



THE COURIER

The Portage County 4-H's Bi-Monthly Newsletter
June / July 2025



In April, members from the Tomorrow River Voyagers participated in road side clean up.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Yay! Summer school break is here. "No more lessons, no more books, etc." Now for us 4-Hers the work and fun begins. There are projects to do, workshops to learn from, and events to attend. And then the fairs. My experience has shown me, if we concentrate more on the first three and less on the fair submissions, 4-H is more memorable and fun.

I hope many of you went to the Dye-Tie Workshop and Garden Stepping Stone Workshop.

I'm particularly excited about the Speech and Demo workshop (yes, I'm leading it :) that's coming up on June 18th and we will be having the contest at the Amherst Fair this year.

Sadly, there wasn't enough interest in the Teen Leaders trip to Mount Olympus and therefore has been cancelled. It's very disappointing. Be sure to volunteer to work the Amherst Fair 4-H Food Stand. It is not only an important fund raiser, but if you want to apply for any of the 4-H trip scholarships this is a requirement.

The Adult Leaders and our County Educator Amy Boelk are going to make 4-H more fun and meaningful for the Club Leaders too. There will be meetings in near future that will give you a chance to share and learn from each other and get helpful information.

So many great things, so short a summer and space to write.

See you all out doing the 4-H thing,

Christine Keck | Adult Leaders Association, President



Mara R. (Nelsonville Zippy Zees) and Noah S. (Tomorrow River Voyagers) recipients of the 2025 Pinkerton-Noble-Burns 4-H Scholarships at the Amherst HS Scholarship Ceremony. Abby Bey and Marie Keck (not pictured) are also 2025 4-H scholarship winners.

Congratulations to all scholarship recipients!

WELCOME JUNIPER!

We are SO excited to welcome Juniper Rydberg back to the Portage County 4-H program as the summer 4-H Intern! We couldn't be more thrilled with the work she is already doing to develop programs and partnerships to expand our reach. Be sure to say hi at some of the upcoming events!

Meet Juniper:

Hello! My name is Juniper, and I'm excited to be serving as the county's 4-H intern this summer. I'm currently a student at UW-Stout, majoring in Family and Consumer Science Education with a minor in Human Development and Family Studies. I have a strong passion for leadership, teaching, and helping others grow. I also love to read and do crafts here and there. As a former 4-H youth member, I've experienced firsthand how valuable the program is in building lifelong skills and confidence. I'm looking forward to giving back to the organization that gave me so much and to making this summer a meaningful experience for everyone involved. I can't wait to see what this season brings!



NOTE FROM 4-H OFFICE



Lots of things are happening here in Portage County 4-H! We are so excited to have had the opportunity to develop several new programs and events over the past few months and have been working hard to build out our upcoming calendar for the 25-26 4-H year. In addition to lots of new things here in our county- the state and national 4-H offices are also making lots of fun updates to projects, events, volunteer and club requirements that we'll be sharing with folks very soon.

Based on your feedback from the Leader & Family surveys, project education, county-wide events, club leader support and record-book simplification were at the top of your request list. I've been working with our county and state partners, community organizations, Leader's Association and other stakeholders to make some strategic plans for moving our program forward and am very excited and hopeful that these changes and plan will help to grow our membership program, add opportunities for our youth and build our educational offerings.

-Amy

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

JUNE

- 8 Tie Dye Extravaganza, 4:00-6:00pm, Central Sands High School
- 9 Rosholt Fair Entries Open
- 11 Garden Stepping Stone Workshop, 5:00-7:00pm, Lettie W. Jensen Library
- 11 Papa Murphy's Teen Leader Fundraiser, 10:00am-7:00pm
- 14 Portage County June Dairy Day , 10:00am-1:00pm, Feltz's Dairy Store
- 16 4-H Leaders Board Meeting, 6:30 PM (Budget meeting to start at 5:30pm)
- 18 Speaking & Demonstration Contest Workshop, 6:00-8:00pm, Portage County Annex
- 23-25 4-H Summer Camp for grades 3-7, Upham Woods, Wisconsin Dells

JULY

- 4 UW-Extension Office Closed (Independence Day)
- 14 4-H Leaders Association Meeting, Amherst Fairgrounds, 6:30 PM
- 14 4-H Teen Leaders Meeting/Food Stand Cleanup, Amherst Fairgrounds, 6:00 PM
- 15 Plat Book Cover Photo Contest Deadline
- 17-20 Portage County Amherst Fair
- 22 Rosholt Fair Entries due in FairEntry

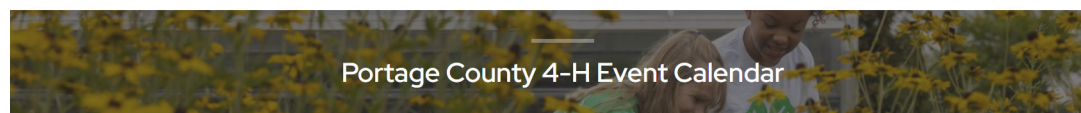
AUGUST

- 31-10 Wisconsin State Fair
- 6 Clothing Revue Workshop, 6:00-8:00pm, Portage County Annex
- 12 4-H Family Swim Party, 6:00-8:00pm, Donald Copps Municipal Pool
- 18 4-H Leaders Board Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 24 Rosholt Fair Clean-Up Day - NEED TWO PEOPLE FROM EACH CLUB
- 28-1 Rosholt Fair

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Clothing Revue, 2:00pm Rosholt Fair Youth Exhibit Building
- 4 Rosholt Fair Carcass Contest
- 15 4-H Leaders Association Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 27 Avian Quiz Bowl, Columbia County Fairgrounds

For an up-to-date calendar of 4-H events visit the [4-H Events & Calendar](#) page of the Extension website!

A screenshot of the Portage County 4-H Event Calendar for June 2025. The calendar is a grid showing events for each day of the month. The header shows "Today", navigation arrows, "June 2025", and a "Month" dropdown. The calendar grid has columns for days of the week (SUN, MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT) and rows for dates. Events are listed in blue boxes with a dot icon. The events shown are: Rosholt Fair Entries Open (June 2), 4pm 4-H Tie Dye Extravaganza (June 8), 5pm Garden Stepping Stone V (June 11), 9:30am June Dairy Days @ Feltz's Dairy Store (June 14), Summer Academy (State Event) (June 16), 6:30pm 4-H Leader's Board M (June 16), 6pm Speaking & Demo Works (June 18), 6:30pm Market Animal Comm (June 18), and American Spirit, East Coast (June 20).

GARDEN STEPPING STONE WORKSHOP

Make your own garden stepping stone art! Using concrete, glass beads, gems, rocks and more, youth will create a unique stepping stone to take home and add to their yard, patio or garden.

Date & Time: June 11th from 5:00-6:00pm

Location: Lettie W. Jensen Library (278 N Main St, Amherst)

Cost:

This event is free for 4-H members. There is a \$3 fee for non-4-H participants to help cover supply costs. Payment can be made at the event.

Open to 4-H members and non-members alike—bring a friend!

[**Register Here**](#)



JUNE DAIRY DAY

The Portage County Dairy Day will be held on Saturday, June 14th from 10:00am – 1:00pm at Feltz's Dairy Store (5796 Porter Dr., Stevens Point)

As in years past the Committee is once again looking for volunteers, mainly to hand out food samples (cheese, cheese curds, grilled cheese sandwiches), as well as face painting for the event! Please click the link below to sign up for open volunteering spots.

[2025 June Dairy Day Volunteer Sign-up](#)



PLAT BOOK COVER PHOTO CONTEST

Calling All 4-H Photographers! Enter the 2026 Portage County Plat Book Cover Photo Contest!

Work on the 2026 Portage County Plat Book is underway, and we need YOUR help to make it shine! We're looking for stunning scenic photos of Portage County to feature on the cover—and we know our talented 4-H members are up to the task!

What We're Looking For: Your best scenic shots that showcase the beauty of Portage County—think landscapes, farms, wildlife, and more!

Deadline to Submit: July 15, 2025

Prizes: Winning photo(s) will be featured on the cover of the 2026 Plat Book AND winners will also receive a cash prize from the Portage County 4-H Leaders Association.

Let your creativity shine and show off the beauty of Portage County through your lens!

[**Submit your photo**](#)



2025 4-H PLANT SALE FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Thank you to all the 4-H families that sold plants and to all the 4-H volunteers that helped unload and sort plants! We sold 1,047 plants for a total profit of approximately \$5,000!

AVIAN QUIZ BOWL TEAM

Saturday, September 27th
Location: Columbia County Fairgrounds in Portage, WI

The Wisconsin Quiz Bowl will take place on September 27th, 2025 at the Columbia County Fairgrounds in Portage, Wisconsin as part of the Wisconsin International Poultry Show taking place there from September 27-28th. The Portage County 4-H office will assist in setting up teams and scheduling study nights for any interested members over the summer.

Calling All Poultry Project Enthusiasts!

4-H Avian Quiz Bowl
TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED



Register for the Team

SPEAKING & DEMONSTRATION WORKSHOP

June 18 | 6:00–8:00 PM | Portage County Annex Building

Ready to boost your confidence and sharpen your speaking skills? Join us for an interactive workshop where you'll learn:

- Tips for effective public speaking
- How to craft compelling speeches and demonstrations
- Hands-on practice with expert feedback

What to Bring:

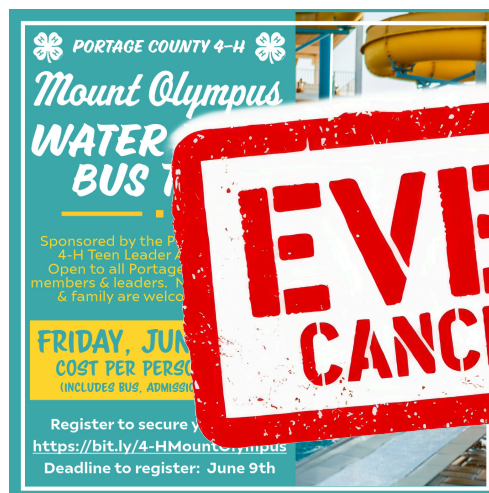
- A short (30 sec – 1 min) speech about yourself
- Any speech or demo you've started or outlined (optional)

Whether you're just curious or don't know where to start, we've got ideas and guidance to help you succeed! Open to all 4-H members including Cloverbuds!

Save your Spot



MOUNT OLYMPUS WATERPARK BUS TRIP



The Portage County 4-H Teen Leader Association is planning a trip to Mount Olympus Waterpark in

Portage. Members and friends and family are welcome as well!

Due to low registration numbers the Mount Olympus Waterpark Bus trip has been canceled.

When: Friday, June 27, 2025
Where: Mount Olympus Waterpark, Wisconsin Dells

Cost per person \$40
(Includes Bus, Admission, and Lunch)



ROSHOLT FAIR UPDATE

Dear Portage County 4-H Families,

We hope this message finds you well and that you are enjoying the start of summer! We're writing to let you know that entries for the 2025 Rosholt Fair will be opening soon. As always, we're excited to see the incredible projects and talents our 4-H youth will be sharing with the community.

We also want to share an important clarification about the fair's organization. In the past, there may have been an assumption that 4-H is responsible for running the fair. However, the Rosholt Fair is a state-aided fair, and as such, it is organized and managed by the Rosholt Fair Board.

This means that the Fair Board is responsible for: hiring judges, coordinating volunteers, organizing exhibitions, managing fair logistics, etc. They also receive state funding to support these efforts through the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and systems support through their membership in the Wisconsin Association of Fairs (WAF). It is our intention to support their board during this year's fair to assure a smooth transition of responsibilities.

While 4-H plays a vital role in youth development and project-based learning, our role in the fair is to support youth participation and ensure they are prepared to exhibit their work. The Wisconsin 4-H program focuses on positive youth development, leadership, and hands-on learning experiences.

We do not anticipate any major or noticeable changes for families or youth participating in the fair. Your experience should remain consistent with previous years. However, we want to make sure you know that if you have specific questions about entries, judging, or fair logistics, you are encouraged to contact the Rosholt Fair Board directly.

That said, we're genuinely excited about what this shift means for our Extension office and 4-H program! With the Fair Board taking the lead on fair operations, our team now has greater capacity to focus on what we do best—supporting youth. This includes:

- Expanding outreach and recruitment efforts
- Enhancing member engagement opportunities
- Offering more supplemental awards and recognition
- Providing educational programming and activities at the fair

We believe this change will strengthen the overall 4-H experience and allow us to better serve our members and families. Thank you for your continued support of 4-H and for helping make the fair a meaningful experience for our youth. We look forward to seeing you at the fair!

-Amy Boelke, 4-H Educator

Amherst Fair

This Year's Theme: "Halloween at the Fair"

Volunteers Needed!

The Amherst Fair will be here quickly. As the fair board plans for the fair, they ask that club leaders, parents, and FFA and 4-H members plan also. Not only working with their animals, finishing projects, but also helping/volunteering at the fair. The fair board especially needs help on Friday, July 18th, helping with judging and Saturday, July 19th. They will be having fair work nights on Monday, July 14th and Tuesday July 15th as well from 6:00-9:00PM and could use volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Tim Pederson at 715-572-2620.



Amherst Fair Food Stand

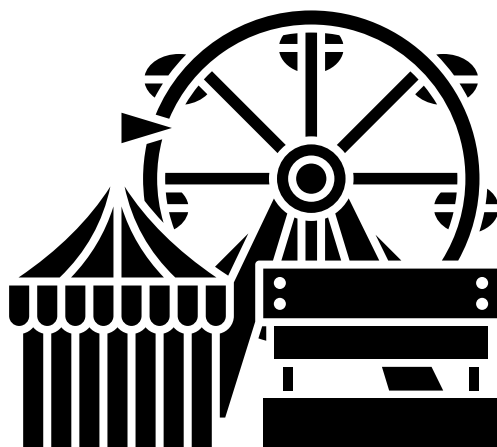
Planning for the 4-H food stand is currently underway. We will be sending more information to clubs and families once we have more details. The 4-H Teens would like to thank everyone for their support of the food stand fundraiser throughout the years! Without help from club volunteers it would not continue to be the success it has been.

Amherst Fair Food Stand Cleanup

July 14, 2025 @ 6:00 PM—Amherst Fairgrounds

Teen volunteers are needed for both the clean up on Monday, July 14th and to help close down the food stand on Sunday, July 20th, as well as to help run the food stand!

AMHERST FAIR SCHEDULE



Thursday – July 17th 2025

Gate \$6.00/Day \$15.00 Season Tickets

VIP Pass \$40.00 includes 3 day gate/Tractor Pulls & Demo

** Fair Opens at 5:00 pm

3:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Fair Entries
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Wristband \$20.00 – Advance sales \$17.00 See fair website
6:00 pm	Registration Starts for Pedal Tractor Races - Fair Office
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Face to face Cake Judging
6:30 pm	Tractor/Truck Pull - See Fair's Webpage for classes \$8.00
7:30 pm – 11:00 pm	Music By "Around Town"

Friday – July 18th 2025

8:30 am	Judging Poultry, Waterfowl - Husky Hansen Building
8:30 am	Judging Swine - Husky Hansen Building
9:00 am	Judging Small Animals (cats etc.) - Ruth Otto Building
9:00 am	Judging Youth Exhibit Building - Ruth Otto Building
10:30 am	Judging Sheep - Husky Hansen Building
1:00 pm	Judging Beef – Beef/Dairy Barn
5:00 pm	Carnival Opens bring a non-perishable/non expired can good and you get 20 tickets for \$10.00 or Rides at regular prices Regular price tickets single \$1.25 or 10 for \$10.00 rides take 3 tickets or more
6:30 pm	Tractor/Truck Pull - See Fair's Webpage for classes \$8.00
7:00 pm	Cake Auction – Ruth Otto Building – Open to the Public
8:30 pm – 12:00 am	Music by "Ask Your Mother"

Saturday - July 19th 2025

8:30 am	Judging Rabbits – Rabbit Building
9:00 am	Swine Ultrasound
9:00 am	Judging Dairy – Beef/Dairy Building
10:00 am	Judging Goats – Husky Hansen Building
12:00 pm	Parade – "Halloween Theme"
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Wristband \$20.00 – Advance sales \$17.00 See fair website.
5:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Wristband \$20.00 – Advance sales \$17.00 See fair website.
2:00 pm	Ag Olympics - Husky Hansen Building
3:00 pm	Demolition Derby – Gate \$10.00
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Music by "Through Crimson"
8:30 pm – 12:30 am	Music by "Blame it on Waylon"

Sunday - July 20th 2025 Free Admission ALL DAY

9:00 am	Judging Horses - Rodeo Arena
9:00 am to Noon	Breakfast – Bar Area – Ambrosia Pub & Grill
9:00 am	Volleyball Tourney
11:30 am	Check in - Pedal Tractor Races
12:00 pm	Registration Pedal Tractor Races if spots open (Registration started on Thursday)
12:00 pm	Pedal Tractor Races – Courtyard
12:00 pm	Carnival Opens
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Wristband \$20.00 – Advance sales \$17.00 See fair website.
12:00 pm	Corn Hole Tournament – Big Tent
1:00 pm	Bingo – Bar Area
12:00 pm	Animal Market Sale - Open to Public - Husky Hansen Building
4:30 pm	Animals Released
4:30 – 6:00 pm	Exhibits Released
6:00 pm	Raffle Drawing



NEW LEADERS BULLETIN COMING SOON!



We're excited to launch this new monthly newsletter created just for our dedicated 4-H club leaders. Watch your inboxes for the first one coming soon! Each issue will bring you timely updates, important dates, helpful resources, and fresh ideas to support your leadership and strengthen your clubs. Whether you're looking for programming inspiration, reminders to keep things on track, or tools to make your role easier, this newsletter is here to help. Thank you for all you do to empower youth and grow the 4-H spirit in our community!

Rosholt Fair

August 30th–September 2nd

Rosholt Fair Entries

The Rosholt Fair will be using the same online system as previous years: FairEntry. Instructions for setting up your account and adding entries are on the next page.

All entries are due in the system by July 22nd!

- 4-H exhibitors will sign up for exhibits using their 4-H Online Account information.
- Exhibitors will be able to indicate whether they want to show an entry through their 4-H club, FFA chapter or other approved educational organization.
- Cloverbuds do not add entries; they can just bring their exhibit to the fair. You do not need to add them to your family's account.

If you need assistance entering your entries for the fair please contact Lisa Henriksen at lisa.henriksen@wisc.edu or 715-346-1462.

Entering a Club Display?

There's no form this year! Just let Lisa know at 715-346-1462 or lisa.henriksen@wisc.edu that your club would like space for a tabletop display. Tabletop displays need to be no more than 4-6 ft in length. **Clubs will need to provide their own table or other setup for their display.**



Rosholt Fair Volunteers Needed

Sunday, August 24th @ 1:00 PM - Rosholt Fair Clean-Up Day

We need at least two volunteers from each 4-H Club to help! Help is needed to move things around, clean up the Youth Exhibit Building, organize display racks, and cover display areas with paper.

Please bring MOPS, BROOMS, BUCKETS, CLEANER and RAGS if you can.

Thursday, August 28th - Monday, Sept. 1st

Volunteers are needed to help place exhibits on Thursday, to help with judging on Friday, and to help watch the Exhibit Building on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Please contact the [Rosholt Fair Board](#) if you can lend a hand for any amount of time! Your help is deeply appreciated!

FAIR ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

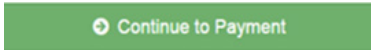
Online Entries for both Amherst & Rosholt Fairs!

Visit <http://rosholt.fairentry.com> to add your entries for the Rosholt Fair! All entries are due in the system by July 22nd !

You Still Need to Use Your Fair Book!

Each exhibit you sign up for in FairEntry has a description to help you select the right one. The description does not contain all of the rules or requirements for the exhibit. You still need to consult the Fair Book to learn what the judge will be looking for. Many exhibits have size requirements or special instructions, such as including a 3x5" card with information about the exhibit. Please visit the [Portage County Extension website](#) to reference the 2023-2026 Portage County Fair Book.

“Continue to Payment” Will not Charge You!

A green rectangular button with a white circular arrow icon and the text "Continue to Payment".

There are no entry fees for the Rosholt Fair. You will submit your entries by clicking “Continue to Payment” and following the instructions, but no fees will be charged.

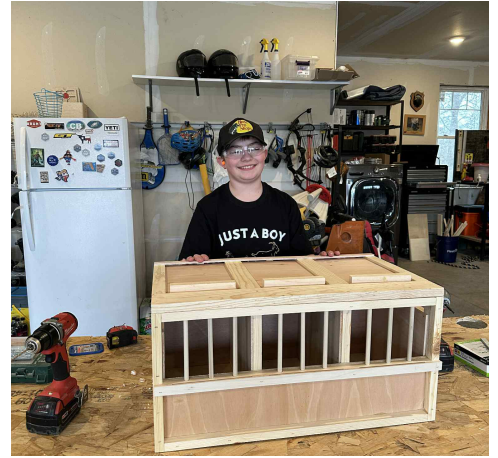
Complete Your Whole Family Before Submitting

The “Continue to Payment” button is the final submission of all entries for all exhibitors in your family. Please make sure you have created all exhibitors and added their entries before clicking “Continue to Payment.” Once submitted, you won’t be able to add any new exhibitors or entries until your first ones get approved.

Have Questions or Need Help?

Visit the [Portage County Extension website](#). Here you will find screenshot guides that will take you through adding entries click-by-click. There are also frequently asked questions available. Contact 715-346-1462 or lisa.henriksen@wisc.edu with any questions you have about entering your fair entries.

4-H'ERS IN ACTION!



The Nelsonville Zippy Zees held a woodworking class for their poultry project members. Each participant was able to craft their own poultry carrier. A huge thank you to the Mlodik family for organizing and teaching this class!



Nelsonville Zippy Zees poultry project members at the Coulee Poultry Show



The Tomorrow River Voyagers sold concessions for the variety show at the Jensen Community Center.



During their May 4-H meeting, Nelsonville Zippy Zees club members worked on Mother's Day crafts.

PORTAGE COUNTY 4-H LEADER'S BOARD MINUTES

February 2025

The Portage County 4-H Leaders Association Board meeting, held on 2-17-25, via Zoom and in-person at the Annex conference rooms 1 & 2, was called to order by Past President Sharon Cisewski at 6:39 p.m. Pledges were recited and roll call was taken. PRESENT: Marilyn Pederson (Carson Climbers), Sharon Cisewski (Plover Clovers), Jan Miller (Rosholt Pioneers), Malayna Polum (Nelsonville Zippy Zees), Louise Skornia (Sunnyside Climbers) and Amy Boelk (4-H Educator) ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None | MINUTES: Approved as presented | OFFICER REPORTS: Treasurer's Report: Checking account - \$30,521.28 Savings account - \$773.46 Treasurer's report was placed on file. | Secretary's Report and Correspondence: None

OLD BUSINESS: Awards and Ambassador Applications and Interviews – Current and former 4-H Ambassadors helped with interviews. The following youth were selected: 4-H Ambassadors – Natalie and Annika Kildahl, Leaders of Tomorrow – Marie Keck and Camryn Wade and Key Award – Camryn Wade and Trisha Edmundson. The number of key awards that each county can present is based on the county's 4-H enrollment. Beginning this year, State 4-H Key Award winners will be selected.

Funding for State and National 4-H Events – Additional Application – Juniper Ryberg has requested funding to cover costs related to her participation in the State 4-H Arts Ambassador Program. Motion by Jan, second by Malayna to pay \$450.00 toward Juniper's State 4-H Arts Ambassador expenses. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS: Portage County 4-H Scholarships – Information about application was published in the last 4-H newsletter. Due date is March 15th. Four \$500 scholarships will be awarded. Newsletter also contains information about the Wisconsin 4-H Scholarship that is due March 1st. Sharon shared information about the Cisewski family agriculture scholarships available through the Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin.

Record Book Subcommittee – Next meeting is Thursday, February 20th at 6:00 p.m. in the UW Extension office. Per Amy, the Leaders Association can determine supplemental awards. State 4-H is currently in the process of decreasing the number of project areas.

Virtual Contests Funding – Lisa has requested that the Leaders Association increase their budget for the purchase of more virtual contest prizes. Motion by Jan, second by Marilyn to add an additional \$300 to the budget for virtual contest prizes. Motion passed.

County-Wide workshops/project meetings – Responses to Amy's survey from 33 families and 23 leaders and volunteers indicated a desire for more project workshops. The following items were discussed: hold a communications workshop prior to the Speaking and Demonstration Contest, offer an advanced cake decorating workshop and schedule Project Exploration Days on 1 or 2 Saturdays with multiple stations for youth to explore different projects. Ideas for educational stations include ceramics, photography, drawing and painting, flowers, house plants, wild flower and animal projects. Fall Forum had a plant propagation demonstration that could be incorporated. Location for Project Exploration Days to be determined. Share your suggestions with Amy.

Summer Camp – June 23rd to June 25th at Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center in Wisconsin Dells. Combined 4-H camp for Iowa, Waupaca and Portage County youth. Contract has been signed. Pricing locked in last year. Cost per camper is \$190.00. Portage County will charge campers \$45.00. Amy will be the health officer for summer camp and is required to attend a CPR training hosted by Clark County. Cost for training is \$55.00. Motion by Marilyn and second by Louise for Leaders Association to pay for Amy to attend the health officer training. Motion passed.

Educator Report – Amy has met with the Market Animal Committee, the Rosholt Fair Board and has surveyed 4-H members and leaders. Next survey will be to non-members to determine why they are not involved in the 4-H program. She will be using the 4-H database to compare 4-H demographics to community demographics. UWSP has a state chartered collegiate 4-H organization. They are not a Portage County chartered organization. Amy will be a liaison for the group. She is meeting with them next Monday.

Next Leaders Association Board Meeting Date – April 21, 2025 | Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Yours in 4-H, Marilyn Pederson

PORTAGE COUNTY 4-H LEADER'S ASSOCIATION MINUTES

March 2025

The Portage County 4-H Leaders Association meeting, held on 3-24-25, via Zoom and in-person at the Annex conference rooms 1 & 2, was called to order by President Christine Keck at 6:32 p.m. Pledges were recited and roll call was taken. PRESENT: Marilyn Pederson (Carson Climbers), Betty Pionek and Christine Keck (Casimer Boosters) Sharon Cisewski (Plover Clovers), Jan Miller (Rosholt Pioneers), Louise Skornia (Sunnyside Climbers), Dr. Barb Kasprovicz (Almond Busy Bees) and Amy Boelk (4-H Educator)

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Plant Sale | MINUTES: Approved as presented | OFFICER REPORTS: Treasurer's Report: Checking account - \$31,770.70 Savings account - \$773.46 Treasurer's report was placed on file. | Secretary's Report and Correspondence: Thank you card from Matthew Carlson for the donation toward his State 4-H Dog Show expenses.

OLD BUSINESS: Record Book Subcommittee – State 4-H is revising project groupings into 7 project areas. Details will be released in the fall. Most skills checklists have been completed. Thank you to leaders who are working on the updates. | Other – Plant Sale: Hibiscus plants and 4" geraniums will be purchased from Village Gardens. Scaevola and Shade Combo hanging baskets have been added back to the plant choices from Karthausers' greenhouse this year. Since the Leaders Association pays for printing the colored sale brochures and some leaders don't use them, Jan sent emails to general leaders to determine how many brochures to print. Delivery location has not changed. Clubs can start selling plants immediately.

NEW BUSINESS: Leaders Association Budget – Per Amy, the State 4-H reviews all the club annual financial reports. Amy expressed her concern about the Leaders Association large checking account balance. Jan explained that the income from Plat Book sales varies over a three-year period. By the 3rd year of the cycle, our yearly income is less than our expenses. In 2025, we need a large enough balance to purchase the Plat Books that will be sold over the next three years. Since previous year's expenses are used to plan the new budget, historically the budget planning meeting has been held right before the June Leaders Board meeting. At the July meeting, the Leaders Association reviews and approves the budget. | Educational Programs – Amy reviewed possible educational programs that are being planned based on the responses from the 4-H family surveys. New programming will not have impact on Leaders Association budget. She will be using donated materials and volunteer help. | Calendar of Events – Scheduled events will be posted on the 4-H website. | Leaders Association Board Training/4-H 101 – An annual strategic planning meeting will be held for the upcoming year. Discussion items: Does our vision and mission align? How do we stay a healthy board? How can we grow the 4-H program? Recommendation that we plan a retreat before the next election. All leaders and parents should be invited and food should be provided. Event could be called a Volunteer Extravaganza. Portage County has a declining enrollment. Amy is working on starting in-school and after-school 4-H programs. | Fair and MAC Update – The Rosholt Fair responsibilities for recruiting judges, fair paperwork, etc. has been transferred from the 4-H office to the Rosholt Fair Board. 4-H will still have a presence at the Amherst and Rosholt Fairs in the form of 4-H sponsored activities such as a Goose Chase scavenger event. The Market Animal Committee livestock auction will be transitioning from a chartered 4-H organization to a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. The education piece will remain a 4-H responsibility. | Portage County Scholarships – Details not available. | Funding for State and National 4-H Events – Additional Application – Received two requests for Summer Academy funding after the application deadline. Deadline had already been moved back once. If request is approved, youth who submitted requests before the deadline will receive less funding. Motion by Jan, second by Betty to decline request for funding received after the deadline. Motion passed. | AmeriCorps – Juniper Rydberg has been hired to be the 4-H AmeriCorps volunteer for Portage County 4-H. She will be working 38-40 hours per week to expand 4-H access to new audiences such as the Boys and Girls Clubs and the after-school 4-H programs. Her position is being funded by excess funds available from the county budget due to the retiring of the current HDR and the Agriculture Educators. | County-Wide workshops/project meetings – Need to formalize county-wide project experts. A ceramics project workshop is scheduled for April 27th at the Boston School Forest from 1-3 p.m. | Summer Camp – June 23rd to June 25th at Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center in Wisconsin Dells. Enrollment has opened. Need more male chaperones. Counselor training notifications have been sent out. | Speaking & Demonstration Contests – Christine volunteered to teach a Speaking and Demonstration workshop in the spring. She asked if the contest could be held at the Rosholt Fair. | Clothing Review – Jan stated that at their March meeting, the Rosholt Fair Board approved holding the Clothing Review at the Rosholt fairgrounds on Monday, September 1st. She thinks the time discussed was 10:00 a.m. She will check her notes from the meeting and let Kristine know if that is not correct. | Next Leaders Association Meeting Date – May 19th, 2025 | Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. | Yours in 4-H, Marilyn Pederson

Portage County Extension Staff

- Patrick Gatterman, Area Extension Director
- Amy Boelk, 4-H program Educator
- Ken Schroeder, Agriculture Agent
- Katie Livernash, Community Development Agent
- Mallory McGivern, FoodWise Program Administrator
- Penny Schmitt, Nutrition Educator, FoodWise

Extension Support Staff

- Denise Rocha, Family Living / Agriculture
- Lisa Henriksen, 4-H / Community Development

Office Phone : (715) 346-1316

4-H Support : (715) 346-1462

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/portagecounty4h>



UW-MADISON EXTENSION
PORTAGE COUNTY 4-H

Connect with us!



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