



Portage County

4-H Courier

Monthly Periodical



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
PORTAGE COUNTY

July/August 2020

Letter From the President

Hello all,

Here we are in the month of July and summer is officially here! Hooray! It feels so good to be past the month of March when our lives were starting to become drastically impacted by covid. The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly bestowed upon everyone many challenges, but has also created an opportunity for a much needed slow down for families to reconnect. Although, none of us could ever have imagined the source of it would be a pandemic. I've seen and heard beautiful acts of generosity, kindness and selflessness to others in this time of uncertainty and it warms my heart. Keep it up! It has forced us to create a new sense of "normalcy," as well, however we know things will probably never go back to what we knew as normal before. The virus is scary and so is change, but we can and will adapt to the best of our abilities and learn along the way. As details for various club and county 4-H events are being planned, we know they will look different or be done differently with safety in mind. The whole situation of the virus and the changes it brings can affect people in many ways; for example physically, mentally and financially. I just want to say, keep your chin up, keep talking and be aware of those around you who may be struggling and be the light in what may be a dark time for them. Now is a time where even though we have to be socially distant, let's not forget about compassion and continuing to help others in need. Till next time, take care, stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,

Debra Helbach

Portage County 4-H Leaders Association President



COVID-19 Update

- For July & August: Virtual and no-contact events continue. If you have a group of 10 or less that wants to meet contact Connie Creighton to work with you on filling out a meeting approval form. At this time all face-to-face 4-H meetings/activities/events need to go through this approval process.
- Beyond: We will continue to monitor the outbreak of the virus. Keep in mind, the rates of COVID-19 infection have not decreased. How the virus tracks will inform our decisions and process. Extension will also work closely with state and UW-Madison Campus leadership and follow the guidelines for those institutions. We will continue to monitor the outbreak of the virus.

Tips for talking with teens about COVID-19

"If there are things you want to be sure your teen does when leaving the home, returning to work or school or social contact, make those expectations clear."— Amy Stockhausen, a pediatrician at UW Health, on talking to teenagers about the challenges of life during an outbreak. She offers additional tips on how to provide extra support for teens during COVID-19. For the complete story click the link below.

<https://news.wisc.edu/a-pediatrician-offers-tips-for-talking-with-teens-about-covid-19/>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

JULY

- 3 EXTENSION OFFICE CLOSED (INDEPENDENCE DAY)
- 14 4-H Leaders & Teen Assoc. Mtg, 6:30pm (Will be held online via Zoom)
- 15 Rosholt Fair Entries due in FairEntry

AUGUST

- 17 4-H Leaders Board Meeting, 6:30pm (If unable to be held in-person will be held online via Zoom)
- 20 Market Animal Committee Mtg, 7:00pm (If unable to be held in-person will be held online via Zoom)
- 30 Rosholt Fair Clean-Up Day 1:00-3:00pm

SEPTEMBER

- 3 Exhibits are brought to the Rosholt Fair
- 3-7 Rosholt Fair
- 10 Rosholt Fair Carcass Contest
- 17 Market Animal Committee Mtg, 7:00pm (If unable to be held in-person will be held online via Zoom)
- 21 4-H Leaders Association Meeting (If unable to be held in-person will be held online via Zoom)
- 21 4-H Teen Leaders Assoc. Meeting (If unable to be held in-person will be held online via Zoom)

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

Rosholt Fair Update

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and several county fairs throughout the state being cancelled there has been many questions regarding the Rosholt Fair.

Here is where Extension stands on county fairs including the Rosholt Fair. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UW-Madison and Extension have made some decisions regarding in-person programming. UW-Madison and Extension has developed a safety protocol that allows for "small group" 4-H programming. This will apply to groups of 10 or fewer initially, and in the future will increase to groups of 50 if health guidance permits (guidance will depend on public health guidelines and UW-Madison guidelines).

The Rosholt fair doesn't comply with Extension's protocol of 10 people or less. This means that Extension Staff like Connie Creighton and Ken Schroeder cannot be present at the fair at anytime. The University feels that conditions are unsafe for staff.

What does that mean for 4-H? 4-H Chartered 4-H Clubs and Groups (like the Market Animal Committee) cannot exhibit or participate in the fair as a 4-H Club or Group member or volunteer. However, 4-H members are free to participate individually in fair proceedings and events as a youth belonging to a youth serving organization. The 4-H Emblem can be used, but not the 4-H Club Name. Participation is an individual, family decision. Families can allow youth participation as individuals and adults can serve as fair volunteers instead of 4-H volunteers.

What does this mean for the fair this year? Changes for the fair this year include: no club booths, no club animal stalls, and no cake auction. Any cakes that are brought to the fair will be disposed of after judging and not be allowed to be taken home. At this time the Market Animal Committee is planning to hold an online auction instead of an in-person auction at the fair. All animal shows will occur in the place and time stated in the fair book, including livestock and dairy. Release times may change for poultry and rabbits. Exhibitors will be notified. The alpaca show has also been canceled.

What is still needed to have a successful 2020 Rosholt Fair? Volunteers are still needed to work with Judges! Judges and building volunteers will be required to wear a mask. Many of our fair judges are elderly and cannot afford to get sick. We also need volunteers to help set-up the building (Connie will not be there), watch the building, and other positions throughout the fair weekend.

Several changes are being recommended and are awaiting Rosholt Fair Board and DATCP approval. One change is that is being recommended is that Cloverbuds write a small card about their project and place it on the Cloverbud display on the stage (anytime before 8:00 pm on Thursday) and at 8:00pm the Cloverbud judge will look at the exhibits, write comments, and place ribbons. No face-to-face judging. Once changes are approved all exhibitors and leaders will be notified.

This is a very challenging year and the Rosholt Fair Board like Extension wants to make this a safe fun environment for everyone. Please contact me by phone or email if you have any questions or concerns.

phone: (715) 346-1320 | email: connie.creighton@wisc.edu



Portage County 4-H Funtastic Camp in a Bag!

Who: Grades K-5 (open to non-4-H members as well)
Parental (Adult) Supervision Required for Most Activities

Cost: \$10.00 for the first camper and \$5 for each additional camper in the same family.

Bag pick up date: TBD

Registration is due August 3rd.

What do you get for your \$10? - most of the supplies for the activities.



Please join us for the Portage County 4-H Funtastic Camp in a Bag! Experience the fun of summer camp activities at home! Campers will pick up a bag with materials and instructions for great activities that will allow them to explore and create! Campers will then collaborate with other campers and camp counselors via Zoom or can do it on their own as detailed instructions are included. Activities include: tie-dying your camp shirts, making slime or oobleck, and dissecting owl pellets, bubble science, and make your own rocket! For grade K-2 project materials will be adjusted—But adult supervision is still required!



Please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/campinabag> to register.

Invoices for camp payment will be sent after registration is received.

Any questions please contact Connie at 715-346-1320 or connie.creighton@wisc.edu

Wisconsin 4-H Virtual Learning Community

Wisconsin 4-H has a great range of virtual program/educational opportunities available this summer. Programs and activities include: How to make cream puffs, baking cookies, as well as resume and cover letter writing just to name a few! Go to <https://tinyurl.com/4-HSummerLearning> to find out more!



4Hers Teaching 4Hers: Saturday Learning Sessions!

Thank you to Clare V. and her mother Stacy from the Sunnyside Climbers 4-H Club for teaching flower arranging and to Cora K from the Rosholt Pioneers Club for teaching Beginner Dog Obedience. Chando Horvath from the Plover Clovers taught beginner friendship bracelet making which was offered through the Wisconsin 4-H Virtual Learning Community. Watch for her again as she will be offering a second class.

These 4-H youth leaders did a tremendous job teaching, answering questions, and interacting with participants over Zoom!

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. If you are interested we can offer it state-wide through the Wisconsin 4-H Virtual Learning Community.

Record Book Sheet Revisions

Looking for new project record book sheets? The goat project, photography project, and food preservation project record book sheets are being updated! A big thank you to Harleigh Carlson & Pat Mrozinski for working on revisions of these record book sheets. Once all revisions are complete these updated record book sheets will be available on the Portage County Extension website under 4-H Youth > 4-H Forms and Applications.

Tomorrow River Voyagers Club Report - June 2020

The June meeting of the Tomorrow River Voyagers 4-H club was called to order by Vice President Otto S. at 1:08 pm on June 14, 2020 via Zoom. 18 members were present | The American Flag and 4-H club salute were led by everyone. | Our Sunshine Report was for Amara, Cayden and Gavin. | Our leader's report was to come up with new ideas for fun club activities and new ways to do community outreach with the current COVID situation. During the leader's report, Connie Creighton explained some new 4-H guidelines. In June no contact is allowed. In July we are hoping to meet in groups of 10 and under, with the 4-H's permission. In August there is hope to meet in groups of 50 or less, again with the 4-H's permission. We also were told there will be no Amherst Fair, but there may be demos. Rosholt Fair entries are open. As of right now there will be a Rosholt Fair, but the large animal auction will most likely be an online sale. Connie also asked for older members to teach some online zoom classes that can teach new members about 4-H projects. She also would like to do a Camp in the Box. | Our old business consisted of asking the club for their thoughts of the club t-shirts. All the comments were positive and all of the families received their orders. There was no update at the time of the meeting about the Empty Bowls event. We decided as a club to do litter pick up as a small group sometime in July. We will wear masks and will practice social distancing guidelines. We were also informed that even though the Amherst fair was canceled they are still trying to have the pig and turkey show and sale. | Our new business consisted of a reminder to register for Rosholt Fair online before July 15. We also decided to push the fair booth planning to the next meeting when we will hopefully have a final decision on the Rosholt Fair. Amara B. then demonstrated how to do egg candling. It was very interesting and informative. Then Wyatt B. showed us his caterpillars and explained to us how he takes care of them. | The next meeting will be held on July 12, 2020 at 1:00 pm via ZOOM | Meeting adjourned at 2:01pm | Recorded by secretary Taylor M. Submitted by reporter Colton V.

4-H Club Reports

Leader's Board Minutes



Portage County 4-H Leaders Board— April 2020

The Portage County 4-H Leaders Association Board meeting of 4-20-20 was called to order by President Debra Helbach at 6:30 pm online via Zoom. Pledges were recited and roll call was taken.

PRESENT: Marilyn Pederson (Carson Climbers), Jan Miller (Rosholt Pioneers), Betty Pionek (Casimer Boosters), Kathy Glodowski and Michelle Waltenberg (Nelsonville Zippy Zees), Debra Helbach (Tomorrow River Voyagers), Agnes Mallek (Junction City Golden Stars), Lisa Henriksen, Support Staff and Connie Creighton, 4-H Youth Development Agent

MINUTES: Approved as presented | OFFICER REPORT: Treasurer's Report: Current Balances Checking: \$10,261.51 Savings: \$ 3351.86 | Secretary's Report: None

OLD BUSINESS: Portage County 4-H Scholarships – Jan and Kathy reported that three youth applied. One candidate was not eligible due to lack of required youth leadership. Motion/second/passed to award scholarships to Alyse Gruna and Lydia Kildahl. | Plant Sale – Still waiting on State to reply to request for exemption. We should have a response by Thursday. | Speaking & Demonstration Contests – Postponed – May be able to hold during Rosholt Fair | Clothing Review - Postponed | Summer Camp – Cancelled – Cloverbud/Exploratory Camp still uncertain. July may be a possibility | Plat Book Status – Jan received \$140 from Debra Helbach for sale of plat books. Whether we plan to print another plat book needs to be voted on by the Leaders Association. | Budget – No meeting has been scheduled. All trips have been cancelled. | Other: Amherst Fair- Planning as usual except for the entertainment.

NEW BUSINESS: Record Book Meeting/Workshop-April 28th 4 pm & April 30th 7:00 pm via Zoom – Committee: Michelle, Kathy and Debra. Taylor Gordon also helping. Tuesday's meeting will cover requirements. Thursday's meeting will cover project sheets. | COVID-19 Discussion – Lengthy discussion about UW Madison's current restrictions in place until June 1st. Zoom available to use for club meetings. Some clubs have met via Zoom. Connie is willing to help with Zoom meetings. Some 4-H club members have been making masks. Resources available: County Facebook page, Lego challenge, university website. Things to do in the following months: workshops, Amherst and Rosholt Fairs, discuss project work. How to do roadside clean-up safely was asked. **Per Connie, highway clean-up is deemed too risky per UW Madison, but it is OK to clean-up along hiking and biking trails. | Amherst Fair Entry May 1st-June 1st - Lisa is working on the entry program. Information will be sent out May 1st. | Rosholt Fair Entry TBD -Opens mid-June and closes July 15th. | Amherst Fair Food Stand - On hold until June. | Courier-Spot Light Clubs/Seniors – Discussion on including information about clubs and seniors in 4-H Courier. We have 13 clubs that could provide information about how they originated, special things that their club does, etc. There are 11 graduating seniors in 4-H this year. Need for uniformity in information to be included. Suggestion to use questions from Ambassador posters. Information could also be posted on County Facebook page. Graduates should be listed in alphabetical order. Due date for information is April 27th. Motion/second/passed to spot light clubs and seniors in 4-H Courier. | Online Club Meeting Ideas/Help – Connie will help clubs set up meeting using Zoom. | Cake Decorating Workshop - Sherry is willing to do workshop again. Event usually held in June. | Summer 4-H Assistant – Good chance there won't be a summer assistant. County is cutting budget. | Youth Led Workshops – Saturdays online | April 25th goat, May 2nd poultry and May 9th rabbits. Pre-registration required. Looking for volunteers for more workshops. | Agent Report: It is a scary, stressful time. Families are struggling. 211 Resource available – call in or go online. Information will be included in next newsletter. | Next Meeting Date – June 15, 2020 at 6:30 pm | Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm

Yours in 4-H, Marilyn Pederson, Secretary

*It was stated at this 4-H Leaders Board meeting that roadside pick-up was no longer an allowable activity for clubs to participate in. After further research it was found that this was incorrect. Several County 4-H programs ban roadside cleanup, but it is not a state policy. At this time we do not have any 4-H specific policy related to roadside pick-up. 4-H Clubs and 4-H Groups are allowed to do roadside cleanup, but should follow the guidance given by the DOT:

Plant Sale Fundraiser

**On June 6th, ten 4-H volunteers
unloaded and sorted over 1000 plants!**

**Thank you to everyone who took part in this
fundraiser to support our 4-H program!**



4-H Scholarship

**Congratulations to our 4-H
Scholarship winners!**

**Alyse Gruna of the Rosholt Pioneers and
Lydia Kildahl of the Sunnyside Climbers
were awarded the 2020 Pinkerton-Burns
-Noble-Portage County 4-H Leaders
Scholarship and the
2020 Wayne Schroeder
Portage County 4-H
Scholarship.**

**Great job and best of
luck to both of you in
the future!**



EXTENSION STAFF

JASON HAUSLER, AREA EXTENSION DIRECTOR

CONNIE CREIGHTON, 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENT

SHERRY DANIELS, FAMILY LIVING EDUCATOR

KEN SCHROEDER, AGRICULTURE AGENT

NATHAN SANDWICK, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENT

KELLY HAMMOND, FOODWISE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

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4-H LEADERS ASSOCIATION

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SECRETARY: MARILYN PEDERSON 715-344-4489

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