



Portage County

4-H Courier

Monthly Periodical



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
PORTAGE COUNTY

May 2020

Letter From the President

Hello everyone, I just want to express gratitude to our 4-H extension staff, adult leaders board and all the club leaders for working very hard to keep our 4-H families up to date with the most current information. As they are working remotely from their homes, they continue to have your best interests and safety at heart. As there have been many events and activities either canceled or postponed they are working hard to create other fun and educational opportunities for our youth. There have been opportunities to engage in virtual rabbit shows, farm tours, 4-Hers Teaching 4-Hers having Saturday Learning Sessions, zoom meetings about record books, etc. Please take advantage of them. I appreciate everyone's extra efforts to keep our 4-Hers engaged in educational experiences. Thank you to our parents and youth for being patient as we navigate this challenging time and adapt to new forms of communication. For example, Zoom is a new experience for me and it has actually been fun. Many of us are doing things we have never been taught before and are learning to embrace them. Continuing forward I can see the benefits of utilizing them. In this issue of the courier, I hope it makes you smile as you will see we are working hard to acknowledge our graduating seniors and are sharing fun pictures of our leaders and youth with positive messages to keep us inspired. 4-Hers become a family unit and now is especially an important time for unity. Remember 4-Hers shine bright! We all get through this together.

Did you know there is a 4-H Creed? If there ever was a time to utilize our Head, Heart, Hands and Health all at once, now is the time.

I believe in 4-H Club work for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen.

I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it will give me to think, to plan, and to reason.

I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness it will give me to become kind, sympathetic, and true.

I believe in the training of my HANDS for the ability it will give me to be helpful, useful, and skillful.

I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, resist disease, and to work efficiently.

I believe in my country, my State and my community, and in my responsibility for their development.

In all these things I believe, and I am willing to dedicate my efforts to their fulfillment.

Wishing everyone continued good health and safety,

Debra Helbach Portage County 4-H Leaders Association President

COVID-19 Update

Everyone has done a wonderful job following Safe At Home guidelines. I want to express my appreciation to all 4-H Clubs leaders, members, and parents. As of today we are still honoring physical distancing to 6 feet when possible with no group meetings. It looks like in June we will be able to meet 10 people or less while honoring physical distancing to 6 feet when possible. I know how stressful the Badger Bounce Back guidelines are, but I appreciate everyone being flexible. As I learn of any changes I will get them to you.

Spring typically brings important social gatherings: graduation, weddings, religious holidays, and the opening day of baseball. When people participate in shared rituals, we feel united and part of a larger community. It's difficult to give up these events, even when it's necessary. While we are in solidarity in supporting the greater good, we are losing out on face-to-face interactions that are meaningful to us all.

But there is some good news - we can support each other, even when we are physically distanced! Technology, if you have access, makes it easier than ever to stay connected. Our own Extension-developed [Stay at Home Tips](#) for ideas for ways to support loved ones from a distance. Also check out our 4-H Fun, Hands-On Learning resource at <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/home-activities/>. Last month my neighbor had a car birthday parade for their son. People had happy birthday signs, they were honking as they went by and guest left presents at the base of their driveway. I stood outside and waved and smiled to the parade participants. What a happy sight.

Remember research has suggested that even in the midst of stressful circumstances, helping others makes us feel better ourselves!



Connie Creighton
Extension Portage County
4-H Youth Development Agent
connie.creighton@wisc.edu

4Hers Teaching 4Hers: Saturday Animal Learning Sessions!

Thank you to Harleigh C. from the Tomorrow River Voyagers and Annika W. from the Nelsonville Zippy Zees for teaching/demonstrating animal care and preparation. Harleigh taught goat hoof care and show preparation and Annika taught poultry show preparation and showmanship. Next program is this Saturday, May 16th, Annika and Harleigh will teach an advanced rabbit showmanship class. Both 4-H youth leaders did a tremendous job teaching, answering questions, and interacting with participants over Zoom!

- **May 16th 10:00 a.m. Advanced Rabbit Showmanship led by Annika & Harleigh**
 - An advanced showmanship class - what is expected of you as you show your rabbit longer.

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/4HersTeaching4Hers> to register. As soon as you complete the registration, you will receive an email with a link to the meeting.

We are still looking for youth to do a demonstration or teach a project over Zoom! If you have a demonstration or project you'd like share with others please email connie.creighton@wisc.edu.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

MAY

- 2 4Hers Teaching 4Hers, 10:00am—**Will be held online via Zoom**
- 4 Deadline for Submitting Tagged Swine Photos
- 9 4Hers Teaching 4Hers, 10:00am—**Will be held online via Zoom**
- 14 Market Animal Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM—**Will be held online via Zoom**
- 16 4Hers Teaching 4Hers, 10:00am—**Will be held online via Zoom**
- 18 4-H Leaders Association Meeting, 6:30 PM—**Will be held online via Zoom**
- 18 4-H Teen Leaders Association Meeting, 6:30 PM—**Will be held online via Zoom**



June

Join a Meeting

- 1 Amherst Fair Entry Forms Due
- 2 Market Animal Committee Meeting, 6:30 PM—County Annex—Room 5
(If unable to hold in-person meeting it will be held online via Zoom instead)
- 2 Market Animal Sales Promotion Meeting, 7:30PM—County Annex—Room 5
(If unable to hold in-person meeting it will be held online via Zoom instead)
- 6 Plant Sale Pickup—Blue Top Farms located at 5613 County Road HH, Stevens Point
- 15 4-H Leaders Board Meeting,
(If unable to hold in-person meeting it will be held online via Zoom instead)

More information and Zoom meeting links will be emailed to individuals.

Central Wisconsin Virtual Rabbit Show

Because physical rabbit shows (both ARBA and fun shows) have been canceled. Annika W. from the Nelsonville Zippy Zees Club decided to put on an virtual rabbit show via Facebook to share her passion of rabbits with others. She realized it was quite an undertaking so she asked Harleigh C. from the Tomorrow River Voyagers Club to help with the planning and monitoring of the Facebook page and judging the rabbits.

Initially they were only offering this show to Portage County youth, but decided why not all of Wisconsin! They eventually ended up with 86 members and nearly 300 rabbits of 31 different breeds were registered! Another youth, Thomas W. from Richland Center, became the 3rd judge. They spent roughly 7 hours each judging and writing up comments on rabbits. A surprise judge (outside of the competition) choose the top 3 rabbits of the show. Very good feedback and comments were received from those that participated.

They plan on continuing to do more shows in Wisconsin. Great job girls in giving the rabbit youth in Wisconsin something to look forward to in these uncertain times! Thank you for your excellent work in the 4h rabbit project and continuing to make the best better!



Amherst Fair entries will be open May 1st - June 1st.

Again this year, the Amherst Fair entries will be managed using the online system called FairEntry. Exhibitors' families will be responsible for logging into FairEntry to enter what the members of their family are planning to bring to the Amherst Fair. The system integrates with 4-H Online, allowing 4-H families to log in with their 4-H Online accounts.

Entries can be made by going to <http://amherst.fairentry.com>

Getting Help With FairEntry:



- Note that when entering exhibits according to grade category, use the grade the exhibitor was in as of January 1, 2020 (NOT the grade they will be entering this fall).
- Your 4-H Cloverbud exhibitors (grades K-2) will not sign up for the fair through FairEntry, and there is no need to add them as exhibitors to your fair family.
- Electronic copies of the fair book are available. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/PortageCountyFairBook>.



NEED ASSISTANCE? Please contact Tim Pederson at pedetimo@gmail.com.



This Year's Theme: "Survivor Second Edition"

Reminder: Portage County 4-H is now on Facebook!

The 4-H office started a Portage County 4-H group on Facebook! Members can get program updates, share updates from their clubs and connect with other Portage County 4-Hers! Search "Portage County 4-H" to join!



4-H Messages of Support



Photo credit:
Debra Helbach
Portage County
4-H Leaders
Association
President &
General Leader
of the
Tomorrow
River Voyagers
4-H Club.



“At least I’m Quarantined with my Animals!”
Cora K (pictured above) Rosholt Pioneers 4-H Club

“4-H Strong!”

Abigail & Andrew H. (pictured below)
Tomorrow River Voyagers 4-H Club



To make the Best



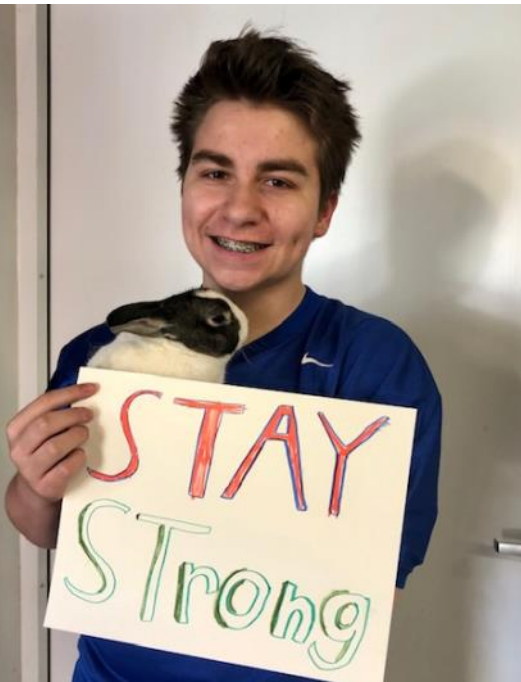
BETTER



"On the darkest nights, shine the brightest stars."

Be a bright star!

Carson Climbers 4-H Club"



"Stay Strong!"

**Gabriel H.
(pictured left)
Tomorrow River
Voyagers Club**



"Safer at home with my homegrown hopeful!"

Angianna Z (pictured above) Rosholt Pioneers 4-H Club

**“The Almond
Busy Bees
thank you for
keeping us safe
& fed!”**



**4-H...
the POWER of YOUTH**

“4Hers Shine Brightest!”

**Debra Helbach (Pictured Above) Portage County 4-H
Leaders Assoc. President & General Leader of the
Tomorrow River Voyagers 4-H Club**



“We will get through this; keep 4-H alive and continue to make the best better! Stay strong!”- Nelsonville Zippy Zees 4-H Club

4-H Senior Spotlight

In this May issue of the courier, it is our pleasure to spotlight our senior 4-H members. Every stepping stone in life deserves some special recognition and this is no exception. Each 4-H member creates their own journey. It is yours and yours alone. We hope you look back on your journey and smile and remember those experiences that helped you grow. Thank you for your dedication and leadership to you clubs and community. Your 4-H family is so proud of you all! Best of luck to our graduates! Always remember to be yourself, dream big and continue to work hard. May you continue to shine bright in your future endeavors!

Lydia K.

13 year 4-H member | Current Club: Sunnyside Climbers

Favorite 4-H projects: Any animal projects, shooting sports, and arts and crafts.

Favorite 4-H accomplishments: Being awarded the Wisconsin Key award and the Leader of Tomorrow award.

Favorite/memorable 4-H memory: Being a 4-H camp counselor for Cloverbud camp. Those kids just lit up and were so excited about everything I showed them. It really helped fire my motivation and passion for the program.

Advice for younger 4-H members: Take every opportunity that 4-H offers, go on every trip, apply for every scholarship, and build relationships with the people in this community. Don't ever be afraid to step outside your comfort zone.

Post High School plans: Studying in the Veterinary Science program at NTC on June 1, 2020. My expected graduation will be August 2021. When I get out of school I will be a Veterinary Technician and I plan on staying here in Central Wisconsin.



Alyse G.

9 year 4-H member of the Rosholt Pioneers 4-H Club

Favorite project/accomplishment/memory: My favorite project has been my swine project, and my biggest accomplishment was winning Grand Champion Market Hog at the 2019 Rosholt Fair. My most memorable moment is definitely the 2019 Amherst Fair, running through the storm and surviving the tornado with my 4-H family!

Advice for younger 4-H members: Explore new projects, meet new people, and take advantage of all the opportunities 4-H has to offer because 4-H is all about the fun, friends, and memories that will last a lifetime.

Post High School plans: I will be attending St. Norbert College majoring in English with hopes of becoming a principal.



Matthew R.

9 year 4-H member of the Rosholt Pioneers 4-H Club

Favorite project/accomplishment/memory: I showed pigs and steers in the Market Animal Project. I also exhibited wood working projects, drawings, cakes, canned goods and vegetables throughout my years in 4-H. My favorite animal to show were swine. I made a lot of good friends through 4-H and truly enjoyed the fairs. Ag Olympics at the Amherst fair was a blast and the Rosholt Fair's market animal auction was great fun. I was a Vice-President, as well as a Teen Leader President. I was privileged to participate in the Leadership Focus trip to Washington DC when I was 14, and will never forget that trip.

Post High School plans: I plan to attend UW-Platteville this fall with a focus on a Mechanical Engineer degree.



Edward B.

13 year 4-H member | Current Club: Almond Busy Bees

Favorite 4-H Memory: My favorite memory was when I had 2 Hereford steers that every show I went to I got reserve and grand champion.

Advice for younger 4-H members: My advice to the young 4-H members is to keep pushing yourselves because the time goes by fast and soon you will be missing it all.

Post High School plans: Attending UW Stevens Point, majoring in Mathematics: Actuarial Emphasis.



Maria D.

3 year 4-H member of the Plover Clovers 4-H Club

Favorite project/accomplishment/memory: Drawing for the Amherst fair. The best 4-H memory that I had was being able to participate in the Citizenship Washington Focus because it was one of my first 4-H trips and I had the opportunity to develop communication skills.

Advice for younger 4-H members: My advice is to be engaged in your club as much as possible, if you are older strive to be an example for the younger members of your club. Try to be engaged with the trips that 4-H offers because you gain lots of knowledge and make many new friendships.

Post High School plans:

Attending Viterbo University to get my Bachelor of Nursing.



The meeting was called to order on Sunday, April 19th at 1:00 pm on Zoom. The Pledge of Allegiance and 4-H Pledge was led by Brooke W. The icebreaker activity was "I spy" led recreational leaders Josh and Landon. Office Reports: Treasurer's report: Given by Emily. Historian report: Scrapbook of 2018 was finished. Please email pictures to Mackenzie for the 2019 scrapbook. Sunshine buddy report: April Birthdays were Bryce and Kaitlin. Old Business: February field trip was at Bucks n' Bulls. All who attended said it was fun! | Flower Fundraiser form and money due April 20th; plant pickup is scheduled for June 6th. | Adopt-A-Highway volunteer forms were given out at Bucks n' Bulls in February. If you did not get a form, Annette has posted it on our Facebook page. Return completed forms to Annette. We are still waiting to hear back before we schedule a cleanup date. | Clay Corner-To-Go; more information coming | April 1st was the last day to enter in projects for the fair New Business: 4-H Courier will be sent via email due to COVID-19 | Cancellations: Camps, June Dairy Days, Demonstrations and Speaking Contest | Portage County 4-H Facebook Page | Fair Booth Ideas: Magic/ Harry Potter, Farm, 4 leaf clover/ handprint design, Enchanted Forest (winner), Transformers | Inspiring Message Photo Collage; Our message will be "On the Darkest Nights-Shine the Brightest Stars-Be a Bright Star". The Seavers family assigned each member/ family a word/star. | Upcoming Zoom sessions; keep a lookout on our 4-H Facebook Page. The next meeting date is scheduled for May 17th-time to be determined. Meeting was adjourned. Madison M., Carson Climbers

Ciara and Annika W. show Elsie B. how to safely flip a rabbit over at the last Nelsonville Zippy Zees meeting. (Pictured Below)



Nelsonville Zippy Zees club members painting their ceramics. (Pictured Above)



(Pictured Right) Club members from the Nelsonville Zippy Zees watching a maple syrup demonstration.



Bridget L. (pictured above) from the Rosholt Pioneers 4-H Club sewing masks family, friends and nurses at the hospital.

Leader's Board Minutes



Portage County 4-H Leaders Board– February 2020

The Portage County 4-H Leaders Association Board meeting of 2-17-20 was called to order by Vice-President Betty Pionek, at 6:37 pm in the Courthouse Annex. Valentine treats were provided by Debra Helbach and Candice Wolosek. Pledges were recited and roll call was taken. PRESENT: Marilyn Pederson (Carson Climbers), Candice Wolosek (Plover Clovers), Jan Miller (Rosholt Pioneers), Betty Pionek (Casimer Boosters), Paula Kropidowski (County-Wide) and Connie Creighton, 4-H Youth Development Agent

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Status of Plat Book Sales

MINUTES: Approved as presented

OFFICER REPORT: Treasurer's Report: Current Balances Checking: \$9275.41 Savings: \$ 3351.86 Jan gave a detailed report of income received and bills paid since the last meeting. Secretary's Report: None

OLD BUSINESS: Teen Awards/Ambassador Interviews – 8 youth were interviewed (1 ambassador and 7 Teen Award candidates). Juniper Rydberg was selected as an ambassador. Key Award recipients will be Abigail Helbach, Zoe Zalewski and Josh Kolodziej. Leader of Tomorrow recipients will be Abigail Helbach and Josh Kolodziej. | Family Roller Skating Party – Good turnout for event (80 people) | Family Winter Party – Beautiful night with 75 in attendance | Winter Camp – Went well with 2 youth from Portage County attending. At last year's camp youth only spent one night at camp. This year campers stayed for 2 nights. Nine counties participated in the 4-H winter camp event. Campers were each charged \$75. Discussion followed regarding the excess funds collected from campers. There was a recommendation to return county refund to campers. | 4-H Youth Leadership in Agriculture Award and Agri-Business Banquet – Candace Lein was selected for the award. Two ambassadors will also be attending the banquet. | Fundraising/Budget Status – Betty suggested that we discuss and approve a budget for the remainder of the fiscal year to get an idea where we are with our funding and expenses. The 4-H fiscal year is July 1st through June 30th. We need to prioritize funding for 4-H programs. A budget meeting will be scheduled for 6:00 PM on March 16th prior to the Leaders Association meeting. Betty and Connie have met with Connie Hile of TDS about a sponsor program. Ms. Hile indicated that TDS would be interested in helping 4-H but will need more information regarding how we could target the Stevens Point and Plover areas. Connie suggested advertising in our food stand. Betty has submitted a grant application to the Tomorrow River Lioness organization. Grant recipients will be determined in April. A suggestion was made to inquire about spaghetti fundraisers at the Elk and Moose lodges. | Other: Plat Book – Jan provided leaders with a summary of plat book sales for the last two plat book publications. There are approximately 360 unsold plat books in stock. Motion that the Leaders Board make a recommendation to the Leader's Association that we do not publish another plat book and that we reduce the price of the remaining 2017 plat books from \$40 to \$20. Motion passed. Connie requested that the price change does not take effect until March 1st for simplicity of bookkeeping for the office staff. There was discussion about drafting a letter to past plat book advertisers with an explanation about our decision to discontinue publishing plat books. We could ask them to help out the 4-H program by sponsoring various 4-H events. We need to have a letter drafted and ready to be sent out to past advertisers before we tell Rockford about our decision to discontinue publication of plat books.

NEW BUSINESS: Record Book Meeting/Workshop – No report. Date and details of meeting need to be determined. | Plant Sale – Thank you to Jan for organizing and taking responsibility for this event. Sale brochures and order forms will be available from the 4-H office tomorrow. Orders are due April 16th. A question was asked about the possibility of ordering online. Member orders and club summaries are currently received via email. | Portage County 4-H Scholarships – Applications Due March 13th - Pat Mrozinski, Jan Miller, Candice Wolosek and Kathy Glodowski will review applications. | Speaking & Demonstration Contest – April 25th – Contest will be held at the Portage County Public Library on Saturday, April 25th. Demonstrations begin at 9:30 AM and Speaking will begin upstairs at 10:00 AM. Volunteers are needed to help with the contest. | Clothing Revue – May 4th – Event will be held in the Courthouse Annex beginning at 6:00 PM. | Other: Billboard – Jan shared a photo of a 4-H billboard that is located on the south side of Highway 66 just west of the Rosholt village limits. Per Connie, the billboard was sponsored by the National 4-H Council as part of their public service budget. | Agent Report: 4-H members Abigail Helbach and Annika Waltenberg were chosen to attend the Rural Youth Assembly Summit in Texas along with a group of 60 other youth ages 16-24 years. They will be discussing current issues and will be expected to bring the information that they learned from the summit back to share with their communities.

Next Meeting Date – April 20, 2020

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM

Yours in 4-H

Marilyn Pederson, Secretary

Connecting People To Resources

What is 211?

211 is a vital service utilized by thousands across Portage County. Every day, residents of the community can contact 211 for free and confidential crisis and emergency counseling, disaster assistance, food, health care and insurance assistance, stable housing, utilities payment assistance, employment services, veteran services, and childcare and family services.

Dial 211 or 330-297-4636 on any phone in Portage County to be linked to a 211 Specialist who will assist you. If you are a service provider and need to provide updated information on your agency or services to 211, please email 211database@uwsummit.org.



EXTENSION STAFF

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KEN SCHROEDER, AGRICULTURE AGENT

NATHAN SANDWICK, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENT

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