



4-H Connections Newsletter

March/April 2025

Educator's Corner

Hello 4-H families,

As some of you may have heard by now, at the end of February I will be leaving Outagamie County 4-H. I will be starting my career as a dairy cattle nutritionist for Agri-King in Northeast/Central Wisconsin. Although this job was only a temporary position, I loved every minute of it. Connecting with youth and volunteers to strengthen our 4-H program and increase opportunities for our youth was exciting and rewarding. I was able to share 4-H's story with third grade classrooms through ChickQuest, discover gardening and acting with our after-school programs, and give more youth the opportunity to work with livestock through the Calfless Calf and Poultry Starter Grant programs. I am currently working with groups such as the outreach committee and youth leaders to continue these programs after my departure. I will also continue to coordinate the Calfless Calf and Poultry Starter Grant programs after I leave, this time as a volunteer instead of county staff. Once again, thank you for all of your support over the past nine months, I really appreciate it.

Alyssa Seitz-Zeiwet

4-H Associate Educator

NEXT LEADERS MEETING:

Monday, April 28 | Center Town Hall | 7:00 pm

All leader meetings are open to ALL 4-H youth and adult leaders. We encourage regular attendees to bring someone new from your club each month. This is a great way to meet others and grow as an organization!

6:30 pm: Snacks provided by Buchanan Badgers, Busy Bears, Country Slickers & River Valley Hawks



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
OUTAGAMIE COUNTY

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Calendar

March

- 3 Application for CPF Scholarship DUE | 1:00 pm**
- 3 Outagamie County HCE Scholarship DUE**
- 4 Meat Processing Workshop | Haen Meat Packing Inc | 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Pre-registration required
- 8 Drama Festival | Seymour High School Auditorium | 8:00 am - 12:30 pm
- 11 Meat Processing Workshop | Haen Meat Packing Inc | 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Pre-registration required
- 15 Livestock Educational Meeting | Seymour Municipal Building | 9:00 - 10:30 am
- 15 Cloverbud Ceramic Event Registration DUE**
- 15-16 ArtBeat! | Upham Woods | Check-in starts at 9:00 am
- 17 Dog Project Training | Winnegamie Dog Club | 3:00 - 5:00 pm
- 21 Foods Revue Registrations DUE**
- 22 Poultry Workshop | Fox Valley Technical College | 10:30 am - Noon

April

- 3 Summer Camp Registration Open to Members
- 4 Pumpkin/Sunflower Contest Participant List Due to Extension Office from Main Leaders**
- 5 Cloverbud Ceramic Event | Pre-registration required
- 5 Foods Revue | Center Town Hall | 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- 5 A Century of Flavors: Celebrating Culinary Heritage | Center Town Hall | 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- 7 Music, Speaking and Talent Festival Registrations DUE**
- 7 Dog Project Training | Winnegamie Dog Club | 3:00 - 5:00 pm
- 14 Executive Board Meeting | Extension Office | 4:30 pm
- 15 Fair Online Entries Opens | Deadline May 25
- 17 Summer Camp Registration Open to All
- 18 Extension Outagamie County OFFICE CLOSED
- 21 Dog Project Training | Winnegamie Dog Club | 3:00 - 5:00 pm
- 28 Leaders Association Meeting | Center Town Hall | 7:00 pm

May

- 3 Music, Speaking and Talent Festival | Seymour High School Auditorium | 9:00 am
- 5 Dog Project Training | Winnegamie Dog Club | 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Upcoming Events

Drama Festival

Saturday, March 8 | Seymour High School Auditorium - Admission is FREE | 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, Doors open at 7:30 am

Please join us on Saturday to see what our amazing youth have been working on. They have been memorizing lines and perfecting their performances. It will be an entertaining and enjoyable event. Bring the family and sit back and relax as you enjoy each group as they perform at the Outagamie County 4-H Drama Festival!

Concessions will be available for purchase. Proceeds go to the 4-H Youth Leaders Association.

Poultry Workshop

Saturday, March 22 | 10:30 am - Noon | Fox Valley Technical College - Room HS114AB - Entrance 16 - North Parking Lot

Attention poultry project members, parents, and leaders:

The Outagamie County Fair is hosting a fun informational meeting on poultry biosecurity and the required state paperwork for the fair. This workshop is being presented by our district animal inspector and a state veterinarian. All poultry families are highly encouraged to attend.

RSVP by Tuesday, March 18 to Tammy at outagamiefairentries@gmail.com or 920-997-0363.

Cloverbud Ceramic Event

Date: Saturday, April 5

Time: 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Location: Cindy Meulemans Studio W3928 Kropp Rd, Black Creek WI 54165

Cost: The Cloverbud committee is subsidizing 50% of the cost. Your cost is \$9!

The project choices are shown. No kiln time needed. You will leave with your finished project. To register for the event, please email Katie Rickert katiebessette@yahoo.com with the Cloverbud's name and club. RSVPs due March 15th. Checks should be made payable to Outagamie Co 4-H Leaders Association and mailed to the Extension office in advance of the event.



Upcoming Events

Music, Speaking, & Talent Festival

****Mark your Calendar for Saturday, May 3, 2025****

Come showcase yourself while improving your skills and stage confidence.

Music

Solo/Duet, Sing, Play an Instrument, Dance, etc.

Club entry or groups of three or more

Speaking

Demonstration (Show “How To” Do Something)

Speeches: Prose, Poetry, Team Reading, Original Speech



Talent

Magic, gymnastics, martial arts, juggling, etc.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 3, Seymour High School. Guidelines and Class Divisions are listed on the next page. One registration per person or group. Registrations are due April 7 and can be found at <https://bit.ly/25MSTRegistration>.

Educational Travel Experience (ETE)

Information and applications for all trip opportunities are available at <https://outagamie.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/travel/>. If you have any questions, contact Alicia Schroeder-Haag at 920-832-5127 or alicia.schroederhaag@wisc.edu. There are scholarships available through the Outagamie County 4-H Leaders Association for up to 75% of the Educational Travel fees.

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/>

*Note: You do not need to apply for a county scholarship to attend an Experience. Please contact Alicia Schroeder-Haag for more information.

Upcoming Events



Music & Talent:

Time limit is 5 minutes per session.

Speaking:

- A. Cloverbuds - Time limit is 1-3 minutes (2-3 minutes for entry 7)
- B. Grades 3-5 - Time limit is 2-5 minutes (5-7 minutes for entry 7)
- C. Grades 6-8 – Time limit is 3-5 minutes (6-8 minutes for entry 7)
- D. Grades 9-13 – Time limit is 5-8 minutes (7- 10 minutes for entry 7)

MST Guidelines

Music Performance

- 1. Solo or Duet – Vocal
- 2. Solo or Duet – Instrumental
- 3. Solo or Duet – Dance
- 4. Duet - Combination of vocal, dance, and instrumental
- 5. Trio or Larger – Vocal
- 6. Trio or Larger – Instrumental
- 7. Trio or Larger – Dance
- 8. Trio or Larger - Combination of vocal, dance, and instrumental

Talent

- 1. Single or Duo Act
- 2. Trio or Larger Group

Speaking

1. Interpretive Reading of Prose

a. Participant selects written prose. Prose is ordinary language. It can include stories, play cuttings, narratives, or anything not written as a poem. The material is read with personal interpretation being presented. Un-memorized

2. Interpretive Reading of Poetry

a. Participant selects poetry. It may be a single poem, a cutting from a single poem, or several related poems. Poetry is rhythmical. The composition is then read with personal interpretation being presented. Un-memorized

3. Interpretive Reading of Original Prose or Poetry

a. Participant writes a poem or prose (story). The material is read with personal interpretation being presented. Un-memorized

4. Memorized

a. Participant selects or writes prose or poetry. The material is then memorized and presented without notes in an interpretive fashion. If desired, props may be used for this category.

5. Interpretive Team Reading

a. Participants select a prose, poetry, or drama selection that would be suitable for two to five individuals.
b. The grade category is determined by the oldest member. Please list all grades on the registration form.
c. Un-memorized. Props, costumes, and make-up are not to be used. This is not play acting; it is interpretive team reading.

6. Original Speech

a. Participant writes an original speech on any subject. A speech is not a story; it is one main idea that is developed and supported with facts.

7. Demonstration Speech

a. Participant writes an original demonstration on any subject. Demonstration speeches inform audiences about a topic or instruct them in performing a particular task, like preparing a recipe or using a product. Learning about demonstration speeches, their importance and how to format them effectively can help you feel confident when presenting them.



Upcoming Events

Foods Revue

What is the 4-H Foods Revue?

The Foods Revue is an opportunity for 4-H youth to showcase a complete menu and table setting while only having to prepare one food item chosen from the appropriate grade level list.

Youth will need to prepare:

- Food item from categories listed
- Table setting (placemat or tablecloth, napkin, glass, plate, and the silverware needed for your planned meal)
- A centerpiece
- Card with complete menu
- Card with your food item recipe

The Foods Revue will be hosted at the Center Town Hall on Saturday, April 5, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

This event is open to all 4-H members and Cloverbuds. Registration can be found here <https://bit.ly/25FoodsReviewRegistration>, deadline March 21.

The following categories will be available:

- Cloverbuds: simple dessert, sandwich, muffin, or snack
- Grades 3-6: appetizer, breakfast item, sandwich, or dessert
- Grades 7-13: appetizer, breakfast item, entrée, homemade soup, or dessert

Contact Jean Schroeder with any questions at 920-660-3842 or js3creeks@gmail.com.

Centennial Cooking Contest - A Century of Flavors: Celebrating Culinary Heritage

Prepare and bring a pot or pan of your 100+ years old recipe to the contest to be tasted and judged by others attending the Foods Revue and Cooking Contest. Please register what recipe you plan on preparing, options are appetizers, entrees, soup, or desserts. The contest is open to anyone who was involved in the 4-H program as a youth, parent, grandparent, leader, or mentor. Bring a card with the recipe or list of ingredients please. Awards will be given to the top 3 winners with highest scores.



Any questions contact Jean Schroeder at 920-660-3842 or js3creeks@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Outagamie County Fair

June 25-29, 2025 | "Fair Fever - Catch the Fun"

The Outagamie County Fair Board welcomes you to submit your entries online between April 15 and May 25.

Entry day for all static exhibits is Tuesday, June 24 from Noon - 6:00 pm.

Action Center Stage

It's never too early to start thinking about performing on the Action Center Stage during the Outagamie County Fair.

Stage availability is Thursday, June 26 at 4:00 - 6:00 pm; Friday, June 27 at 1:00 - 3:00 pm (Pie Contest from 3:00 - 5:00 pm); Saturday, June 28 at 1:00 - 5:00 pm; Sunday, June 29 at 1:00 - 4:00 pm.

Each slot is about 15 minutes. There are a variety of ways to be on the stage. Consider doing a demonstration, speech, drama play, musical act, project talk or anything else that would show what 4-H has to offer.

Contact: s.vanderzanden44@gmail.com to sign up.

Attention County Sponsored Educational Experience Scholarship Recipients:

All county sponsored educational experience scholarship recipients should share their experiences with others. If you participated in an educational experience over the last year, we ask that you do a group presentation on the Action Center Stage Sunday afternoon. Please consult other travelers from your trip to set up a slide show and talk. The slide show can be as simple as having pictures loop while you are talking and telling the audience about everything you learned. Please have the photos or presentation on a thumb drive. Your presentation will be on Sunday, June 29. Explore Wisconsin will go first at 2:10 pm, followed by Summer Academy at 2:25 pm, American Spirit 2:40 pm, Citizenship Washington Focus at 2:55 pm, and National 4-H Conference at 3:10 pm. Please arrive at least 10 minutes prior to your scheduled time.

If there is room, we will have an educational booth at the fair this year. If you are a youth willing to take ownership of the booth, please let Lisa know. All youth can help by collecting and sharing photos and information to put on a display board or poster. Contact Lisa for more information.

Lisa Sprangers is helping coordinate these presentations and pictures for trip promotion; contact Lisa with any questions: sprangerslisa@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Pie Contest

Best Pie at the Outagamie County Fair
June 27, 2025 | 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Who will be the winner of the best pie at the Fair during the celebration of the 4-H Centennial?

Bring your baked pie to the Action Center Stage, Building: TBD at this time, between 1-3 pm on Friday, June 27.

No pre-registration is necessary. For more information contact: s.vanderzanden44@gmail.com.

Two Divisions:

1. 4-H Division—Open to all Outagamie County 4-H Clubs, Youth Leaders and Adult Leaders Organization. One pie per group or club.
2. Open to the public, one pie per person, no commercial business.

Simple Rules:

1. Fruit pies only, single or double homemade crust.
2. Must use an 8" or 9" disposable pie tin.
3. Include recipe on a 3 x 5 card (optional).
4. Pies and tins will not be returned.
5. Judging to start at 3:00 pm for both divisions.

First place winners in each division will receive: rights to claim the "Best Pie" at the 2025 Outagamie County Fair, an engraved pie plate, their name added to the winner's banner and a special Outagamie County 4-H Centennial award!

Come and have fun entering the contest, watching and sampling...while they last!!

Register for Day Camp(s) and Summer Camp!

Tuesday, July 8: Cloverbud Day Camp (grades K-2)
Thursday, July 10: Adventure Day Camp (grades 3-7)
Tuesday, July 22: Adventure Day Camp (grades 3-7)
August 3-6: Summer Camp (grades 3-8), Army Lake Camp

We have some awesome camp opportunities set up this year again! Registration will open for 4-H members April 3 and for all April 17.

Cloverbud Day Camp for youth in grades K-2, and Adventure Day Camp for grades 3-7 from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm. Registration is due by June 13.

Base Camp is for youth in grades 3-6, and Outpost Camp is for youth in grades 7-8. Registration will be due July 7.

For more information and registration for camp, please visit our website under the 4-H Camp tab.

<https://outagamie.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-camp/>

Thank You Corner

Endowment Fund Donations

Thank you to the following people for their donation to the Endowment Fund:

Mark & Sonya Voight
Larry & Mary Jo Plamann
Eric & Abby Hopfensperger
Mike & Aimee Stevens
Amy & Aaron Koleske
Jim & Sandy Buman
Julie & Charles Marcks
Judy, Junnel & Bailie Korth
Sharon Reynolds
Jeanne & Ken Baum

Doug & Donna Langner
Paul & Lori Vandenberg Family
Duane & Darleen Hahn
Marlin & Lois Fiestadt
Dave & Sue Erdmann Family
Doris & Mike Kalbus
Bill & Dorothy Paltzer
John & Angie Mauthe
Pat & Rose Rynish
Duane & Sheila Vander Zanden Family

Project Updates



The Cloverbud Committee is challenging all Cloverbuds to experience what 4-H has to offer. Between now and June 1, complete the tasks on one of the Cloverbud Bingo Cards printed. There are 2 different copies, just in a different order for families or groups to spice things up.

Prizes are Dairy Bar vouchers to be used at the 2025 Outagamie County Fair in Seymour! Grab a sandwich or malt for all your hard work. A \$1 prize will be awarded for a standard (horizontal, vertical, or diagonal) Bingo. Win up to a \$5 prize! This will be the honor system and projects do not need to be submitted.

Every Cloverbud who participates and turns in a bingo card will be put into a drawing for \$20 dairy bar gift certificates (given 4 - \$5 certificates).

To redeem, drop off your bingo card at the Extension Office or email or text your bingo card to Patty Lorenz at dimplypatty@aol.com or 920-519-1133 with your child's name, club name, and address by June 1. A confirmation will be returned, and gift certificates will then be mailed to you in time for Fair!

Cloverbud Bingo

Do a speech at a meeting	Grow a plant from a seed	Make a card and give it to someone	Participate in Community Service	Ask a older member about their projects
Learn the Pledge of Allegiance	Collect pop tabs for your Club	Create a drawing using only a pencil	Learn the 4-H Pledge	Make or design a piece of jewelry
Make and plan a meal	Make a food item and share	Try a new food	Design a wood item	Make a recycled craft item
Say something kind for 7 days	Do a demonstration at a meeting	Make a holiday themed creation	Build a model	Learn 5 new facts about an animal
Act out or read a short story for someone	Make your first name from playdough	Bring a friend to a 4-H meeting	Write or tell someone about a book you read	Take a nature walk and find 3 different items

Cloverbud Bingo

Take a nature walk and find 3 different items	Participate in Community Service	Make a holiday themed creation	Bring a friend to a 4-H meeting	Build a model
Make a recycled craft item	Do a demonstration at a meeting	Design a wood item	Ask a older member about their projects	Act out or read a short story for someone
Make a card and give it to someone	Write or tell someone about a book you read	Make or design a piece of jewelry	Grow a plant from a seed	Make your first name from playdough
Learn the 4-H Pledge	Try a new food	Learn the Pledge of Allegiance	Say something kind for 7 days	Collect pop tabs for your Club
Learn 5 new facts about an animal	Make and plan a meal	Do a speech at a meeting	Create a drawing using only a pencil	Make a food item and share

Cloverbud Bingo

Make or design a piece of jewelry	Bring a friend to a 4-H meeting	Learn the Pledge of Allegiance	Create a drawing using only a pencil	Make a holiday themed creation
Learn 5 new facts about an animal	Make a recycled craft item	Make your first name from playdough	Make a food item and share	Collect pop tabs for your Club
Participate in Community Service	Design a wood item	Take a nature walk and find 3 different items	Ask a older member about their projects	Try a new food
Do a speech at a meeting	Act out or read a short story for someone	Learn the 4-H Pledge	Write or tell someone about a book you read	Grow a plant from a seed
Do a demonstration at a meeting	Build a model	Make and plan a meal	Make a card and give it to someone	Say something kind for 7 days

Cloverbud Bingo

Make your first name from playdough	Make a card and give it to someone	Make a recycled craft item	Make or design a piece of jewelry	Do a speech at a meeting
Learn 5 new facts about an animal	Design a wood item	Make and plan a meal	Participate in Community Service	Create a drawing using only a pencil
Try a new food	Grow a plant from a seed	Build a model	Ask a older member about their projects	Learn the 4-H Pledge
Collect pop tabs for your Club	Bring a friend to a 4-H meeting	Take a nature walk and find 3 different items	Act out or read a short story for someone	Learn the Pledge of Allegiance
Make a holiday themed creation	Do a demonstration at a meeting	Say something kind for 7 days	Make a food item and share	Write or tell someone about a book you read

Outagamie County 4-H Centennial



Committees are busy making and finalizing plans for the year-long celebration!

T-shirt Committee - The first round of centennial store orders have been distributed. There were 336 free centennial shirts given to members and leaders who were enrolled and fully approved by October 15. Good job! Wear them with pride!! The next orders can be placed in March.

Basketball Fun Day - January 11- Great turn out! Thank you to that committee.



Fund Raising Committee - Thank you to the Leaders Association for approving our budget request and to the donors that have been generous. A list of donors will be displayed at various events.

History Committee - History of the first 75 years will be added to each newsletter in segments and they are working on the past 25 years.

Contest Committee - Several contests are being planned and will be shared in the newsletters and on Facebook. Pie Contest at the fair will offer a special Centennial plate to the winners. Foods Revue is offering a 100+ years old recipe contest.

4-H at the Timber Rattlers Committee - July 12, Sign up online for tickets:

<https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/OutagamieCounty4H>

Band & Choir Committee - Open to current members, leaders and alumni. Practices will begin in June. Performances are planned for Thursday, June 26 and Saturday, June 28 on the Action Center Stage.

Alumni Committee - An alumni social is planned for August 14, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the Center Town Hall. Please help spread the news.

Fall Harvest Dance Committee - A dance is planned for November 8 at the Colonial House in Freedom.

Club and Projects - Various special centennial events will be happening. Watch upcoming newsletters and emails for more information.

The Dairy Bar will offer a centennial special at the fair.

Club and Project leaders, please share with the committee if you are having a special centennial event. Thank you to all those committee members who have been actively trying to help with the year-long celebration.

If you should have any questions or comments, please email the centennial committee:

OC4-H100@gmail.com.

Outagamie County 4-H Centennial

Calendar of Contests

As a part of the Centennial Celebration, we are planning many contests throughout the year to help share our excitement about 4-H with others in our surrounding communities. Please watch your email and Facebook for details and updates on the following contests and more!

- January/February - Poster Contest, "Promoting the benefits"
- March - Writing Contest, "Your Favorite 4-H Memory" or "4-H 100 years in the future"
- April/May - Photo Contest, "Describe 4-H with a picture"
- June - Cake Decorating Contest at the Fair
- July/August - 4-H Club Promotions Window Contest
- September - Race to Re-Enrollment
- October - National 4-H Week, Most Creative 4-H Promotions
- November - 100 ways to be thankful
- December - 100 hours of Community Service

Reminder to track your hours for the community service challenge.

Template for club log journal: <https://bit.ly/4-HServiceLog>
Ideas for community service: <https://bit.ly/4-HServiceLearning>, <https://4h.unl.edu/community-service/>
and <https://bit.ly/LancasterService>

Thank you to Outagamie County 4-H Centennial sponsors:

Shirley Pues
Thrivent
Robert Fox
Donna VandDeLoo
Doug & Donna Langner
Gary & Amy Cebulski
Mark & Mary Vosters
Lara Plamann Memorial

Shadows of the Wolf
Bayland Buildings, Inc.
KR Building & Electrical LLC
Sharon & Monty Reynolds
Dj & Sheila Vander Zanden
Memory of Kirby & Catherine Kortz
Memory of Marcella & Robert Koleske

Bits & Pieces

4-H Merch

The online Centennial store will be opening again in March! We will send out a broadcast email when the store opens, but it will be closing on Sunday, March 30.

The link to shop: <https://outagamiecounty4h2024.itemorder.com/shop/home/>.



Pumpkin and Sunflower Contest

4-H members and cloverbuds are eligible to enter the Pumpkin & Sunflower Contest that will be held in October. Members must sign up with your club's main leader by the end of March. Main leaders submit the number of seed packets your club would like to the Extension Office by April 4. All youth participating must use the seeds provided. The variety of seeds ordered can produce pumpkins weighing approximately up to a maximum of 200 pounds. Main leaders, watch your email for more information. Seeds will be distributed at the April 28 4-H Leaders Association meeting to those clubs that pre-register.

Outagamie County 4-H Choir Update

Hello Outagamie County 4-H members, parents and leaders, past and present. I'm Jayne Zuleger and I will be directing the Outagamie County 4-H choir at the Fair this year for the BIG centennial. It's been many years since we've had a choir so this will be something special. It's a multigenerational choir: members, moms and dads, grandparents, and former choir members.

We will sing a medley of the greatest songs of the last century: from Nat King Cole to Beatles to Elvis. There will be a little something for everyone. Sign up using SignUpGenius and join the fun. I can't wait to hear the choir again!! Check the May/June newsletter for more information.

Outreach

We need your help! As events become available, we must be prepared to attend opportunities that will help us promote 4-H and increase our enrollment. Our committee is small and will need members, adults, and animals, to assist us with single events. We would like to formulate a list again of volunteers that we can call upon. Please reach out to Mary Hoefler at maryhoefler@att.net to sign up.

New Join 4-H/Centennial Signs

The Centennial Committee and the Outreach Committee joined together in the purchase of the new 4-H promotional yard signs. They will be available at the April Adult Leaders meeting. Help 4-H announce its centennial and promote 4-H by proudly displaying the signs in your yard and/or business.



James W. Crowley 4-H Dairy Leadership Awards nominations

Nominations are now open. Youth who are currently enrolled in the dairy project and show evidence of leadership, helping develop younger youth, and striving to make the 4-H dairy project better are encouraged to apply! To apply, please fill out the application at <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/files/2024/12/Crowley-Application-Essay-Questions-for-website.pdf> and return to Alyssa Zeimet at alyssa.a.seitz@gmail.com by April 1st. Please reach out to Alyssa with any questions.

Outagamie County 4-H to Celebrate 100 Years in 2025

The Outagamie County 4-H youth development program will be celebrating 100 years as an active and very successful organization in the year 2025. Several sub-committees have been formed to promote and provide exciting opportunities in which we can celebrate throughout the year. Our intention is to reach as many alumni as possible so that they can join alongside our current members in these events. Watch for event listings and help us promote our county's alumni.

Over the next year, our 4-H Family Newsletters will include many of the highlights of the history of the program in segments. These segment highlights will be directly from the 2000 newsletters. This first was written by Bill Shaw, Outagamie County 4-H youth development agent from 1966-1996.

4-H History Segment 1

1925 - 1930

4-H club work was introduced into Outagamie County on September 25, 1925, through the efforts of the late Mrs. John Schoettler in the Township of Greenville. The meeting was held at the Wide Awake Forward School located on the corner of Julius and Spencer Roads. Mr. Vernon Varney, Assistant State 4-H Leader of Madison, attended the meeting to assist Mrs. Schoettler. There was no Extension Agent at the county level to assist with a 4-H program. Projects included dairy, garden, cooking, and sewing. The only activity was singing.

Then in 1927, the late Mrs. Ernest Schuster, a rural school teacher at Isaar, introduced 4-H project work in the school curriculum with the assistance of the County Superintendent of Schools. The efforts of Mrs. Schoettler and Mrs. Schuster provided the seed that gave birth to a county-wide 4-H program. Then in 1929, the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors employed Mr. Gus Sell as Extension Agricultural Agent, and Miss Harriet Thompson as Home Demonstration Agent. Miss Thompson was assigned to help give leadership to the 4-H youth program. A few 4-H clubs were organized in the fall of 1929 causing 4-H youth work to become an active part of the Outagamie County Cooperative Extension Service.

The objectives of the 4-H program were to promote the best and latest practices in agriculture and home economics and the development of better citizens. Projects included dairy, swine, gardening, cooking, sewing, health, and conservation.

4-H History Segment II

The 1930's-1940's

*First Printed for the Feb/March, 2000 Newsletter

4-H clubs, rural calf and corn clubs, had the opportunity to participate in two community fairs at this time in our history. The Seymour fair was held in August and the Hortonville fair in September. The Hortonville fair began in 1882: the Seymour fair in 1883. Both fairs continued through the early 1930's.

1931 marked the beginning of the Fairview 4-H Club at Black Creek and the Pine Grove 4-H Club near Seymour. Florence Rettler Stingle and Celia Schuster, both long-term leaders, were beginning leaders with each club respectively. Both clubs helped increase activity at the county level.

Both Gus Sell and Harriet Thompson resigned their extension agent positions with Outagamie County in early 1933. There was no agent the remainder of the year. James Kavangh, Brown County Agriculture Agent, assisted our 4-H clubs with their enrollments in the fall of 1933.

Randall Swanson became the Outagamie County Extension Agent-at-large in 1/1/1934. Due to extreme dedication of Mr. Swanson to the 4-H youth program, a total of 21 clubs existed by November, 1934.

County 4-H camp was held on the bank of the Wolf River on the Allen farm between the communities of Nichols and Navarion. A construction company would move their cooking facilities onto the grounds during camp for the 4-H to use. Mrs. John Schoettler was the camp mother and cook. Wakeland McNeel (known as Ranger Mac) of Madison was the camp father for several years.

The Appleton Chamber of Commerce sponsored an annual achievement day banquet for several years for every 4-H member that had completed their project requirements for the year and every 4-H leader. The 1/29/1937 event was attended by about 400 individuals held at the Masonic Temple in Appleton.

The Outagamie county 4-H Leaders Federation was organized at a noon dinner at the Conway Hotel in Appleton on February 23, 1937. The first officers included Franrueger, Kaukauna, Mrs. Caser Griesbach, Black Creek. Frank Tubbs, Seymour; Nick Rettler, Black Creek; Emil Krueger, Kaukauna; Mrs. Casper Griesbach, Black Creek; Mrs. Celia Schuster, Seymour; Vivian Florin, Shiocton; Lora Kluge, Black Creek; and Mrs. John Schoettler, Greenville.

The year 1938 evidenced continued growth with a county 4-H membership of 491. Volunteer leaders through their organized association accepted additional leadership responsibilities. Several new projects and activities were added. The first 4-H Hi-Lights was written, typed and mailed to all 4-H families by the County 4-H Reporter Committee since there was no secretary in the Extension Office. Each year, a 4-H junior leader was elected as the Editor of the Hi-Lights. A decision was made that record books would no longer be brought to the fair to be judged with the project exhibits.

4-H History

The first 4-H dairy bar was organized in 1940 at the county fair in Seymour by a committee of the 4-H leaders federation. A schedule was prepared to have leaders and older 4-H members serve. The menu was cheese sandwiches, cream puffs, buttermilk, white and chocolate milk. The net profit of the first was \$15.91.

The Sears Roebuck Foundation became actively involved with the 4-H youth program in 1942. The foundation sponsored several conserving activities because the World War had everyone thinking about conserving and saving. Activities included victory gardens, made over clothing projects, rubber salvage drives, waste paper drives, milkweed pod collecting, and scrap metal collections. Special "War Time" record books were added to track these efforts.

Walter Wickert and Marie Klein became the camp "father and mother" for a few years in the early 40's. Then in 1944 Elmer and Sadie Root of Hortonville became active teachers in the 4-H camp program. Elmer remained active until his death in 1969 and Sadie until the early 1980's when her health failed. Sites for camp included Mission Lake, Crooked Lake at Shawano, Camp Susan at Antigo, and Camp Brid near Crivitz since 1966.

The 4-H statistics in 1944 included 28 clubs, 500 members, 65 adult leaders, 27 junior leaders. A new 4-H exhibit building was built west of the grand stand for all non-animal exhibits which was well received by 4-H families. Tickets to the fair for 4-H exhibitors and leaders were 50 cents.

Gale VandeBerg was employed as the first full-time 4-H club agent on July 1, 1946. This appointment permitted an Extension staff person to devote more time to leadership development and to new and different types of experiences for youth enrolled in 4-H club work. Junior leadership was encouraged and officer training schools were held for the first time.

The Outagamie County 4-H Junior Leaders Organization was formed on 3/4/1948. A new dairy barn and judging arena was built at the Seymour fairgrounds. Cattle were judged indoors for the first time. The barn is now the junior fair dairy barn. The Sears Foundation Swine Project Began in the fall of 1948 for 10 boys who each received a purebred gilt. Henry Grosek and Caltron Sievert coordinated this program for 20 years.

The 1948 statistics were 35 clubs; 570 members, 75 adult leaders; 46 junior leaders. Many of the clubs still met in the leader's homes with less than 10-15 members. Project training meetings were set up in different parts of the county in April of 1949 for the first time. Other county events included a 4-H project judging contest; a 4-H Valentine Party; and a Halloween/Box Social Party.

1949 was the last year that 4-H leaders received their recognition along with the 4-H members at the Annual 4-H Achievement Program held in early November. More than 700 members, leaders, and parents filled the Black Creek Community Hall for the Friday evening event.

Club Corner

Fast Trackers by Halle

First, we introduced the visitors, the Schnorr family. We also recognized graduating members Stacy and Jaxon. We had a member report, Nicholas, gave a report on his sheep project.

Reminders:

Keep saving POP TABS and bring them to any meeting.

The Outagamie County fair is June 24-29.

Drama Fest is March 8th

4-H family learning day is Sat. Feb. 15th and open to the public.

Trip applications due FEB. 1st

Music, speaking and talent festival on May 3rd at Seymour HS.

Centennial 4-H Basketball event on Sat. Jan. 11 at Immanuel Lutheran school

Roller skating event on Jan. 19th from 1:00-4:00 pm at Skaters Edge.

At the end of the meeting, we had the annual pound sale and the money will go towards community service. The bids go from \$0.50 to \$5. We had at least 80 items. Everyone who was bidding had a great time and Pat also had a great time being the auctioneer.



Fairview by Ashlyn



For our February meeting our club made Valentine Cards for the residents at Good Shepherd Nursing Home in Seymour. We had fun being creative! Remy and Rowan also gave a talk from the Health Committee. They shared with us the importance of choosing healthy foods.

Wide Awake Forward by Kadence

The meeting was called to order by Alicia at 6:15 pm. Alicia reported on the Youth Leadership Meeting. Discussed the Outagamie County 4-H Centennial Celebration as well as See What's Cooking Foods Review on January 18th, the roller skating event on January 19th, and the open registration for the Meat Class at Haen's. Voting on a donation to Help the Homeless was also moved and seconded. Christmas games were played in teams as well as a gift exchange. Meeting ended at 6:26 pm.

Club Corner

Wolf River Beavers by Sophia



During our meeting held on December 9th, we did the following; We had a guest, Troy of Porter's Patch in Navarino, who gave a presentation about the corn maze that they made to support the NFL draft.

Valerie gave a speech on experiences that have shaped her and Levi gave a speech on safety in the woods.



Made gingerbread houses which were put on display for a competition in the Black Creek Library from December 10th through the 20th.

Had a group activity called the Left-Right Poem based on The Night Before Christmas and decorated the Christmas tree at the Main Town Hall.



We donated food items to the local food pantry.

We made a card and snowflakes for Carol, a long-time member of 4-H.

Between our December and February meetings, we held two additional events.

Community outreach event on December 20th and rang bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Club at Fleet Farm in Appleton.



Team bonding bowling outing at New London Lanes on January 12th.

Smile Awhile by Jenna

We held our meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at the Freedom VFW. We donated \$150.00 to Pillars Homeless Shelter in Appleton. We discussed a possible date to have a sledding party. The dates are January 25, 26 and February 15. We also decided to do a bowling party again this year. We voted to continue the Valentine snack exchange. There is 4-H basketball coming up on January 11. Family Learning Day is also coming up on February 15 at the Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton. Our next club meeting will be on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Freedom VFW.





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