

# Oconto Clover Connect

I pledge my **head** to clearer thinking, my **heart** to greater loyalty, my **hands** to larger service, and my **health** to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world.



## May 2023

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Greetings 4-H Friends!

Although our weather has not warmed up too much yet- things are really heating up with Oconto County 4-H! We currently have 351 youth and adult members enrolled in our program- Incredible! There are so many amazing opportunities coming up to explore as well including, day camps, overnight summer camp, project meetings, fair prep and much more.

I have just returned feeling very energized from a state conference, JCEP (the Joint Council of Extension Professionals) where I was able to participate in a variety of professional development opportunities to support our great program. These included sessions on: using personality type as a superpower- whether you are an extrovert, introvert or somewhere in between, supporting the mental health of others in times of stress, and creating quality take and learn kits. I was also very proud to be recognized for my work in the 4-H program and received state professional awards including: The Communicator Award for the school promotional flyer we put out in each county school system this past year, the Susan Barkmann Excellence in Research Award for work on the State Thriving Evaluation team, and the Excellence in Peer Professional Development Award for work supporting colleagues across the state in improving their local program quality.

I also have an opportunity coming up to present at the National Conference on Volunteerism in Lexington., KY to share some of the great work going on in WI 4-H as well. We truly have one of the best programs around, and I enjoy being able to share how amazing our volunteers and participants are with colleagues across the nation. Be sure to take advantage of all the amazing events coming up this summer. I look forward to seeing you at some of them!

Be well.

Aimee



### Contact Us

Extension Oconto County

[4h@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:4h@co.oconto.wi.us)

920-834-6845

<http://oconto.extension.wisc.edu>



Oconto County 4-H

Oconto County Courthouse

301 Washington St.

Oconto, WI 54153

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

5/20	Oconto County Youth Fair Steak Fry – 4:30-7 pm	Zippel Park - Gillett
6/4	Leaders Association Meeting – 6 pm	Oconto Falls Town Hall
6/11	Breakfast on the Farm	Kohls Dairy Farm LLC 6214 Klaus Lake Rd, Gillett 54124
6/19-6/22	Summer Academy	UW Madison
8/1-8/4	Summer Camp	Camp Bird
8/19	Horse, Dog, Cat, and Small Animal Show	Oconto County Fairgrounds
8/24-8/27	Oconto County Youth Fair	Oconto County Fairgrounds

## Attention: Adult Volunteers

We still have lots of volunteers that are in need of completing training. If you re-enrolled but did not receive a confirmation email from UW-Madison with your role descriptions, you are not yet fully approved and need to reach out to us as soon as possible. The 4-H office will let you know what is needed and where to find the site to complete the necessary training(s). Contact the 4-H office at 920-834-6845 or email [amy.brehmer@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:amy.brehmer@co.oconto.wi.us).

## 4-H Camp Registration is now Open

Looking for an exciting summer adventure for your child? Join us at residential 4-H summer camp MarOcoSha! The program offers a wide range of activities from nature to arts and crafts, sports, games, swimming and canoeing, and leadership development. With a dedicated and experienced staff of counselors and adults, a safe, supportive and fun environment is provided. 4-H members can register [Here](#) or go to the Oconto County 4-H Facebook page for the link.



The poster features a large group photo of campers at the top. Below it, the text 'MAROCOSHA 4-H CAMP' is prominently displayed. A blue circle on the right indicates the dates 'AUGUST 1ST - 4TH'. Three polaroid photos show campers engaged in various activities: one with a counselor, one with campers playing a game, and one with campers eating. A blue circle on the left specifies 'YOUTH IN GRADES 3 - 7'. Another blue circle on the right lists the costs: '\$125 4-H MEMBERS' and '\$150 NOT IN 4-H YET'. At the bottom, a silhouette of a cabin and trees is shown. Text at the bottom right reads '4-H RESIDENTIAL CAMP FOR YOUTH IN MARINETTE, OCONTO, AND SHAWANO COUNTIES' and '4-H Member Registration opens 5.1.23 at: [tinyurl.com/4HMarOcoSha23](http://tinyurl.com/4HMarOcoSha23)'.

## Breakfast on the Farm

Sunday, June 11, 2023. Kohls Dairy Farm LLC, 6214 Klaus Lake Rd, Gillett WI 54124. 8 am – 1 pm. Advanced tickets are \$9 and tickets at the door will be \$10. You can get advanced tickets at Lena Fastop, Kelly Lake Kwik Stop, Pat’s Market, Peshtigo National Bank Branches: Oconto Falls, Gillett, and Coleman, NEW Credit Union Branches: Oconto, Oconto Falls, Peshtigo, and Suring. We hope to see you there!

## Wisconsin State Fair

August 3-13. Junior Livestock Shows: Junior show exhibitors must be between the ages of 12-19 by January 1st of the current year and have completed YQCA certification. For more info, visit <https://wistatefair.com/competitions/junior-livestock/>

## Area Animal Science Day

Registration is now open. For more information about the event and registering, visit: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/area-animal-science-days/>. The closest site is Wisconsin Rapids (Wood Co.). June 9th (Dairy, Livestock, and Photo and Poster)

Registration fees are \$12. The host counties will be providing lunch. The cost is \$10/ person eating. Lunches are only available by pre-registration. Deadline - May 24, 2023.

# WI 4-H AREA ANIMAL SCIENCE DAYS

*Registration Open!*

**SEE THE POST FOR MORE  
INFORMATION ABOUT THE  
EVENT AND HOW TO REGISTER**



Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON





## WI Towns Association Scholarship

The WI Towns Association, Rural Mutual Insurance Company & Scott Construction, Inc., will be awarding \$7,000 in scholarships to high school seniors graduating in 2023 from a public or private high school in WI that plan to enroll in a WI public or private college or a university in 2023. The winners are determined by independent judging of an essay contest. The essay should address the topic: “If Wisconsin could design it’s local government funding system from scratch, what would be the best and most equitable way to fund town government services?” Essays must be postmarked by May 26, 2023. For more information and an application, visit <https://www.wisctowns.com/resources/scholarship/>.

## Statewide Scholarships

Each year, the WI 4-H Foundation provides a sum of money to the State 4-H Office for needs-based scholarships for youth to participate in statewide educational experiences. WI 4-H believes that cost should not be a barrier to program participation. Youth can apply for a scholarship by submitting their information at the Qualtrics form linked below. The responses to this form will remain confidential and will only be shared with a small committee managing the scholarship funds.

### [Statewide Educational Experiences Scholarship Form](#)

Each youth should submit one form per program they are participating in. Staff will do their best to assess each request and make a determination on the amount awarded.

### **Programs**

This scholarship fund is available to any youth who is attending one of our Statewide Educational Experiences. Examples of these experiences are:

- Advanced Space Academy
- Animal Science Programming (AASD, Quiz Bowl, Skillathon, Judging Contests)
- Arts Camp or ArtBEAT!
- Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF)
- Fall Forum
- National 4-H Congress
- National 4-H Conference
- Space Camp
- State Arts Team (Drama Company or Arts)
- Summer Academy
- Other Programs

Please reach out to Laura Pine at [lpine@wisc.edu](mailto:lpine@wisc.edu) or Justin Lieck at [justin.lieck@wisc.edu](mailto:justin.lieck@wisc.edu) with questions regarding these scholarship applications.



## Wisconsin Celebrates Pollinators

Get your calendar and mark down UW Madison Extension Horticulture Program's Wisconsin Celebrates Pollinator Week from June 19-25, 2023 and visit the Wisconsin Celebrate Pollinator Week website:

<https://bit.ly/41nwp6M>

This week is dedicated to raising awareness, increasing knowledge and promoting adoption of pollinator friendly practices to improve pollinator health and habitats throughout Wisconsin. National Pollinator Week is an annual event managed by the Pollinator Partnership to help spread the word about what we can do to protect pollinators.

Pollinators in Wisconsin and around the world are facing population declines due to a number of factors. You can get involved in pollinator conservation in many ways! Starting in May and continuing in June, learn more about pollinators with our free online programs. Find pollinators and habitat in your area with a scavenger hunt that you can download and print or use the iNaturalist app. Join in local activities and use the resources on the website to help pollinators in your own yard and community. By creating pollinator friendly habitats, reducing or eliminating environmental contamination from pesticides, and spreading the word about pollinators with your communities, we can all contribute to pollinator conservation.

Join us, UW-Madison Extension Horticulture Program, in celebrating Pollinators! Visit the official website:

<https://bit.ly/41nwp6M>



Wisconsin Celebrates  
**POLLINATOR WEEK**  
June 19-25, 2023



## Oconto County Youth Fair Steak Fry Fundraiser

We potentially have a donor that is willing to match the funds raised during this year's Steak Fry! In order for us to have the best year yet, we are asking that each 4H group and Livestock group spread the word to purchase tickets. Also, if your 4H or Livestock group would like to donate a basket to raffle off, we would appreciate it.

If you would like to take some tickets to try and sell, please contact me and I can meet up with you.

Thanks again for your support!!!



### ***Oconto County Youth Fair Steak Fry***

- WHEN:** Saturday, May 20, 2023
- TIME:** Grilling 4:30pm –7:00 p.m.
- PLACE:** Zippel Park, Gillett, WI
- COST:** \$25.00 per person/ticket –only selling 250 tickets and each ticket includes: Steak, baked potato, salad, dinner roll, and cookie.

**If you cannot stay to eat but would like to get a meal to go, please buy a ticket and come that night for GRAB AND GO!**

**All proceeds are going towards the Fair Operations. There will be many bucket and raffle items that night as well.**

**If you would like tickets, please contact any Fair Board Member or email us and we will deliver ([ocontocountyouthfair@gmail.com](mailto:ocontocountyouthfair@gmail.com)) or 920-373-1212.**

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Thank you for your support  
Oconto County Youth Fair

## Creative Arts Festival

We had a very successful dual- county creative arts Festival on Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup>. We had over 25 youth participate, sharing their amazing skills and talents, we are so proud of each and every one of you! A huge thank you goes out to our judge- Kelly Nemec, our emcee's Emily Aerts and Lillian McDowell, our venue the Grover Town Hall, and our hosting Little River 4-H club for their help with set up, clean up, and judge appreciation. A lot goes into making events like these possible and we appreciate you all! Keep up the great work!





## Welcome Cole to UW Extension

We would like to introduce you to Cole Pierucki, he is our summer intern and will be focusing mainly on helping with our 4-H program. You will be seeing Cole out and about in the community helping with events and working with our youth. We are very excited to have Cole join our team!

Here's a little bit about Cole: I am a second-year student at Michigan Tech majoring in Mathematics with a concentration in Actuarial Science and minoring in Business and Diversity Studies. At Michigan Tech, I am involved in the Undergraduate Student Government and the Pavlis Honors College. Before attending college, I graduated high school in Oconto, where I was born and raised. Outside of academics, I really enjoy writing, taking walks outside, and learning new things.

I am very excited to be joining the UW-Extension Office because I am passionate about helping people. I feel that this position will give me an opportunity to make a difference and give back to the Oconto community. I look forward to being able to help the 4-H program in Oconto and meet a variety of new people.





## Submissions Wanted!

Did you want to share about a successful 4-H event that you just hosted? Do you have an upcoming 4-H event that you want to promote? Do you have a fun experience or 4-H story to share? Send your news, notes, reports, and articles to us along with a photo, and we'll include in the next issue. See below for our email and mailing addresses.

**Deadline: All contributions are due by the 15th of the month to make it into the next publication.**

## Feedback

Please do not hesitate to provide feedback, both positive and negative to us. Sharing your thoughts, ideas, and observations helps your Extension Office do the best we can to serve you. Please send us an email so that we can follow up with you.

# Oconto Clover Connect

## How to Contact Us

**Telephone:** 920-834-6845

**Email:** [4h@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:4h@co.oconto.wi.us)

**Website:** <https://oconto.extension.wisc.edu/>



**Oconto County 4-H**



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

## Staff

Aimee Elkins: 4-H Program Educator; [aimee.elkins@wisc.edu](mailto:aimee.elkins@wisc.edu)

Amy Brehmer: Extension Program Assistant; [amy.brehmer@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:amy.brehmer@co.oconto.wi.us)

## Oconto County 4-H Leader's Association Board of Directors

President – Brooke Schaal (Little Seedlings)

Vice President - Brigid McDowell (Little River)

Secretary – Amber Seitz (Morgan Badgers)

Ann Sievert - Treasurer (Morgan Badgers)

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.

Como empleador que brinda igualdad de oportunidades en el empleo y acción afirmativa (EEO/AA, por sus siglas en inglés), la University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension, proporciona igualdad de oportunidades en el empleo y en sus programas, incluyendo los requisitos del Título VI, Título IX, y de la ley federal para personas con discapacidades en los Estados Unidos (ADA, por sus siglas en inglés) y los requisitos de la Section 504 del Rehabilitation Act.



## Making Memories at 4-H Camp

4-H camp provides a unique opportunity for all youth to develop life skills. It helps youth build confidence and meet new people in a safe, supportive environment! Camp is meant for everyone, and campers come from all walks of life. Camps can be offered overnight, as day camps, or have a project focus. 4-H staff are committed to making accommodations to ensure that all youth have a chance to learn, grow, and have fun at summer camp!



### Why is camp **important**?

Campers and youth counselors both have a lot to gain from camp! For some youth, this is their first time away from home. For others, it is an opportunity to get back together with friends. 4-H camp gives youth the opportunity to develop independence, build self-confidence, and master new skills. Youth make new friends and get to spark new interests through camp programs. Camp counselors serve as role models and develop valuable leadership skills that will be useful for a lifetime!



Credit: Heidi Vanderloop  
Benson

### Each camp provides a **unique** experience.

Most camp programs are based on a specific theme each year. Campers are divided into small groups to create a positive learning environment during the program. They participate in a wide variety of activities. Typical activities at camp include: learning sessions taught by counselors or adult volunteers, swimming, canoeing, hiking, campfires, arts and crafts, and more!

### We've done this for awhile. **Trust** us!

4-H camps rely on years of youth development experience using research and best practices from across the nation. 4-H educators use these best practices to develop camp programming alongside their youth counselors and adult volunteers. Making camp a safe place, both physically and socially, for youth, is a priority. All youth and adult leaders receive training and educational resources to help youth work through their new experiences away from home—whether it be the campers' first time or their tenth time!



Credit: Kelsey Dralle

If you're still not sure how camp may be a fit for your youth member or if you need to know about special accommodations, please reach out to your local 4-H educator!





## Go Pack!

Going to summer camp means you need to pack your bags for a fun time! The items below are important items to bring. Before you leave for camp, make sure you have everything you need. See if you can track down all of the items and practice getting packed for your big adventure.

**Sleeping Bag**

**Pillow**

**Pajamas**

**Sweatshirt for nighttime**

**3 pairs shorts/pants & t-shirts**

**Underwear**

**Swimsuit**

**Water Bottle**

**Closed toe shoes (tennis shoes)**

**Waterfront shoes (footwear that can get wet)**

**Toothbrush/Toothpaste**

**Shampoo/Conditioner**

**Towel**

**Sunscreen**

**Sunglasses**

**Hat**

### What did we miss?

Were there some items that you think should be on the list? List them here, and then try and get everything packed to make sure you can carry it all! Remember, you can't bring everything!

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### Every camp is different!

Some camps require that you bring certain items. Make sure you also check with the camp you're attending to see if there is anything special you need to bring along.