



4-H Youth Development Update

Paula Huff, Agent

Wisconsin Youth Celebrate National 4-H Week October 4-10

Whether it's learning to build and shoot off a rocket, raising a prize animal to show at a county fair, honing skills as a photographer, or riding a horse, there's something to interest every youth in 4-H.

October 4-10 is National 4-H Week, and throughout Wisconsin, 4-H groups will celebrate with member recruitment and events to kick off a new 4-H year. The theme for 2009 is "Celebrate 4-H".

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. 4-H is about having fun, learning, exploring and discovering. In 4-H, young people make new friends, develop new skills, become leaders and help shape their communities. About 50,000 Wisconsin youth are enrolled members of 4-H clubs in Wisconsin. Another 195,000 Wisconsin youth get involved in 4-H through special educational opportunities at school, in after school programs, or at neighborhood or youth centers. These youth live in cities, suburbs, small towns and rural communities.

4-H gives them a chance to pursue their own interests - from photography to computers, from building rockets to raising sheep. 4-H members go places - to camp, to state and national conferences, even to other countries on 4-H exchange programs. They learn to be leaders and active citizens.

In 4-H clubs, they serve as officers and learn to conduct meetings, handle club funds, and facilitate group decision-making. In a growing number of communities, 4-H youth serve as youth representatives in municipal or county government or as members of Teen Courts. They give back to their communities. 4-H members get involved in volunteer projects to protect the environment, mentor younger children and help people who are less fortunate.

For information about 4-H activities in Oconto County, or to find out how to join, contact Paula Huff, 4-H Youth Development Agent, Oconto County UW-Extension Office at 920-834-6852, or by e-mail at paula.huff@ces.uwex.edu.

4-H Shooting Sports Pilots Air Rifle Project

The Oconto County 4-H Shooting Sports program recently completed a four - week introduction to air rifle. 4-H participants learned safety and shooting skills during four one- hour sessions.

The Air Rifle Pilot program was a community-supported event. The group was hosted by the **Oconto Falls Sportsmen's Club**, which allowed use of their range and clubhouse. Equipment for the course was purchased for the 4-H Shooting Sports program by the **Northern Skies Chapter of Wings Over Wisconsin** and air rifle targets were contributed by the **Oconto County Sportsman's Alliance**.

Shooting Sports leaders are certified by the State 4-H Shooting Sports Team. John

Huff, a 4-H Rifle Leader and Wisconsin Hunter Safety Instructor, worked with the young shooters to develop safe gun handling skills and to improve their shooting skills. Laura Huff, a 4-H Youth Leader in the Shooting Sports project, assisted with training and operations on the shooting line. The group covered shooting stances, breath control, sight picture, and sighting in the air rifles. The final session was a fun shoot at which the skill of the class was demonstrated with hits on bull's-eye, shattered clay discs, and spinning duck targets.

The Air Rifle Project is open to all 4-H youth, 3rd grade and above. The next Air Rifle Project session is being planned for spring 2010. For information on joining

the Air Rifle Project, or 4-H, call Paula or Karen at University of Wisconsin-Extension at 920-834-6852 or email paula.huff@ces.uwex.edu



Become a Part of the Action- Join 4-H

What is 4-H?

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. 4-H comes in many forms. The most recognizable are community clubs, where a group of youth meets on a monthly basis. Participation in a community club opens the door for many exciting opportunities. You can choose to do a few activities a year, or be as active as you want!

Who Can Join?

Any youth in 5 year-old kindergarten through one year following high school graduation can join 4-H. Adults play a vital role in successful clubs, so parents are welcome and highly encouraged to attend as well!

Opportunities in 4-H

Activities in 4-H include but are certainly not limited to:
Youth Leadership Roles
Trips across the State and Country
Summer & Winter Camps
Exhibiting Projects at the County Fair
Speaking and Demonstration Contests
College Scholarships

Oconto County 4-H

There are 23 4-H clubs in Oconto County, with over 300 active members. Contact the UW-Extension Office for a list of clubs and meeting times. Consider visiting a club meeting to see for yourself what 4-H is all about!

4-H Projects

4-H is the perfect place to learn about areas YOU are interested in. As a member, you enroll in projects, and throughout the year you attend workshops and practice your new skills. These projects include photography, woodworking, horses, rabbits, geocaching, shooting sports, and so much more! The Oconto County Fair is the showcase event for the projects 4-H members have created throughout the year.

For more information, a list of 4H clubs in the county, and how to join, contact Paula or Karen at the Oconto County UW-Extension Office, 920-834-6852 or paula.huff@ces.uwex.edu or karen.behnke@co.oconto.wi.us.





Agriculture Update

Abby Huibregtse, Dairy & Livestock Agent



Agriculture Generates \$59.16 Billion and 353,991 Jobs in Wisconsin

Wisconsin's farms and agricultural businesses generate \$59.16 billion in economic activity and provide jobs for 353,991 people, according to a recent study conducted by University of Wisconsin-Extension based on data for 2007.

The study shows that Wisconsin agriculture contributes in a significant way to the state's economic base despite the acute financial pressures caused by low prices for several products including milk and cheese as well as high input costs. The study's findings indicate agriculture's economic activity increased 14.9 percent, up from \$51.5 billion, from a similar study conducted in 2004 using data for 2000.

"This study clearly demonstrates agriculture's huge role in our state's economy and the importance of having a diverse agricultural portfolio. No other sector is so broadly based across the entire state," said Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Here's how agriculture's \$59.16 billion economic impact breaks down:

- The direct economic effect of agriculture is \$38.8 billion. This figure represents the sales of all farm products and value-added products.
- Sales of agricultural products create another \$13.6 billion in business-to-business purchases for items such as fuel, fertilizer, feed, farm equipment, veterinary services and crop consultants.

- This business-to-business activity then generates another \$6.7 billion in economic activity, because people who work in agriculture-related businesses spend their earnings.

"This study shows that Wisconsin is an incredibly diverse agricultural state that makes many contributions to our food supply and economy," said Bill Bruins, president of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation. "This diversity has helped agriculture and many of our rural communities to stabilize and even grow."

The research, conducted by Steve Deller UW-Madison professor of agricultural economics/UW-Extension community development specialist and David Williams, UW-Extension associate professor and assistant program leader for Agriculture and Natural Resources, uses a state-of-the-art economic model to measure how dollars earned from sales of agricultural products multiply in the state economy. The study also provides an historical look at several economic measures of Wisconsin agriculture and a first of its kind look at the relative strengths of clusters of various agriculture sectors.

About one out of every ten state citizens (10 percent) works in a job related to agriculture. These occupations include farmers, farm employees, veterinarians, crop and livestock consultants, feed and fuel suppliers, food processors, machinery manufacturers and dealers, barn builders and agricultural

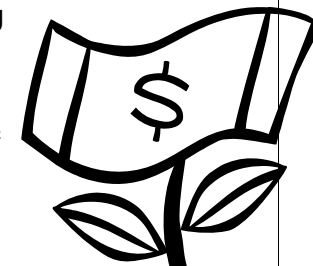
lenders. Every job in agriculture supports an additional 0.89 job elsewhere in Wisconsin's economy.

About 9 percent of Wisconsin's total income, or \$20.2 billion, comes from agriculture. This figure includes wages and salaries, benefits and profits of farmers and workers in agriculture-related businesses. Each new dollar of agricultural income generates another \$1.24 in state income.

The study confirms the tremendous strengths that Wisconsin has in many sectors including dairy production, dairy product manufacturing and animal production and suggests areas for future policy discussion to promote a stable and growing agricultural economy.

Possible plans for future analysis of this data include a more in-depth assessment of regional and county-by-county economic impacts to help policy makers and others as they plan for the future of Wisconsin agriculture.

The study was conducted by University of Wisconsin-Extension in cooperation with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.



Health Care for Farmers-Finding Options That Work

Many Wisconsin farm families have found it difficult to obtain affordable and accessible health insurance. Going without health insurance is a significant risk. There are more options available to farm families now than in the past, and Congress is working on federal health care reform legislation that could add still more options. Here are some of the health care options and resources currently available to Wisconsin farm families.

Badger Care Plus for Children and Families – is available to all Wisconsin children up to 19 years old—at all income levels—and to parents and caretakers of children with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level. The Badger Care Plus program has new guidelines which enable larger numbers of farm families and self-employed families to be eligible than under the Badger Care program that preceded it.

Badger Care Plus Core Plan – is a new program that provides access to basic health care services for long-term uninsured adults. Recipients must meet certain eligibility requirements: 1) their income must be at or below 200% of the federal guidelines for poverty; 2) they must be between the ages of 19 and 64 who do not have dependent children under the age of 19 living with them; and 3) they must not have private health insurance when they request coverage or in the 12 months before they request coverage.

Farmers' Health Cooperative of Wisconsin - is a cooperative health care service developed specifically for Wisconsin farmers and agribusinesses by the Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives. As a cooperative, it is designed and managed by and for the members to provide group purchasing power for people involved in the field of agriculture. It offers a choice of doctors, 24 hour/7 days-week coverage, first dollar preventive care, prescription drug coverage, dental care, a 24-hour nurse hotline, and coverage for work-related injuries.

Health Insurance Risk Sharing Program (HIRSP) - HIRSP offers health insurance to Wisconsin residents who

are unable to find adequate health care coverage in the private market due to their medical conditions or due to lost employee-sponsored group health insurance. Applicants to the HIRSP program must meet the following requirements: 1) resident of Wisconsin, 2) under age 65, 3) not eligible for employer-offered group health care insurance, and 4) not eligible for Wisconsin Medicaid services or Badger Care Plus.

Community Health Centers – Seventeen Community Health Centers (CHCs) exist in 33 medically underserved communities (including rural areas) across Wisconsin. This network of CHCs is federally-funded; each is a non-profit corporation that delivers primary medical, dental and mental health services in medically underserved areas. They operate on a sliding fee scale basis and most accept all kinds of insurance, including Medicare, Medicaid and Badger Care.

Free Health Care Clinics – Thirty-two free health care clinics exist in Wisconsin, with several serving rural areas of the state. Most are community-based clinics, and some are affiliated with religious organizations. Some clinics do not offer services to persons with health insurance; so they would only be a resource for uninsured farm families.

Parish Nurse Programs – More than 400 churches throughout Wisconsin have Parish Nurse Programs that provide a range of prevention and early intervention programs including blood pressure screening, bone density screening, information about nutrition and exercise, weight loss, smoking cessation, grief counseling/support and other programs, which vary by location

These programs won't work for everyone, but hopefully they will help more people find some form of health care. For more details or contact information about these programs, please call the UW-Extension Office.

