

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 2024

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Happy May 4-H Families!

Although it has been a bit of a wild Spring it looks like May is already bringing the beauty of nature back to life with green grass, trees, and beautiful flowers coming out to say hello. I also love seeing pictures of all the new spring babies! Wishing all of you time to get out and enjoy it! Be sure to check out the newsletter for some great project learning and recreational opportunities with Oconto County 4-H!

The Oconto County 4-H Program had a lot to celebrate in April and I want to take some time to recognize that. We were able to share our thanks and appreciation to all of our hard-working volunteers during Volunteer Appreciation Week, we would not have such an incredible program without them and thank them for all they do! We also made sure to share our appreciation with our amazing office support staff Amy Brehmer for Administrative Professionals Day, she keeps everything running behind the scenes and we are so thankful for her every day! It takes many hands to truly continue to "Make the Best Better!"

We are off and running planning many wonderful summer opportunities that we cannot wait to share with you. We still have a few openings for our overnight summer camp, this is for 4-H and non-members alike. If you know of anyone interested, or if there are any questions about the camp or available scholarships please reach out! We will be sharing information on day camp opportunities for our younger audience soon. I am also looking forward to sharing the 4-H program during upcoming community events, as well as with some summer school students this year teaching courses on whole body health and incubating chicken eggs.

Contact Us

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920-834-6845

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Best,

Aimee Elkins-
4-H Educator Marinette and Oconto Counties
State Program Quality Project Manager



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

5/14	YQCA Training for 1 st -3 rd Year Members 6-8 pm	Oconto Falls High School Ag Room
5/18	Fairest of the Fair Competition 11 am	Gillet High School Auditorium
6/2	Animal Project Education Point Day Covering Beef, Dairy, Goat, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep and Swine	Oconto County Fairgrounds
6/14-16	Summer Camp	Camp Bird
8/17	Oconto County Youth Fair – Cat, Dog, Horse, Small Animal Day	Oconto County Fairgrounds
8/22-25	Oconto County Youth Fair	Oconto County Fairgrounds

WI 4-H Area Animal Science Days – Save the Dates

**WI 4-H AREA ANIMAL
SCIENCE DAYS**
Save the Dates

**SHAWANO COUNTY
JUNE 18TH**

**GREEN COUNTY
JUNE 20TH**

 **WATCH INBOXES AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR
FUTURE REGISTRATION INFORMATION**



New Family Newsletter

There is a state resource available for new families, each month we will include a link to the newsletter for new families to check out. This month is information on 4-H projects. Click [here](#) to view the newsletter.

Fair Updates – Watch for More Updates

- May 14th – YQCA training for 1st-3rd year members at the Oconto Falls High School Ag room 6-8 pm
- June 2nd – Animal project education point day at the fairgrounds – do not bring animals
 - Dairy 1:00-1:30
 - Beef 1:30-2:00
 - Swine 2:00-2:30
 - Sheep 2:30-3:00
 - Goats 3:00-3:30
 - Rabbits/Poultry 3:30-4:00
- August 17th – Cat, Dog, Horse, and Small Animal Day at the fairgrounds
- August 22nd-25th – Oconto County Youth Fair



4-H Awarded Bond Foundation Grant for Camp

The 4-H Youth Development Programs of UW-Madison Division of Extension in Oconto, Marinette, and Shawano counties are proud to announce a partnership with the Leon H. and Clymene M. Bond Foundation, Inc. for their 2024 overnight summer camp experience at Camp Bird in Marinette County.

A generous grant from the Bond Foundation provides more than \$5000 in funding towards transportation, camp counselor development training, activity supplies, and adult chaperone fees. Additionally, the funding will play a significant role in allowing camper fees to remain at \$150 per camper, as it has been for many years. Another major impact of the partnership will be to provide additional scholarship funding to families who may not otherwise be able to afford a camp experience.

The summer camp program is open to all Oconto, Marinette, and Shawano County youth in 3rd-7th grade as of the 2023-2024 school year. It will be held June 14-16 at Camp Bird in Marinette County. The program will include opportunities for nature education, outdoor skills, arts & crafts, games, team-building, and nightly campfire entertainment. The cost is \$150 per camper. 4-H members in each county may be eligible for a discounted rate with contributions by their local leaders' organizations. To request more information about the camp itself, to be considered for a scholarship, or with any questions please contact Aimee Elkins, 4-H Educator for Oconto/Marinette Counties at (920) 834-6845 or aimee.elkins@wisc.edu. Registration is open now at <http://tinyurl.com/2024MarOcoSha>. The registration deadline is May 13th.



Attention: Adult Volunteers

We still have a lot of volunteers that are in need of completing training. If you reenrolled 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 aimee.elkins@wisc.edu.

Breakfast on the Farm

Save the date for Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm: Sunday, June 9. This event will be held rain or shine! Breakfast is served 7 am – 12 pm and activities until 1 pm.

ADVANCED TICKET SALES

\$9.00

Join the "Advanced Ticket Line" when arrive at the farm.

(Generous Servings)

Starting May 1, 2024

EVENT TICKETS

Tickets can be purchased when you arrive at the farm.

\$10.00 at the door

(Generous Servings)

LOCATIONS FOR ADVANCED TICKET SALE

STARTS MAY 1, 2024

Lena Faststop, Kelly Lake Kwik Stop, North Chase Citgo

Peshtigo National Bank Branches: Oconto Falls, Gillett, and Coleman

N.E.W. Credit Union Branches: Oconto Falls, Oconto, Peshtigo, Suring

2024 Youth Tractor & Machinery Safety Training

This course is being offered in Antigo on June 18, 20, 25 and 27. Certification will also be provided in Coleman in July, dates are not set yet. The fee is \$40. More information will be forthcoming. For more information or if you have questions, please contact Scott Reuss, Extension Crops and Soil Educator, at 715-732-7510 or email scott.reuss@wisc.edu.



Horse Project Updates

The WI 4-H Horse Association has updated their handbook for the year. Link:

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/large-animals/horse-project/wisconsin-4-h-horse-association/>

This is where you will find the calendar of events, information about specific state horse activities and rules, and much more.

May 19th, Oconto County Fairgrounds, 1:00 PM, Grooming, Tack Prep and other useful demonstrations and information. If you would like to earn an Education Credit to go towards your Sale of Champions requirement, consider doing a demonstration for the group. Contact Kathie Beschta with your idea.

Horse Practice Ring Nights

Negative Coggins Required at your first practice

You must attend at least 1 Ring Night to participate in the horse show. More than 1 is recommended.

Tues. June 11 6:00 PM Fairgrounds
Thurs. June 27 6:00 PM Fairgrounds
Thurs. July 11 6:00 PM Fairgrounds
Tues. July 23 6:00 PM Fairgrounds
Thurs. Aug. 1 6:00 PM Fairgrounds
Thurs. Aug. 8 6:00 PM Fairgrounds

Wed. Aug. 7, all remaining paperwork is due to Kathie Beschta. Horse Health Record, Horse Project Record, Educational Points and Credits Record. Email, text or snail mail to Kathie Beschta.

Oconto County Youth 4H Horse Show

Sat. August 17th, 2024. 9:00 AM. Please do not arrive before 8:30.



Wildlife & Woods Series

Join us for virtual opportunities to explore Wildlife & Woods! This virtual series is returning for 2024 and is open to youth in grades K-5, their parents/guardians, and adult leaders. Register today to explore and learn about Wildlife & Woods! Registration is open now in 4HOnline for this virtual series. You may participate in as many hour long sessions as you like!



The poster features a green background with a circular illustration of a forest scene containing a tree, a deer, and two rabbits. Text on the poster includes the title 'Wildlife & Woods' in a cursive font, 'EXPLORATIONS VIRTUAL SERIES' in bold, and a list of dates: 'JAN. 24, 2024', 'FEB. 28, 2024', 'MAR. 27, 2024', 'APRIL 24, 2024', and 'MAY 22, 2024'. Registration information is provided as 'Register via 4-H Online wi.4honline.com'. Logos for the University of Wisconsin and UW-Madison Extension are at the bottom, along with a disclaimer: '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.'

Reminder for 4-H Events and Experiences

As a reminder: a portion of costs for camps, events, and experiences are often generously covered by the Oconto County 4-H Leaders Association utilizing funds obtained through the 4-H food stand and other fundraising efforts. There are also state scholarships available [here](#). We never want finances or the need for special accommodations to be a barrier for our members participating in any 4-H events. Please reach out to Aimee at aimee.elkins@wisc.edu if you have any requests, needs, or questions.



MarOcoSha Summer Camp 2024 Registration

Some spots are still available for the three day, two night 4-H Camp for Marinette, Oconto and Shawano Counties to be held at Camp Bird near Crivitz, WI from June 14th-16th.

We have a great staff of teens and adults that have already spent many hours in training and preparation for your child to arrive. This is a great chance to spend time outdoors, make new friends, and even learn a bit! Activities already in the schedule are swimming, Raccoon Circles (team building), campfires, hikes, lots of games, and canoeing or kayaking! Our camp food is awesome, just ask former campers. This will be a week of actively enjoying nature, the outdoors, and the fellowship of new friends while learning. We also have a health supervisor and lifeguard on staff.

Campers can choose to be transported by bus from one of several stops. The location of these stops will be determined where campers are registering from. We will contact you closer to camp to confirm which location your youth would like to board. If a bus option is not chosen, a scheduled drop off time at Camp Bird can be arranged.

- **4-H members cost \$125 camp payment.** Due to the generosity of the Oconto County 4-H Leaders Association, and funds primarily obtained through the annual 4-H fair food stand and raffle, **Oconto County 4-H Members are only responsible for \$31.25 (per camper registered to attend).** Money must be sent to the Oconto County Extension Office prior to May 10th or your spot may be given to a wait list camper.
- **Non 4-H members** will be responsible to submit **\$150 camp payment** (per camper registered to attend). Money must be sent to the Marinette County Extension Office prior to May 10th or your spot may be given to a wait list camper.

CANCELLATION POLICY (New in 2024) - If you need to cancel your registration, you may do so, without penalty prior to June 1, 2024. If cancelling your registration on, or after June 1, 2024, a \$50 per camper late cancellation fee will be assessed. Please contact the Shawano County Extension Office (715-526-6136) if you need to cancel for any reason.

REGISTER HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/MarOcoSha24> ****More than one youth to register? Please submit a new form for EACH youth.**

If we reach our maximum number of campers, we will start a waitlist.

If you have questions or are needing financial assistance, please reach out to your 4-H Educator: Aimee Elkins (aimee.elkins@wisc.edu)




Summer Academy

Registration is open for just a few more days. Sign up in 4-H online. For more information, visit <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/summer-academy/>

Join us on the UW-Madison Campus for the new Summer Academy, June 24-27, 2024. This new Positive Youth Development program will help you dis-cover pathways to your future. Signup to learn what it takes to have a career, or a hobby in several SPARK areas including agriculture, STEM, service, leadership, arts, trades, and many more. There will be fun opportunities to build networks and friendships with folks from all over the state of WI.

SAVE THE DATE SUMMER ACADEMY





CHARGE YOUR SPARKS

JUNE 24- 27, 2024
UW-MADISON CAMPUS

OPEN TO YOUTH GRADES 8-11
WITH LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
AVAILABLE FOR 11TH GRADE +

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1ST, 2024
GO.WISC.EDU/4HSUMMERACADEMY

 
UW-MADISON EXTENSION

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

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



Oconto County 4-H



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

Staff

Aimee Elkins: 4-H Program Educator; aimee.elkins@wisc.edu

Amy Brehmer: Extension Program Assistant; amy.brehmer@co.oconto.wi.us

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

President – Brooke Schaal (Little Seedlings)

Vice President – Riley Windus (Lena Rocketeers)

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.



Oconto County Youth Fair Decorated Cake Auction

Young people ages 5 through 19 years are invited to enter the Oconto County Fair Decorated Cake Auction. The auction will take place the Saturday afternoon of the Fair in the Exhibition Hall.

Rules:

- Entrants must be either a member of and Oconto County 4-H, Scouts, FFA or other youth organizations or reside in Oconto County to enter.
- The cake may be made from scratch or from a boxed mix.
- Entries must be brought to the Fair on a non-returnable board, plate or pan.
- Entries will be accepted in the Exhibition Hall between 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m. on Saturday, August 24, 2024 in the back of the Expo Hall.
- Entrants must be present for the auction as they will present their cake while it is being sold.
- **A 3X5 inch card must be attached to the entry with the following information:**
 - **Name and age of the entrant**
 - **Address of the entrant**
 - **Club of the entrant**
 - **A short profile of the entrant – school, hobbies, school/community activities, etc.**
 - **Type of cake and theme for decoration**
 - **Short explanation of why cake and decorating theme was selected.**
- Entrants must bring at least two people to bid on their cake.
- Entrants will receive the amount bid for their entry less 8% commission to the Fair Board to help cover program expenses.
- Fair rules prevent exhibitors from selling more than one item at a Fair auction. Therefore, exhibitors qualifying to sell a project in the Sale of Champions would have to choose between selling their cake or their project.
- These rules are specific to the Cake Auction only.

Questions about the auction can be directed to Oconto County Fair Board via email ocontocountyyouthfair@gmail.com or Debbie Woods (920) 373-1212.



2024 FLOWER PLANTER CONTEST

Sponsored by: Oconto County Fair



The Fair invites county youth development and adult civic or other organizations to help dress up the grounds during the Oconto County Fair by participating in the annual Flower Planter Contest. **To participate, a group needs to pre-register by June 9.** Your club designs and plants the planter, delivers the completed planter to the Fair, and removes the planter after the Fair. A panel of judges evaluates the planters during the Fair and cash prizes are awarded for the top three entries. All other participating clubs will receive a \$10 honorarium from the Fair.

Rules for Planter Contest:

1. The contest is open to all youth and adult organizations in Oconto County.
2. The Fair will provide planters, if the club chooses. (They are large (about 3 ft in diameter) pressed fiber pots.) Clubs are open to being creative and providing their own planter, at their own cost.
3. One entry is allowed per organization.
4. Planters must be able to be moved – a suggestion is to pack the bottom of the planter with Styrofoam, “packing peanuts”, or other light material to reduce the weight of the planted display.
5. Planters must contain a minimum of 12" of soil or plant growing media.
6. Only live plants may be used in the design, other than the identification sign. Flowering or foliage plants or a combination may be used. Endangered wild plant specimens are not allowed.
7. Drip irrigation, or other watering hoses or connections cannot be included in the planter display while at the Fair.
8. No electrical applications (lights, fans, music, etc.) are allowed to be part of the planter display.
9. Participating organizations will be responsible to maintain their planter during the Fair.
10. Entries must include a sign with the sponsoring organization’s name on it.
11. Planter entries must be brought to the Fairgrounds between Tuesday and Wednesday of the Fair.
NEWWhen signing up for this contest, please enter the specific location that you will put your planter***
12. **All planter registrations must be in by June 9 to ensure that enough planters are ordered.**
13. Planters may be removed by the organization responsible for them after 6 p.m. Sunday evening of the Fair, and must be removed by noon on the Monday following the Fair if they want their planter, plants, or sign. The Fair will dispose of planters not removed by that time.
14. Planters will be judged between Friday morning and Saturday morning. Winners will be announced at the Buyers Banquet.
15. Cash prizes of \$100, \$75, and \$50 will be awarded respectively, for the top three placing planter displays. All other participating clubs will receive a \$25 honorarium for participating.
16. Judging criteria include the following:

Criteria	Description	Total Points Possible
Overall Appearance	Pleasing combination of plant texture, form and color	20
Originality	Creative use of plant material and/or expression of a theme, such as color, logo, etc.	10
Maintenance of display during the Fair	Planter maintained during the Fair - watered as needed, spent blooms deadheaded, broken stems removed, etc	10
Sign with name of organization included	Neatly done, fits display versus appearance of being an after thought	5
Follow Contest Rules		5

Entry Process:

- Fill out the online entry form by June 30, 2024, **by clicking this [LINK](#)** and completing the online form.
- **Delivery:** Have you completed the cutout set up on the Fairgrounds between August 20 and August 21, 2024.
Removal: All cutouts need to be removed by noon on Monday, August 26, 2024.



Plywood Pals: A Creative Cut Out Contest at The Oconto County Youth Fair!

Calling all creative minds! We're inviting groups to participate in the Plywood Pals Contest, a fun and educational competition showcasing your artistic talents and celebrating agriculture at the Oconto County Youth Fair!

Theme: This year's theme is "**Sew It, Grow It, and Show It**". Your cutout should represent something related to agriculture, highlighting the importance of farming and food production.

Eligibility: The contest is open to all groups within Oconto County.

Materials:

- Design and paint a fun and colorful cutout one sheet of pre-cut, ½ inch thick plywood. (does not need to keep the square shape)
- Paints, stains, and other non-toxic decorative materials.
- **Safety First!** All tools used for cutting or shaping the plywood must be used by adults only.

Cutout Specifications:

- The cutout must be related to agriculture and include an Ag related fact/statistic for fairgoers to learn something new. *This could be a farm animal, a piece of farm equipment, a crop, or a scene depicting a facet of agriculture.*
- **Photo Opportunity:** It must incorporate an element into your design that allows fairgoers to have a fun photo opportunity (e.g., a giant ear of corn with a cutout face in the middle, a tractor with a space for someone to sit in the driver's seat).
- The design should be family-friendly and appropriate for all ages.
- Consider incorporating an open space or frame where people can comfortably stand behind the cutout for pictures.
- **Sturdy Structure:** Ensure the cutout is stable and freestanding.
- No offensive content or language is allowed.
- All groups are responsible for transporting their completed artwork to and from the designated drop-off/pick-up location at the fairgrounds.
- Power outlets will not be available at the display location.

Entry Process:

- Fill out the online entry form by June 30, 2024, by clicking this [LINK](#) and completing the online form.
- **Delivery:** Have you completed the cutout set up on the Fairgrounds between August 20 and August 21, 2024.
- **Removal:** All cutouts need to be removed by noon on Monday, August 26, 2024.

Judging:

- Entries will be judged on creativity, originality, adherence to the agriculture theme, and the effectiveness of the photo opportunity element.

Prizes:

- First Place: \$300.00
- Second Place: \$200.00
- Third Place: \$100.00
- All other entries will receive \$50.00
- ***The winners will be announced and awarded at the Buyer's Banquet***

Display and Photo Opportunity:

- All entries will be displayed throughout the Fair at a designated location.
- Encourage fairgoers to take photos with your cutout and share them on social media using the hashtag #PlywoodPalsContest.

Let's celebrate agriculture and have some creative fun at the Fair!

