HANCES are you were a 4-H member. Or maybe you were or still are a 4-H leader, or you may have children or grandchildren who are or were in 4-H. In any case, it’s safe to say the vast majority of people living on farms in Wisconsin have been involved in 4-H at some point in their lives.

100 years old

Oct. 30, 2014, marks the 100th anniversary of 4-H in Wisconsin. The first 4-H club, Linn 4-H Club, was organized at the Linn Town Hall in Walworth County on Oct. 30, 1914. (See related stories on pages 6 and 7.)

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of 4-H, University of Wisconsin Extension specialists will be celebrating 100 years of growing leaders on Tuesday, Aug. 5, during Wisconsin 4-H Day at the Wisconsin State Fair in West Allis.

Beginning at 9 a.m., there will be lots of activities for youth and adults to participate in. Families can learn about how to get involved in 4-H opportunities or participate in several hands-on activities, including wishing Wisconsin 4-H a “happy birthday,” says Pam Hobson, state 4-H Extension youth development ag and animal science specialist. There will also be a spot for 4-H alumni to reconnect and share personal 4-H stories.

“On Aug. 5, they can help us create a video of amazing 4-H stories,” Hobson says. Show your creative side, wish Wisconsin 4-H “happy birthday,” or sign your name on a graffiti wall.

“We’re encouraging people throughout the whole year to use their cellphones and post their videos online,” Hobson adds. Fairgoers can see performances from Wisconsin 4-H’s very own statewide show choir, Showcase Singers, plus 4-H club performances and other 4-H demonstrations.

Fairgoers can visit more than 10 different activity stations, including art, natural science, community service and more, for hands-on learning fun, and can create a colorful keychain to take home.

“There are so many fun activities planned,” Hobson says. “In the Family Living Area there will be a bike with a blender on the back of it, and as you pedal the bike, it will make a fruit smoothie.”

The 4-H mascot, Chris Clover, will be on hand and will lead a rally at 2 p.m. and the fair’s daily parade at 2:30 p.m. Youth and adults are welcome to walk in the parade and show their 4-H pride.

“We’re encouraging everyone associated with 4-H to wear a green shirt or something with a clover on it,” Hobson explains.

After a fun-filled day of activities in Central Mall, join the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation at the annual Governor’s Blue Ribbon Meat Products Auction. Bidder registration begins at 6 p.m. and the auction starts at 7 p.m. in the Case IH Coliseum.

HANDS-ON LEARNING:

A group of Wisconsin 4-H junior leaders participate in National 4-H Camp in 1936.