



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Fond du Lac County UW-Extension

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

November 25, 2025

Dear 4-H Leader,

2025-2026 4-H Enrollment - ALL current 4-H members and adult volunteers MUST re-enroll in order to be active in the new year through [4HOnline](#). Included in this mailing is a list of your club's current membership based on who has enrolled in 4-H online. **Returning volunteers must complete training and background checks by December 1st.** Please contact the office at 920-906-4623 if you need any help with enrolling or completing the training or background check. **Youth wishing to show at the fair must be enrolled in an approved youth organization by February 1st of the fair year. This is a Fond du Lac County Fair Policy.**

Last year, we had over 605 youth and 142 adult volunteers; let's see if we can beat that! We are **currently at 541 youth members and 106 volunteers**. There are 31 adults pending their volunteer status due to missing trainings or incomplete background checks. Thank you for all you do for the young people in Fond du Lac County. **Thank you for your volunteer leadership!**

Meeting Updates - If there are any changes to your club's meeting dates, times or locations, please email [Sarah](#) or call 920-906-4623 so we can update the online calendar! County events and project meetings will also be added as they are scheduled, so please share this resource with your families:
<https://fonddulac.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-calendar/>

Awards - If you are missing anything for award plaques or need corrected name plates, please email [Sarah](#) or call 920-906-4623 by **December 15**. We will be placing one final order before the end of the year.

4-H Family Learning Day - We are seeking volunteers and youth who have creative ideas to be Family Learning Day presenters! If interested in helping plan Family Learning Day, please email [Tracy](#) or call 920-906-4623. Anyone interested can fill out the form to lead a session at go.wisc.edu/01d8cq or complete a paper copy that was included in your last mailing. The goal is to offer as many different projects as we can. We also need help recruiting presenters. **We are extending the proposal deadline to Friday, December 5th.** If you have youth leaders, please encourage them to lead a session! Thank you.

Thank you to all who attended the Adult Leaders Meeting. Beth Schaefer was elected to represent District 1: Alto All Stars, **Brandon Tanagers**, and Spring Valley. Kate Miller was elected to represent District 4: **Helping Hands** and South Byron. Deb Senn was elected to fill the remaining two years for Betsy Vossekuil's term for District 5: Armstrong, **Campbellsport**, and Welcome.

Holiday Parades - With Holiday parade season around the corner, please take time to read through the Wisconsin 4-H Parade Policy. Wisconsin 4-H is committed to providing safe and healthy environments for youth and adults participating in 4-H programs and activities. Preparing floats and participating in parades can be a fun way to promote 4-H, AND there are risks associated with these activities. The [4-H Parades Policy](#) outlines expectations for managing risk associated with vehicles used in parades, as well as youth and adults riding on vehicles or walking in the parade. If you have any questions, please email [Tracy](#) or call 920-906-4623. **Approval is required if a vehicle is being driven in the parade!**

Club activities are highlighted in the *Club News* section of the newsletter. Have your secretary or reporter mail or e-mail their secretary minutes or report (and photos) to [Tracy](#) or fill out the Google Form at go.wisc.edu/2665ok to submit an article. With new youth taking office, this is a good time of the year to get them into the habit of sending the notes in. Highlights and pictures are also shared on the 4-H Facebook page!

Winter Leadership Camp Registration is Open! Help your youth in grades 7 and up **level up their leadership skills IRL!** Winter Leadership Camp is an epic opportunity for Wisconsin teens to grow, connect, and lead like never before from January 23-25 at Spencer Lake Camp in Waupaca. From team challenges to skill-building quests, this camp is designed to inspire confidence and leadership in a fun, supportive environment. The Adult Leaders Association will also sponsor half the cost for Winter Leadership Camp for Fond du Lac County 4-H members.

Action for Leaders: Please **nominate youth who would thrive in this experience** or encourage them to register. This is a fantastic way for young people to build confidence, develop leadership skills, and make lasting connections. Are your youth ready to unlock their next leadership quest? Let's make it happen!

Club Officers -Thank you for supporting your **newly elected officers** as they learn and grow in their roles! Officer responsibilities—such as **submitting club updates**—are an important part of leadership development. Your guidance and encouragement will help them succeed.

- Please remind your **club reporters** to complete a short form and upload their articles and photos using this link: go.wisc.edu/2665ok. *Save this link for easy access!* Articles for the current week must be submitted by 12:00 PM on Wednesday. **Secretary minutes** can also be submitted using the same form!
- **Officer binders** are located in the club mailboxes at the Extension office—please pick them up and distribute them to your officers. These binders provide helpful resources for fulfilling their responsibilities. If you need additional officer materials, reach out to [Tracy](#).
- Motivated youth can also earn **Officer Position Awards** by completing an officer book. Details are available on our website: <https://fonddulac.extension.wisc.edu/4h/records/#officer>
- Apply to the **Wisconsin 4-H Ambassador Teams!** Ambassadors get unique opportunities to represent Wisconsin 4-H, develop leadership skills, and contribute to statewide programming. Apply to join the Arts, Leadership, or Agriculture Ambassadors depending on what inspires you most. Youth must be in grades 9-12 to apply! Applications open now and **until Dec. 15th!** Learn more and apply here: go.wisc.edu/777u4d

Join Us for a **Market Livestock Judging Info Night** on **Wednesday, December 3** from 6-7:30 pm at the Fond du Lac County Campus, 400 University Dr - **Please encourage youth to attend!** Interested in livestock and learning new skills? Market Livestock Judging is a fun, hands-on activity where youth evaluate cattle, sheep, and swine for market readiness and quality. This session will cover what judging involves and how you can join a team! Youth will learn how to evaluate animals for muscling, finish, and structural soundness; build skills in decision-making, animal science, and public speaking; discover team opportunities and start planning practices; prepare for contests that can lead to scholarships and future opportunities; and connect with other youth who share your interest in agriculture. Sign up here: go.wisc.edu/vxfmc7

A **New Family Orientation** will be held on **Wednesday, January 14, 2026**, from 6-7:30pm at the Fond du Lac County Campus, 400 University Dr. Please encourage new families to attend this event, including families who have been enrolled for 2 years or less in the 4-H program. 4-H has so many great opportunities available, and it is hard to know about them all. We don't want our members to miss out! New families can expect to meet other new families, have questions answered, and learn about various topics such as projects, general meetings, 4-H Structure, and different opportunities. There will be two additional orientation meeting dates held in the spring/early summer with other topics. Families can RSVP here: go.wisc.edu/tv23f5. We are also seeking volunteers to help facilitate stations during the New Family Orientation. If you or someone in your club would be interested, please email [Tracy](#) or call 920-906-4623.

Youth & Adult Partnerships: We are seeking youth and adults to join the following countywide committees:

- 4-H Promotion (throughout the year)
- Cloverbud Day Camp (summer)
- Tri-County Visual Arts Festival (Oct - Mar planning, event in March), meet once a month or less until Feb
- Family Learning Day (Oct - Feb planning, event in Feb), meet once a month or less until Jan
- Fashion Revue (planning in Feb/March, event in June)
- Foods Revue (June)
- New Family Orientation (throughout the year)
- Summer Day Camp (Dec-May planning, actual dates TBD)
- STEM Day (Late Spring)

If you are interested in any of these opportunities or would like more info, please email [Tracy](#). An electronic survey is available at fonddulac.extension.wisc.edu/volunteer/! If you know of a parent or volunteer who would be a good fit for any of the committees, please share that with me and I can follow up with them!

Certificate of Insurance - If your club needs one for a meeting space or event, please email [Tracy](#) for more info.

RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

Community Service Opportunity: Honor Veterans through Wreaths Across America

Last year, 347 veterans were honored between St. Charles and Taycheedah Cemeteries in Fond du Lac County. This year, Calvary Cemetery in Fond du Lac was added, which means an additional 1400 veterans will be honored. That big number means a lot of volunteers will be needed! The ceremony will take place on Saturday, December 13, 2025. Sign up to help honor our veterans here:

<https://wreathsassamerica.org/pages/179976/Overview/?relatedId=0>

Calendar of Events

December

1 Deadline for volunteers to complete training and background checks

3 Market Livestock Judging Info Session, 6-7:30 pm, Fond du Lac County Campus, 400 University Dr

5 Proposals due for Family Learning Day Sessions

13 4-H Day with the Wisconsin Herd

24-25 Extension Office Closed

31 Extension Office Closed

***Note: NO TLA or LEGO Club meetings in December**

January

1 Extension Office Closed

15 New Family Orientation, 6-7:30 pm, Fond du Lac County Campus, 400 University Dr

23-25 Winter Leadership Camp

26 Teen Leader Association Meeting, 6:45 pm at Rolling Meadows Meeting Room

27 LEGO Club Meeting, 6:30 pm, Fond du Lac County Campus, 400 University Dr

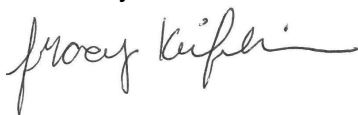
February

23 Teen Leader Association Meeting, 6:45 pm at Rolling Meadows Meeting Room

24 LEGO Club Meeting, 6:30 pm, Fond du Lac County Campus, 400 University Dr

28 Family Learning Day, 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Location TBD

Sincerely,



Tracy Keifenheim

4-H Program Educator

tracy.keifenheim@wisc.edu

UW-Madison Division of Extension, Fond du Lac County

cc: Executive Board, TLA Advisor, Horse Project President

The Extension office has moved to the Fond du Lac County Government Center, 160 South Macy St. Visitors will need to use the north entrance and go through security, then take the elevator in the lobby to the 2nd floor.

The University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.