



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
ASHLAND COUNTY



**ASHLAND
COUNTY 4-H
NEWSLETTER**

CLOVER CONNECTIONS

FALL 2024



4-H strives to empower youth to reach their full potential working and learning in partnership with caring adults. 4-H provides meaningful opportunities for all youth and adults to work together and create sustainable community change.

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Thanks for being in the community! Text Kate to share photos, shout-outs, and other content to be featured in 4-H Newsletters!

Scan this QR code with your mobile phone camera to visit the web version and access links!



Dear Youth, Volunteers, Families, & Friends of Ashland County 4-H:

Summertime flew by and the beauty of Fall is at the door! In the cooling weather, Autumn offers fresh and exciting experiences to share. In addition to the academic year, harvesting, canning, hunting, and upcoming holidays, the 4-H world has opportunities to enjoy in the Fall, too!

September marks the end of the 4-H year, meaning October rings in the 4-H new year! Thus, Fall is an ideal time to reflect on youth and club accomplishments while utilizing lessons learned to develop and adapt for the future. This newsletter includes many activities focused on recording achievements from October 2023-September 2024, and sessions on building events and reviewing timelines to prepare for programs moving forward.

The annual 4-H cycle renews with important celebrations and tasks as well. For example, September and October are the months to newly enroll or re-enroll in the 4-H Ashland County program with the 4-H Online portal, and also the time to apply for local awards and scholarships that can aid the goals of our 4-H youth. In November the 4-H community gathers to connect and honor the achievements and fellowship of members, leaders, and supporters of 4-H, please join us for this and other occasions!

Find more details on these activities inside this newsletter, along with a look at past and future events for the year. Reach out and we will make sure you are on our email and party lists! Thank you all for all your work and time with Ash-Co 4-H!

Take care and see you in Fall! - *Ashland County 4-H Educator Kate*



PROGRAM & ACTIVITY UPDATES



Please join in the season's activities - all of which are free (unless otherwise noted)! Any changes regarding the activities below will be notified via our What's Going On! page and/or 4-H Emails, so please check for adaptations that may arise! Thank you for spending time with the local 4-H crew!

ACTIVITY	TIME & PLACE	DESCRIPTION
4-H Harvest Season begins!	Early September these opportunities open up online each year - see the list and links on page 3	September marks the 4-H year gradually coming to a close, which means its time for youth and Clubs to "harvest" (or collect) their 4-H experiences! Record individual and group accomplishments from October 2023 to September 2024 to track progress! This helps prepare for scholarship applications and awards available in November. Read more about Harvest Season tasks on page 3!
Leaders, Parents, & Guardians Reception	Monday Sept. 23 6:00PM at the Ashland County Courthouse or join via Zoom <i>(meeting link emailed on meeting days)</i>	Historically September has no official Leaders Association meeting, so instead let's connect 4-H Leaders, families, and volunteers to talk 4-H plans! Enjoy refreshments, a short overview of drafted events for the Oct. 2024-Sept. 2025 4-H year, and space for giving feedback or other ideas to enhance programs. Attend one or both nights to share your thoughts and scope out future activities!
4-H New Year Bash!	Saturday, October 5 from 12-3 PM <i>(location announced by Oct.)</i>	A new 4-H year begins in October, so let's celebrate the next cycle with the 4-H community! Indoor and outdoor activities for all ages provided. Visit for fun AND gain insights about the Harvest Season tasks - you can even work on your materials and submit them there!
4-H Harvest Season Tasks due	Sunday, October 13 due by 4PM to Ash-Co 4-H Educator <i>(see page 3 for details)</i>	Since September, youth and clubs can collect and record the past year's triumphs for "Harvest Season" awards and applications. Submit completed materials to 4-H Educator Kate by the task due date so applicants can be fully considered for these opportunities, and reach out for potential and appropriate accommodation.
Leaders Association Meeting	Monday, October 14, 6:30PM at the Ashland County Courthouse or join via Zoom <i>(meeting link emailed on meeting day)</i>	This official meeting of the Leaders Association focuses on the upcoming Achievement Night/Gala and the logistics surrounding it. Applications for certain awards and scholarships may be reviewed while details about the activities and ceremony will be finalized. Also Charters and any other necessary paperwork are discussed, as well as new and re-enrollment status in 4-H online.
Ashland County 4-H Achievement Night/Gala!	Thursday, November 7 Northland College Campus SOEI building, 4-6:30PM	The hard work and time invested in the past 4-H year are publicly rewarded at the annual Achievement Night/Gala! The award recipients from Record Books, community participation, leadership, and more are presented at this yearly celebration. Also featured are activities for all ages and presentations from youth!
Leaders Association Meeting	Monday, November 11, 6:30PM at the Ashland County Courthouse or join via Zoom <i>(meeting link emailed on meeting day)</i>	This official meeting lands on Veterans Day and is the final Leaders Association of the 2024 calendar year. Topics for November include (but are not limited to) events in the upcoming year, board elections, financials, lessons learned from 2024 to adapt for 2025, and gifts of appreciation given for anyone attending in-person (Zoom attendees can pick up gift from the office at another time).



4-H HARVEST SEASON!

A Side-by-Side Guide of Key 4-H Tasks & Opportunities



Items listed below are for fully registered members of Ashland County 4-H. Please contact the local 4-H Educator and/or office if you have questions!

OPPORTUNITY	FOR WHOM	DESCRIPTION	MATERIALS
#1 4-H Online Enrollment & Registration <i>new & renewal</i>	Youth, families, & Leaders who live in Ashland County and want to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue membership in local 4-H, or • Begin membership in local 4-H 	4-H Online is the online enrollment and registration system for county 4-H Clubs in Wisconsin. Enter basic information to record your participation, manage your 4-H club or individual projects, train as a volunteer, ID 4-H animals, register faster for events, and more. This is the data system required for sending communications from local and state programs, so please sign-up to stay connected!	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>4-H Online Log-in here</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Online Registration support here</u></p>
#2 Member Record Book (RB)	Local 4-H youth between the ages of 9 and 19 <i>Youth ages 5-8 can submit practice record books to office if desired</i>	The 4-H Record Book is a summary of what you have done for the 4-H year. This reflection helps with goal setting and offers youth a chance to learn about themselves and their environments. Submit records to primary Club Leaders. For more resources on record-keeping, see page 4!	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>RB Options on webpage here (including Cloverbud optional RB)</u></p>
#3 Member Evaluation (ME) Process <i>apply for funds</i>	Local 4-H youth who have submitted at least 1 Record Book - this could be a past Record Book or one for this recent year	The Member Evaluation process records a youth's entire 4-H journey to date, including any special roles, activities, trips, and skills from their experiences. The completed ME can be submitted to apply for funding a 4-H activity the youth is pursuing. Recipients announced at the Gala in Nov.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ME Forms available here</u></p>
#4 Leaders Association 4-H Senior Scholarship	Youth members with at least 3 years in 4-H and who currently attend high school as a senior student in Ashland County	The Ashland County Leaders Association annually awards up to 4 individual scholarships to local 4-H seniors that have applied, been reviewed, and honored with this funding. Candidates must have any continued education planned after graduation. Recipients are announced at the November Gala.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Senior Scholarship Application here</u></p>
#5 Club Record Book Check	Current 4-H Adult Leaders who have an established local 4-H Club	As Club members finish their member records, they first submit them to their Club Leader for review. This helps collect information for the overall Club's Record Book Check as the annual account of the Club's progress and activity.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Record Book Check here</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>*also sent in mail</i></p>
#6 Club Charter <i>new & renewal</i>	4-H Adult Leaders who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already have established local 4-H Clubs, or • Want to begin new local 4-H Clubs 	The 4-H Charter ensures a Club exists in agreement with the Wisconsin 4-H program. This formal authorization allows a Club certain rights, including the ability to use the 4-H Name and Emblem for educational purposes in accordance with laws and regulations established by Congress and the USDA.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>WI 4-H Charter Page here</u></p>

The office provides hard copies of these forms as well, so please stop by and pick them up or request a document drop-off by the Educator!

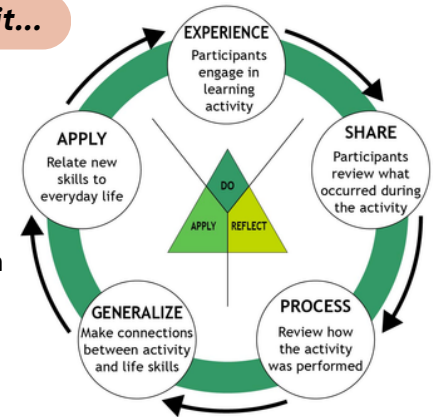


A DEEPER DIVE INTO FALL



Why 4-H values record-keeping and encourages youth to use it...

4-H invests in the positive growth of youth with clubs, projects, and resources to support holistic learning. 4-H provides key qualities and tools to help youth realize the lessons from their experiences ([see life skills here](#)). As the 4-H year re-starts in Fall, it is a natural time to focus on the reflection step within experiential learning ([image on right - see full model here](#)). Youth ages 9 to 19 are encouraged to track their 4-H journey and recognize the knowledge, skills, and interests gained. This step has many benefits, like inspiring youth to explore new talents, reminding them of their esteemable acts, and empowering them as unique individuals. Recalling personal victories helps improve critical thinking and positive self-esteem during earlier life stages, and these records are a useful portfolio to review when writing speeches, applications, resumes, and more, later on in life.



Record-keeping is a chance for youth to represent themselves as they wish. Wisconsin and other state 4-H programs have ample guides regarding different ways of record-keeping so youth may find an option they enjoy (see guide lists below). Some specific awards or projects may require particular record forms, but most often 4-H record-keeping allows an array of styles whether they are done with notebooks, spreadsheets, photographs, slideshows, journals, videos, or a method they design. As long as the youth is the main author of the record, and includes experiences, lessons, and goals, they are welcome to get creative and use whatever they prefer to format their ideas.

Some Goals of 4-H Record-Keeping

- Understand value & work of organizing events
- Practice time-management & goal-setting
- Identify important experiences and changes
- Practice how to summarize activities and skills
- Practice how to evaluate and describe experiences
- Practice individual communication styles
- Practice accountability & responsibility with projects
- Use different tools & technology for presentations
- Gain insights into self skills & character traits

Info & Tools to Support Record-Keeping

- Records can be kept in beginner-level or more advanced ways depending on individual preferences.
- Tools like this [4-H Story tutorial](#) or [Yearly Member Summary](#) doc can help summarize overall learning.
- The [Yearly Self-Evaluation tool](#) can be done individually or in discussion with a mentor.
- This [Tipsheet](#) helps with goal-setting and planning on next steps in a project area.
- This [article from WI 4-H](#) walks through more record-keeping ideas!

View the web version of this Newsletter to explore the added links! Find it here: ashland.extension.wisc.edu/whats-going-on/



Local Area Events to Consider this Season

- Ashland Area Farmers Market: Look for periodic 4-H and Extension activities! (Saturdays 8am-12pm)
- Whistlestop Festival the weekend of Oct. 12 ([more here](#))! Opportunities to volunteer are available!
- More Ashland area annual events are viewable here: <https://www.visitashland.com/calendar/>
- Ashland County has a tourism website with events listed here: <https://www.travelashlandcounty.com/>
- Bookmark and view Ashland County Extension for more updates! <https://ashland.extension.wisc.edu/>

LOOK AHEAD & SAVE THE DATES



See what is in store for 4-H next season! These are subject to change in case of inclement weather, added activities, or otherwise. Check local 4-H website updates ([found here](#)) and 4-H emails for adaptations that may arise. Please share any questions, comments, or concerns about the plans!

Please note that these calendars start on Mondays to keep the weekend dates together.

DECEMBER [See more observances here.](#)

NO LEADERS ASSOCIATION MEETING THIS MONTH

Early or Mid-Dec.: Local 4-H Ambassadors Reception

Early Dec.: CANSKI season & Gear Check-outs (TBA as winter nears)

Early Dec.: Statewide 4-H Educational Experiences Scholarship open
*click here for more - these are due early January

Mid-Dec.: WI 4-H Foundation Higher Education Scholarships open
*click here for more - these are due early January

Dec. 7: Pearl Harbor Day

Dec. 24-25: AshCo Courthouse/4-H Office Closed (Christmas Holiday)

Dec. 25: Chanakuh begins

Dec. 26: Kwanzaa begins

Dec. 31: AshCo Courthouse/4-H Office Closed (New Year Holiday)

JANUARY [See more observances here.](#)

FAREWELL 2024 & HELLO 2025!

Jan. 2: Chanakuh ends

Jan. 1: Kwanzaa ends

Jan. 8: 4-H Yearbook 2023-2024 content from community due

Monday the 13th: Leaders Association Meeting

FEBRUARY [See more observances here.](#)

Feb. 1: Mt. Ashwabay Summit Race ([link here](#))

Monday the 10th: Leaders Association Meeting

Mid-Feb.: Book Across the Bay weekend ([link here](#)).

Feb. 17: AshCo Courthouse/4-H Office Closed (Presidents Day)

Feb. 19-23: Birkebeiner weekend in Hayward, WI ([link here](#))

WINTER 2024-25

DECEMBER

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JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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SOME THINGS TO COME IN SPRING!

- CANSKI Gear Check-Ins/End of Season in March
- Spring Art Contest opens in March (artwork due in April)
- T-Shirt Design Contest moves from Fall to Springtime
- Spring Gala (with Art Contest and T-Shirt results) in early May
- Yearbook completed/sent to 4-H community by spring

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS!



Ashland County Fair! August 2024



COMMUNITY SHOUT-OUTS!



To **all the 4-H members who had entries** of projects, animals, and products in this year's Ashland County Fair! There were over 450 different entries within more than 15 different departments. Your creativity and commitment are both impressive and appreciated!

To **Gina Pearce** for her tremendous work organizing entries, auctions, and award money to make the Fair successful!

To **all the Fair judges, especially Jeanne Pearce and Sandy Nutt**, who made the Fair award process steady and smooth!

To the **Pie Auction Bakers** that made and brought delicious treats to be sold in support of fundraising for 4-H activities!

To the **Market Sale Club** for their Dairy Bar work! With three different shifts over the weekend, their time and help were crucial!

To the **Brunswillow Busy Beavers Club** for their Dairy Bar work! They started us off strong Friday morning, with breakfast, too!

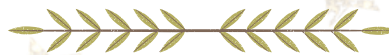
To the **Sewing Club** for their Dairy Bar work! With an awesome crew of members and parents, they rocked a busy Saturday open!

To the **Rezberries Club** for their Dairy Bar work! They brought great music and energy to the "Saturday Night Live" 8 hour shift!

To the **Pearce Peppers Club** for their Dairy Bar work! The Sunday morning shift is always special with their sausage breakfast feast!

To the **Ashland County Fair Association members and volunteers** who make the overall Fair function! President Brett Martinsen and Vice President Clay Burditt have a capable team that works hard to make the Fair happen year after year.

To the **Heart Graphics team** in Ashland for making spectacular new signs for 4-H Fair activities! They completed requests with high-quality and speedy work. We might be lost without them!



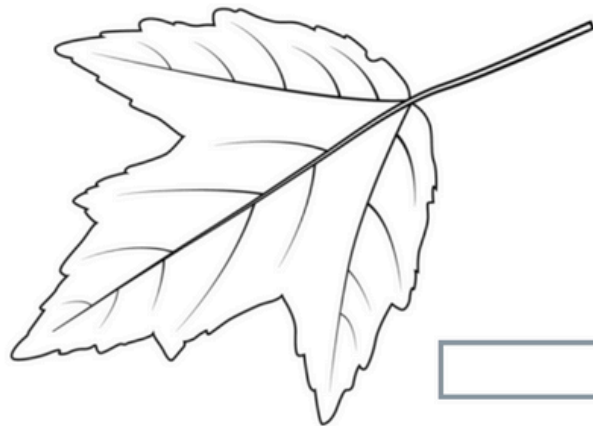
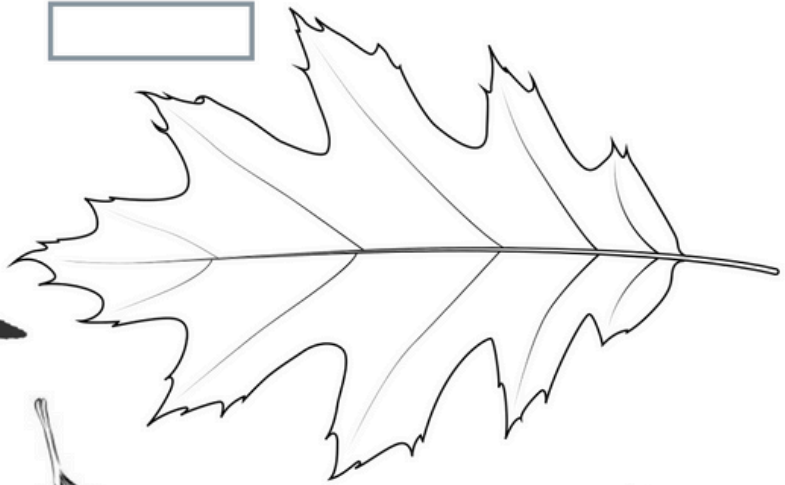
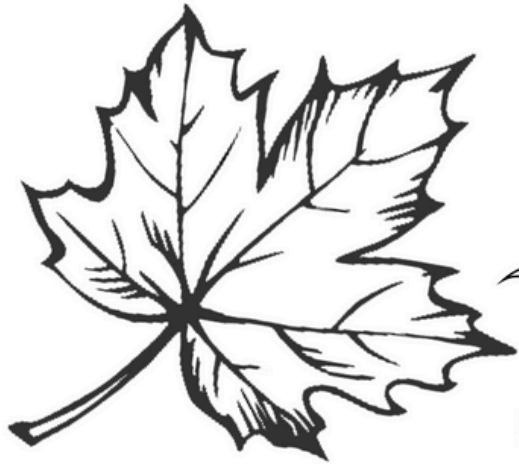
THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!

Want your photos, shout-outs, and other ideas featured in the next Clover Connections? Then please share them with the 4-H office! Text images, updates, or other thoughts to Kate at 715-208-0664 or email them to kate.wallner@wisc.edu or blake.frost@wisc.edu.



4-H FUN!

These leaves are from trees in Wisconsin! Match the name to the leaf, then color it for Fall!



RED OAK WHITE OAK WHITE ASH SUGAR MAPLE RED MAPLE POPLAR (ASPEN) WHITE BIRCH

When you complete this activity, ask a parent or guardian to take a photo and text it to the 4-H Educator to win a prize!

