



### February 2020

#### 4-H Online Calendar

Check the most up-to-date deadlines and activities on the [calendar](#) located on Rock Co. 4-H website [fyi.extension.wisc.edu/4hrock](http://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/4hrock). If you find an error or have an update or addition, please contact the Extension Office at 608-757-5066, [email](#) or fill out the information form at:  
<https://forms.gle/fEQBq6nYyX1zZNiS7>

#### Sunday, February 2

2:30pm Dairy Quiz Bowl Practice

#### Thursday, February 6

5:00pm Dog Project: Vaccination Clinic

7:00pm Horse & Pony Project Steering Committee

#### Friday, February 7

6:00pm Horse & Pony Project: Horsin' Around Night

#### Saturday, February 8

[Communication Arts Festival](#)

#### Wednesday, February 12

7:00pm Horse & Pony Project: Learn More About Showing Meeting

#### Saturday, February 15

DEADLINE: Adult Advisor Applications Due

#### Monday, February 17

7:00pm Jr. & Sr. Council Exec. Board Mtg

#### Wednesday, February 19

7:00pm Fair Board Meeting

#### Saturday, February 22

8:00am Newark Beloit Club's Pancake Fundraiser

9:00am [VIP Training](#)

11:45am La Prairie Club Ice Skating

5:00pm Horse & Pony Project - Tack Swap Set Up

#### Sunday, February 23

1:00 pm Sheep Producers Educational Event

9:00am Horse & Pony Project: Tack Swap

#### Monday, February 24

7:00pm Jr. & Sr. Council Meeting

#### Friday, February 28

5:30pm La Prairie Club Movie Night

#### Sunday, March 1

Volleyball Tournament

#### Thursday, March 5

7:00pm Horse & Pony Project Steering Committee

#### Sunday, March 8

3:00pm Magnolia Club Dinner

#### Monday, March 16

7:00pm Jr. & Sr. Council Exec. Board Mtg

#### Wednesday, March 18

7:00pm Fair Board Meeting

#### Friday, March 20

DEADLINE: 4-H Club's Fees due Sr. Council

#### Monday, March 23

7:00pm Jr. & Sr. Council Meeting

#### Saturday, March 28-APRIL 2

National 4-H Conference

#### Saturday, March 28-29

Camp Counselor Training

#### Education & Educational Opportunities in 4-H

In 4-H, youth have an amazing opportunity to complete hands-on learning activities. Seeking education and educational resources are important to learn and grow. You may have done research for school or for a personal interest before so you already have some idea of how to find new information just not for a 4-H project. Some in your club who have been involved in 4-H for many years, might make it look easier than it feels. You might ask yourself, "how can I learn more about project areas? What/Where are some of the resources available to 4-H members and volunteers? Who is able to help 4-H members and volunteers learn?"

One of the ways 4-H members learn about their project areas is to attend club/county 4-H project meetings. If there isn't a project leader in your club for the project you're enrolled in, ask your club leader if there is a project leader in a neighboring club who can help you. Another way to learn about project areas is to purchase 4-H curriculum (developed by universities for hands-on learning) from <https://shop4-h.org/>. You can read more about the importance of experiential education at <https://4-h.org/about/what-is-4-h/>.

The community is another great resource. 4-H is a program that encourages youth to learn by exploring their community. You might find a local expert by asking trusted older youth and adults. How about researching information at the library? Librarians are experienced at recommending great nonfiction books for youth on many topics for a variety of ages. They can also help you tell if a website is likely to have factual information. The information you decide to use needs to be research-backed. It's important to know that not everything on the Internet is sound, research-backed information. Using incorrect information for certain projects like food preservation or electricity could be dangerous. If you would like more ideas, I encourage you to contact our Extension Office to ask for help finding resources.

If you are a member or volunteer with many years of experience, it might be time to learn by teaching. 4-H offers educational opportunities that help you push yourself to new levels of mastery and independence. Enroll as a youth leader in a project area to learn new skills and teach others, join a judging team and compete, or attend a project area competition (i.e. Area Animal Sciences Day, State Dog Show, Youth Plant Science Day, etc.). Become an expert in something that makes you smile!

The climax for many 4-H members in our county is exhibiting at the Rock County 4-H Fair. 4-H members and members of other youth organizations enter non-animal and animal exhibits to highlight their accomplishments, but the best time to learn about project areas is every day of the year! It takes time to learn about project areas, ask questions and practice skills. 4-H members and volunteers invest time year round teaching and learning new skills, perfecting techniques and seeking educational opportunities to learn more about project areas.

Educational opportunities are infinite. Today is the perfect day for learning!

*Laura Vander Veen, 4-H Program Coordinator*

#### 4-H Staff

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4-H is a community of young people across America learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.





## FAQs

For links to information found in FAQs and more, please visit the

[About 4-H](https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/4hrock) tab at [fyi.extension.wisc.edu/4hrock](https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/4hrock).

### *How do I find out about 4-H project meetings?*

Attend your local [4-H Club meetings](#) where project leaders will announce upcoming project meetings. Project leaders may also call, text or send an email about meetings. County-level meeting notifications are usually on the [Extension calendar](#), emailed to members, on the [Extension website](#) under projects or on the project's Facebook page.

### *May I attend 4-H Junior & Senior Council meetings?*

If you are a 4-H member who is sixth grade or older, you're invited to attend Junior Council meetings. If you are a 4-H Volunteer Leader, you're invited to attend Senior Council meetings. Please come and learn more! Junior & Senior Council meetings are held together, usually on the fourth Monday of the month. During the meetings, the Councils discuss Rock Co. 4-H events, participate in hands-on leadership activities, discuss funding as well as share opportunities and ideas for youth and adults to bring back to their clubs. All members are invited to sign up for committees for various Rock County 4-H events.

### *How do I join a Rock County 4-H committee?*

To join a committee (Achievement Celebration, Children's Christmas Benefit, Bowling Bonanza, Communication Arts Festival, Volleyball, Music & Drama Festival, Cloverbud Field Trip, Softball, Fair Activity Committee, Cloverbud Day Camp) simply sign up at a Junior/Senior Council meeting or call the Extension Office (608-757-5066) to sign up. If there isn't a committee for an activity or event that you are interested in, bring up your idea(s) at the Junior/Senior Council meetings or call the Extension Office to find out how to proceed with your idea.

### *How do I volunteer to become a 4-H Leader?*

To become a 4-H Volunteer in Wisconsin, there are four steps:

1. Enroll online in the 4HOnline database at <https://www.4honline.com/>
2. View the online Mandated Reporter Training through 4HOnline.
3. Attend a 2-hour [VIP \(Volunteers in Preparation\) Training](#). Registration is required. The next scheduled VIP Training is 9:00-11:00 a.m. Saturday, February 22. VIP Trainings are at Rock County Extension, 3506 N. US Hwy. 51, Building A, Janesville.
4. Have a background check done and pass. (Please watch for and respond quickly to an email link requesting permission and information for a background check.)

### *Where can I buy 4-H merchandise?*

If you're looking for a variety of items with the 4-H logo, visit <https://shop4-h.org/> where you'll find apparel, 4-H essentials, pins & recognition as well as curriculum.

## Leadership

Thank you so much to all club representatives at the Junior/Senior Council meeting. We are very excited to continue our conversation about ways to work together to grow the Rock County 4-H program. To summarize, in November participants identified the following:

### Rock County 4-H Program Priority Area:

Struggle to communicate (lack of communication=lack of participation), Need more participation from youth and adults. More activities for youth at the club level. Strategies to engage all youth and adults.

At the January meeting, participants had the opportunity to read a variety of SMART goals submitted from clubs across the county in their charters. Afterwards, the following common themes were identified:

Increase Information about 4-H (i.e. guides for new families, information about 4-H to new audiences)

Definition and steps towards 'diversity'

How to grow 4-H in the county (i.e. community events, community service, outreach)

Planning (This may include ways to make the most of little time, Youth-Adult Partnership. . .)

At the February Jr./Sr. Council meeting we will continue to detail next steps. The more information we have from club representatives the better. Here are some ways to help:

Please submit any questions, ideas, experiences, concerns to your adult or youth club representative prior to the February 24th meeting or e-mail the office.

Discuss the possibility of an Extension-led activity at one of your meetings.

Attend the February 24th meeting. Remember, all youth 6th grade and up and all volunteers are welcome!

## Animal Science

### Rock County Sheep Producers Educational Event:

#### Lambing Preparation,

#### Ewe Nutrition & Creep Feeding Lambs

*submitted by: RCSP Board and Advisors*

**Sunday, February 23, 2020**

**Egg Harbor Farm**

**3508 E. Buss Rd., Clinton**

**Begins at 1:00 p.m.**

**Hosted by: Dr. Jeoff Stevens' Family**

All 4-H members and families are invited to the Rock County Sheep Producers Winter Educational Event. The event will begin at 1:00 pm with pizza lunch & program to follow. A brief business meeting will follow lunch. Handouts on the topics will be provided. There will be door prizes: creep feed, lambing tools, milk replacer, ewe supplement. Plastic boots will be provided. Dress warm, lunch and meeting will be in a heated shop. The flock is 30 mainly Hamp ewes producing project lambs. All new facilities were constructed in 2019. Rock County Sheep Producers provide educational programs for parents, families, youth (4-H & FFA), industry support, Rock Co. Ag Business Scholarship for Sheep, sheep raising tips, guest speakers, fundraisers, RCF judges financial support, tours and field days.

### Project Committee Information

#### Horseless Horse Project

*submitted by: Sheila Martin*

LOVE HORSES? DON'T HAVE ONE BUT WANT TO LEARN MORE? Joining the Horseless Horse Project will include you in all the Horse project activities: fun nights, clinics, shows. Newly expanded project categories include Display or Model Horse Display! Did you know that your project can be exhibited at the State Horse Expo in September for additional awards? Horseless Horse members can participate in ALL State Equine Educational Events including Judging, Team Problems, Photography, Vet Science, Art, and many more. You may even be able to partner with a Horse Project member and work with a horse or pony. For more info, contact Sheila Martin, [srmartin724@gmail.com](mailto:srmartin724@gmail.com) or 608-289-4313.

Please refer to the Rock County 4-H Calendar for complete information on upcoming committee events.

### Community Partners

#### Fair Office Winter Hours

In the months of November – February the Rock County 4-H Fair Office will be open Monday – Thursday. The office will be closed on Fridays. Always call 608-755-1470 before you make a trip to the office.

#### Premium Book Pick Up

The 2020 Rock County 4-H Fair Premium Books will be available for club chairpersons to pick up during regular business hours at the Fair Office on the fairgrounds starting February 25th. Please call Mary at the fair office with any questions.

#### 2020 Fair Theme

Be Somebunny! Hop to The Fair!

#### Using the Fairgrounds

If your 4-H Club or group would like to use the Rock Co. Fairgrounds for a meeting or event, please contact Shilo Titus at 608-757-5515.

### Youth-Adult Partnership

#### (re)Defining Leadership

*submitted by: Erin Conway*

... It is as a fellow educator once told me, "my kids can't read words, they don't know." So, in order to succeed, we have to learn new vocabulary and apply it simultaneously. No small task, but a series of small tasks can get you started. How you define, Leadership, is the next step, and it's up to you. Read the entire blog post at <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/4hrock/youth-adult-partnership-spotlight-january/>

#### Y-AP Extension

*submitted by: Erin Conway*

If you missed the educational opportunity provided by Sarah Tarjeson on Parliamentary Procedure, these are some great resources compiled and adapted. Try one or more of these *Strategies for Group Decision Making* at your club meeting!

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ZkMZX7yaL4NVISkC2TjZl2s7lirOYd87>

#### Y-AP at Your Club Meeting

*submitted by: Erin Conway*

A fun way to get to know people and ideas is to try Speed Dating. Speed Dating is an activity in which participants have one to three note cards. The note card can have a question to answer, an idea to share or analyze, a prompt to fill in the blank, etc. Each individual reads his or her card. When he or she has a response, the individual finds another person to pair them. Each participant shares a response. After doing so, they exchange the cards they shared and look for a new person to pair up with.

### Local Experts

Thank you so much to both Evansville community 4-H clubs: Magnolia and Evansville 4-H for your hospitality. Not only was this visit a wonderful opportunity to recruit 4-H youth for Community Youth Development Focus Groups about youth success, community engagement and youth voice, but also an opportunity to see local experts in action. Evansville 4-H youth taught all about Communication Arts Festival and Magnolia 4-H youth showed their experience in a variety of 4-H projects at the club's mini fair. Great local expertise in our community clubs!

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**Laura Vander Veen**  
**Rock County 4-H Program Coordinator**

**Rock County 4-H**



**Explore**  
**Experience**  
**Achieve**

For more information,  
phone 608-757-5066,  
fax 608-757-5055,  
click [fyi.extension.wisc.edu/4hrock](http://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/4hrock),  
or search "Rock County 4-H" on Facebook.

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