



THE COURIER

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



Casimer Boosters Club members enjoyed an informative presentation by Portage County Master Gardener Pat Mrozinski during a recent club meeting

WELCOME EMMA!

We're thrilled to welcome Emma Bouressa to the Portage County 4-H program as our new 4-H Educator! We look forward to the fresh ideas, energy, and perspective she will bring to our program and community. Be sure to introduce yourself and say hello to Emma at some of our upcoming events!

Meet Emma:

I'm excited to join as the Portage County 4-H Educator. I have worked both in the non-profit and public sectors focusing on creating inclusive, hands on-learning experiences that help young people build confidence, leadership skills, and a sense of belonging. Prior to joining Extension, I spent several years as a special education teacher, supporting students with diverse learning needs while collaborating closely with families to foster student success.

I grew up in Minnesota and spent many summers exploring remote wilderness areas, experiences that deepened my appreciation for stewardship, lifelong learning, and working toward shared goals. Those experiences continue to shape my commitment to helping young people develop their own unique strengths and connections to their communities. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my husband and three children and am currently logging countless hours in basketball gyms and at football games.

I look forward to getting to know and work alongside the youth, volunteers, and families throughout Portage County.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

JUNE

- 1 Rosholt Fair Entries Open
- 9 Little Sprouts Garden Night, 5:00-7:00PM, Emy J's Coffee Vault
- 13 Portage County June Dairy Day , 10:00am-1:00pm, Feltz's Dairy Store
- 15-17 4-H Summer Camp for grades 3-7, Upham Woods, Wisconsin Dells
- 23 Nature's Tiny Heros, 5:00-7:00PM, Emy J's Coffee Vault
- 24 Cake Decorating Workshop, 6:30PM, Rosholt American Legion
- 25 4-H Leaders Board Meeting, 6:30 PM

JULY

- 3 UW-Extension Office Closed (Independence Day)
- 7 Food Science Fun, 5:00-7:00PM, Emy J's Coffee Vault
- 13 4-H Teen Leaders Meeting/Food Stand Cleanup, Amherst Fairgrounds, 6:00 PM
- 14 4-H Teen Leaders - Tie Dying Logo Shirts, 5:00pm
- 16-19 Portage County Amherst Fair
- 21 Dream It, Design It, Sell It, 5:00-7:00PM, Emy J's Coffee Vault
- 22 Rosholt Fair Entries due in FairEntry
- 31 Rafters Game, 6:35PM, Witter Field, Wisconsin Rapids - Sponsored by the Teen Leaders

AUGUST

- 6-16 Wisconsin State Fair
- 10 Swim Party, 6:00-8:00PM, Donald Copps Municipal Pool
- 11 Clover Celebration, 5:00-7:00PM, Emy J's Coffee Vault
- 30 Rosholt Fair Clean-Up Day, 1:00PM - NEED TWO PEOPLE FROM EACH CLUB

SEPTEMBER

- 4-7 Rosholt Fair
- 7 Clothing Revue, 2:00pm Rosholt Fair Youth Exhibit Building
- 10 Rosholt Fair Carcass Contest

2026 PORTAGE COUNTY 4-H PLANT SALE

Nine 4-H clubs participated in the Portage County 4-H Plant Sale this year. Thank you to all the 4-H volunteers that sold plants, helped unload plants, sort plants and deliver plants to their customers. Total income from the sale was \$22,477.50. Total profit, after sales tax has been subtracted, is \$4,808.88. One half of the profit goes to the Leaders Association and the other half is the clubs' profit.

WELCOME BACK JUNIPER!

We are SO excited to welcome Juniper Rydberg back to the Portage County 4-H program as the summer AmeriCorps member! 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 AmeriCorps member 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!



4-H at Emy J's Community Coffee Nights

Get ready for a summer full of fun, creativity, and hands-on learning at 4-H at Emy J's Community Coffee Nights! Join us from 5:00–7:00 PM at Emy J's Coffee Vault on select evenings for exciting themed programs designed for youth and families.

Food Science Fun | July 7th 5-7PM

Explore the science behind food with kitchen experiments, a creative craft, and hands-on activities designed for youth in grades 4–7 and their families.

Dream It, Design It, Sell It! | July 21st 5-7PM

Meet a local entrepreneur and learn how to create your own product, design a brand, and pitch a business idea in this interactive program for grades 4–7 and their families.

Clover Celebration | August 11th 5-7PM

Celebrate the series with fun activities, crafts, and family challenges while reflecting on everything we learned together—open to youth of all ages and their families.

4-H AT EMY J'S: COMMUNITY COFFEE NIGHTS SUMMER 2026 5-7PM

JUNE 09 **Little Sprouts Garden Night**
Learn how plants grow, decorate a flowerpot, and plant seeds to take home in this hands-on gardening program for youth in grades 1-3 and their families.

JUNE 23 **Nature's Tiny Heroes**
Discover how bees and butterflies help our environment while making a pollinator craft and building a simple habitat in this fun program for grades 1-3 and their families.

JULY 07 **Food Science Fun**
Explore the science behind food with kitchen experiments, a creative craft, and hands-on activities designed for youth in grades 4-7 and their families.

JULY 21 **Dream It, Design It, Sell It!**
Meet a local entrepreneur and learn how to create your own product, design a brand, and pitch a business idea in this interactive program for grades 4-7 and their families.

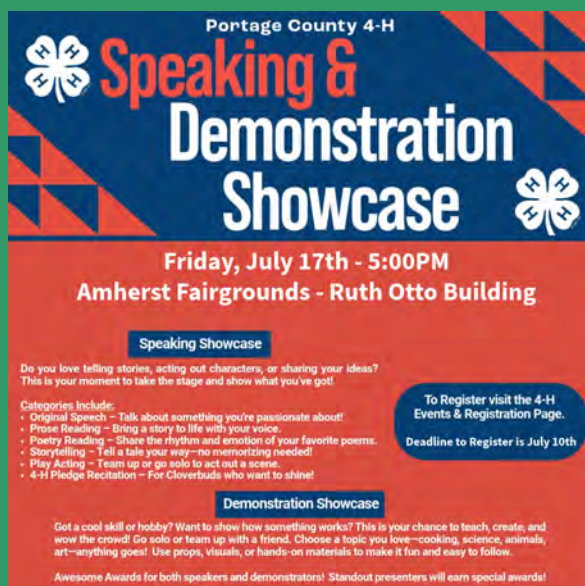
AUG. 11 **Clover Celebration**
Celebrate the series with fun activities, crafts, and family challenges while reflecting on everything we learned together—open to youth of all ages and their families.

Registration link-->

EMY J'S COFFEE VAULT

[Register for a Community Coffee Night](#)

SPEAKING & DEMO CONTEST



Portage County 4-H

Speaking & Demonstration Showcase

Friday, July 17th - 5:00PM
Amherst Fairgrounds - Ruth Otto Building

Speaking Showcase

Do you love telling stories, acting out characters, or sharing your ideas? This is your moment to take the stage and show what you've got!

Categories include:

- Original Speech - Talk about something you're passionate about!
- Prose Reading - Bring a story to life with your voice.
- Poetry Reading - Share the rhythm and emotion of your favorite poems.
- Storytelling - Tell a tale your way—no memorizing needed!
- Play Acting - Team up or go solo to act out a scene.
- 4-H Pledge Recitation - For Cloverbuds who want to shine!

To Register visit the 4-H Events & Registration Page.
Deadline to Register is July 10th

Demonstration Showcase

Got a cool skill or hobby? Want to show how something works? This is your chance to teach, create, and wow the crowd! Go solo or team up with a friend. Choose a topic you love—cooking, science, animals, art—anything goes! Use props, visuals, or hands-on materials to make it fun and easy to follow.

Awesome Awards for both speakers and demonstrators! Standout presenters will earn special awards!

Let your voice be heard and your talents SHINE! Join us for the Portage County 4-H Speaking & Demonstration Showcase!

Date & Time: Friday, July 17th at 5:00 PM
Amherst Fairgrounds – Ruth Otto Building
Deadline to register is July 10th.

Speaking Showcase: Do you love telling stories, acting out characters, or sharing your ideas? This is your moment to take the stage and show what you've got!

Demonstration Showcase: Got a cool skill or hobby? Want to show how something works? This is your chance to teach, create, and wow the crowd!

Speaking & Demonstration categories are available in the registration form.

Register your Entry

STUFFED ANIMAL SHOWMANSHIP



Portage County 4-H

STUFFED ANIMAL Showmanship

Join us for the first ever junior stuffed animal show! This is an opportunity for youth to learn showmanship skills and what to expect for the official show during the fair

3:30 PM - JULY 19TH
RUTH OTTO BUILDING
REGISTER BY JULY 13TH

AGE DIVISIONS:

- Young kids: 3-4
- Cloverbuds K-2
- Junior Division: 3-5

Stuffed Animal Show Allows Youth to:

- Practice speaking with a judge
- Learn basic showmanship expectations
- Build confidence in a fair setting
- Participate in a positive and welcoming 4-H activity



Sunday, July 19th - 3:30pm
Amherst Fair - Ruth Otto Building

Register for Stuffed Animal Showmanship

Join us for Stuff Animal Showmanship!

This fun and educational event gives our youngest 4Hers the chance to step into the show ring, answer questions about their stuffed animals, and get a feel for showmanship. It's a great first step for those who may one day participate in an animal project!

Showmanship practice to begin at 3:30 with the show to follow. Open to both 4-H and non 4-H members!

Registration Due July 13th

WISCONSIN RAPIDS RAFTERS GAME SPONSORED BY THE TEEN LEADERS



Portage County 4-H

TEEN LEADERS BASEBALL GAME

JOIN THE PORTAGE COUNTY 4-H TEEN LEADERS IN ATTENDING A WISCONSIN RAPIDS BASEBALL GAME!

July 31st | Game time 6:35pm
Plan to meet at 6:00pm
Witter Field

521 Lincoln St, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
Must pre-register for tickets by July 23rd
To reserve your tickets visit the 4-H Events & Registration Page

RAPIDS RAFTERS VS. WAUSAU WOODCHUCKS

Join the Portage County 4-H Teen Leaders in attending a Wisconsin Rapids Rafters baseball game!

As a thank you for your continued support of the Amherst Fair 4-H Teen Leader food stand, the Teen Leaders are covering the cost of admission for all 4-H members and leaders who attend.

Date: Friday, July 31st
Meet at: 6:00 PM
Game Time: 6:35 PM
Location: Witter Field
521 Lincoln St, Wisconsin Rapids

Pre-registration is required by July 23rd.

Reserve Your Spot

Amherst Fair

This Year's Theme: "Christmas in July"

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 17th, helping with judging and Saturday, July 18th. They will be having fair work nights on Monday, July 13th and Tuesday July 14th as well from 5:00-9:00PM and could use volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Tim Pederson at 715-572-2620.



Amherst Fair Food Stand

The 4-H Teen Leaders Association thanks everyone for supporting the food stand fundraiser over the years.

We look forward to strong participation from all clubs in continuing this tradition. This year features an open sign-up, so members and volunteers can choose shifts that fit their schedules. The link is below, and each shift requires at least two adults.

Teen Leaders will also help support educational opportunities for members who participate.



[Register for food stand shift](#)

Amherst Fair Food Stand Cleanup

July 13, 2026 @ 6:00 PM—Amherst Fairgrounds

Teen volunteers are needed for both the clean up on Monday, July 13th and to help close down the food stand on Sunday, July 19th, as well as to help run the food stand!

AMHERST FAIR SCHEDULE

Portage County Fair - Amherst 2026 Schedule

Gate \$7.00/Day \$18.00 Season Tickets VIP Pass \$45.00

includes 3 day gate/Tractor Pulls & Demo

Thursday – July 16th, 2026

** Fair Opens at 5:00 pm

3:00 pm - 8:00 pm
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
6:00 pm
6:00 - 8:00 pm
6:30 pm
7:30 pm – 11:00 pm

Fair Entries
Wristband \$25.00 – Advance sales \$20.00 See fair website
Registration Starts for Pedal Tractor Pull - Fair Office
Face to face Cake Judging
Tractor/Truck Pull - See Fair's Webpage for classes **\$8.00**
Music By "Around Town"

Friday – July 17th, 2026

8:30 am
8:30 am
9:00 am
9:00 am
10:30 am
1:00 pm
4:00 pm
5:00 pm

6:30 pm
7:00 pm
8:30 pm – 12:00 am

Judging Poultry, Waterfowl - Husky Hansen Building
Judging Swine - Husky Hansen Building
Judging Small Animals (cats etc.) - Ruth Otto Building
Judging Youth Exhibit Building - Ruth Otto Building
Judging Sheep - Husky Hansen Building
Judging Beef – Beef/Dairy Barn
Fish Fry – Small Bar by Grandstand
Carnival Opens **bring a non-perishable or non-expired can good and you can get 20 tickets for \$15.00 or single ticket \$1:50** or 16 - \$20.00
Tractor/Truck Pull - See Fair's Webpage for classes \$8.00
Cake Auction – Ruth Otto Building – Open to the Public
Music by "Spicy Tie."

Saturday - July 18th, 2026

8:30 am
9:00 am
9:00 am
10:00 am
12:00 pm
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
5:00 pm – 9:00 pm
2:00 pm
3:00 pm
6:00 pm
5:00 pm – 9:00 pm
9:00 pm – 12:30 am

Rabbits – Rabbit Building
Swine Ultrasound
Judging Dairy – Beef/Dairy Building – Adult Showmanship after Dairy Show
Judging Goats – Husky Hansen Building
Parade – "Christmas in July"
Wristband \$25.00 – Advance sales \$20.00 See fair website.
Wristband \$25.00 – Advance sales \$20.00 See fair website.
Ag Olympics - Husky Hansen Building
Demolition Derby – Gate \$12.00
Adult Showmanship - Swine
Music by "Through Crimson"
Music by "Blame it on Waylan"

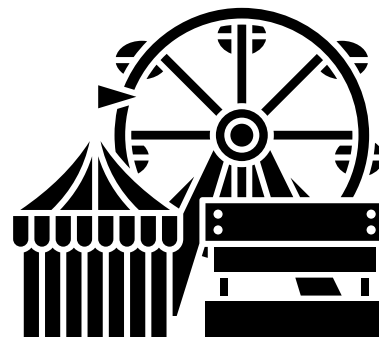
Sunday - July 19th, 2026

8:00 am
9:00 am to Noon
9:00 am
10:00 am
10:00 am
10:30 am
11:00 am
12:00 pm
12:00 pm
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
12:00 pm
4:30 pm
4:30 – 6:00 pm
6:15pm

Free Admission ALL DAY

Judging Horses - Rodeo Arena
Breakfast – Bar Area – Ambrosia Pub & Grill
Volleyball Tourney
Check in - Pedal Tractor Races
Registration Pedal Tractor Pull if spots open (Registration started on Thursday)
Pedal Tractor Pull– Courtyard
Corn Hole Tournament – Commercial Building
Bingo - Bar
Carnival Opens
Wristband \$25.00 – Advance sales \$20.00 See fair website
Animal Market Sale - Open to Public - Husky Hansen Building
Animals Released
Exhibits Released
Raffle Drawing

Website – Amherstfair.com



Rosholt Fair

September 4th - September 7th

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 the Extension Office

Entering a Club Display?

There's no form this year! Just let the Extension Office know 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 30th @ 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.

New this year: Fair tag packets will be given to clubs during clean up!

Thursday, Sept. 3rd - Monday, Sept. 7th

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

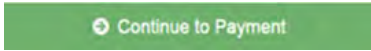
Online Entries for both Amherst & Rosholt Fairs!

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!



Members of the Carson Climbers learned about flag etiquette and replaced the old flag in front of their club meeting location.



The Tomorrow River Voyagers provided concessions at the Jensen Center Variety Show. A variety of snacks and volunteers helped the evening run smoothly.



Members of the Casimer Boosters serving a meal at the Place of Peace.



Members of the Carson Climbers learned about flag etiquette and replaced the old flag in front of their club meeting location.



Members of the Casimer Boosters after they completed an escape room challenge.



Members of the Tomorrow River Voyagers handing out grilled cheese sandwiches at June Dairy Day.

4-H CLUB REPORTS

TOMORROW RIVER VOYAGERS

The Tomorrow River Voyagers 4-H Club has had a very busy spring filled with community service, fun club activities, and fair preparation!

Club members recently took part in yet another engaging community service activity at the Living Oaks Assisted Living Center by playing numerous rounds of Bingo with the residents. A great deal of fun was had by all despite occasional cursed Bingo cards! We also took part in our spring roadside cleanup near Whitetail Lanes, where we spent a Sunday afternoon working hard to tidy the roadsides. Club members also provided concessions at the annual Jensen Center variety show as a service project and fundraiser! Thank you to everyone who came out to the show and bought concessions to support our club!

Club members have also been busy with a variety of activities at our last few meetings. We had a club swimming event, had a successful plant sale fundraiser, competed in bracket creation during March madness, learned about photography fundamentals, and much, much more. Looking ahead, there are so many activities coming up that members are looking forward to including: our fair preparation meeting in June where we make decorations for our fair booth; the Portage, Iowa, and Waupaca county 4-H camp; and, of course, the Amherst Fair! With the fair just around the corner, our members are hard at work getting signed up, certified, and completing their projects.



Members of the Tomorrow River Voyagers recently spent an afternoon playing bingo with residents at Lola Living Oaks. A great time was had by all!



Members pose for a picture before heading out to pick up trash from the roadside of County Q between Nelsonville and Amherst Junction.

Portage County Extension Staff

- Jen McNelly, Area Extension Director
- Emma Bouressa, 4-H program Educator
- Lisa Henriksen, 4-H Associate Educator
- Alicia Utke, Human Development and Relationships Educator
- Adam Hartfiel, Regional Livestock Educator
Serving; Portage, Adams, Waushara, & Green Lake
- Karen Bender, Regional Crops & Soils Educator
Serving; Portage, Adams, Waushara, & Green Lake
- Katie Livernash, Community Development Agent
- Denise Rocha, Support Staff

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

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