

## Oconto County 4-H

As you work on your project throughout the year, you may find it helpful to take pictures and keep notes. They can come in handy as you plan for ways to share what you have learned and look back on what you've done.

Suggestions for showcasing your project work:

- Take your project to the **Oconto County Fair**
- Look for creative ways to share what you've learned with your **club**, your **school** and your **community**

### Stay in Touch!

UW-Extension Office  
301 Washington Street  
Oconto, WI 54153  
Paula Huff, 4-H Agent  
Sarah Mills-Lloyd, Agriculture Agent  
920/834-6845  
[www.uwex.edu/CES/cty/oconto](http://www.uwex.edu/CES/cty/oconto)

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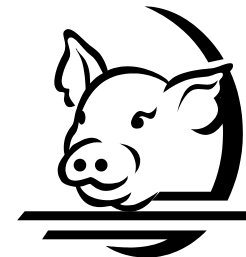
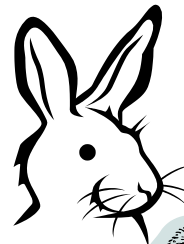
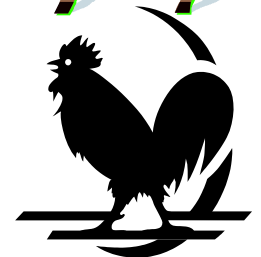
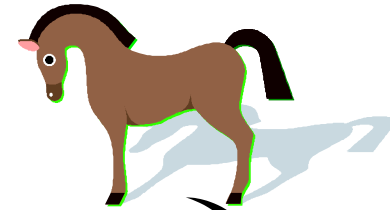


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# WELCOME TO OCONTO COUNTY 4-H

## ANIMAL

## PROJECTS!



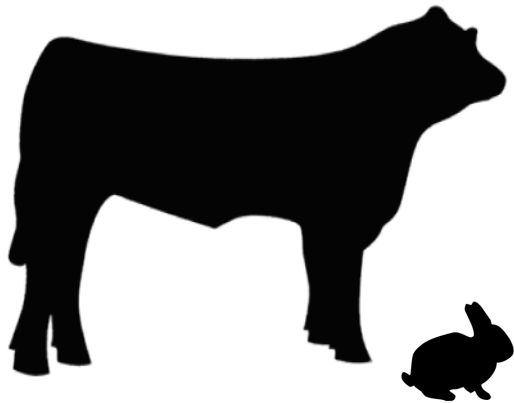
Animal projects are a way for youth to become more involved in agriculture. The agriculture industry generates \$51 billion in Wisconsin each year. Your involvement in agriculture today may lead you to many exciting opportunities and potential careers in the future. *Get ready to learn and have some fun!*

*Learning and Life Development through Animal Projects*



## Welcome to the 4-H Animal Project!

This booklet will help you get started, but don't forget to talk to your project leaders and other 4-H members. They have lots of good information to share with you!



### 4-H Enrollment

The first step in starting your animal project is to enroll in Oconto County 4-H!

4-H enrollment is done each fall, and it's online. Here is the link <https://www.4honline.com/>

It is very important to enroll early in the fall so that you get the 4-H Newsletter or any postcards in the mail relating to your projects.

If your animal is not selected this year, don't be disappointed. There is so much more to these projects than just selling your animal in the Sale of Champions. We hope that you enjoy animals and being a part of agriculture, and will want to participate again next year!



This handbook is not meant to be all inclusive.

The bottom line is that you **COMMUNICATE** with project leaders and fellow showman, that you **READ** the 4-H newsletter and any informational pieces that come in the mail, and that you **ASK** questions when things seem confusing.

Contact the UW-Extension Office, a Fair Board Member, or Project Leaders, if you need help!

## County Fair

So now it's August and time for the County Fair! Once you've completed all of your prior requirements, it's time to focus on exhibiting your animals. Remember, you need to show TWO animals of a specific species (two sheep, two dairy animals, two rabbits) in order to be eligible to sell in that species. All youth **MUST** participate in showmanship as well. There are specific requirements (weight gain, for example) for every species, so please check the Premium Book.

Once the shows are all over, the highest ranking animals will be eligible for the Sale of Champions. The number and type of projects eligible for the Sale varies by species. It is a competitive process, and not every one gets to sell.

If you do get to sell, you will take your animal into the auction ring on Sunday of the Fair to be bid on. All sellers must be present for Sale set up and fair clean up the Monday after the Fair. If not, an additional 2% of your Sale profits will be deducted.

We're happy you've decided to join one of the animal projects! Whether you are into horses, dairy, beef, sheep, swine, goats, poultry, or rabbits, there is a lot to be learned from raising animals and exhibiting them at the fair. These projects are definitely a year-long learning experience. Because of the hard work and dedication it takes to do an animal project, one way we reward our animal exhibitors is by giving them the opportunity to sell an animal in the Sale of Champions.

## What is the Sale of Champions?

The Sale of Champions is an opportunity for youth who have placed at or near the top of their classes to sell their animals during this special auction. It is held on Sunday during the Oconto County Youth Fair.

There are certain requirements for each project, and you must check with project leaders to be sure you are fulfilling your duties as an animal exhibitor. However, there are certain expectations of all animal youth that must be completed in order to be eligible for the Sale of Champions. This guide highlights some of the requirements, but it won't have all the answers, so please ask a lot of questions!

## County Fair Weigh-ins

All market beef, sheep, and swine must be weighed-in. The weigh-ins are held on a Saturday in the spring.

Beef- March

Sheep & Swine- May

Please watch the newsletter for specific dates!

Each youth can weigh-in four animals. You can only show two market animals of any given species at the fair, but we highly encourage you to weigh-in at least one extra animal per exhibitor. In case something would happen to one of your animals, you would still have a back-up! To be eligible to sell in the Sale of Champions, a youth must exhibit **TWO** animals— either two market animals, or one market animal and some breeding stock. It's a good idea to have an extra animal or two, in case something would go wrong!

All weighed-in animals will be identified by ear tags. If one of these tags falls out, please contact the UW-Extension office to have it replaced.

These animals will be weighed-in again, at County Fair Check-in, and they need to have the correct ear tag identification in place.

## Sale of Champions Buyers

We are lucky to have businesses and individuals in our community that come to the County Fair each year and purchase animals in the Sale of Champions. It is their generous support that helps us reward the hard work of our youth.

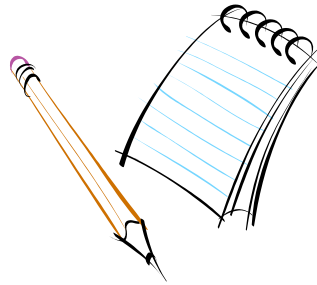


Another step in the fair preparation process is to invite buyers to the Sale of Champions. This is not required, but many youth will invite potential buyers to the Sale of Champions. These buyers are usually people who know your family. They may be your feed mill, milk hauler, trucker, dentist, eye doctor, neighbor... anyone who might be interested in supporting you and Oconto County youth projects. How you invite them is up to you. Some exhibitors will write letters, some will do face to face visits. The goal is to explain to them who you are, what your project is, what the Sale of Champions is, and so on. Most importantly, be polite!



## Paperwork

Each animal project has specific paperwork that must be completed and turned in before the youth can show their animals at the fair. Most of this paperwork is turned in at Fair Check-in Day. Beef, sheep, and swine exhibitors will receive their paperwork at the initial weigh-in. Other projects will receive it in the mail. Copies can also be downloaded from the UW-Extension/4-H website.



Some of the required paperwork:

- Performance Reports (beef, sheep, swine, goats, poultry, rabbits)
- Some form of record keeping- record book pages, etc. (dairy cattle and dairy goats)
- Certification of educational points (all)
- Drug History Form (all)

Contact project leaders or the UW-Extension office with questions!

## Meat Animal Quality Assurance (MAQA)

All youth exhibiting beef, sheep, swine, and meat goats must go through Meat Animal Quality Assurance Training (MAQA). **In order to be eligible to sell in the Sale of Champions, all livestock exhibitors must be MAQA-certified!**

Years ago, the swine industry required that youth (and adult) pork producers be trained in producing high quality meat products. Swine exhibitors have been required to attend Pork Quality Assurance Trainings since the 90's. Many Wisconsin counties, including Oconto, have decided to encourage quality meat animal production of all our animal exhibitors. In the future, all meat processors may require animal producers to be trained in meat quality assurance. We are ahead of the game by educating our youth.

MAQA trainings will be held several times at various locations around the county in the spring. The trainings are one and a half hours long, and youth must be in attendance for the entire meeting. If you cannot attend any of the Oconto County trainings, you can be certified in another county. Be sure to look for these dates in the 4-H newsletter, listen for them in the Club Reminders, check the website, or call the UW-Extension office. If you are not certified, you will not be eligible to sell!

## Educational Points

The County Fair is the showcase event for animal project exhibitors. However, participating in these projects means a lot more than four days at county fair. It means that you are continuously learning more about exhibiting your show animals, raising animals, and agriculture. All 4-H, FFA, and Boy Scout/ Girl Scout members showing animal projects at the County Fair are required to participate in three educational opportunities. **In order to be eligible to sell in the Sale of Champions, you must earn at least three (different) educational points per year.** At least one of these points must pertain directly to your project (for example, a rabbit exhibitor must attend at least one rabbit project meeting, swap meet, or show for one of their educational points)

Below are examples of acceptable educational activities that youth could participate in:

Attend animal project workshops hosted by county-wide project leaders and/or Oconto County UW-Extension or animal workshops held in another county

Teach a session at a project workshop or give a demonstration about your animal project at the county, club, or chapter level

Attend Meat Animal Quality Assurance (MAQA)- **this point is required for beef, sheep, swine, and meat goat exhibitors**

Participate in livestock, dairy, equine, or small animal judging team practice and a contest (4-H Area Animal Science Day)

Take one semester of a high school agriculture education course on livestock, dairy, equine, small animal or veterinary science with a grade of C or better

Exhibit animals at the Wisconsin State Fair

Exhibit animals at a district or state junior or open show (examples: Northeast Jr. Livestock Show, WLBA Spring Preview Show, Northeast District 4-H Horse Association Open Show)

Watch an organized junior or open show (must watch the show- just attending another county fair or show does not count)

Attend an animal focused camp (examples: Badger Dairy Camp, Livestock Show Camp)

Volunteer with animals (examples: Humane Society, volunteer at a show)

Participate in UW-Extension or industry sponsored workshops, seminars or other programs on livestock nutrition, reproduction, health, facilities, etc.

Educational points can be earned in many different ways. For most animal exhibitors, this won't be difficult at all since they are already participating in many activities that relate to their projects.

## Fair Entry Blanks

In order to exhibit any projects at the Oconto County Fair, you need to sign up the specific projects you want to take. Watch for the Premium Book to be ready sometime in the spring. This is created by the Fair Board and will be distributed to 4-H Club leaders when it is ready. You can also find copies at the local libraries or online on the Oconto County UW-Extension website.

The County Fair Entry blanks are due sometime the last week of June.

The Premium Book is full of information. It contains all the requirements specific to the fair, regarding animal health, youth requirements, and check-in times, to name a few. Be sure to read through the Premium Book as soon as possible, so that you don't miss any important requirements or deadlines!