



Portage County 4-H Courier

Bimonthly Periodical



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
PORTAGE COUNTY

April / May 2025

Letter From the President

Hello Fellow 4-Hers,

So many new and exciting things happening, I almost don't know where to start. This time of year, I've heard there is a thing called a spring slump. It's where even though its spring we may be feeling unenergized. Well, I think we have a solution, get more involved with 4-H. It's lifted my spirits. Just last Monday we had the Pizza & Planning Party. It was so much fun to do some crafts and brainstorm all together on how we can improve areas of 4-H. Creating how we want 4-H to look in the future. The pizza was yummy too.

The Adult Leaders Board is wrapping up improvements to the Project Sheets and Lisa and Amy are cleaning them up. There is still time to have your input. If you have a project that you love and want to see improved contact Lisa on helping.

The snowmen contest turned out great, even with the small amounts of snow we had. Now we are going to have fun with the Peeps Diorama contest. You are all so creative!

With all the new things that are coming I wish my daughter was nine years old and could do 4-H all over again!

We would love you adult leaders to come to a meeting and hear your ideas.

Christine Keck

4-H Leaders Association President

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THE COURIER

The Portage County 4-H's Bi-Monthly Newsletter



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Courier is getting a new look! Stay tuned as we update and improve our 4-H communications!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

APRIL

- 1 Last Day for Project Changes in 4-H Online
- 11 Plant Sale fundraiser order forms due to club
- 12 Constellation & Planets Show, 3:00-4:00pm, UWSP Planetarium
- 15 Managerial Agreements Due to Extension Office
- 15 Market Animal Committee Meeting, 5:30 PM, Annex Building, Stevens Point
- 15 YQCA In-Person Training, 6:00pm, Annex Building, Stevens Point
- 19 Dog project Kick-off meeting, 3:30pm, Rosholt Fairgrounds
- 21 4-H Leaders Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Annex Rooms 1 & 2 and Online via Zoom
- 25 Feed Bag Tote Upcycling Night, 5:00-8:00pm, Portage County Extension Office
- 27 Ceramics Workshop, 1:00-3:00pm, Boston School Forest
- 27 Leader & Club Officer Training, 4:00-6:00pm, Boston School Forest

MAY

- 3 Lamb Weigh-On Market Animal Project, 9:00-10:00am Rosholt Fairgrounds
- 4 Stepping Stone Workshop, 1:00-3:00pm, Location TBD
- 5 Deadline for Submitting Tagged Swine Photos
- 10 4-H Summer Camp for Grades 3-8, Registration Due
- 16 Plant pickup for plant sale fundraiser, Gagas Farms, 6687 Cattle Lane, Stevens Point.
- 19 4-H Leaders Association Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 20 Market Animal Committee Meeting, 6:00 PM, Rosholt Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall
- 20 Market Animal Sales Promotion & Records / Ethics & Sportsmanship Meeting, 7:00PM, Rosholt Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall
- 26 UW-Extension Office Closed (Memorial Day)

Follow us on Social Media!

Be sure to like our new

[official Facebook page](#) and our [Instagram!](#)

The current Portage County 4-H Members & Family group isn't going anywhere, but it will transition to being a community discussion board for our families, leaders and clubs. As pages and groups function differently, the new 'page' will allow us to share all of the awesome events and 4-H news to our broader community as we grow our programs and seek to recruit the next generation of 4-H'ers!



UW-MADISON EXTENSION
PORTAGE COUNTY 4-H

Connect with us!



<https://portage.extension.wisc.edu>

2025 4-H Plant Sale Fundraiser

Contact your club leader if you have not received any information on the plant sale fundraiser.

The money raised from this fundraiser will be split 50-50 between the club and the Leaders Assoc.

April 11th – Date your **Club Member Sales Form** needs to be turned in to the designated person in your club. Please collect the money as you sell the plants. The money will be turned in to your club. **(Checks should be made payable to your club.)**

Plant Pick Up:

Plants will be delivered Friday, May 16th to Gagas Farms, 6687 Cattle Lane, Stevens Point.

After plants have been sorted, they may be picked up Friday afternoon or Saturday morning.

Photos Are Examples—
Colors and Plant Types Vary

	Shade Combo: Foliage Plants & One Blooming Plant 12" Hanging Basket \$45.00
	Sun Combo with Annuals 12" Hanging Basket \$45.00
	Sun Combo with Annuals Patio Garden \$47.00

Plants will be delivered in mid-May. You will be notified a week in advance to set up a pick-up time.

Thank you for your participation! It is very much appreciated!



Questions?
Contact Jan Miller
715-592-4222

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Portage County 4-H 21st Annual Plant Sale Greenhouse Quality Plants



Please place your order with the designated person in your club by April 11th.






This plant sale is a joint fundraiser between each Portage County Club and the 4-H Leaders Association. Money raised is split evenly between the club and Association.

Photos Are Examples—
Colors and Plant Types Vary

	4" Geranium Red, Pink, Salmon, or White \$8.50
	Gerbera Daisy 4.5" Pot (Color Varies) \$9.00
	6" Hibiscus Yellow, Red, Orange or Pink Color Preference (Filtered Sun) \$31.00

Photos Are Examples—
Colors and Plant Types Vary

	Scaevola: 10" Hanging Basket (Color Varies) \$35.00
	Calibrachoa 10" Hanging Basket (Million Bells) \$35.00
	Dragon Wing Begonia 10" Hanging Basket \$35.00

Photos Are Examples—
Colors and Plant Types Vary

	Fuchsia 10" Hanging Basket Purple/Pink or Pink/White Color Preference \$35.00
	Geranium Basket 10" Hanging Basket Reds or Pinks Color Preference \$35.00
	Petunia 10" Hanging Basket (Color Varies) \$35.00



PORTAGE COUNTY 4-H

DOG PROJECT KICK-OFF MEETING

Join us for the Portage County 4-H Dog Project Kick-Off meeting! Topics covered will be dog rally, dog obedience and dog showmanship classes as well as setting the schedule for ongoing training sessions. Please no dogs at this first meeting, just members and parents.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH - 3:30PM
ROSHOLT FAIRGROUNDS
(186 W FOREST ST, ROSHOLT)

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements. Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Requests will be kept confidential.



UW-MADISON EXTENSION
PORTAGE COUNTY

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 4.12** Constellation & Planets Show
3-4pm at UWSP Planetarium
- 4.25** Feed Bag Tote Upcycling Night
5-8pm at UW Extension Office
- 4.27** Leader & Officer Training
4-6pm - Location TBD
- 5.4** Stepping Stone Workshop
1-3pm - Location TBD

SAVE THE DATE(S)!! We've got lots of exciting county-wide programming coming up in April and May. Be sure to mark your calendars! More details coming soon!



CONSTELLATIONS and PLANETS

of our Solar System

**FREE for 4-H MEMBERS!/
\$2 for non-members & adults**

SAT. APRIL 12th
3-4pm
@ UWSP Planetarium



Join Portage County 4-H on Saturday, April 12th from 3:00-4:00pm for a fun and engaging show at the UWSP Planetarium! (We've rented the whole place!)

Come learn about Constellations and the Planets of our Solar System as presented by students and faculty of the UWSP Physics and Astronomy department.

Who: Open to all 4-H members and their families.

Cost:

- 4-H members: FREE
- Adults/Non-Members: \$2
(Collected the day of the event)

Sign-up HERE: <https://bit.ly/4-HConstellationsPlanets>

Iowa, Portage & Waupaca County

4-H SUMMER CAMP



JUNE 23-25

@Upham Woods, Wisconsin Dells

Register Today!
only \$45



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

Calling all 4-H Youth in Grades 3-7! It's time to signup for SUMMER CAMP!! We'll be joining Waupaca and Iowa county 4-H programs for 3 days and 2 nights of fun and adventure at Camp Upham Woods in Wisconsin Dells. Space is limited, so be sure to register soon! The registration cost for Portage county youth is just \$45 thanks to the generous support of our 4-H Leaders Association. Deadline to register is May 10th!

Register at: <https://2025SummerCamp.4honline.com>

PORTAGE COUNTY 4-H CERAMICS WORKSHOP



Sunday, April 27th | 1:00-3:00pm
Boston School Forest
5084 Lincoln Ave, Plover

To Register go to:
<https://PoCoCeramics.4honline.com>

Register by April 18th - Space is limited!

Join us for a drybrushing/antiquing ceramics workshop!

Participants must have a stained/painted ceramic piece already completed that they will need to bring to the workshop to further drybrush or antique.

This is a free event open to all Portage County 4-H members grades 3 & up.

Paints and supplies will be provided, but you must bring your own painted/stained ceramic piece. Techniques covered will be drybrushing, antiquing or other non-fire techniques like chalking, stamping or sponge. As always finished pieces can be used as entries for the fairs!



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Portage County 4-H Peeps Diorama Contest



This contest is open to all Portage County 4-H members, Cloverbuds, immediate family members of 4-H members, parents and leaders.

To enter the contest submit a picture of your family-friendly diorama made of Peeps. Your submission photo of the diorama must have at least one of the builders in the photo.

Diorama Guidelines

All diorama entries must be based on a 4-H Project and be "Family Friendly" (suitable for all audiences).

- All entries should be around the size of a standard shoe-box, with maximum size of 12" x 18" by 12". Sides may be removed.
- All characters in your scene should be made using Peeps. Dioramas can use any type of Peep.
- Limit one entry per person.
- Limit one entry per family.
- Each entry needs to be titled and related to a 4-H project.

Divisions

Cloverbud:
Kindergarten - 2nd grade

Junior:
3rd - 5th grade

Intermediate:
6th - 8th grade

Senior:
9th grade or older

Family

**For Registration and Photo Submission
details go to:**

<https://bit.ly/2025PeepsContest>

**Judging Results will be announced
as soon as possible.**

Awesome Prizes Will be Awarded!

Entries are Due by Friday, April 25th.



2025 4-H AWARD RESULTS

Congratulations to our 4-Hers who won awards for 2025!

(Listed in Alphabetical Order by Last Name, Not Rank Order)

4-H Ambassador:

Annika Kildahl

Natalie Kildahl

Key Award:

Trisha Edmundson

Camryn Wade

Leader of Tomorrow Award:

Marie Keck

Camryn Wade

*To be recognized at the 2025
4-H Awards Program*

*To be recognized at the 2025
4-H Awards Program*

CONGRATS NOAH!



A HUGE congratulations to Tomorrow River Voyagers 4-H Member Noah Spoelstra! He received the 2025 4-H Leadership in Agriculture Award that was presented at the American Agriculture Appreciation Banquet on March 3rd, 2025 hosted by the Portage County Business Council. Noah has been an active 4-H member of the Tomorrow River Voyagers 4-H Club for the past 12 years and is a Senior at Amherst High School. Noah is the son of Jeremy & Elizabeth Spoelstra. Noah plans to attend UW-La Crosse in the fall to study Exercise and Sport Science



Plover Clovers members participated in a keychain class and got to watch a glass blowing demonstration at A Touch of Glass art studio in Amherst.



4-H Senior Spotlight

In this 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. 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! May you continue to shine bright in your future endeavors!

**Favorite 4-H project:**

My favorite 4-H project is the swine project. I love working with the pigs and watching them grow.

Advice for younger 4-H members:

Be involved with your club and take advantage of the opportunities given to you!



AMARA BEAUDOINE

**11 YEAR MEMBER OF THE TOMORROW
RIVER VOYAGERS 4-H CLUB**

Post High School plans:

I am attending Michigan Technological University where I will study human biology and play volleyball.



ABBY BEY

**4 YEAR MEMBER OF THE RIVER
VALLEY RIDERS AND
PLOVER CLOVERS 4-H CLUBS**

Favorite 4-H project:

The horse project.

Advice for younger 4-H

members: It's never too late to try something new and different even if it might seem scary in the moment just push through and enjoy all of it. 3rd or 4th place ribbons are not failure, they prove you tried so keep it up and learn from every experience.



Favorite 4-H accomplishment: Exhibiting something new and different every year ! I love learning and experiencing new things!

Favorite memory: When Brenna asked me to show her turkeys for her at Amherst fair because she couldn't be in 2 places at 1 time.

Post High School plans: I have been accepted to Ellsworth Community College to study Equestrian Business Management, Equestrian training, and Equestrian Show Judging. I want to teach others to ride and give back by being a judge just like all the mentors I have met while showing my horse.



MADDIE CISEWSKI

9 YEAR MEMBER OF PORTAGE COUNTY 4-H
IN THE THE SUNNYSIDE CLIMBERS AND
CARSON CLIMBERS 4-H CLUBS

Favorite 4-H Projects: When I showed horses, cake decorating, and the year I was in the beef project.

Advice for younger 4-H members: Get involved, participate and be active in your club it's a great way to make new friends!

Post High School plans: I plan to attend the university Minnesota in animal science undergrad pre vet path.



Favorite 4-H accomplishment: My favorite accomplishment/memory in 4-H is getting to be the County 4-H Ambassador.

Advice for younger 4-H members: You should get involved in as many activities as possible to learn new skills and make friends. Be supportive of one another can increase your experience, as teamwork makes everything more enjoyable. Lastly, you should remember to have fun and enjoy the journey, as 4-H is all about learning and having a good time!



MARIE KECK

9 YEAR MEMBER OF PORTAGE COUNTY 4-H
IN THE THE SUNNYSIDE CLIMBERS AND
CASIMER BOOSTERS 4-H CLUBS

Post High School plans: I will be attending Mid-State Technical College under the University Transfer program to later attend Concordia University with a Major of Early Childhood Education.



Favorite 4-H Memory: My favorite 4-H memory was cake decorating for the cake auction each year.

ANNA PETERS

10 YEAR MEMBER OF THE SUNNYSIDE
CLIMBERS 4-H CLUB

Advice for younger 4-H members:

Get involved and don't hesitate to try new things!

Post High School

plans: To attend UWSP and major in Business.



Favorite 4-H Project: I had a lot of fun learning about cake decorating. Each year, I showed and sold cakes at both Amherst and Rosholt Fairs. My favorite memory was winning best of show when I was younger.

Advice for younger 4-H members:

Enjoy everything 4-H has to offer. I even went to Space Camp!

Post High

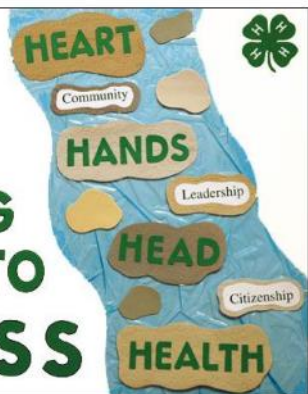
School plans:
UWSP/Biology



MARA RADDATZ

9 YEAR MEMBER OF THE
NELSONVILLE ZIPPY ZEES 4-H CLUB

**4-H
THE
STEPPING
STONES TO
SUCCESS**





Favorite 4-H

Accomplishment: I really enjoyed raising turkeys every year for the market sale, but my favorite accomplishment is when I won Grand Champion Waterfowl a few years ago, and now I show my call ducks all across Wisconsin and neighboring States!



OTTO SCHULTZ

**11 YEAR MEMBER OF THE TOMORROW
RIVER VOYAGERS 4-H CLUB**

Advice for younger 4-H members: Never stop learning, find the projects you like and focus on them. Enjoy the process and ask lots of questions! Talk to older members that have done the project you're interested in or are doing as they will have lots of knowledge, and they should be more than willing to share!

Post High School plans: I will be attending University of Wisconsin Platteville for a degree in Agribusiness in the fall.



Favorite 4-H project: Favorite project is the sheep project and my greatest accomplishment winning grand champion market lamb at the Rosholt Fair multiple years.

NOAH SPOELSTRA

**13 YEAR MEMBER OF PORTAGE COUNTY 4-H IN
THE THE SUNNYSIDE CLIMBERS AND
TOMORROW RIVER VOYAGERS 4-H CLUBS**

Advice for younger 4-H members: Get involved with as many projects as you can handle and stay active, this truly is an amazing organization to grow your skills and abilities.

Post High School plans:

Attend the University of Wisconsin Lacrosse to study exercise and sports science in hopes of becoming a physical therapist.





Favorite 4-H Project: Market animal project. It's rewarding to see all of your hard work pay off.

SAM STUCZYNSKI

12 YEAR MEMBER OF THE TOMORROW RIVER VOYAGERS 4-H CLUB



Advice for younger 4-H members: Try new things! 4-H gets a lot more fun when you get involved in new opportunities.

Post High School plans:

Attending UW-Madison to major in agronomy.



Favorite 4-H Memory: At the 2019 Rosholt Fair Market Animal sale, my cousin rode my steer through the sale ring, and the crowd seemed to really enjoy seeing how tame he was. It was a good reminder of how much time 4-H members dedicate to raising their animals.

Advice for younger 4-H members: Have so much fun and connect with other 4-H members in your community.

Post High School plans: Attending university as an English major with future career plans in publishing.



SAVANNAH SULLIVAN

7 YEAR MEMBER OF PORTAGE COUNTY 4-H IN THE CASIMER BOOSTERS AND RIVER VALLEY RIDERS 4-H CLUBS



WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING 4-H SENIORS (NOT PICTURED):

- Sally Altmann (Carson Climbers)
- Olivia Bessette (Rosholt Pioneers)
- Grace Betker (Rosholt Pioneers)
- Joshua Czerneski (Carson Climbers)
- Genevieve Heese (Eager Eagles)
- Annika Kildahl (Tomorrow River Voyagers)
- Odin Kubish (Sunnyside Climbers)
- Claire Lewallen (Nelsonville Zippy Zees)
- Ashlyn Metzler (Carson Climbers)
- Corrina Pliska (Nelsonville Zippy Zees)
- Emma Reincke (Almond Busy Bees)
- Jacob Ross (Rosholt Pioneers)
- Samantha Sauve (Nelsonville Zippy Zees)
- Zoe Skupien (Tomorrow River Voyagers)
- Jane Story (Eager Eagles)
- Brooke Taylor (Sunnyside Climbers)
- Anna Turney (Eager Eagles)
- Branden Zilisch (Tomorrow River Voyagers)



Pictured Left: 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl and Skill-at-thon team members.

Team Members include:
(From Left to Right)

Charlie Burns
Colten Kaminski
Sami Kaminski
Nora Lein
Jaci Kaminski (Team Captain)



Pictured Above: The Portage County 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl and Skillathon team who won Reserve Champions in the mixed division. The team also placed 3rd in the team Skill-A-Thon. Congratulations on a job well done!



Pictured Left: Jaci Kaminski (bottom row 2nd from left) placed second overall in the mixed division individual Livestock Skill-a-thon.



When: Tuesday, April 15th

Time: 6:00pm

Where: Portage County Annex, 1462 Strongs Avenue, Stevens Point

For: Elementary & Middle School Students

YQCA certification is offered in two formats:

Face-to-Face– Fee: \$3 -OR- Online – Fee: \$12 at <https://yqcaprogram.org/>

Please note per national YQCA policies the in-person session is for only youth up to age 18. Young adults age 19-21 are required to complete the WEB BASED course.

To register for the Portage County training sign in or create an account on <https://yqcaprogram.org/> Under the appropriate age in “Course List” choose “Instructor-Led Training” with instructor Kathryn Lampi. A drop-down box will list all current available options for Wisconsin. Please note there is a "Pre-Test" button you will need to select after you have paid your fee. It's questions that survey your knowledge before you take the class. It's not the actual test.

Both certification types (Online and Face-to-Face) must be paid online with a credit card.

What is YQCA?

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a national certification program available for youth that focuses on food safety, animal well-being and character awareness for youth ages 8 to 21 producing and/or showing pigs, beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, goats, market rabbits, and poultry.

Who is YQCA Required for?

Rosholt Fair: All Beef, Sheep & Swine Exhibitors

Amherst Fair: All Beef, Sheep, Swine & Turkey Exhibitors

State Fair: Anyone Showing Beef, Dairy, Goats, Poultry, Rabbits, Sheep and Swine

Please note that in order to be eligible to participate in the Rosholt Fair Market Animal Sale you must complete your training no later than July 1, 2025. Rosholt Fair Market Animal Project Members: once you have completed your training and receive your certificate, please email a copy to lisa.henriksen@wisc.edu so you can be given credit.

TAGGED SWINE PHOTOS

Swine must be identified by May 5th.

Members must tag, photograph, and electronically submit two photos for each tagged hog—one photo of the entire animal and another photo of the animal showing its tag number.

Include project member name with correlating ear tag.

Photos must be submitted no later than May 5th to: portageco.map@gmail.com.

YOU WILL RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION E-MAIL AFTER PHOTOS ARE SUBMITTED.

If you do not receive a confirmation e-mail shortly after submission, your photos were not received and you should submit them again.

2025 AG SOURCE DHI FOUNDATION PORTAGE COUNTY FUND GROUP SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarships awarded for:

- College students having already completed a college semester and evidence of continued college enrollment
- Adults seeking continuing education
- Those wanting to attend professional ag related seminars, conferences, or courses

Scholarship requirements include:

- Applicant, Parents, or Grandparents must have been a DHI member from Portage County
- No application will be accepted if applicant applied for other DHI Fund Groups
- College students must maintain 2.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale)
- Include two letters of recommendation or ag related seminar/course brochure
- Application must be postmarked by May 1, 2025.

Application can be found on page 11 of this newsletter. Send completed scholarship application to:

ATTN: Ag Source Scholarship Portage County Extension 1462 Strongs Avenue Stevens Point, WI 54481

Managerial Agreements—DUE: APRIL 15th

If the animal you are bringing to the Amherst or Rosholt Fair is not owned by the exhibitor or the persons who live at the exhibitor's primary place of residence, you must send a Managerial Agreement to the Portage County Extension office no later than April 15!

This applies to Cattle, Horses, Swine, Sheep, Goats, Poultry, Rabbits, Dogs, Cats, and Alpacas.

Please note: Market Animal Project Beef, Swine and Sheep cannot be managerial animals.

Copies available at <https://portage.extension.wisc.edu/>(4-H —4-H Forms and Applications).

2025 AG SOURCE DHI FOUNDATION PORTAGE COUNTY FUND GROUP SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarships awarded for:

- College students having already completed a college semester and evidence of continued college enrollment
- Adults seeking continuing education
- Those wanting to attend professional ag related seminars, conferences, or courses

Scholarship requirements include:

- Applicant, Parents, or Grandparents must have been a DHI member from Portage County
- No application will be accepted if applicant applied for other DHI Fund Groups
- College students must maintain 2.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale)
- Include two letters of recommendation or ag related seminar/course brochure
- Application must be postmarked by May 1, 2025

Send completed scholarship application to:

ATTN: Ag Source Scholarship
Portage County Extension
1462 Strong's Avenue
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

Home Phone # _____ Major _____ GPA _____

Applying under herd number and farm name _____

Name and address of school attending or seminar, conference, or course wishing to attend _____

Using additional pages, please respond to the following:

1. Activities – school (students only)
2. Activities – community
3. Family Farm History
4. List employment in agribusiness
5. List goals and plans for the next five years

Limiting yourself to one page, please describe the following

How will your educational experiences help meet these goals?

What challenges do you foresee and how will you overcome them?

I certify that all information given on this application is true, correct, and completed to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Scholarship's amount may differ based on availability and need. Preference may be given to students in agriculture related field. Portage County Fund Group reserves the right to make the final decision.

Leader's Board Minutes



Portage County 4-H Leaders Association - January 2025

The Portage County 4-H Adult Leaders Association meeting, held on 1-27-25, via Zoom and in-person at the Annex conference rooms 1 & 2, was called to order by President Christine Keck at 6:31 p.m. Pledges were recited and roll call was taken by introducing ourselves and sharing something about ourselves. Copies of the revised Portage County 4-H Scholarship application and Ag Youth Award applications were distributed.

PRESENT: Marilyn Pederson (Carson Climbers), Sharon Cisewski (Plover Clovers), Christine Keck (Casimer Boosters), Kathy Glodowski (County-Wide), Jan Miller (Rosholt Pioneers), Malayna Polum and Jennifer Konkol (Nelsonville Zippy Zees), Dr. Barb Kaspruwicz and Carrie Wade (Almond Busy Bees), Louise Skornia (Sunnyside Climbers), Lisa Henriksen (4-H Support Staff) and Amy Boelk (4-H Educator)

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: County-Wide workshops/project meetings, Fall Forum and Snowman Contest | **MINUTES:** Two clerical errors: "d" missing in spelling of Trisha Edmundson's name and need to delete "s" on record books. Corrected minutes approved.

OFFICER REPORTS: **Treasurer's Report:** Checking account - \$31,442.07 Savings account - \$655.80 | **Secretary's Report and Correspondence:** None

OLD BUSINESS: Welcome New 4-H Educator - Amy Sue Boelk: She grew up on a white tail deer and Christmas tree farm In Marathon. She was never in 4-H. She did belong to Future Business Leaders of America as a youth. Her 10-year-old daughter Nora, belongs to the Nelsonville Zippy Zees 4-H Club. Prior to moving to Amherst, she had lived in multiple areas in the Midwest and has also lived in Austria. | **Gingerbread Contest Update** - Increased number (39) entries this year. 20 winners were selected. Lisa will get prizes ready and notify winners. | **Roller Skating Party** - Only 39 youth and adults attended this year. Decreased number probably due to the weather forecast for fog and possible freezing rain. Admission fee covered the cost of the skating, food and insurance. | **Awards and Ambassador Applications and Interviews** - Two youth applied to be 4-H Ambassadors and five youth applied for the special awards. Interviews are scheduled for February 12th. Ambassadors will be invited to help with interviews. | **Winter Camp** - Camp was held at Spencer Lake Christian Center in Waupaca. A total of 40 youth from Portage, Waupaca, Eau Claire and Fon du Lac counties attended. 5 youth from Portage County attended. Christine Keck was a chaperone. Weather was very cold so youth spent most of the time in the indoor gym. Youth took personality tests and attended many great leadership workshops, sang camp songs and took part in SPARK activities.

NEW BUSINESS: Funding for State and National 4-H Events - Motion by Jan and second by Jenny to use \$150.00 from the dog project fund to pay for Matthew Carlson's State 4-H Dog Show fees and the raffle basket that each county is required to provide. Motion passed. | **Portage County Scholarships** - Compared draft of revised Portage County 4-H Scholarship application to previous scholarship application. Motion by Sharon, second by Marilyn to accept draft as printed. Motion passed. Applications are due March 15th. In the past, up to four \$250.00 scholarships were awarded. Jan suggested that the amount of the scholarships be increased to \$500 per applicant. Motion by Dr. Barb, second by Sharon that the scholarship amount be increased to \$500. Motion passed. | **Ag Youth Award Applications** - Reviewed and discussed applications from Noah Spoelstra and Autumn Polum. Motion by Jan and second by Louise to select Noah Spoelstra as the recipient of the Ag Youth Award. Motion passed. | **Record Book Subcommittee** - Recommendation by Jan that the record book forms be simplified. Asked for volunteers to work on revisions. Louise, her granddaughter Trisha, Christine, Sharon, Carrie and Jan volunteered to serve on the record book subcommittee. Suggestion made that all general leaders be invited to help with revisions. Carrie Wade recommended that we make the record books easier to fill out. | **Other: County-Wide workshops/project meetings** - Sharon taught a Barn Quilt workshop with a Christmas theme in December. She suggested that her next workshop could be charcuterie boards. Louise taught a Ceramics workshop in December. 10-12 youth who were very serious about learning more about ceramics, attended the workshop. She is considering offering a Special Techniques workshop in the spring. Christine and Marie plan to do a video about the basics of cooking. Christine would also like to do a Speaking workshop. Christine and Amanda are planning a Style Revue workshop prior to the Rosholt Fair. Christine would like the Style Review to be part of the fair this year. | **4-H Volunteer Retreat** - Wood and Marathon Counties invited Portage County to their annual retreat for 4-H Adult volunteers. Christine, Carrie, Dr. Barb and Sharon attended. Topics included communications skills and how to get kids to work together. | **Snowman Contest** - Jan recommended we hold a virtual snowman contest again. Last one was held in 2022. Lisa will send out an email. | **Fall Forum** - the 2025 4-H Fall Forum will be held from October 31st through November 2nd at Green Lake Bible Camp. Louise shared information about a kit she received at the 2024 Fall Forum. The kit is designed for use with youth of all abilities.

Educator Report - Amy reported that the State 4-H has made changes regarding what the responsibilities of a 4-H Educators are.

Next Leaders Association Meeting Date - March 17, 2025

Adjourn - Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Yours in 4-H,
Marilyn Pederson

Tomorrow River Voyagers Club Report - January & February 2025

4-H Club Reports

During the month of January the Tomorrow River Voyagers 4H Club had a meeting at KB Willet where we made Valentine's Day cards for nursing homes and got to ice skate after. Our February meeting was our project demonstration meeting where we shared about the main project categories such as swine, sheep poultry, crops, cake, and floriculture. If you are interested in learning more about 4H join us for our March meeting on the 16th at 4:00pm at Peace Lutheran Church.



Pictured Left & Below: Members of the Almond Busy Bees club during their March meeting. Entomologist Holly Petrillo from UWSP spoke to their club about bees and mimics, and members then made their own bees in a pollinator demonstration.

Also picture is members of the Almond Busy Bees club at the Community Winter Celebration event held on February 22nd in Almond.



4HERS IN ACTION!



Pictured Above: The Carson Climbers club at the Junction City Community Winter Celebration event that was held at Kennedy Elementary on March 8th. Members led a meat seasoning activity and demonstrated their meat judging skills

Pictured Below: The Carson Climbers also met at the Portage County Humane Society to donate items collected by their club. While there they enjoyed a tour of the facility and got to meet some of the pets.





Pictured Above: Tomorrow River Voyagers 4-H members at a UWSP Hockey game.



Pictured Above: Members of the Plover Clovers club at the Plover Community Winter Celebration event that was held at the Food + Farm Exploration Center on January 17th.

"To Make the Best Better"



EXTENSION STAFF

Patrick Gatterman, AREA EXTENSION DIRECTOR

AMY BOELK, 4-H PROGRAM EDUCATOR

SHERRY DANIELS, FAMILY LIVING EDUCATOR

KEN SCHROEDER, AGRICULTURE AGENT

KATIE LIVERNASH, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENT

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4-H LEADERS ASSOCIATION

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VICE PRESIDENT:

SECRETARY: MARILYN PEDERSON

TREASURER: JAN MILLER

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