

impact

Invest in Wisconsin's 4-H Youth... Leaders of Tomorrow

4-H Conference Selects a Service Learning Theme



Youth arrive at the recent Wisconsin 4-H & Youth Conference.

By Virginia Hazlett and Ashley Viste

Nearly 500 youth and volunteers from across the state gathered at the UW-Madison campus in June for the 88th annual Wisconsin 4-H & Youth Conference. This unique four-day program offered seminars on topics from biotechnology and rocketry to sewing and windsurfing.

Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board was a key supporter of the conference,

by sponsoring one whole day of seminars and activities. Their sponsorship provided a day of learning for all of the participants. The **Wisconsin Association of Fairs** again sponsored the closing keynote speakers, giving the departing youth a self-affirming message.

New this year at the conference was the World Café, a series of conversations facilitated by the Wisconsin State 4-H Youth Leader Council. The conversations centered around service learning opportunities and needs, building to a consensus by all the participants at the conference of a statewide service learning focus for the year on the environment. To learn more about local service projects, check with your UW-Extension county 4-H agent.

Daryl Hanson of Rock County served as a chaperone at the conference for the first time. Daryl, a retired teacher, Treasurer of the Rock County 4-H Leader's Council, and a photography leader, expressed the hope that the youth who attended will talk and encourage others in their clubs to attend. Daryl said, "I know that when these kids look back on these events when they get a little older, they will understand what a worthwhile and positive influence it was in their life."

Glen Caldwell of Trempealeau County spent his 5th year as a chaperone at the Conference. He called the 2008 youth conference full of diverse excitement. Glen said "there were so many interesting things to do, that if you didn't have a good time, it was clearly your own fault. This state event gives kids the opportunity to see themselves as who they are rather than some label they may carry from the kids at home."



Wisconsin 4-H
Foundation, Inc

The Foundation's PURPOSE is:

To enhance Wisconsin 4-H by investing in Wisconsin's 4-H Youth... Leaders of Tomorrow.

The Foundation's MISSION is:

Generate resources to invest in successful 4-H Youth Development programs.

The Foundation's VISION is:

The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, Inc. will be a dynamic leader in expanding statewide support for 4-H Youth Development.



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FINANCIAL

Cultivating rural life.™

Badgerland Financial a Golden Supporter of Wisconsin 4-H

By Marissa Rubin

Badgerland Financial, formerly Badgerland Farm Credit Services, set history by becoming the first Gold Clover Level State 4-H Sponsor. Through their generous donation of \$7,500 to the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, they are providing 4-H participants with opportunities to become involved in a variety of youth development activities across the state. Before they became the Gold Clover State 4-H Sponsor, Badgerland Financial was an ongoing sponsor of the State 4-H Youth Leader Council. With this new sponsorship, Badgerland will impact the 4-H experiences of nearly 100,000 4-H youth across the state. Badgerland is truly "Investing in Wisconsin's 4-H Youth...Leaders of Tomorrow!"

Badgerland, a Baraboo-based company, focuses on providing financial services to farmers and homeowners in Southern Wisconsin. These services include agricultural and country living loans, cash management tools, tax preparation, crop insurance, farm accounting, and estate planning.

Badgerland is not only concerned with the satisfaction of their customers through their financial support, but they are also interested in improving the communities across Wisconsin that these customers call home. Badgerland takes part in a variety of efforts in community building, and now as a Gold Clover Level State 4-H Sponsor they are able to make an impact that is bigger than ever for Wisconsin 4-H youth.

The Wisconsin State 4-H Sponsor Program launched in the spring of 2007. It was developed by the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Board in order to provide 4-H supporters with an array of new choices about how to financially support all the young people who are involved in 4-H throughout Wisconsin. All of the State 4-H Sponsors are listed at the major Wisconsin 4-H events throughout the year.

Dominion Energy Foundation Supports 4-H Arts Camp

By Marissa Rubin

Middle school youth from across the state will attend the 2008 4-H Arts Camp to learn project skills in communication, drama, juggling, music, photography, and visual arts. Funding for this arts experience is provided by a generous \$4,000 grant from **Dominion Energy Kewaunee, Inc.** This is their second year of supporting Wisconsin 4-H arts programming. Dominion, based in Richmond, Virginia, acquired the Kewaunee Power Station in 2005. Dominion is one of the largest producers of energy in the United States, founded in the colonial era and now serving customers in 11 states.



Youth at 4-H Arts Camp.

See **DOMINION** on page 3



High School 4-H youth lead the opening Arts Camp session.

DOMINION continued

Door County 4-H volunteer Glen Viste is an employee of Dominion and also serves on the 4-H Foundation Board as the representative of the State 4-H Adult Leaders Council. His daughter Ashley, who submitted the funding request, is an elected member of the 4-H Foundation Board and former 4-H Arts Camp participant. She is currently in school at UW-Madison.

The Dominion Foundation supports a wide range of cultural and civic outreach programs with a mission that defines giving as their social responsibility. Annually the corporation gives \$20 million to non-profit organizations to improve the quality of life within the communities the corporation serves.

The purpose of the Wisconsin 4-H Arts Camp is to provide experiential learning in the arts, giving middle school aged youth the opportunity to learn about the arts and high school aged youth the opportunity to learn leadership skills as counselors and teachers.

The grant presented to the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation will be used to help keep camp fees low for participants in order to make the experience available to more youth from across the state. According to Dominion, sound corporate governance requires knowledge, experience and a respect for diversity, which are also qualities of the 4-H program. Through Arts Camp, youth not only learn how to compose better photos or to speak more clearly into a microphone, they are developing greater leadership and communication skills and a keener sense of creativity.

Father and Daughter Value 4-H

By Emmalee Anderson

The entire Viste family – Glen, Tina, Ashley, and Kayla has been active in Wisconsin 4-H for several years. But Glen and Ashley in particular have embraced the opportunities that 4-H offers to members and volunteers. This father-daughter team has been involved in many aspects of the 4-H program beginning when Ashley joined as a youth 4-H member. Now, they’ve begun to give back.



Ashley and Glen Viste.

Ashley was involved in many project areas as a 4-H member, but she excelled in the Photography project area. She also found leadership positions starting at a young

See **VISTE** on right sidebar

VISTE continued

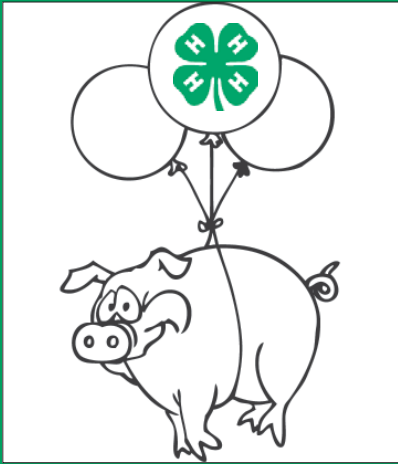
age, including community service projects, State 4-H Arts Camp Counselor, and State 4-H Youth Leader Council. Her father was always right alongside her supporting all of her endeavors. As time went on, Glen became just as involved in 4-H as his daughter, participating in things such as the State 4-H Adult Leadership Council, serving as a representative of Door County at the statewide 4-H Fall Forum, and currently is a member of the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Board.

Ashley is now an UW-Madison student who is more involved with 4-H than ever. 4-H is still opening doors for her, whether it be helping to re-start the collegiate 4-H group on the UW campus, or being an elected trustee on the 4-H Foundation Board. Both Ashley and Glen agree that because 4-H has provided so many great opportunities for them, they are eager to give something back.

That’s why Ashley, as a summer intern at her father’s workplace, Dominion, came up with an idea for Dominion to support 4-H. For two years running now, Ashley has written up a grant for Dominion to sponsor the Arts Camp. The Arts Camp is especially important to Ashley as she is a former counselor at the camp and loved sharing her photography knowledge with younger kids interested in the field.

Ashley and her father are both strong believers that it takes a community to raise a child. She explains that “It takes an entire group of committed people around you working together, so that you can grow up and become a good citizen and person.”

Glen agrees with his daughter, and is thankful for all that 4-H has given him as an adult leader and for the great things it has done for the relationship with his daughter. “I feel the need to repay what has been received. The relationships you build through your volunteer efforts are worth more than the time expended.”



Rupena's Help Make the 17th Annual Governor's Sweepstakes Meat Products Auction a "Pig Deal"!

By Debbie Schroeder and Andrea Neu



Wisconsin's BEST meat products were auctioned off at the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation's 17th Annual Governor's Sweepstakes Meat Products Auction on Tuesday, August 5, 2008. Many buyers seized the opportunity to "Invest in Tomorrow's Leaders Today" since all auction purchases support Wisconsin 4-H programs. The auction brought in over \$38,000 in bids, donations, and sponsorships, and the funds will be used to enhance their 4-H experiences for the nearly 100,000 youth involved in Wisconsin 4-H activities.

Annual Governor's Sweepstakes Meat Products Auction Facts

Amount raised in 17 years at the annual Governor's Sweepstakes Meat Products Auction

**more than \$500,000 in winning bids, sponsorships, and donations*

Number of 4-H youth impacted annually

**nearly 100,000 (2008)*

Number of years the Governor has attended the event

**15 of 17 years*

Number of winning meat products auctioned each year

**15 (that's 255 in 17 years!)*

Average number of guests (2005-08)

**165*

Average number of volunteers (2005-08)

**30*

Hottest day of event

**August 9, 2005 it was 95 degrees*

Coollest day of event

**August 9, 1994 it was 63 degrees*

Number of dinner caterers in 17 years

**1, RUPENA'S FINE FOODS*

Sponsors of the 2008 auction included the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, **Wisconsin Association of Meat Processors**, and the **Wisconsin State Fair**. Reception sponsors were **Rupena's Fine Foods** and **National Farm Medicine Center, Marshfield Clinic**. Rupena's was, once again, a buyer at the auction. They were part of the bidding consortium that purchased the Grand Champion Ham for the evening's high price of \$5,200



Grand Champion Ham being auctioned. From left to right are Auctioneer Gary Finley, State 4-H Youth Leader Council members Lauren Hanson and Ashley Berg, and Jake Sailer of Sailer's Food Market & Meat Processors Inc.



John Rupena, Jr. setting up at the recent fundraiser.

Rupena's Fine Foods has supported the Meat Products Auction for many years. Since the inception of the auction, Rupena's has been the caterer and very often a buyer of meat products at the auction. Their catered meal is a real stand-out for many of the bidders each year.

Rupena's is a three generation family-owned business located in West Allis, Wisconsin. Rupena's is a household name in the Milwaukee metro area. It has been a business for 76 years and is well known for its quality catering services, custom cut meat department, its deli, bakery and custom blended seasonings.

See RUPENA'S on page 5



Governor Doyle addresses the attendees at the annual fundraiser. This was Governor Doyle's sixth year.

RUPENA'S continued

John Rupena, Sr. says he admires and respects 4-H. "4-H kids get an education that most kids don't have. 4-H teaches them good values and leadership. They're just great people." John provided another example of why 4-H youth stand-out in his mind. "When it was in Milwaukee, we provided a meal at Rupena's Summit Cafe to 4-H youth attending the Arts Leadership Lab. These are first-class kids from around the state. We get so many thank-you notes from them."

John Rupena, Sr. says that Rupena's Fine Foods is a service business which also chooses to give a lot back to the community in which it resides. That philosophy goes hand-in-hand with 4-H. "We share the same values with 4-H regarding community outreach."

During the pre-auction dinner provided by Rupena's, John Rupena Jr. explained his family's commitment to 4-H and the meat products auction. He said, "We support this organization every year because it is a great organization. The 4-H Youth Program keeps these kids focused and that's important. We have a dedication here because 4-H is like a family, kids working and learning together. I learned from being with my father and grandfather in the restaurant since I was a little kid. Some of these young people don't always have that opportunity, but 4-H is like their family. These kids are our future!"

2008 Meat Products Auction

2008 Winning Processors

- Brandon Meats & Sausage, Inc.
- Country Fresh Meats
- Haen Meat Packing, Inc.
- Kickapoo Locker Service
- Louie's Finer Meats, Inc.
- Olson's Woodville Meats, Inc.
- RJ's Meats & Groceries
- Sailers Food Market & Meat Processors, Inc.

2008 Winning Buyers

- Todd Argall
- Badgerland Financial
- Cooperative Resources International
- Country Fresh Meats, Inc.
- Country View Veterinary Service
- Crane Farms
- Daluge Travel
- Grebe's Bakery

- Rep. Scott Gunderson
- LeRoy C Haeuser & Co SC Rural Insurance
- Hartmann Sand & Gravel, Inc.
- Herdeman Corporation
- Image Maker
- Janesville Animal Medical Center
- Major Goolsby's, Inc.
- Pleasant View Dairy Farms
- Poulson Farms
- Rupena's Fine Foods
- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
- Saz's State House
- Schaefer Grading & Excavating
- Greg Schopen Farms
- Ultimate Confections
- V. Hazlett Consulting
- Jamie Wall
- Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation

To give to the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation you can...

***Make a donation**

- \$_____ General 4-H
- \$_____ Photography Fund
- \$_____ Peter Talen Arts Fund
- \$_____ Dairy Fund
- \$_____ Teaching Tools
- \$_____ Upham Woods
- \$_____ Volunteer Development

***Be a State 4-H Sponsor**

- \$1,000 Green Clover _____
- \$2,500 Bronze Clover _____
- \$5,000 Silver Clover _____
- \$7,500 Gold Clover _____

***Make a Bequest _____**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Thank you

Make your donation to the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, 428 Lowell Hall, 610 Langdon St, Madison, WI 53703.

Shane Hansen – 4-H Leadership Scholarship Recipient

By Ashley Viste

From Marathon County 4-H to Nicaragua, Shane Hansen has proven himself worthy of one of the annual Wisconsin 4-H Leadership Scholarships. Shane is an alumnus of the Everest Eagles 4-H club of Marathon County and currently a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His experience in leadership roles at the club and county levels as well as his participation in the Hands Across Borders, a 4-H service-learning experience in Nicaragua, set Shane apart from other exceptional 4-H scholarship applicants.

Shane is committed to giving back to his community and helping other people, a value he gained from the 4-H program and that has influenced his decision to pursue a career in nursing. He explained his commitment by saying “4-H is a great opportunity to build yourself and develop your skills and leadership, but even that should eventually come back to help you better serve and benefit your community.” Although Shane has served in many formal leadership roles both in the 4-H program and in his school and community, he emphasizes the time working with kids and volunteering as the experiences that made him into a leader. In Nicaragua, Shane worked with kids in the small town of Los Cedros, teaching basic English, games and crafts, learning about cultural differences, and doing other community service activities.

See **HANSON** on right sidebar



Youth Participate in Area Animal Science Days

By Andrea M. Bloom

Over 1,100 4-H members increased their knowledge of breeding and market animals and developed their decision-making skills as they participated in 4-H Area Animal Science Days held in June around the state. Bernie O'Rourke, Extension Youth Livestock Specialist at UW-Madison, said youth network with each other and build friendships as they learn more about animal agriculture at these regional events. When judging, students are expected to place animals based on the traits that make a good market or breeding animal and then give reasons for their decisions.



Youth apply their livestock judging skills at one of the 2008 Area Animal Science Days.

Wisconsin is divided into four quadrants and a county in each area is selected as the contest host for the year. Each year, the format of the contests is the same. Because they are state qualifying events, each area offers livestock, dairy and horse judging. In addition, counties may choose to add other educational workshops and contests, such as poultry, dairy goats, or llamas, depending on the area's agricultural project interests. Annually, a special topic is chosen as an educational feature. In the past topics such as sportsmanship, ethics, and animal welfare have been highlighted. This year's topic was the fastest growing aspect of animal agriculture – the goat industry. UW-Extension Specialist Dave Thomas gave an interactive presentation at each site to all the Area Animal Science Days participants which included facts about goats.

Devan Brugger, 17, of Green County has participated in livestock judging at Area Animal Science Day for the past eight years. To prepare for the event, she traveled to local farms with other youth in her county to practice judging beef, sheep and swine. 4-H leaders guided the students in evaluation and selection and offered feedback for the students' reasons. Brugger, who was the top scoring individual in reasons at this year's southeastern area contest, said participating in the event has increased her showmanship and public speaking skills.

According to O'Rourke, Area Animal Science Days are beneficial for youth because they give students a chance to build their knowledge in a competitive environment. Not only do they learn how to judge animals, but they also gain general understanding of the species and the agriculture industry. “It's just a great opportunity for youth across the state to participate in livestock education events,” O'Rourke said.



To learn more about Area Animal Science Days, log onto www.uwex.edu/CES/4h/events.animalscience.cfm, or contact your county 4-H and Youth Development Agent.



4-H Foundation Special Events Have a Special Purpose

By Yeoh Tze Ruey

For the first time ever, the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation hosted a golf tour, holding fundraising events in southern and northern Wisconsin in June.

The 4-H Southern Golf Classic at **Kettle Moraine Golf Club**, Dousman, marked its sixth annual success this year, despite heavy rain the weekend before. Although the event was threatened by the flood conditions, it did not dampen the excitement and spirits of the participants. The 4-H Southern Golf Classic net nearly \$12,000 for the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, which funds state and local 4-H programs. The **Wisconsin Farm Report**, **Kenosha Beef International**, **Ewald Automotive Group**, and **Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation** were the major sponsors for the southern golf event.

The new 4-H Northern Golf Classic was held in River Falls a few weeks later on a beautiful day and net over \$10,000. **Kilkarney Hills Golf Club** hosted the event, and provided both lunch and dinner to the golfers and many volunteers. The **Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation** was the Event Sponsor for the northern fundraiser, and **Moody's Chevrolet-Buick-Pontiac**, **Pierce County 4-H Adult Advisors**, **Rural Mutual Insurance - Tom, Nick, Steve, and Mike Jenkins**, and **Wisconsin Farm Report** were also sponsors.



State 4-H Photography Specialist Wayne Brabender locates an unmapped water hazard at the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation's 6th Annual Southern Golf Classic.



Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Board President, LeRoy Haeuser, tees off at the 1st Annual Northern Golf Classic.

The 4-H Southern Golf Classic Chair, Sally Schoenike said "This year the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation held two golf outings to raise funds for 4-H programs statewide. Thanks to the event and hole sponsors, donors, golfers, and volunteers for making these two events so successful. I am always amazed at the distance participants travel to be a part of this fundraising effort to support 4-H. The commitment for the Southern event this year was greater than ever given the wet conditions. On behalf of the planning committees for these events, thanks for your support and dedication to the 4-H Program."

*The 7th Annual Southern Golf Classic will be held at Kettle Moraine Golf Club in Dousman on **Monday, June 1, 2009** and the 2nd Annual Northern Golf Classic will be held at Kilkarney Hills Golf Club in River Falls on **Monday, June 15, 2009**.*

HANSON continued

"After being in Nicaragua, however, I can no longer call it poverty. Although the people there had few possessions and very little money, their lives were rich and full of happiness that comes from a loving family and a community of friends. I have met very few people here in the U.S. who were as giving or selfless as the Nicaraguan children and their families were to us. They taught me that being happy isn't about what you have, it's about the feeling you get from doing what you can for those in the world around you."

To the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation and all of its partners, Shane says, "Thank you for showing interest in my 4-H career. It has given me some of the best experiences of my life, and I owe much of my success to the lessons learned through 4-H."



Shane Hanson, Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Leadership Scholarship recipient.

Culver's Frozen Custard was the sponsor of Shane's 2008 4-H Leadership Scholarship.



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Tom and Karen Binder

Back in the 1960's, Karen Binder was a young 4-H Agent, first in Milwaukee County and then Manitowoc County. She was only the second woman to be listed as a full-time 4-H agent in the state. Now retired, Karen and her husband Tom attended their first Wisconsin Retired 4-H Agents annual meeting last fall. Shortly after, they made two generous gifts to 4-H, one for the general fund and one for Upham Woods 4-H Outdoor Learning Center.

When asked about the impact that 4-H had on her and on youth, Karen replied that "she liked working with other professionals. There were great UW-Extension women mentors at that time, and great, encouraging state leaders in 4-H, who allowed us to be creative and collaborative in our work." But what Karen values most about 4-H is that "there is something special about adults who are volunteering to work with kids – who are there because they want to be, not because they're being paid or necessarily have children in the program."