

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.



April 2025

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Spring into 4-H: A Season of Change and Gratitude

Mother Nature may be hanging on to winter, but change is in the air—and not just in the weather! As we look ahead to an exciting season of 4-H opportunities, I want to take a moment to share some important news.

Our incredible support staff member, Amy Brehmer, will be moving on from her role after several years of dedicated service to the Extension Office, and our Oconto County 4-H program. We are so grateful for all she has done to support our educators, members, families, and volunteers! She will be missed, and we wish her the very best in her next adventure!

In the meantime, as of April 9th, please reach out to me directly, with any questions, paperwork, or program needs until her position is filled at aimee.elkins@wisc.edu. During this transition, we're committed to keeping everything running smoothly.

Please be sure to read on about a spring and summer full of great experiences and opportunities—from summer camps, to the county fair, to sporting events, an amazing trip to Washington, D.C. 4-H truly does have something for everyone.

This month, we also want to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to our amazing 4-H volunteers in honor of **National Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 20–26)**. Your dedication makes a difference in the lives of so many young people, and we truly appreciate all you do! If you have a chance, take a moment to thank a 4-H volunteer for their time, energy, and commitment to making 4-H such a special experience.

A note from Amy: It has been an absolute privilege to work with each of you and to watch the incredible growth and accomplishments of the 4-H members over the years. Thank you all for your support, kindness, and dedication to 4-H. It has been an honor to work with such an inspiring group of families.

Contact Us

Extension Oconto County

4h@co.oconto.wi.us

920-834-6845

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



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Oconto County Courthouse
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Oconto, WI 54153

Aimee and Amy

Aimee Elkins
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4/26	Sheet/Goat Weigh in 9:00 am	Oconto County Fairgrounds
4/26	Swine Tag Pick up 9-10 am	Oconto County Fairgrounds
5/3	State Hippology and Horse Bowl Contest	STEM Innovation Center UW Green Bay Campus
6/6	Green Bay Blizzard Dairy Night	
6/23-6/27	Summer Camp	Camp Bird
8/16	Cat, Dog, Horse, and Small Animal Show	Oconto County Fairgrounds
8/21-8/24	Oconto County Youth Fair	Oconto County Fairgrounds

Camp MarOcoSha Registration is Open!

Camp MarOcoSha is open for youth in grades 3-7 at Camp Bird in Crivitz. Join us for a week of fun. This year's theme is Wild West. Reserve your spot today! <https://tinyurl.com/4HMarOcoSha25>



4-H CAMP MAROCOSHA
CAMPER REGISTRATION
 OPENS SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST
 FOR 4-H YOUTH

<https://tinyurl.com/4HMarOcoSha25>

**Grades
3 - 7**

Join us for activities lead by 4-H Camp Staff, including trained counselors and adult volunteers in:
 Arts & Crafts - STEM - Archery - Indoor Games - Waterfront
 Mindfulness - Outdoor Recreation - Team Building - Communication
 Camp is held at Camp Bird, Crivitz from June 24 - 27. 2025.

2025 THEME: WILD WEST



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.

National Volunteer Week

April 20-26 is National Volunteer Week! It's time to celebrate our volunteers and all that they do. Volunteering is a big part of 4-H. We rely on a network of volunteers to provide caring and supportive mentoring to our 4-H'ers helping them learn life skills and grow into true leaders. THANK YOU for your service! We could not have 4-H without our volunteers!



Attention Adult Volunteers!!

There are volunteers that are in need of completing training and/or background screening. 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 training(s). Contact the 4-H office at 920-834-6845.

If you haven't enrolled as a volunteer yet, please do so ASAP.

WI AmeriCorps Positions Open

Looking for a summer opportunity or know someone who is? Wisconsin 4-H x AmeriCorps has exciting quarter-time positions starting May 19! Earn a living allowance, receive education assistance, and grow your skills professionally.: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/wisconsin4h-ameri-corps/>

Wisconsin AmeriCorps POSITIONS OPEN

Looking for a summer "job" to earn money and build your resume?

- Get Support while you serve**
Earn \$5,000 in living allowances
- Receive Education Assistance**
Receive nearly \$2,000 in an education award
- Grow Professionally**
Add UW-Madison Extension & AmeriCorps to your career credentials
- Positions are available statewide.**
Find one in a county near you!

4h.extension.wisc.edu/wisconsin4h-ameri-corps

Spring Horse Project Meeting

The Spring Horse Project Meeting will be held April 6, 2025 at 3:00 pm at Kathie Beschta's house. 6401 Kriescher Rd, Lena WI 54139 (920-829-5417). Please bring the information needed to fill out the horse information sheets at the meeting. This would be the age, color, markings, breed, and height for each horse you may be bringing to the fair.

We will review the Horse Project Handbook and required forms, look at important dates including ring nights and discuss other important topics. The Educational Activity will be learning how to read show patterns. We will be outside running through patterns so wear appropriate clothing. If the weather is nice, we may be holding the meeting outside so you could bring lawn chairs. See you then!



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 2025 from a public or private high school in WI that plan to enroll in a WI public or private college or a university in 2025. The winners are determined by independent judging of an essay contest. The essay should address the topic : “What are 3 top priorities your local town government officials should pursue to improve the quality of life in your community?” Essays must be postmarked by **May 23, 2025**. For mor information and an application, visit <https://www.wistowns.com/resources/scholarship/>

Growmark Foundation Scholarship

The GROWMARK Foundation 2025 Scholarships are now available online for students to apply.

The GROWMARK Foundation will provide (55) \$2,000 scholarships to students pursuing an agriculture and business-related degrees or certificates at colleges, universities, or technical schools in the United States and Ontario, Canada.

Eligibility Criteria:

- high school senior or continuing student
- enrolled at a university, community college, or technical school for fall 2025
- pursuing an agriculture or business-related degree/ certificate (does not include food science, animal science, veterinary medicine, or research)

[Application](#) deadline is April 11, 2025. Winners announced May 21, 2025.

Questions or requests for further information may be sent to recruiting@growmark.com.

Adopt a Garden Plot at the Oconto Falls Community Garden

This year they are hoping for even more local organizations and businesses to help the Community Garden by adopting a garden plot. Each organization or business willing to adopt a section of the garden will be able to put their business/club sign up and have a sense of ownership and pride for their work in the garden. Your organization will be responsible for watering and weeding the plot during the growing season. At harvest time we would ask for your help to pick. You can make this a team effort, each employee/member can take a shift or week throughout the season or use this as a team building event.

Your company/club will not be responsible for buying the seeds or plants; we have students at the Oconto Falls High School starting them for us. The garden has the needed tools, watering cans, water, and compost areas on site. All your team is responsible for is helping the garden grow, keep the weeds down, and be part of the community working together helping others in the process.

Thank you for being part of our community, and we encourage you to come tour the garden and see all the wonderful things we are doing to build a better place for generations to come. Check out our Facebook page to view action photos and progress this growing season.

Please contact the Oconto Falls Community Garden Work Group at 920-846-2662 or OcontoFallsCommunityGarden@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer! Let's grow together in 2025!



Join our Team This Summer!!

😊 Join Our Team This Summer! 😊

Looking for an exciting opportunity to make a real impact? We're hiring a Summer Intern to work with inspiring young people! 👥💡

If you're passionate about mentoring, engaging with youth, and helping them discover their full potential, we want YOU! 🙌

- ◆ Fun, hands-on experience
- ◆ Opportunity to inspire & lead
- ◆ Build skills for your future career

Ready to dive in and make a difference this summer? Apply [here!](#)

Save the Dates!

- April 26, 2025 9:00 am – Sheep/Goat weigh in, Oconto County Fairgrounds.
- April 26, 2025 9-10 am – Swine tag pick up.
- June 6, 2025 - Green Bay Blizzard Dairy Night to highlight local 4-H clubs and groups, more information on ticket sales and fundraising opportunities to come.
- June 8, 2025 Breakfast on the Farm – Hodkiewicz Harvesting & Trucking, 5634 McCarthy Rd, Lena, WI 54139
- June 23 – 27, 2025 – Camp MarOcoSha. 38 counselors have signed up and began training to make this year the best one yet! Adult staff applications should be out soon, as well as registration.
- August 16, 2025 – Horse, dog, cat, and small animal show, Oconto County Fairgrounds.
- August 21-24, 2025 – Oconto County Youth Fair, Oconto County Fairgrounds.

Summer Academy

SAVE THE DATE. June 16-19, 2025

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/summer-academy/>

This new Positive Youth Development program will help you discover 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. Summer Academy will be held at the UW-Madison Campus, where youth and adult chaperones will stay at Chadbourne Residence hall. Youth will be participating in a wide variety of track-based activities and seminars. They will be able to visit different locations on Campus and in Madison. They will also have the opportunity to hear from speakers, watch a performance from the 4-H Drama Company, and participate in a variety of fun hands-on activities!

Youth currently in grades 8-11 will be able to register for Summer Academy when registration tentatively opens soon. The registration will be done in 4HOnline. You can find the registration by going to your youth's profile and clicking on the events tab in 4HOnline. The event will be called "Summer Academy".



James W. Crowley Dairy Leadership Award

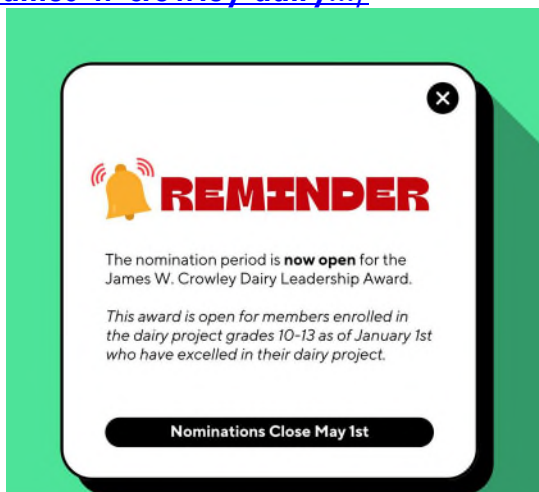
Attention all dairy project leaders; the 2025 James W. Crowley Leadership Award nominations are now open!

The award is named in honor and memory of James W. Crowley, longtime Extension Dairy Specialist and strong supporter of dairy youth projects. The James W. Crowley 4-H Dairy Leadership Award program provides recognition to youth who have excelled in their dairy project. The James W. Crowley Dairy Management and Extension Fund is the sponsor of this award.

Project leaders and educators are encouraged to nominate youth who have excelled in their dairy project and are in grades 10-13 as of January 1st, 2025.

For more information on the award and where to nominate, head over to the 4-H website:

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/.../james-w-crowley-dairy.../>



4-H Projects

All 4-H Projects need to be entered in 4-H online by **April 30** to be able to bring items to the fair. New this year, I worked with the state and got access for families to be able to enter your own projects in as needed. You can go under the profile and click on projects on the left-hand side, then click edit. If you are having issues, please contact aimee.elkins@wisc.edu.

Member List

- Profile
- Events
- Wisconsin 4-H**
- Enrollment
- About You
- Activities
- Animals
- Awards
- Clubs
- Consents
- Groups
- Health
- Invoice
- Projects**
- Questions
- Files
- Trainings

2024-2025

Projects Edit

Project Alias	Years In Project	State Project	Club Name	Volunteer Type	Consents
Art	5		Oconto River Rockstars		No Consents
Cats	5		Oconto River Rockstars		No Consents
Ceramics	5		Oconto River Rockstars		No Consents
Crocheting	5		Oconto River Rockstars		No Consents
Dairy Goat	3		Oconto River Rockstars		No Consents
Dogs	5		Oconto River Rockstars		No Consents

Blizzard Dairy Night – June 6th

Save the date for Dairy Night at the Blizzard game on June 6. More information on fundraising opportunities and links for ticket ordering to come.



Presented by: Milksource

Presented by: Robinson

June 6th // 7:05pm // DAIRY NIGHT

MOO-ve on over to the Resch Center and kick-off Dairy Month in style with Green Bay Blizzard Indoor Football as they look to put the Barnstormers on ICE!

Hard-Hitting, Affordable, Family-Fun

EXCLUSIVE 4H or FFA club specials:

- "Steer" clear of normal tickets price with a special **BOGO = Two Tickets for \$20!**
- Fundraise for your club – with each \$20 two pack purchased on your link – a \$5 donation will be made back to your club.
- Custom ticket link provided for your group.
- Cow and Calves – pre-game.
- Special pre-game experience for 4H and FFA Groups
- **Exclusive** opportunity for 4H and FFA Groups to compete at half-time **SPACE IS LIMITED so RSVP - ASAP!**
- Special Jersey, Special Game Ball And more. . . It will be "udder" chaos!

#GoBlizz

**Get off your "Dairy"- ere
and get your group signed up!
FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER:
Email: cass@greenbayblizzard.com**

Wisconsin 4-H is Looking for Adult Volunteers

Adult advisors are needed for programs like Space Camp, Summer Academy, Citizenship Washington Focus, National 4-H Congress, and more. Adult advisors will serve as support for all youth participants and work as a team to ensure that the experience runs smoothly. Learn more about the positions available and find the application [here](#).

2025 Area Animal Science Days

WI 4-H AREA ANIMAL SCIENCE DAYS
Save the Dates

**PIERCE COUNTY
JUNE 13TH**

**CALUMET COUNTY
JUNE 30TH**

 WATCH INBOXES AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR FUTURE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Good Luck to our Horse Bowl Team

Good luck to our horse bowl team. They will be competing at the STEM Center on May 3. Please go and show your support if you are able!



Shooting Sports Update

We have a lot of youth interested in shooting sports, but unfortunately, we don't have an adult volunteer that is certified to run the project. If you are interested in becoming certified, the 4-H Leaders Association would pay for your certification. The next training is Saturday, May 10 in Phillips. If you have any questions, please contact Aimee aimee.elkins@wisc.edu. For registration and more information please visit <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/shooting-sports/leader-certification-training-workshops/>.

Wildlife & Woods

Wisconsin 4-H is excited to offer two Wildlife & Woods virtual series again in 2025 - Explorations and Careers & Competitions!

Wildlife & Woods Explorations are suggested for grades K-5 through elementary school youth and their families. The sessions will be interactive and will include wildlife, forestry, wildlife art and more.

Wildlife & Woods Careers & Competitions Series are suggested for middle school through high school youth and their families. The sessions will be interactive and will include guest speakers talking about careers, information about wildlife and forestry competitions and resources available to learn more.

Registration for these events is now open in 4HOnline!

Wildlife & Woods

EXPLORATIONS VIRTUAL SERIES

FREE SERIES: FOR YOUTH GRADES K-5
7:00PM-7:45PM

JAN. 29, 2025
FEB. 26, 2025
MAR. 26, 2025
APRIL 23, 2025

Register via 4HOnline
wi.4honline.com

Wildlife & Woods

CAREERS & COMPETITION VIRTUAL SERIES

FREE SERIES: FOR YOUTH GRADES 6-12
7:00PM-7:45PM

JAN. 27, 2025
FEB. 24, 2025
MAR. 24, 2025
APRIL 28, 2025

Register via 4HOnline
wi.4honline.com

To learn more about virtual learning opportunities, please visit 4h.extension.wisc.edu/vlc

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.

2025 Animal Sciences Virtual Education

Bernie O'Rourke, Extension Youth Livestock Specialist, is hosting webinars from February through April from 6:30-7:30 p.m. They are available for all youth grades 3-13. The sessions will be recorded and available on the Wisconsin Youth Livestock Program's YouTube channel. This is offered in connection with the University of Wisconsin Madison Animal & Dairy Sciences Department, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and Division of Extension. Register for all events!

The February 2025 animal sciences virtual education series video on "Cooking with Beef" is now available. Click on the link to review the video making Taco Beef Nuggets.

https://youtu.be/v_QfPRb7V1Q

Don't forget to sign up for the March (Biosecurity) and April (Charcuterie boards) sessions at

<https://go.wisc.edu/tmq61h>

Herb Kohl Learning Journey Trip to Washington D.C.

Marinette, Oconto, and Waupaca Counties Herb Kohl Learning Journey Trip To Washington D.C. anticipated travel dates the week of July 21,2025~

Thank you to the generosity of an Herb Kohl Philanthropies educational experience grant, we are able to provide the opportunity for 40 Marinette, Oconto, and Waupaca County 4-H youth ages 13-17 (at time of travel) to Washington D.C. during the week of July 21st (exact dates/time of travel will be shared shortly.)

More about the experience...

The Washington D.C. Learning Journey is a grant funded opportunity through the Herb Kohl Philanthropies (HKP). Due to the nature of the grant, the opportunity for this learning journey is primarily for youth who have not experienced travel to Washington D.C. Youth who have attended Washington D.C. on other experiences (school, 4-H etc.) are welcome to still apply, but please know priority will be given to those who have not been to Washington D.C. before.

We will travel to Washington D.C. the week of July 21st (details are still being worked on). The group will meet in Green Bay, be bused to the Milwaukee Regional Airport where we will fly to Washington D.C. as a group. Exact dates and times are currently being worked out with our travel agent, however with our timeline we need to start applications now. We will keep everyone updated as we are able.

Other requirements of the grant are to attend the U.S. Capitol Building and go on a college tour. There is a strong chance the group will be touring the University of Maryland. We will also be going on a general tour of Washington D.C. including monuments, Smithsonian Museums and more. There will be a good balance of STEM, Citizenship and History learning opportunities. The final itinerary has not been set yet.

Youth will be roomed by gender in hotel rooms and the tour company provides overnight security. There will be four youth in a room as this is what the grant provides. The grant provides meals (\$10/meal) and are coordinated at fast food restaurants.

There will be a minimal cost to families to assist in covering group t-shirts, snacks, bottled water, the coach bus to the airport etc. The remainder of the cost (travel, hotel, food etc.) will be covered by HKP.

If you are a youth interested in attending, please complete the interest form/application here:

<https://tinyurl.com/MarOcoWau-DC-Trip-2025>

We are looking for 1 additional female and 1 additional male to support this trip as well, if you are interested in attending as a chaperone please complete this application: <https://tinyurl.com/MarOcoWau-DC-Chap-app>

Please contact Aimee if you have any questions- aimee.elkins@wisc.edu. We are so excited to be able to offer this amazing experience to our local 4-H youth!



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@ocontocountywi.gov

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



Oconto County 4-H



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

Staff

Aimee Elkins: 4-H Positive Youth Development Educator; aimee.elkins@wisc.edu

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

President – Brooke Schaal (Little Seedlings)

Vice President – Riley Windus (Lena Rocketeers)

Secretary – Miranda Seitz (Morgan Badgers)

Treasurer - Ann Sievert (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.



You're invited to our

KIDS COLORING CONTEST

Create a Easter egg by coloring
your own unique patterns on our
blank egg page.

**ENTRIES ACCEPTED
APRIL 1ST - 18TH**

For ages 3-17 years
Winner receives a \$10 gift card to
Shake-a-Burger

Easter Egg: Patterns

Create a Easter egg by coloring your own unique patterns on it.

