowling alley in Rome for the club Christmas party and service gathering. The club collected items for care packages to send to American Armed Service members who are serving overseas over the holiday season. The care packages included packs of cards and popular games, snacks, sweets and other needed items such as heat wipes. Then the club had pizza and enjoyed bowling. Later this month, members are collecting "wish list" items for residents of Alden Estates in Jefferson, and after Christmas, members will be joining Alden Estates residents for a game of Bingo, with prizes provided by the club.

Michael Wilson, Reporter



Rock River Clovers

Rock River Clovers met at Rockwell Elementary on December 3, 2025. Roll call was to name your favorite winter activity. Speeches were given by Hayden, Fynnley, and Mallory Gefvert. We wrote out holiday cards for Meals on Wheels. Our club participated in the Fort Atkinson Holiday parade on December 7th. We will be doing bell ringing for the Salvation Army at Festival Foods on two Fridays in December.

We will also be doing a talent show for the residents of Reena Senior Living on December 30th. Our cloverbuds shared their projects with the club that they created just before the meeting. It was hand-printed wreaths, the cloverbud project is lead by our cloverbud youth leader, Jillian Wangerin. To close the meeting, we did a white elephant gift exchange.

Kirk Anderson, 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!

4-H Food Stand at the Fair Park

Our next volunteer opportunities for the 4-H food stand at the Jefferson County Fair Park are listed below. Please consider volunteering and sign up for one of the following dates:

- January 11 for JCHP Tack Sale - [Sign up here!](#)
- January 24 for a Small Animal Sale - [Sign up here!](#)
- March 7 & 8 for a Rabbit Show - [Sign up here!](#)
- March 15 - [Sign up here!](#)

4-H State Project Guide

A 4-H project is an area you want to learn more about during the year. There are projects on just about any topic you would like to study and explore, from art to woodworking, from computers to rabbits, from sewing to mechanical science.

So how do you know what projects are available to you? This resource lists all the possible projects that 4-H offers, with a table of contents list on the first two pages and more detail in the pages that follow. In addition, your club organizational leader or county-based educator can tell you what projects and resources are available in your county.

For the upcoming 2025-2026 4-H year, use these guides:

- [Full 4-H Project Guide](#)
- [4-H Project Guide Quick Version](#)

2026 WI 4-H Scholarship

The application for the Wisconsin 4-H Scholarship process is now posted on our website and will **open January 1, 2026**.

For the application form, specific scholarship information, and complete instructions about what to include in the application documents, 4-H youth can visit <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/wisconsin-4-h-scholarships/>.

Eligible seniors and 4-H alumni must submit applications electronically to our review committee no later than **11:59 p.m. on March 1, 2026**. Applicants who are awarded scholarships will be notified via email by mid-May.

Announcements are currently being sent to families and eligible seniors. Please share in your counties as you are able.

For further questions, please email Development & Finance Assistant Simon Harty at simon.harty@wisc.edu.

Jefferson County Fair Park Update

Fairest of the Fair: Applications Close Dec. 22nd!

The Fairest of the Fair represents the Jefferson County Fair and should be dependable, mature, and passionate about the Fair!

Prizes:

The Fairest of the Fair receives a \$1,000 scholarship at the end of their year. Fairest Royalty will also receive a scholarship at the conclusion of their royalty year.

Nominations & Applications:

Nominations: Accepted until December 1st

Applications: Accepted until December 22nd

Eligibility & Mandatory Dates:

Must be 18 years or older

Must be available for:

January 5, 2026 – Judging Day

January 9, 2026 – Coronation

July 8–12, 2026 – Jefferson County Fair

Have questions about the job? Reach out the Fair office and we can get you in touch with current Fairest of the Fair!

Poster Contest

Every year, we look for art to be the official poster for the Fair... and that contest is now open!

Youth in grades 5-12 are welcome to create and submit a poster which will be the art for the 2026 Fair. Here's what you need to do:

Poster Requirements:

- 18"x24" (horizontal or vertical) two-dimensional art. Examples of mediums are: colored pencil, watercolor, oil paint, acrylic paint, spray paint, marker, graphite, or digital drawing
 - Must include the Fair Dates (July 8th-12th, 2026)
 - Must include the 2026 theme: "Let the Good Times Grow"
- What to Turn In:
- Final hard copy of the art
- Entry form (found on our website here: [files.ashx](#). If you don't

have a printer, come to the Activity Center and we can print it for you!)

Deadline:

- All art must be submitted by **Monday, February 2nd by 5pm.**
- Drop off your artwork any weekday from 8am-4:30pm to the Activity Center located at 503 N. Jackson Ave, Jefferson WI 53549

Market Beef DNA & Weigh-in

Important: This information applies only to **MARKET beef entries**. Animals in breeding divisions or those not participating in the Animal Auction do not need DNA on file with the Fair Park.

Beef Weigh-In (optional):

December 13th, 9–10 AM in the Indoor Arena
Mandatory for Rate of Gain participation

Tags & DNA:

You may purchase 840 RFID tags at the Fair Office any weekday, 8 AM – 4:30 PM

Costs: RFID 840 tag = \$5, DNA envelope = \$10

f attending weigh-in, you can purchase tags/DNA envelopes and turn in animal DNA there

Deadline: All Market Steer DNA must be at the Fair Office by **Monday, December 15th, 5 PM**

For full instructions on tagging and pulling DNA, visit our website here: [Animal Exhibitor Checklist & Health](#)

Fair Member Hub

We're excited to introduce the **Fair Member Hub**—a new, easy-to-access space where exhibitors and club leaders can stay up to date. Since monthly newsletters don't always make it to your inbox, the Hub gathers important announcements, deadlines, and updates all in one convenient location.

To find the Fair Member Hub, go to **JCoFair.com**, hover over "**Exhibit Info**," and select "**Fair Member Hub**." There you'll find a list of all monthly newsletters along with key reminders and upcoming dates.

Please note that the Fair Member Hub will show the exact same information that is in inFAIRmations. If you prefer to get your information in email rather than on a website, don't worry because you'll still receive this monthly!

Youth Organization Applications

The Jefferson County Fair welcomes community members to exhibit their animal and static projects. When exhibitors sign up in the Junior Department, they must choose their **registered youth organization** from the a list in FairEntry.

To be on this list, Youth Organizations must complete an application once every 5 years. Each subsequent year, groups will be contacted to opt in or out of exhibiting (the Fair Coordinator emails each club leader in the Winter prior to Fair). Adult leaders have until **March 1st** to either apply OR opt into exhibiting.

If you were a club leader in 2025, check your email for instructions, and information on opting in or out.



DIRECTORY

Leader's Association Board

Name	Club	Phone
Cindy Jaquith, President	Stone School	920-723-9517
Becki Durkee, Treasurer	Lake Ripley	608-444-4509
Alyssa Jaquith, Secretary	Stone School	920-723-9039
Karen Gefvert, Director	Rock River Clovers	608-617-2772
Lisa Small, Director	Ixonia Victory	920-285-7204
Kimberly Kreger, Director	Ideal Clever Clovers	920-723-1191
Willy Jacobson, Director	Twin Rivers	920-723-1773
Hunter Jacobson, Youth Director	Twin Rivers	

Countywide Project Leaders

Project	Name	Contact
Dairy	Tracy Brandel	mtbrandel@gmail.com
	Ashely Schlender	ashleyschlender@gmail.com
Dogs	Kate Anderson	920-728-3614
Horse & Pony	Jordan Soleska	jchpchair@gmail.com
Junior Leaders	Alyssa Jaquith	920-723-9039
Lego	Charles Johnson	920-342-9783
Plant & Natural Sciences	Sharon Schweitzer	920-650-7110
Poultry	Joy Brattlie	608-220-3933
Rabbits	Joy Brattlie	608-220-3933
Shooting Sports	David Saxby	jeffersonwi4hshootingsports@gmail.com

Extension Jefferson County Staff

Name	Program Area	Phone	Email
Katelyn Broedlow	Support Staff—Administrative Specialist	920-674-7440	kbroedlow@jeffersoncountywi.gov
Jerry Wilcenski	4-H Program Educator	920-674-7299	wilcenski@wisc.edu
Steven Chmielewski	Community Development Educator	262-548-7781	steven.chmielewski@wisc.edu
Alison Pfau	Regional Dairy Educator	920-674-7298	alison.pfau@wisc.edu
Julie Hill	Horticulture Outreach Specialist	262-374-4191	julie.hill@wisc.edu
Chrissy Wen	Area Extension Director	262-741-4951	christine.wen@wisc.edu
Josh Kamps	Regional Crops Educator	608-673-0680	joshua.kamps@wisc.edu