



UW-MADISON EXTENSION



4-H FORECAST

Calendar of Events

DEC 2025-JAN 2026

In this season of giving thanks, I would like to thank all of the members, leaders, and families that are a part of the Waupaca County 4-H Program and help to make it the best it can be! Congratulations to all of the youth and adults that were recognized in November with awards and recognition. I look forward to a great 2026 and if there is something you feel is a need within the program, please reach out!

- December 13, 4-H Bake Sale at Tractor Supply in New London, 9 am - 1 pm
- December 15, Wisconsin 4-H Space Camp registration deadline in 4-H online
- December 19, Winter Leadership Camp registration deadline in 4-H online
- December 24 & 25, Extension Waupaca County Office CLOSED
- December 29, 4-5:30 p.m, Officer Training at Manawa High School
- December 31 & January 1, Extension Waupaca County Office CLOSED
- January 6, Flat Stanley zoom for those registered
- January 10, 4-H Open House, 10 am - 12 noon, Waupaca Public Library
- January 12, Gingerbread House Contest entries due to penny.tank@wisc.edu
- January 23-25, Winter Leadership Camp
- January 26, Waupaca County Horse Project Organizational Meeting
- January 27, Waupaca County 4-H Leaders Board and Association meetings



Due to limited staff coverage, you are encouraged to call or email prior to visiting the office in person between Christmas and New Years. The Extension Waupaca County Office will be closed December 24 and 25, December 31 and January 1.



Support 4-H by participating in the Waupaca County 4-H Bake Sale! 4-H families are asked to bring items to sell. Baked goods can be brought to the store at 8:30 a.m. on December 13. This could be a fun club activity to make something to donate too! Then invite your friends and family to come purchase goodies! Proceeds go to the Waupaca County 4-H Ambassadors.

Tractor Supply, New London
Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025
9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

**Bake Sale for
Waupaca
County 4-H**

*Just in time for the
Holidays!*



**Please label any
items that may
contain nuts or
other allergens.**





Be creative and work on your own or as a team!



Keep an eye out for more registration details and program information on the state 4-H website:
<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/winter-academy/>





LEVEL UP YOUR LEADERSHIP
4-H WINTER LEADERSHIP CAMP

YOUTH IN GRADES 7-12TH
 will enhance their leadership skills while having fun.

JAN. 23-25 2026

SPENCER LAKE
 N1385 Cty Hwy E
 Waupaca, WI 54981
COST: ~~\$125~~ \$95
 The Waupaca County 4-H Leaders Board will cover remaining cost!

REGISTER BY DECEMBER 19 ON 4-H ONLINE.

4-H members in grades 7 and above are invited to Winter Leadership Camp, January 23-25, 2026 at Spencer Lake in Waupaca!

The cost for Waupaca County campers will be \$95.00. Register in 4-H online by December 19.

Space Camp is a great educational experience to learn about STEM, aerospace, and more! There is financial support available from the 4-H Leaders Association through an application and interview.



April 23-27, 2026

Huntsville, Alabama

Wisconsin 4-H SPACE CAMP
 OPEN TO YOUTH GRADES 6-8

Get involved in:

- Simulated Space Missions
- Learning and using Space Simulators
- Building and launching your own model rockets
- Real space training simulation
- etc.

Cost is \$1300

Registration open from Nov 15-Dec 15 via 4HOnline



  **Positive Youth Development Institute**
 DIVISION OF EXTENSION
 UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

4-H Flat Stanley Project

Important Dates:

- Registration Opens: November
- Zoom Read-Aloud: Tuesday, January 6
- Registration Deadline: January 9
- Flat Stanley Mailed Out: Week of January 19
- Adventures Begin: When Stanley/Stella arrives!
- Return Flat Stanley: Week of February 9
- Zoom Share-Out Celebration: Sunday, February 22

Grades K-2
Ages: 5-8

MY BEST ADVENTURES!

4-H Flat Stanley Project

Register by: Jan 9, 2026

SCAN ME



A Pen Pal program across 9 Counties
Grades K-2
Ages: 5-8




Grades K-2 - Join the Flat Stanley Pen Pal Project!

Get ready for an exciting mail adventure with Flat Stanley & Flat Stella!

Register at: <https://bit.ly/4-HFlatStanley> or scan the QR code.

153rd Waupaca County Fair

AUGUST 25-30, 2026



The Waupaca County Fair dates for 2026 include Tuesday, August 25. Watch for more details from the County Fair.



Congratulations to the following 4-H Clubs who will be able to have a club pizza party from the 4-H Leaders Association for entering their promotion efforts in the random drawing: **Country Pride, Friendly Valley, Crossing Creeks, and Norseman**



4-H OFFICER TRAINING

REGISTER BY
DEC 23

DEC 29, 2025

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

MANAWA HIGH SCHOOL
515 E 4TH STREET

JOIN US FOR IN PERSON OFFICER
TRAINING. INFORMATION WILL
BE SHARED FOR PRESIDENT, VICE
PRESIDENT, SECRETARY,
REPORTER, & TREASURER.

REGISTER HERE:

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/C6HVCELXHL2FFZC8](https://forms.gle/C6HVCELXHL2FFZC8)



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



Yarn Drive

Waupaca County Home and Community Educators are collecting yarn for the Oshkosh Correctional Institution crochet project.

Do you have extra or unwanted yarn you'd like to donate to the cause? Each skein supports handmade winter items for local children and provides justice-involved individuals with purpose and connection through giving back.

Yarn Drop Off Sites:

UW Extension Waupaca County Office

111 North W. Water St.

New London, WI

8am-4pm, Monday-Friday

715-258-6230

New London Senior Center

600 Washington St

New London, WI

9am-4pm, Monday-Friday

920-982-8522



4-H SHOOTING SPORTS TRAININGS 2026 ADULT CERTIFICATION WORKSHOPS UPDATE

Scheduled workshops: Washington County Saturday, February 7, and Brown County Saturday, April 25.

2026 Changes:

1. All participants must be an approved leader currently enrolled in 4-H Online.
2. Each leader must reregister through their 4-H Online account.
3. Fee payment will be by credit card through 4-H Online when registering. Following the certification, volunteers can submit a reimbursement form to the Waupaca County 4-H Leaders Association to receive half of their registration cost back
4. Registration will close two weeks prior to the date of the certification workshop.

More information can be found at:

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/outdoor-education/shooting-sports/leader-certification-training-workshops/>



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GEAR UP FOR
HUNTING SEASON!

WAUPACA COUNTY PLAT BOOKS

For purchase info, contact
Extension Waupaca County
at 715.258.6230

Call for additional purchase locations

Sales of this plat book support the Waupaca County 4-H Program

SmartMaps and more available at
www.MappingSolutionsGIS.com

mappingsolutions
Backed by experience, driven by technology



National 4-H Animal Science Career Night

DECEMBER 18, 2025
7-8pm EST | 6-7pm CST

Presented by
National Association of Extension 4-H
Youth Development Professionals,
Animal Science Working Group



Join us for an evening to hear from noted speakers in the animal science industry as they share career exploration insights, advice, and more! Open to youth in grades 7–13 (ages 12–19).

FREE



Register by December 17, 2025 11:59pm est

For more information Contact:
mb2173@njaes.rutgers.edu




Mr Jack Ward
Executive Vice President of the
American Hereford Association



Mr Sam Cohen
Zoological Supervisor
Bush Gardens, Tampa FL

LIVE

SAVE THE DATES

STATE 4-H LIVESTOCK EVENTS

4-H MEATS JUDGING CONTEST
JANUARY 31, 2026

SKILLATHON AND QUIZ BOWL
MARCH 21, 2026

**BOTH EVENTS HELD AT THE
UW MADISON CAMPUS**



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Check out these
animal science
project
opportunities!

Wisconsin 4-H Animal Science Project Webpage
<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/agriculture-and-animal-science/>

SAVE THE DATES

STATE 4-H HORSE EVENTS

HORSE EDUCATION DAYS
MAY 2 & 3, 2026

STATE HUNT AND DRESSAGE SHOW
JUNE 26, 27, & 28, 2026

STATE GYMKHANA SHOW
SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

STATE HORSE EXPO SHOW
SEPTEMBER 18, 19, & 20, 2026



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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



SAVE THE DATE

**STATE 4-H DAIRY
QUIZ BOWL**

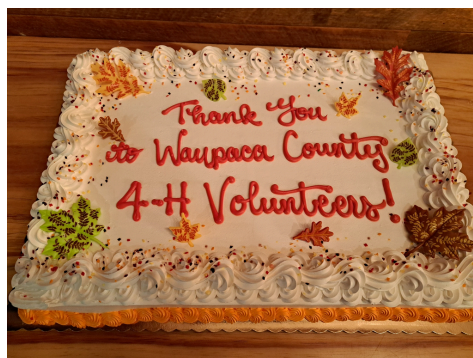
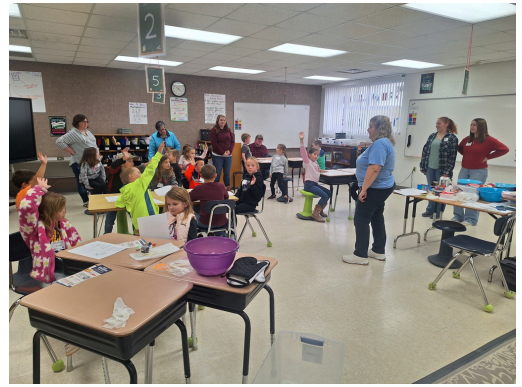
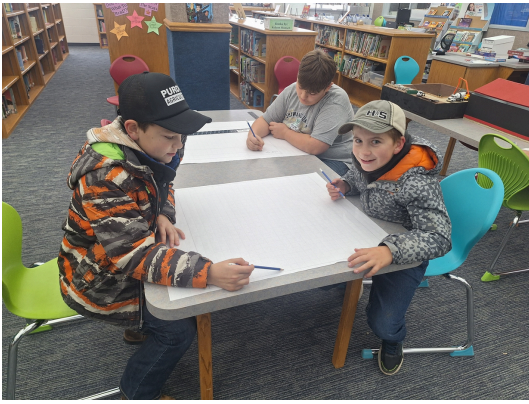
FEBRUARY 7, 2026

**UW GREEN BAY
STEM INNOVATION BUILDING**



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON





Changing & Adding Project Areas

Members are able to change projects they enroll in until April 1, 2026 if a project area is forgotten or you want to add or delete. The project areas you are enrolled in are the areas where members will be able to enter exhibits in the junior fair next summer. Contact Penny at penny.tank@wisc.edu to make any changes for you. After April 1, no project areas can be added.

4-H Online Enrollment



New Enrollments will be accepted at any time of the year; HOWEVER, in order to participate in the 2026 Waupaca County Junior Fair, enrollments need to be completed by February 1, 2026.

Needs Based Scholarships

If families have difficulty paying for 4-H events, program fees, etc. at any time of the year they should reach out to the Waupaca County 4-H Program Educator, Penny Tank, at penny.tank@wisc.edu or 715-258-6230 to discuss the availability of needs based scholarships. Requests will be kept confidential.

Paper Clover Campaign to support 4-H



Leaders' Board & Association

The next Leaders' Board and Association Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 27, 2026. The Leaders Board starts at 6:30 p.m. and the Leaders' Association starts at 7:30 p.m. Clubs in District III (Baldwins Mill, Lebanon Cedars, Peterson Mill, Norseman) are asked to report what their 4-H Club is doing. All registered certified leaders are part of the Leaders' Association. Youth members in grades 7 and above with one year of 4-H membership are also members of the Leaders' Association. Please attend. Your input is greatly valued!!

At each Leaders' Association meeting, one district is asked to report what their 4-H club is doing. These club reports are great for others to hear and a nice way to share ideas. The clubs that are to report are listed on each meeting notice. The report can be given by a youth or adult. In the past, most clubs have shared information like the size of their club, projects their members are involved in, and activities their club plans throughout the year. We encourage youth and adults from each club to attend and participate in the Association meetings. Clubs reporting have also usually brought a light snack for the meeting if possible.

Winter Sports Policies & Insurance



As we enter the season of winter and start to think about club outings like sledding and skiing, be sure to check the WI 4-H policies. Wisconsin 4-H has updated or added several policies to provide 4-H volunteers, members, and staff guidance when planning for higher risk projects and/or activities. Some winter activities are not covered by the regular 4-H insurance. If you are planning an event contact Penny to talk about special event insurance.

Visit the Wisconsin 4-H Policies webpage for policy changes and details:

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/resources/wisconsin-4-h-policies/>

Club and Group Charters - Thank You

Thank you very much to all of the group and club youth and adult leaders who completed the Annual Financial Reports and Charter Applications. They provide information that allows us to extend the right of using the 4-H name and emblem to clubs and groups in the county. Thank you all for helping in that process.



Financial Reminders



As we continue another 4-H year, I want to remind everyone of the financial guidelines.

- Regardless of the source, all 4-H funds are public funds
- Keep receipts and copies of any bills! You should only be paying for things when there are receipts and/or utilize payment vouchers as needed.
- Do not keep “petty cash” or “cash boxes” with money on hand. Run all money through an approved account.
- Budgets help clubs and groups plan. If your club would like help creating a budget please contact the Extension office.
- Club fundraisers should be conducted to reach a certain goal; there should be a plan and reason for raising a certain amount of money.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. Or go to the state financial website <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/resources/wisconsin-4-h-policies/financial-management/>

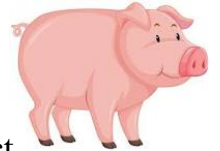
Small Market Animal Meeting

The Small Market Animal (rabbits, poultry, goats) sale is voluntary, but members or a family member/ guardian representative **MUST** attend one mandatory meeting and sign up to sell. A **MANDATORY MEETING** is to be held in two places (you need to attend 1).

- Thursday, March 5, 2026 OR
- Monday, March 9, 2026

More details will be sent to project members as the dates get closer.

Youth Pig Project Scholarships



The Wisconsin Pork Association Youth Committee is again offering Youth Pig Project scholarships. These scholarships are designed to assist 4-H and FFA members in establishing swine projects that can lead to development of life skills and career opportunities in the Wisconsin pork industry. 4-H and FFA youth are eligible to apply for a \$100 scholarship used to offset costs associated with their 2026 pig project. Our goal is to raise enough funds to award a minimum of 50 scholarships. Age divisions, as of January 1st, 2026, are as follows: Ages 9-11, 12-15, and 16-19. Youth who are selected to receive a WPA Youth Pig Project Scholarship will be asked to participate in a 30-minute educational webinar to receive their \$100 scholarship check. Those who do not participate will not receive their scholarship. The Wisconsin Pork Association is committed to youth development and feels that offering resources like these will help further educate youth about swine production and other opportunities within the industry. Webinar dates will be announced later. Applications are due by January 16, 2026.

Horse Project Organizational Meeting

The first countywide horse project meeting will be on Monday, January 26, 2026. At this meeting, members will receive the project calendar, paper work, etc. Watch for more details if you are enrolled in the horse or horseless project.

Summer Camp 2026



IOWA, PORTAGE, & WAUPACA

4-H SUMMER CAMP COUNSELOR SEARCH

Applications are now open for 4-H Summer Camp Counselors and our new Counselor-in-Training (CIT) program! Youth in grades 9+ are eligible to apply as Camp Counselors, while the CIT program is open to 8th grade students only who are interested in developing leadership skills and learning what it takes to be a future camp counselor. Simply scan the QR code below to access the application. Applications are due February 16th, 2025.

CAMP DATES
JUNE 15-17
2026



The poster features a green background with yellow circles containing photos of campers and counselors. At the top left is a 4-H clover logo. The text is in white and yellow, with a QR code at the bottom left.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for 2026 4-H Summer Camp!! The dates will be June 15-17, 2026 at Upham Woods near Wisconsin Dells. Camp will include Waupaca, Portage, and Iowa Counties. We are accepting counselor applications currently (scan the QR code to apply) and registration for campers will come out in the spring.

Icebreaker Game Idea

Group Juggling

Group Size: Any, though the larger the number the better the effect

Materials Needed: A variety of balls, stuffed animals, and other small, soft objects (six to eight is enough), more for larger groups. For more of a challenge have at least one object per group member).

Directions:

1. Have the group stand in a circle. Start things off by throwing a ball to someone across the group and say his/her name. That person then throws it to someone else, saying that person's name. Keep going until everyone has caught and thrown the ball. Everyone needs to remember the name of the person he/she threw it to.
2. Practice! Send the ball around at least once more, always throwing it to the same person and saying his/her name before throwing. Also remember who is throwing balls to you!
3. Add additional balls or objects to the game. The idea is to try to keep everything aloft and off the ground.
4. Time how long it takes for one object to make it around. Count the number of drops and try to improve as a whole group. For an extra bit of confusion, reverse direction.

Discussion:

- What did you notice as more balls or objects were added?
- Did it get easier the more you did it? Why or why not?
- Did anyone get two balls at once? What happened?
- What happened when you reversed direction? Why?
- What is the maximum number of balls you think you can handle? Why? (if possible, test their theory!)
- If you had been able to throw the ball to anyone at anytime (not the same person over and over), do you think it would have made it easier or harder? Why?
- Why did you need everyone to contribute to make this game successful?

Thank you...

- To the older youth that completed the Thriving Youth Survey.
- Awards and Recognition Committee, award presenters, explorers who led the pledges and Ambassadors for your help with Achievement Night.
- Attendees who bid on items at the silent auction during the banquet. The auction raised over \$2600 for Waupaca Co. 4-H.
- All of the businesses that generously donated for the silent auction and door prizes at the banquet. And the volunteers for organizing the donations.
- Sandy Knoll, Wolf River Rascals, and Tri-County 4-H Clubs for your help with the Leader Banquet
- Sponsors for 4-H member and leader awards: Waupaca County 4-H Leaders' Association, Fox Valley Rabbit Club, Waupaca County Farm Bureau, State Legislature, the Horse Project, Waupaca County Dairy Youth Fair Committee.
- Deb Schneider, Sarah Burmeister, Violet Horton, and Bella Havlik for helping with the October Cloverbud workshop.
- Sophie Stueck, Violet Horton, Deb Schneider, and Lora Korth for helping with the 4-H booth at Halloween on Main in downtown Waupaca.

Congratulations!!

- All adult volunteer leaders recognized during the Leader Banquet.
- All youth receiving recognition at the club level and during Achievement Night.
- Kylie Heise, Sandy Knoll, and Danielle Tank, Wolf River Rascals, participating in National 4-H Congress in Atlanta

Club Highlights

One reminder for club secretaries is to send a copy of monthly minutes to the Extension Office. This can be emailed to penny.tank@wisc.edu. If you have questions please ask. Below are a few club highlights:

- **Casey Lake 4-H** - The club held its annual 4-H Achievement Night with a baked potato bar. Members also enjoyed a hay ride, corn maze, and community service projects.
- **Krossing Creeks 4-H** - Club members reviewed how the fair went and enjoyed a pizza party! They also decorated pumpkins and put together a display for National 4-H Week.
- **Peterson Mill 4-H** - Officers were elected and club members created ice cream flavors to submit for the Cedar Crest Ice Cream contest. They also planned a Christmas party and bingo.
- **Sandy Knoll 4-H** - New officers were installed and the club reviewed their annual budget, calendar, and bylaws. Club members led games at Caledonia Fest and a Christmas party is planned for December.
- **Tri-County 4-H** - The club planned a community food drive, colored bags for Veterans, and are planning an ornament exchange and cookie decorating at their December meeting.

Please share this Open House information with anybody that would like to learn about 4-H. We are also looking for members/leaders/clubs willing to bring some projects to show, activity to complete, etc. Email penny.tank@wisc.edu if you are willing to help out.



A colorful poster for a 4-H Open House event. The central focus is a large dark brown circle containing the text "4-H OPEN HOUSE" in large white letters, with "10 AM-NOON WAUPACA AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY" below it. Above the circle is a green four-leaf clover logo with "H" on each leaf. To the left of the circle is a green starburst with "Saturday, January 10". To the right is a yellow speech bubble with "FREE & STOP IN ANYTIME, 10 AM - NOON". Below the circle is a green speech bubble with "Lower level meeting rooms at Waupaca Library". At the bottom is a yellow rounded rectangle with "JANUARY 10, 2026". The poster is decorated with various icons: a paint palette, a horse, a cow, a pig, a birdhouse, a dog, a camera on a tripod, a basket of vegetables, and a hammer. At the bottom left are the UW-Madison Extension and 4-H logos. At the bottom right is a quote from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension.

4-H OPEN HOUSE
10 AM-NOON
WAUPACA AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

FREE & STOP IN ANYTIME, 10 AM - NOON

Saturday, January 10

Lower level meeting rooms at Waupaca Library

Come to the Waupaca Area Public Library, 107 S Main St, and learn more about Waupaca County 4-H, projects and events offered, along with completing some hands on projects and talking to young people in 4-H!

JANUARY 10, 2026

UW-MADISON EXTENSION

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4-H Awards Winners

Congratulations to all of the youth award winners and adult volunteers recognized during the Awards programs in November.

For a copy of the program, please go to:

<https://waupaca.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/4-h-program-topics/4-h-activities/>

4-H VOLUNTEER LEADERS

40 Year Leaders

Dorothy Paider

35 Year Leaders

James Zemple

Gloria Bigalke

30 Year Leaders

Bart Moericke

Pam Fenn

20 Year Leaders

Connie Bestul

Lisa Wettstein

Paul Kirchner

15 Year Leaders

Deb Robbins

Rebecca Loehrke

Emily Magolski

Julia Olsen

10 Year Leaders

Austin Retzlaff

5 Year Leaders

Craig Fietzer

Wyatt Kersten

Cynthia Dietzler

Sylvia Ramirez

Rachel Ritchie

Cindy Schuelke

4-H YOUTH AWARD WINNERS

Key Award

Brooklyn Grimm Country Pride

Danielle Tank Wolf River Rascals

Onan Retzlaff Woodland Badgers

4-H Leaders Association Scholarship

Hannah Fischer Lind Center Beavers

Abbey Acker Sandy Knoll

Allison Knoespel Sandy Knoll

Brooklyn Grimm Country Pride

Calleigh Beyer Friendly Valley

Abbey Acker	Sandy Knoll	Connor Jones	Dayton Community
Carolynn Backes	Sandy Knoll	Allison Knoespel	Sandy Knoll
Trinity Bestul	Peterson Mill	Lilianna Liegl	Dayton Community
Calleigh Beyer	Friendly Valley	Alex Loehrke	Lind Center Beavers
Lucas DeCoster	Tri- County	Jenna Olson	Lind Center Beavers
Ethan Eidenberger	Sandy Knoll	Ethan Ruppel	Sandy Knoll
Hannah Fischer	Lind Center Beavers	Sterling Van Straten	Woodland Badgers
Breann Giauque	Country Pride		
Brooklyn Grimm	Country Pride		
Victoria Havlik	Woodland Badgers		



Thank you to all of the individuals that gathered donations, donated and/or bid on items at the silent auction during the 4-H Leaders Banquet at Bear Lake! Over \$2600 was raised to be used towards additional countywide educational opportunities (like the bus trip this past summer).



**2026 PHOTO
CALENDAR
\$5.00**

*Photos were submitted by Waupaca County 4-H members!
Funds will be used to support our 4-H program!*



PAYMENT TO WAUPACA COUNTY 4-H LEADERS ASSOCIATION

If you have questions about a project area and there are not others in your club in the project, please contact the Extension Office for contacts / leaders willing to help countywide.

Remember the physical office location for the Extension Office is temporarily:

**111 W North Water Street
New London**

Mail can still be sent to the courthouse address and we pick it up a few times a week.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
WAUPACA COUNTY
811 HARDING STREET
WAUPACA WI 54981

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WAUPACA, WI 54981
PERMIT NO. 3

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



UW-MADISON EXTENSION



EXTENSION WAUPACA COUNTY STAFF

811 Harding Street, Waupaca, WI 54981 (715) 258-6230
<https://waupaca.extension.wisc.edu/>

4-H/Positive Youth Development

Penny Tank, 4-H Program Educator
penny.tank@wisc.edu

Haley Nelson, Program Assistant
haley.nelson@wisc.edu

Waupaca Area Extension Director—Jeremy Solin

jeremy.solin@wisc.edu

Human Development & Relationships – Alicia Utke

alicia.utke@wisc.edu

Community Development Educator – Amy Ebert

amy.ebert@wisc.edu

Health & Well Being Educator – Christi Gabriliska

christi.gabriliska@wisc.edu



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

Events will be conducted in English. You may request an interpreter, materials in an alternative language and/or format, and/or other services to make events more accessible. Contact us at penny.tank@wisc.edu. Make your request at least 25 days before an event so there is enough time to make sure everything is ready for you. There is no added cost to you for these services.