

Clover Connection



Jan/Feb 2026

Editor: Julie Diepenbrock — Production: Kelly Phillips

Dear 4-H Families and Friends:

Here's hoping your holiday season was a great time with family and friends! Many clubs in Taylor County had Christmas parties and activities which are great for building that sense of belonging that we value in 4-H. 2025 was a good year in Taylor County 4-H! We have a new 4-H Club in the Rib Lake area. Special thanks to the Federation for providing the Movie and Awards event for 4-H Families! Several events are already being planned for Taylor County 4-H in 2026.

Annual Leadership Training for club leaders and adult volunteers, youth leaders (6th grade and up) and club officers on Sunday, January 4 will be worth your time! Bring your ideas of how we can make Taylor County 4-H even better.

After school programs and project meetings are in the works for Spring. 4-H Day Camps (K-5th grade) and Summer Camp (grades 3-7) are already being planned for summer. And of course, the Taylor County Fair (July 23-26) is a great time to showcase your 4-H projects from the year. Be sure to check out our monthly Email Blasts and Taylor County 4-H Facebook page for the most current opportunities in Taylor County 4-H and Wisconsin 4-H.

Feel free to reach out any time I can help. Have a wonderful 4-H year in 2026!!

Julie Diepenbrock
4-H Program Educator



Leadership Training



Annual Leaders & Club Officer Training

Sunday, January 4, 2026

1:00 - 2:30pm

Extension Office Conference Room

925 Donald St. Medford

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



This will be more than just a meeting—it's a chance to:

- Pick up practical tips for club officers
- Discover what other clubs are doing
- Share ideas for future activities and events
- Explore new opportunities for 4-H members
- Celebrate all the great things happening in 4-H

And yes....we'll have snacks and plenty of FUN!

We would LOVE to see a leader and club officer from each of our clubs join us.

Club Leaders: you'll also have the chance to connect and exchange ideas with fellow leaders.

Youth Opportunities



Apply between now—January 19, 2026

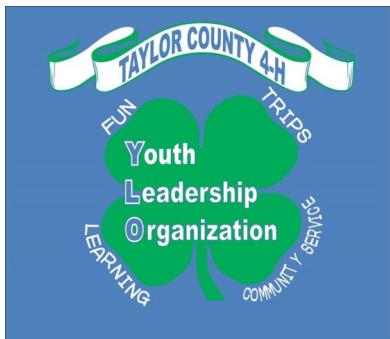
Must be 18-22 years old

4-H INTERN

Looking for 4-H Summer Intern to work in both Taylor & Price Counties. Approx. 40 hours/week between May 26–August 22. Help with Summer Camp, Day Camps, Library Programs, and Fairs.

Apply here: <https://www.uw-madison.edu/extension/taylor-county/4-h/internship-application>

UW - MADISON EXTENSION



Youth Leadership Organization (YLO)

4-H members in 6th grade and above are eligible to join this group. The YLO is geared towards older youth to build leadership skills appropriate to their age.

These skills are built through experiences such as helping plan and put on countywide events, doing community service projects, and fundraising at the YLO Pizza/Soda Stand at the Taylor County Fair.

If you are interested, please contact Katie Krause at knkappraisals@tds.net



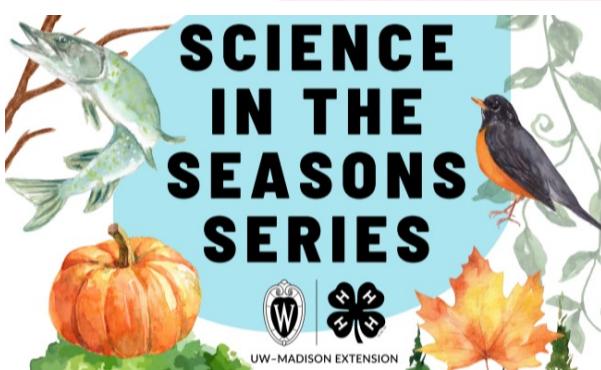
Project Opportunity

It is time to start preparing for Valentines 2026. Please sign up to join 4-H'ers around the world to make homemade Valentines to deliver to nursing home residents, assisted living centers, meals on wheels clients, veterans centers, senior centers, home bound seniors, or more.

Use this link to sign your club/organization up:

bit.ly/4HhasHeart

The goal is to brighten over 100,000 Seniors Valentines Day around the WORLD. Be a part of this huge project. Show the world 4-H has Heart!



The Science in the Seasons Series curriculum offers 12 months of at-home or in-person lessons for youth in the Cloverbud age group.

tinyurl.com/4HScienceSeries

Scholarships



2026 Federation of Taylor County 4-H Scholarship



The Federation of Taylor County 4-H Scholarship is for graduating seniors with at least five years of 4-H club membership. Applications can be completed using the fillable.pdf file available on the Extension Taylor County 4-H website or typed on the form provided on-line:

tinyurl.com/FederationScholarship26

Applications are due April 1, 2026



To be eligible for any Wisconsin 4-H Scholarship, students must have been a Wisconsin 4-H member for at least three years, have a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, and be enrolled or planning to enroll at a university, college, or technical school during the following academic school year. Previous scholarship winners are not eligible to receive a second Wisconsin 4-H Scholarship.

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.

More information: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/wisconsin-4-h-scholarships/>

Friend of 4-H Award Presentation



Taylor County 4-H is thrilled to present the 2025 **Friend of 4-H Award** to **Tractor Supply Company**.

Tractor Supply has been a steadfast champion of 4-H, both locally and nationally. From the moment the Medford store opened its doors, they invited 4-H to be part of their journey—asking us to help with their grand opening and welcoming our members into their space.

One of the most visible ways Tractor Supply supports 4-H is through the **Paper Clover Campaign**, a national fundraising effort that directly benefits the 4-H program. Since the campaign began in 2010, it has raised more than **\$24 million**—sponsoring scholarships, camps, and leadership opportunities for hundreds of thousands of young people across the country.

The Medford Tractor Supply store has gone above and beyond to celebrate 4-H. They've allowed a local 4-H club to decorate their storefront window for **National 4-H Week**. During the holiday season, they sell **limited-edition 4-H ornaments**, and according to the store manager, Stacy, customers begin asking for the ornaments before they even arrive—proof of the strong connection between Tractor Supply and 4-H families.

Awards



Leader of the Year Award

We celebrate the dedication and passion that make Taylor County 4-H thrive by recognizing an outstanding volunteer who goes above and beyond to support youth development and the 4-H mission. This year's **Leader of the Year Award** goes to someone who has truly made a lasting impact on her club and our entire county program.



Amanda Jensen has been a 4-H volunteer for **nine years**, serving as the Club Leader for the **Thrifty-Go-Getters 4-H Club** for many of those years. Amanda is known for her warm, welcoming approach—helping new families navigate the many opportunities 4-H offers throughout the year. She keeps her members informed and engaged, making sure they know about county events and even state and national opportunities.

Under Amanda's leadership, Thrifty-Go-Getters members have participated in many activities and service projects within their club, along with helping in the Food Stand, YLO Pizza Stand and exhibiting at the Fair, helping with Pet and Learn activities at Discovery Days and been involved in incredible experiences beyond Taylor County—from the **Wisconsin 4-H State Dog Show** and **Gymkhana Horse Project**, to travel adventures like **American Spirit** and **National 4-H Congress in Atlanta**. Amanda encourages youth to complete record books and apply for funding through the Federation of Taylor County 4-H, helping make these experiences possible and affordable.

Amanda's own children, Sierra and Miles, have been active in 4-H for many years, exploring projects like **Horse, Poultry, Fishing, Legos, and Food Decorating**—a true reflection of the variety and creativity Amanda inspires in her club.

When Amanda learned of this award, she said:

"I am so honored that the Federation thought of me! My heart is full just knowing I was thought of. Please pass on my appreciation and thankfulness!"

Congratulations to Amanda Jensen, on being named **Taylor County 4-H Leader of the Year** for her years of leadership, encouragement, and commitment to Taylor County 4-H. Her efforts have opened doors for countless youth and created memories that will last a lifetime!



MASS—Save the Dates



MASS Mission Statement

To foster responsibility among youth for:

- Learning effective feeding practices
- Keeping accurate records
- Ethical care and handling of animals
- Setting and fulfilling goals
- Following guidelines
- Raising quality animals within market standards

2025 – 2026 RULES, REGULATIONS & FORMS

IMPORTANT DATES

November 8, 2025	Fall Orientation, Annual Meeting, Junior Representative Elections and Salesmanship, Gilman High School. New Member Orientation at 9 am, Annual Meeting and Continuing Members at 10 am.
December 13, 2025	Beef & Dairy Beef Initial Weigh-In , 10 am-12 pm, Taylor County Fairgrounds.
Winter/Spring	Species-specific clinics - upcoming species-specific workshops and livestock education opportunities shared in the MASS Facebook group.
March 24, 2026	Spring Orientation & Salesmanship Training , Extension Office, Medford. New Member Orientation at 6 pm, Continuing Members at 7 pm.
April 26, 2026	Lamb Initial Weigh-In , 4-6 pm, Taylor County Fairgrounds, Medford. Swine ID Photos and Paperwork Due.
July 1, 2026	Bidder Sheets, YQCA, and Clinic Verification Sheets are due on or before this date. Email to taylorcountymass@gmail.com or Mail to PO Box 162
July 22-26, 2026	Taylor County Fair . Fair schedule TBD for weigh-in, show times and carcass judging.
July 24, 2026	45th Annual Taylor County MASS Sale, 6 pm
July 25, 2026	Thank you signs posted by 10 am
July 26, 2026	Extra animal processing sheets, Thank you cards and Star News Ads due by 12 pm. MASS Bucks sheets due by loading.
Sept 13, 2026	Post-Fair Awards & Forum , 1pm. Location to be announced. Includes MASS Bucks Auction, Carcass Evaluation Awards and Total Performance Awards. Turn in Summary Sheet.
Fall 2026	MASS Annual Meeting , Time, date and location TBD

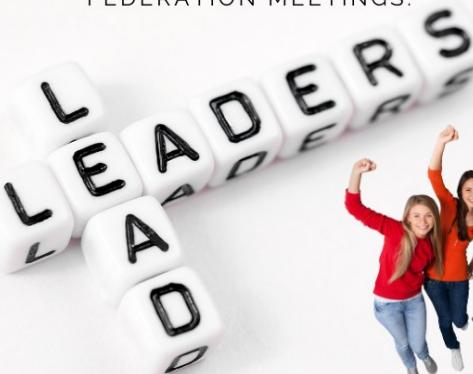
Federation



Taylor County 4-H Federation



IS LOOKING FOR 4-H MEMBERS FROM
EACH CLUB, 12+YEARS OR OLDER,
PARENT OR VOLUNTEER WELCOMED
(DOES NOT NEED TO BE CLUB
LEADER) TO ATTEND AND
CONTRIBUTE TO THE MONTHLY 4-H
FEDERATION MEETINGS.



2026 Federation Election Results

Congratulations:

President: Brian Bolstad

President Elect: Katie Krause

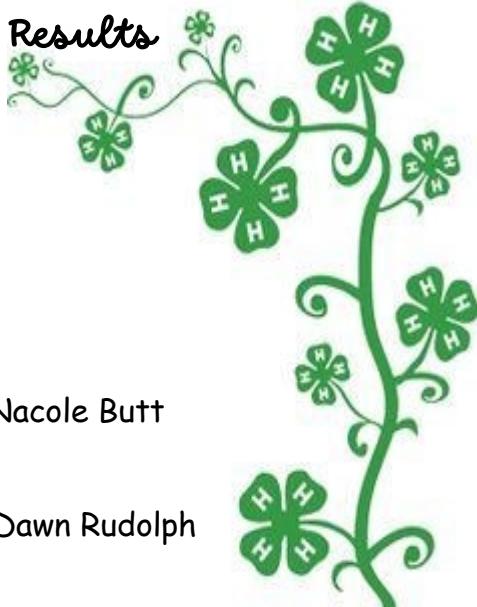
Secretary: Cheri Klussendorf

Treasurer: Nancy Graun

Youth Reps: Max Klussendorf & Nacole Butt

YLO Youth Rep: Leigh Geiger

Fair Board Reps: Heidi Geiger & Dawn Rudolph





Volunteer Opportunity

ARE YOU IN 8TH GRADE OR OLDER?

If you are, you can be a counselor at



June 10-12
Northern Lakes Impact
Center
Rhineland, WI

**WE ALSO NEED ADULTS TO
VOLUNTEER AS CAMP STAFF.**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED APPLY BY FEBRUARY 1 @

tinyurl.com/4HSummerCampStaff26



UW-MADISON EXTENSION



An EEO/AE employer. University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Youth Opportunity



4-H Summer Camp

Fun & Creative
Outdoor Activities
For Youth Grades
3-7

Save the date!

June 10-12, 2026

Northern Lakes Impact Center

Lincoln, Price & Taylor



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





Calendar of Events

January

- 1—Extension office closed
- 4—Annual Leadership Training 1-2:30 p.m. at UWEX
- 5—Deadline to sign up for Wonders Within Wood
- 10—Rabies Clinic Lublin Village Hall
- 19—Deadline for 4-H Intern Applications
- 19—Deadline to sign up for 4-H Meats Judging Contest
- 19—Deadline to sign up for State 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl
- 20—4-H Intern application due
- 26—Federation Meeting 7:15 p.m. at UWEX
- 31—4-H Meats Judging Contest

February

- 1—Summer Camp Counselor applications due
- 7—State 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl
- 13—Newsletter items due to Kelly at UWEX
- 14—Valentine's Day
- 23—Federation Meeting 7:15 p.m. at UWEX



March

- 1—4-H Enrollment deadline to be eligible to show at the Fair
- 1—Volunteer Sign-up deadline for Summer Academy
- 13—Deadline to purchase Midwest Horse Fair tickets
- 21—Skillathon and Quiz Bowl
- 23—Federation Meeting 7:15 p.m. at UWEX
- 24—MASS Spring Orientation & Salesmanship Training

April

- 1—Federation of Taylor County 4-H Scholarship Application due
- 10—Newsletter items due to Kelly at UWEX
- 12—YQCA Training @UWEX 1-2p.m.
- 17-19—Midwest Horse Fair
- 25—Dog 4-H Quiz Bowl
- 26—MASS Lamb Initial Weigh-In; Swine ID Photos & paper-work due
- 27—Federation Meeting 7:15 p.m. at UWEX

4-H Happenings



March 24, 2026

Spring Orientation & Salesmanship Training

Extension Building. New Member Orientation at 6p.m., continuing Members at 7 p.m.

Watch MASS Facebook page for upcoming workshops and livestock education opportunities.

MARKET ANIMAL PARTICIPANTS

SAVE THE DATE

for

YQCA | **YOUTH FOR THE
QUALITY CARE
OF ANIMALS**

TRAINING

**SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH 1-2 P.M.
EXTENSION CONFERENCE ROOM**



Nov/Dec Callie Cat
Winners: Zeke Moodie,
& Nacole Butt

Youth Opportunity



Callie Cat's 4-H Newsletter Contest



Hey 4-H Youth Members! Callie Cat wants you to read the 4-H newsletter so you can have the opportunity to **win a prize** each newsletter! All you have to do is complete the Callie Cat 4-H Newsletter questions and submit them by the last day of the month the newsletter comes out. If you are in K-5 and submit at least 2/3 correct answers OR in grade 6-13 and submit at least 13/14 correct, while following all submission directions, your name will be put into a drawing for a \$15 gift certificate! There will be 1 winner from each grade group per newsletter. Participants must be 4-H youth members.

Callie Cat 4-H Newsletter Questions:

Grade K-5 Questions:

- 1) What are the dates for 4-H Summer Camp?
- 2) Who received the Leader of the Year Award?
- 3) What clubs have pictures in “4-H Happenings” section?

Grade 6-13 Questions:

- 1) Did MASS get a new logo?
- 2) When is Youth Leaders (6th grade & up) training?
- 3) Who is the new President for 4-H Federation?
- 4) Who received the Leader of the Year Award?
- 5) When is 4-H Summer Camp?
- 6) Do clubs meet when it's -10•C or more?
- 7) What is 4-H Has Heart?
- 8) What does YLO stand for?
- 9) Do you know of someone interested in the 4-H Intern position?
- 10) When is the Federation Scholarship application due?
- 11) What age do you have to be to contribute to Federation meetings?
- 12) Where is the rabies clinic and bake sale held?
- 13) How many state programs are mentioned in this newsletter?

Instructions for submitting your entry:

- Answer questions on an 8.5x11 piece of paper. Write your full name and club name in the upper right hand corner of your entry page.
- Submit to: 4-H Agent Attn: Callie Cat Contest, Taylor County Extension, 925 Donald St. Room 103, Medford, WI 54451

4-H Happenings



January 10, 2026

Bake
SALE TOO!

Rabies Clinic



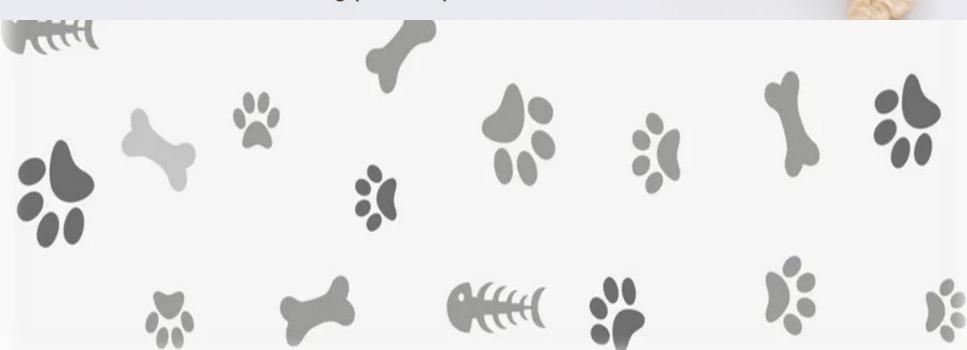
\$10
per shot

Lublin Village Hall 8:00-10:30a.m.
Questions? Call Dorothy at 715-669-3655



Sponsored by Diamond Lakers 4-H Club & the Stanley Veterinary Clinic

*Please bring proof of prior vaccinations.



WONDERS WITHIN WOOD

Carving and Design Distance Learning Kit

Audience: 5th Grade and Up

Register By: Jan 5th in 4HOnline

Cost: \$5



Participants will get to:

- Explore how people first began thinking about and making carvings by using several different art mediums
- Connect with carving traditions, and head outdoors to observe and journal.
- Begin building green wood carving skills by shaping a flower from fresh wood

What's Included

Included in the kit:

- Interactive curriculum guide with links to an online learning video and a sharing community just for this project
- Informational insert on selecting a good carving knife and care (carving knife not included)
- Art supplies



The Artist In Residence

This program was made possible through "Culture, Community, and the Classroom Residency." We are honored to host Derek Brabender, an artisan green wood worker. We will host a Zoom with Derek where youth can display his carving work, ask questions, and learn about the green wood carving community as it exists today. This event will take place in March.

Please note that due to the nature of this activity, youth will need to be supervised and assisted by a trusted adult during carving. This is an independent learning activity.

State Programs



Who can participate? You must be a currently enrolled WI 4-H member to participate in this contest. Participants can compete as a county team or as an individual. Please note, teams are typically 4 people and need to be at least 3 participants to count as a team score.

- Junior - Age 8-13 as of January 1, 2026. Youth must be in or completed 3rd grade, 8-year-old Cloverbuds cannot participate.
- Senior - Age 14-18 as of January 1, 2026. (Sr. team members cannot exceed grade 12, regardless of age)
- Grade 13 Members - WI 4-H members that are in the 13th grade are eligible to compete at this state contest as individuals but not as a member of a team.

Even if your county has not participated in the past, round-up some 4-H friends and take advantage of this fun opportunity to show your knowledge of the animal species and industry.

Register by January 19, 2026.

REGISTRATION OPEN

STATE 4-H LIVESTOCK EVENTS

4-H MEATS JUDGING CONTEST

JANUARY 31, 2026



EVENT HELD AT THE MEAT SCIENCE & ANIMAL BIOLOGICS DISCOVERY BUILDING, UW MADISON CAMPUS

tinyurl.com/4HMeatsContest26



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Registrations are open until January 19th for the upcoming **4-H Dairy Bowl Contest** on February 7th at UW-Green Bay. We hope you join us for a day full of fun, learning and competition!

Looking for more information or study resources?

tinyurl.com/DairyQuizBowl26

REGISTRATION OPEN

STATE 4-H DAIRY QUIZ BOWL

FEBRUARY 7, 2026

**UW GREEN BAY
STEM INNOVATION BUILDING**



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



State Programs



New! Youth Day

Friday, April 17, 2026



Midwest Horse Fair is offering all student groups, teachers and youth group leaders a special offer of \$15 per ticket vs. the \$25 at the gate for attendance on Friday, April 17, 2026!

Did you know studies have shown that horses can improve emotional regulation, reduce anxiety, and encourage teamwork and leadership skills?

Order Tickets
Starting 11/1/25



- Expert clinicians, amazing shopping, over 800 horses and more
- Watch WI FFA State Horse Evaluation CDE Competition
- Learn about Equine Careers and participate in a scavenger hunt
- Enjoy great food and have fun learning!

*Minimum 8 tickets Per Order paid for by school or organization.



Visit www.midwesthorsefair.com



Email: tickets@midwesthorsefair.com

Proudly
Presented by:





State Programs

SAVE THE DATES

STATE 4-H DOG EVENTS

DOG 4-H QUIZ BOWL

APRIL 25, 2026

STEM INNOVATION BUILDING, UW - GREEN BAY

**STATE 4-H DOG OBEDIENCE,
SHOWMANSHIP, AND RALLY;
SPEAKING, PHOTO, AND POSTER CONTESTS**

SEPTEMBER 26 & 27, 2026

LANGLADE CO. FAIRGROUNDS, ANTIGO

STATE 4-H DOG AGILITY SHOW

OCTOBER 11, 2026

OVERDALE CANINE SPORTS, SPRING VALLEY



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

tinyurl.com/4HDogEvents26

State Programs



STATE PROGRAMS & EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES



2025-2026 Wisconsin 4-H State Programs & Educational Experiences Program Booklet is Ready

Sometimes, there are so many choices in 4-H that it can be difficult to learn about them all. That's where this "4-H Opportunities" booklet comes in! We are excited to provide this one-stop shop for you to explore and dream about all the educational experiences available to you as a Wisconsin 4-H member.

Are you ready to take the next step in 4-H? From attending national trips, joining statewide teams, to exploring the world, the possibilities are (almost) endless. You may not be old enough for all of these experiences yet, but I encourage you to plant the seed of "what could I do in 4-H?" now and watch it grow in the years to come.





Useful Information

Extension Meeting Rooms

Extension has 2 meeting rooms available for 4-H Clubs, the "flat" room and the "tiered" room.

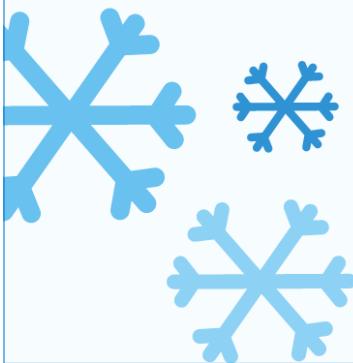


Inclement Weather/Cancellation Guidelines

Taylor County 4-H

-10°C

Taylor County 4-H Programs (county, club, projects and events) are automatically cancelled if any of the following occur:



*Taylor County or the location where the event is scheduled to occur is under a Winter Storm, Wind Chill, Tornado, Blizzard or Severe Thunderstorm Warning issued by the National Weather Service.

*Travel is not advised due to snow, wind, or ice storms.

*Schools are closed for the day or closing early.

Remember, we're in the business of teaching youth to be safe and that includes knowing when to stay home.

Newsletter Deadlines

February 13—March/April
April 10—May/June



Clubs are welcome to share events or meetings by these dates.

If you have any questions please contact the office 715-748-1413 or

Taylor County 4-H



Liberty decorating Christmas Cookies
To be donated to local police and first responders

Thrifty-Go-Getters making pumpkin stress balls
and candy turkeys for the nursing home in
Stetsonville



Happenings!

NONPROFIT
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
MEDFORD WI 54451
PERMIT NO 196



UW-MADISON EXTENSION
Taylor County 4-H
925 Donald St., Rm 103
Medford, WI 54451

Taylor County 4-H is on Facebook & Instagram!

This will be another way to communicate information, event details and learn more about Taylor County 4-H



Facebook: Taylor County 4-H
Link: <https://www.facebook.com/4h.taylorcounty>



Instagram: uwextaylorcounty4h
Link: <https://instagram.com/taylor.uwex.edu>

Purpose Statement

"We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities."



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Taylor County 4-H

An EEO/Affirmative Action employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements. Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Please do so as early as possible prior to the program or activity so that proper arrangements can be made. Requests are confidential.