

# Many 4-Hers enjoy arts, communication

**W**hen you think of 4-H you often think about animals, right? But Arts and Communications has the largest enrollment in of any project in the county. In fact, the highest enrollment for an animal project falls to number five overall.

4-H offers a variety of ways youths can be active in the arts.

AMANDA  
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In Lincoln County, 4-H holds a variety of festivals and contests

each year. They range from puppetry, drama and lip sync to poetry and storytelling. Not to mention the fair.

If a young person is more inclined to the arts, we offer Project Discovery Days with many choices. Youths also have the opportunity to participate in statewide events for 4-H members including, Arts Lab, Arts Beat, Art Team and State Fair Exhibits.

Jeanne Schmidt and leaders for the Barnes Creek Buccaneers 4-H Club worked with her group to take a lip sync performance on the road to the Wisconsin State Fair in West Allis. Let's read about their experience, as told by Schmidt.

"Starting in early January, members of our club interested in performing in the annual Music and Lip Sync Festival gathered. Under the direction of Rachel Leary, the group decided on the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Stevie Roets, from left, Betsy Engel, Mercedes Leary, Elia Leary, Ainen Leary, Molly McGinn and Josh Schmidt perform a lip sync number.**

song 'The Night Chicago Died' as the song that they would lip sync for the Music Festival. Over the next few weeks, the group worked together to come up with ideas for stage props and costumes and to practice.

"A few members worked a whole afternoon drawing and painting the backdrop of the Chicago skyline for the stage. After a few practices and a dress rehearsal, the group decided that they were ready for the Festival.

"On Jan. 24, the group observed many other talented kids from Lincoln County before it was their turn to head to the stage. Molly McGinn, Elia Leary and Mercedes Leary dressed as police officers. Betsy Engel, Ainen Leary and Josh Schmidt dressed as gangsters. Stevie Roets dressed as an old man, the storyteller. The kids all acted their parts and did a great job; they earned a blue ribbon and received a Best Costume Award.

"In May, our group was

selected to perform at the Wisconsin State Fair in August. Therefore, before heading to West Allis in August our group had a couple of practices to get ready for the stage again. Some of our group had some prior experience performing at the State Fair, but for our family it was the first time.

"Once we all arrived at the fair, we gathered again to watch other talented kids from around the state perform. The group members were very excited to get their turn on stage. They earned an award for their participation. After the kids performed, we had time to walk around and take in the sights, sounds and smells of the state fair; we also had to try one of the famous creme puffs.

"We were all very grateful for the opportunity we had to represent Lincoln County 4-H at the state fair."

**Amanda Kostman is program adviser for Lincoln County 4-H Youth Development.**