

Important Dates:

- February 27 – 4-H Awards Committee Meeting, County Government Center, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Walworth County Meat Animal Sale Committee Meeting, County Govt. Center, 7 p.m.
- February 28—Horse and Pony Mandatory Orientation #1, Elkhorn High School, 6:30 p.m.
- March 2—Horse and Pony Mandatory Orientation #2, Darien Senior Center, 8:30 a.m.
- March 3—Music Fest, Elkhorn Area High School Auditorium, 1-4:30 p.m.
- March 5 – 1st Camp Counselor Training of the year, County Government Center, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- March 7 – VIP Training, County Government Center, 6-8 p.m.
- March 12 – Mandatory Leader Training #2, County Government Center, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- March 21 – YQCA Face-to-Face Training, County Government Center, 6-8 p.m.
Swine Tag & DNA Envelope Sales, County Government Center, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- April 10 –VIP Training, County Government Center, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
4-H Executive Board Meeting, County Government Center, 7 p.m.
- April 16 – Camp Counselor Training #2, County Government Center, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- May 2 – Camp Counselor Training #3, County Government Center, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- May 5—Drama Fest, Elkhorn Area High School Auditorium, 1-4:30 p.m.



4-H Project Experience Survey

With the Family Perspectives Survey closing down today (February 25), the 4-H Expansion & Review Committee will soon be releasing a second data-gathering survey focused on family's project experience needs and expectations. Feedback collected will help shape local expectations and determine the agenda for a fall, 2019 Project Leader Training. A number of things are on the table at the Expansion & Review Committee meetings to help strengthen the project experience in the months ahead.

Mandatory Leader Trainings '19

This year's second and final mandatory leader training is coming up on **March 12 (Tuesday)** in the County Government Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Please keep in mind that every chartered club/group is required to send a representative to this training (if they didn't attend the one in February) in order to meet chartering requirements for 2020. Pre-registration through 4HOnline is required. Please **DO STILL REGISTER** for the March 12 date even if you didn't do so by the February 15 deadline.

4-H Expansion & Review Committee

We are still looking for enthusiastic youth leaders and adult volunteers who would be interested in joining the ranks of our county 4-H Expansion & Review Committee this program year! The group will meet a handful of times during this program year (most likely before Association meetings), and will be very goal-driven. The two initiatives that most of the group's time will be spent on include 1) strengthening the project experience in our community club program and 2) creating non-traditional 4-H opportunities to reach new audiences. Contact Debbie Burkman at the UW-Extension office if you are interested in joining the team.

YQCA Trainings

4-Hers who are in the Beef, Sheep, and Swine Projects must be YQCA-certified in order to show at this year's fair. To achieve certification, youth must visit <https://yqca.learnrow.io/Account/Login> to create or log into their account and either sign-up for a face-to-face training or complete the on-line training for their grade level (as of January 1). This must be done annually. Cost is \$3 for the face-to-face training or \$12 for the on-line training, both of which must be paid on-line. The on-line training is estimated to require about 60 minutes. For youth, ages 12, 15, and 19 only, there is also an option to test instead of completing the training. Anyone not passing the test with 80% or better will automatically be redirected to the trainings. The cost to test is the same as the cost to take the on-line training.

Walworth County is offering one more **face-to-face training this year for youth, ages 8-18: March 21 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** in the County Government Center. Youth must pre-register and pay to participate through their YQCA account by March 19 for the second. The program will include both a slide show and hands-on activities. Full details regarding our county YQCA requirements are available at: <https://walworth.extension.wisc.edu/4-youth-development/projects/>.

4-H Award Committee News

The 4-H Awards Committee is meeting on February 27th to determine county Awards Policy changes for this year following the state's directive that record books can no longer be utilized as a membership requirement. Following that meeting, leaders will be contacted with policy changes and will receive a copy of the record form order sheet.

Any leaders, parents, or 4-H supporters who are interested in serving on the 4-H Awards Committee in the months ahead are welcome to attend. We could really use a handful of additional members. Please share this invitation with your local club families.

Upcoming VIP Trainings

In accordance with state policy, only those volunteers who have completed a background check, VIP training, mandatory reporter training, and online enrollment will be considered volunteers. If you are in need of completing VIP training please pick from one of the following dates to attend.

- March 7, 6-8 p.m. at the County Government Center in Elkhorn
- April 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the County Government Center in Elkhorn

To reserve your spot at the training please contact Sue Clark at (262)741-4954 or sclark@co.walworth.wi.us.

If your calendar does not allow you to attend one of the three dates listed above, please contact Janel Heidelmeier at (262)741-4951 or janel.heidelmeier@ces.uwex.edu.

Open Key Leader Positions

A number of county Key Leader positions remain open, including the position for Photography (which is one of our top 5 projects). Please invite adults in your clubs and communities to consider stepping up to serve in one of these positions, or to get in touch with Janel if they are willing to serve in a Project Leader capacity hosting a workshop or two in an area in which they are interested. A Project Leader Training is being planned for spring to support them and any club level project leaders who have enrolled.

County Cloverbud Club Option

On Thursday, January 24 the new County Cloverbud Club met for the first time. Even with snowy and cold weather conditions, 16 youth attended out of the 23 that signed up. This new club is an option for families that only have Cloverbud aged children and would like to be a part of a club focused all around them. Other Cloverbuds are welcome to attend these meetings as an additional Cloverbud opportunity should they choose. If they choose to attend these meetings they will also have to meet the requirements of their "home" club. These meetings feature an educational 4-H piece along with an activity focused on a specific topic. While the kids are having fun Janel Heidelmeier meets with the parents that choose to stay to answer questions and help them better understand the 4-H world. At their first meeting, they learned about and started a 4-H Cloverbud Record book and said the 4-H pledge then learned about birds that migrate in the winter followed by making a pinecone bird feeder.

The County Cloverbud Club meets the fourth Thursday of every month at 6 pm at the County Government Center. This month they will be continue to learn the 4-H pledge, make an edible color wheel, and play a game.

Popcorn Machine and Kiln

The popcorn machine has been claimed by Chelby and Damian Daniels. They will use it for the various projects they are the leaders of. If you were someone that had contacted me about claiming the popcorn machine please reach out to either Chelby or Damian to see if you can barrow it for your event.

The Extension office has a lovely kiln which was donated to Walworth County 4-H in hopes that it would be used for ceramics workshops. At this time two individuals have stepped forward to help with ceramics classes. If you are interested in helping please reach to Janel Heidelmeier at (262)741-4960 or janel.heidelmeier@ces.uwex.edu.

Music and Drama Fest

Music and Drama fest have been scheduled. Music fest will take place on Sunday, March 3 from 1-4:30 pm at the Elkhorn Area High School Auditorium. Drama Fest is scheduled for Sunday May 5 from 1-4:30 pm at the Elkhorn Area High School Auditorium. Please watch for more info to come and please encourage your club members to participate. If there are any questions please contact Janel Heidelmeier at (262)741-4960 or janel.heidelmeier@ces.uwex.edu.

University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating. UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming including Title VI, Title IX and American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

New State Fair Coordinator Needed

The Extension office is seeking a non-animal entries coordinator. Please see a job description below for more information. If you are interested in becoming the non-animal entries State Fair Coordinator please contact Janel Heidelmeier at (262)741-4951 or janel.heidelmeier@ces.ues.edu. If you would like more information beyond the job description please talk with Letha Kuecker.

Wisconsin State Fair Non-Animal Entry Coordinator Job Description

- Verify the county quota (anticipated number of entries) with WI State Fair in late spring. Information is generally sent to Extension Staff.
- Review entry information and changes when available. May be via a tele-conference call or shared electronically with Extension staff.
- Place an informational article in the county newsletter, inviting youth to make entries. Entries receiving a champion, reserve champion or merit award at the previous county fair may enter their projects (with some exceptions).
- Set up a time and location (mid to late June) for exhibits to be brought to the coordinator.
- Complete and submit state fair provided Excel spreadsheet of entries by the end of June. (Check with Extension for this form and due date.)
- Be sure member name is on each piece of their exhibit.
- Take entries to state fair prior to opening day of the fair. Check paperwork to determine date and time (usually Monday or Tuesday). Check in all entries with state fair registration staff. Retain packing materials to use when doing pick-up.
- Pick up all entries on the Monday immediately after the fair concludes (between 8am and noon). Ribbons and special awards will be given to the person picking up the entries.
- Attach ribbons to exhibits upon return to the county. Arrange a time for youth /families to pick up exhibits. Can be done during pre-fair judging which is later in the week.

Other Notes:

- A fee of \$2 per entry has been assessed in the past to help with expenses incurred by the coordinator.
- No entry form is provided by the state fair for these exhibits. May want to create your own form.
- If an entry is too large for the coordinator to transport, exhibitor may be asked to take in and pick it up. Permission needs to be requested from state fair if an exhibit is exceptionally large (example—the refurbished tractor exhibited by our county last year).