



Youth Development Update

Paula Huff, Agent

Join the 4-H Community!

It's a new 4-H year, and we are extending an invitation to YOU to join the 4-H community. It is easy to be part of 4-H. Just call or email the UW-Extension, 4-H Youth Development Office. We can help you find a club in your area or help you start a new one.

Anyone who is in third grade to one year past high school graduation can be in 4-H. Younger children can join 4-H as Cloverbuds. Cloverbuds are in five-year-old kindergarten, first, or second grade.

4-H clubs have regular meetings and officers, but that is just the start. 4-H members get involved in their communities as volunteers and youth leaders. They learn new things by completing dozens of different kinds of projects. They go on trips, have parties, host international students, participate in local government, experiment with science, make art, go to camp, learn to canoe, or take care of an animal.

The list seems almost endless. With so many choices, 4-H is what you want it to be. 4-H gives you a chance to try a lot of things that might help you decide on a career or a life-long hobby.

For example, you can explore:

Arts: Express yourself by drawing, painting, sculpting, shooting photos, making videos, acting, singing or writing.

Animals: If you love animals, 4-H has projects for you, whether it's dogs and cats or cows and horses.

Citizenship: Plan and carry out a community service project with your 4-H friends.

Clothing: Fashion is fun. Create your own style, while you stick to your budget.

Computers: You can learn to use new software or design your own website.

Environment: 4-H can take you outside to learn about wetlands and wildlife or to plant a garden.

How to join 4-H

4-H Programs are open to youth between 5 year old kindergarten and one year following high school graduation. If you're in grades Kindergarten through second grade, you may participate in 4-H as a Cloverbud. Cloverbuds can participate in most 4-H projects and activities, including the county fair. The 4-H year begins in October, but enrollments are accepted throughout the year.

First you need to select a 4-H club that you'd like to join. To select a club, contact the Oconto County 4-H Office at 920-834-6852 to receive a list of 4-H Clubs in our county.

And there are lots more to choose from.

4-H offers lots of encouragement and support for kids who want to organize and carry out volunteer projects. They clean up river banks, adopt a stretch of highway to keep litter-free, work with older adults, mentor younger students or get involved in other kinds of volunteer and service learning. In some communities, older 4-H youth serve as youth representatives in city or county governments or as panelists on teen courts.

4-H is everywhere. 4-H started out 100 years ago as an organization for kids who lived in the country, but that was a long time ago. Now 4-H is in big cities, in small towns and suburbs and in rural areas. 4-H clubs meet in community centers, town halls, Extension offices, and afterschool program sites.

For more information about 4-H programs, call 920-834-6852 or email paula.huff@ces.uwex.edu

Kids Science Challenge

The Kids' Science Challenge is a nationwide competition for 3rd to 6th graders. Kids are encouraged to learn about four fun scientific fields and then submit a question, problem, or experiment to be solved, working together with a scientist or engineer.

The scientific fields are: flavor science, water quality, skateboard engineering, and the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI). Winners will receive a trip to visit the scientists to work collaboratively on their question, problem or experiment, and will be featured on Pulse of the Planet radio programs and podcasts. (www.pulseplanet.com)

The Kids' Science Challenge is providing a variety of educational resources to encourage kids to learn about the scientific fields, to help them in preparing an entry for the competition. The web site, at <http://www.kidsciencechallenge.com/>, includes scientific backgrounds, downloadable science projects, lesson plans for classroom or after-school use, fun videos and educational games. At imbee.com kids can sign up to join a group to discuss their ideas online, and at Whyville.net they can participate in live chats with the scientists and engineers. Links are provided on the Kids' Science Challenge web site.

The first 1000 kids to enter the competition will receive free science activity kits (a portion of these have been set aside for 4-H applicants). These hands-on kits include a fingerboard skateboard, water test strips, flavor tasting strips, and a CD with a secret coded message from "aliens." Complete instructions are included.

As a special incentive to 4-H group leaders, the mentors for the next ten team entries to the competition will receive a free Hach water testing kit for additional science learning activities, and each kid on the teams will receive an individual bonus prize!

If you would like to receive brochures or postcards to distribute, just contact them and let them know how many you need. Electronic versions of the brochures, as well as a complete prize list, are also available at <http://www.kidsciencechallenge.com/html/press.php>

For help in setting up a Kids' Science Challenge team, or for additional information, contact info@kidsciencechallenge.com



Agriculture Update

Abby Huibregtse, Dairy & Livestock Agent



Upcoming UW-Extension Agriculture Events

For more information about these events, please contact us at 920/834-6852. Watch your local newspapers or check the website for additional meeting opportunities throughout the winter months!

- January 7- 1 p.m.: **Weed Management Webinar**
(Oconto County Courthouse, Oconto)
- January 16- 10 a.m.: **Gaining the Competitive Edge (aka The Dairy Road Show)**
(Holiday Inn Restaurant, Kelly Lake)
- January 16- 1 p.m.: **Corn Pest Management Webinar**
(Oconto County Courthouse, Oconto)
- January 20- 9:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.: **Pesticide Applicator Training**
(Pound Town Hall, Coleman)
- January 21- 6 p.m.: **Dairy Steer Feeder Meeting**
(Ramada Plaza, Green Bay)
- February 18- 9:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.: **Pesticide Applicator Training**
(Oconto Falls Library, Oconto Falls)
- February 25- 10 a.m.: **Raising Quality Dairy Heifers**
(Rock Garden, Green Bay)
- March 12- 9:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.: **Pesticide Applicator Training**
(Dunbar Town Hall/Library, Dunbar)
- March 21- TBA: **2009 Equine Experience** (TBA)

Keeping Animals Warm in Cold Weather

Winter is upon us with below average temperatures and above normal precipitation. It could be a long winter. It's important to remember to keep yourself and your animals protected from the cold.

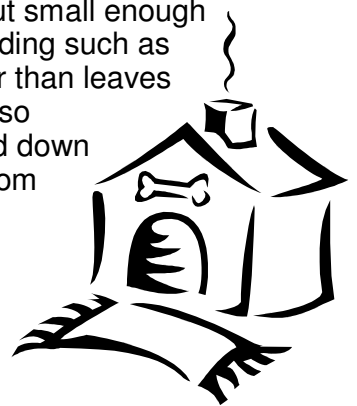
Older animals, very young animals, and sick animals are first to feel the effects of the cold. Extreme cold can cause hypothermia, frostbite, and other cold weather injuries, and can weaken an animal's immune system. A 20-mph wind can equal a 30 degree drop in temperature. Protection in the form of a building or a windbreak is very important for livestock that are housed outside.

Animals will need more feed during extremely cold weather. Nutrient requirements increase about one percent for every degree the temperature falls below 20 degrees. For horses, nutritional needs increase when the temperatures fall below 45 degrees. And even though there is snow on the ground, that isn't an adequate source of water for animals. They still need access to fresh water daily.

Bedding is very important in this kind of weather. It insulates legs and udders, protecting them from frostbite and keeping them dry. Animals covered in wet or muddy hair or fleece lose the ability to warm themselves.

If animals must be transported during the cold weather, the openings in the trailer should be covered to minimize the wind chill. Calves and swine are especially vulnerable to the cold. A deep bed of dry straw should be used when transporting young calves or swine during the winter months.

Pet owners should follow these tips as well. Pets that live outdoors need more high quality food, fresh, warm water, and protective housing. A dog house should be dry and big enough for them to turn around in but small enough to retain body heat. Bedding such as hay or straw works better than leaves or fabric. Grooming is also important, as wet, matted down fur prevents an animal from keeping itself warm.



Wisconsin's Rank in the Nation's Agriculture, 2007

The end of the year brings us new census data. Data from 2007 was collected, compiled and released at the end of 2008. Wisconsin has historically been a dominant force in the nation's agriculture industries, and this year was no exception. The chart below lists many agricultural commodities, Wisconsin's rank in production, total state production, and how we compare to other states. Some of the products where we lead the nation may surprise you!

Data provided by the United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service

Commodity	Rank Among States	Unit	Wisconsin (000)	% of US Production US (000) Leading State
DAIRY				
Milk production	2	Lbs.	24,080,00	13.0, 185,602,000, California
Butter	2	Lbs.	0	24.3, 1,532,890, California
Cheese, total (excluding cottage cheese)	1	Lbs.	373,027	25.3, 9,700,499, Wisconsin
American Muenster	1	Lbs.	2,450,760	19.9, 3,877,827, Wisconsin
Mozzarella	1	Lbs.	771,853	38.9, 103,485, Wisconsin
Italian	2	Lbs.	40,250	25.8, 3,303,305, California
Dry whey, human food	2	Lbs.	853,080	28.2, 4,134,230, California
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY	1	Lbs.	1,166,903	29.0, 1,072,553, Wisconsin
Cattle and calves, all	9	Head	311,160	3.5, 97,003, Texas
Milk cows	2	Head	3,400	13.6, 9,158, California
Hogs and pigs, all	18	Head	1,247	0.7, 65,110, Iowa
Sheep	18	Head	430	1.5, 6,055, Texas
Milk Goats	18	Head	90	10.8, 305, Wisconsin
Chickens	1	Head	33	1.3, 454,902, Iowa
Broilers	21	Head	5,697	0.5, 8,898,200, Georgia
Trout, sold 12" or longer	18	Lbs.	47,100	0.6, 69,343, Idaho
Mink pelts	8	Pelts	441	32.3, 2,828, Wisconsin
Honey	1	Lbs.	914	3.4, 148,482, North Dakota
Eggs	8	Eggs	5,040	1.5, 90,581,000, Iowa
CROPS				
Corn for grain	18	Bu.	1,370,000	3.4, 13,073,893, Iowa
Corn for silage	10	Tons	442,800	11.2, 106,328, California
Oats	2	Bu.	11,920	11.7, 91,599, North Dakota
Soybeans	3	Bu.	10,720	2.0, 2,585,207, Iowa
Wheat, all	14	Bu.	51,870	0.9, 2,066,722, North Dakota
Barley	21	Bu.	18,910	0.6, 211,825, North Dakota
Forage (dry equivalent), all	16	Tons	1,311	8.4, 107,124, Texas
Hay (dry only), all	3	Tons	9,035	3.0, 150,304, Texas
Potatoes, all	13	Cwt.	4,515	6.3, 449,156, Idaho
Dry edible beans	3	Cwt.	28,160	0.4, 25,371, North Dakota
Cherries, tart	17	Lbs.	92	0.4, 248,700, Michigan
Apples	5	Lbs.	10,000	0.6, 9,113,900, Washington
Strawberries	9	Cwt.	59,000	0.2, 24,994, California
Maple syrup	8	Gals.	43	6.0, 1,258, Vermont
Cranberries	3	Bbl.	75	58.4, 6,554, Wisconsin
Mint for oil	1	Lbs.	3,830	3.1, 9,173, Washington
Onions	5	Cwt.	281	0.8, 79,413, California
Cabbage for fresh market	11	Cwt.	666	4.0, 25,824, California
Sweet corn for fresh market	8	Cwt.	1,025	2.0, 28,234, Florida
Carrots, processing	13	Tons	570	23.5, 345, Washington
Sweet corn for processing	2	Tons	81.2	20.0, 2,897, Washington
Green peas for processing	3	Tons	578.7	18.6, 436, Washington
Snap beans for processing	3	Tons	81	34.5, 768, Wisconsin
Cucumbers for pickles	1	Tons	265	9.7, 508, Michigan
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