

**To All Columbia County 4-H Families and Others**

**From: Pat Wagner, 4-H Positive Youth Development Educator, Columbia County**



## **Wednesday's Word From Pat!**

Hat's off to all 4-H volunteers as we acknowledge you during this National 4-H Volunteer Appreciation Week! Your many hours of volunteering continue to "make the best better" in Columbia County and for Columbia County 4-H youth and their families.



Please thank your 4-H club's volunteer leaders the next time you see them or talk to them—a telephone call, a text message, a thank you card mailed via US postal service, a thank you message on Facebook or other social media, a treat dropped off at the door, and more. Let's all celebrate the many contributions our volunteers make to 4-H and the community of Columbia County!

Warmer weather is coming (again) and so are more spring flowers!  
And.....that is "Wednesday's Word From Pat!"

Sincerely,

Pat Wagner, Columbia County 4-H Positive Youth Development Educator

Click the topic below you are interested in and you will be directed to that topic's information.

1. [4-H Record Book Training Is April 25 – Registration Closes April 23<sup>rd</sup>!](#)
2. [2021 Columbia Co. Fair – July 18-25 –Will Go On In-Person](#)
3. [Columbia Co. Livestock Committee and Columbia Co. Fair Board to Plan Auction](#)
4. [4-H Member Graduation Form](#)
5. [4-H Dog Project Members and Their Families Received Registration Info](#)
6. [Dairy, Livestock & Meats Judging Contest Dates For June, 2021](#)
7. [Wisconsin State Fair Changing Fair Entry Process for Youth Expo in 2021](#)
8. [Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame Nominations Are Open Through May 20<sup>th</sup>](#)
9. [Columbia County Directory Cover Design Contest Rules](#)
10. [Get Involved in the Plarn Mats 2021 Service Learning Project](#)
11. [4-H Rules for Gathering / Meeting Are Changing Beginning April 1](#)
12. [Wisconsin Junior Poultry Association](#)
13. [Planning Continues for the 2021 Lodi Ag Fair – September 2-5](#)
14. [A Sampling of the Virtual Learning Community Sessions—Register Today](#)
15. [JOANN Stores Discount Save 15% with JOANN 4-H Rewards!](#)
16. [The NEW 2021 Columbia County Plat Book Is Here](#)
17. [Check Out The New Wisconsin 4-H Website](#)
18. [June 2021 Explore 4-H At Home Project Kits – Registration for June ENDS 5/15!](#)



### **4-H Record Book Training Is April 25 – Registration Closes April 23<sup>rd</sup>!**

An opportunity to learn more about completing a 4-H record book will be offered on Sunday, April 25 from 4 – 5 p.m. via Zoom. The Columbia County 4-H Ambassadors will lead the session. Please register in your 4-H online account at <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in> . Hope to see all interested 4-H members join this youth-led presentation!

## **2021 Columbia Co. Fair – July 18-25 –Will Go On In-Person**

The Columbia County Fair Board met earlier this week, reviewed the results of the fair survey, and voted to plan for an in-person fair. The theme will be “A Fair To Remember.” Youth and adults should plan for the opportunity to exhibit their animal and non-animal projects in much the same way as they have in the past. There will be some COVID guidance required. Details will be shared as soon as they are available and will be released here, in the 4-H Weekly Update, and on the Columbia County Fair—Portage, WI 53901 Facebook page. An update will also be shared at the 4-H Leaders Council meeting tomorrow night! The Columbia County Fair website is currently under construction. Questions can be directed to any fair board member as well.

NOTE: The 2020 fair premium list will be used for the 2021 Columbia County Fair. Paper copies are available at the Extension Office today.

## **Columbia Co. Livestock Committee and Columbia Co. Fair Board to Plan Auction**

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Youth Livestock Committee met and heard updates from Paul Becker of the Columbia County Fair Board. With the decision by the fair board to move forward with an in-person fair, the livestock committee was informed that livestock shows and a livestock auction will happen during the 2021 Columbia County Fair. No pre-fair ID will be required for swine, sheep, and goats. ID will be requested on the fair entry forms so all animals must have a form of identification.

The Livestock Committee will meet again, in-person, at the Columbia County Fairgrounds on May 25 at 7 p.m. to review details and finish preparing for the livestock shows and auction. All interested are encouraged to attend.



### **4-H Member Graduation Form**

Graduation for 4-H members is recognized each year. Please click the link below to complete the Google form, include a photo of yourself and submit or print off the Google form & mail to: Columbia County Extension, 112 E. Edgewater St., Rm.

212, Portage, WI 53901. If you have any questions, please call the Columbia County Extension office (608) 742-9680. <https://forms.gle/43ayYoBb1c2jhnVr9>

## **4-H Dog Project Members and Their Families Received Registration Info**

County dog project meetings will happen in Lodi this summer beginning April 26<sup>th</sup>. All youth enrolled in the 4-H dog project received details about this program via email from Maureen Heider. If you need more information, please contact her by return email or call the Extension Office at 608-742-9680.

## **Dairy, Livestock & Meats Judging Contest Dates For June, 2021**

The Wisconsin Youth Livestock Program is working with Jefferson and Marathon counties to organize the state level contests for Dairy, Livestock and Meats Judging. Jefferson County will host both a Livestock and a Dairy Judging contest on June 22. Marathon County will host both a Dairy and a Meats Judging Contest in June with the date TBA. More details to come!

## **Wisconsin State Fair Changing Fair Entry Process for Youth Expo in 2021**

Wisconsin State Fair will continue to display projects in the Youth Expo Building at State Fair Park, but differently. State Fair has opened up opportunities for all Wisconsin youth, 12 and older, to self-nominate their projects in the Youth EXPO building. Projects will no longer be selected at the county fair in July and then displayed at the State Fair the same year in August. To find out more about this self-nomination process, go to the Wisconsin State Fair website at

<https://wistatefair.com/competitions/youth-expo/>

Note: Top award-winning projects at the 2021 Columbia County Fair will continue to be awarded Merit award ribbons. Exhibitors of those 2021 merit award winning projects will then be encouraged to make a self-nomination to next year's Wisconsin State Fair. Exhibitors will also need to make their own entries on the State Fair website next year.



The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation has been hosting a month-long celebration of the arts! This event has featured 4-H performing artists, live auction excitement, and a salute to our talented and creative 4-H youth. The final part of the celebration is April 24 from 6-7:30pm. Find connection information to "An Evening of Art" Auction & Performance on the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Facebook page.

### **Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame Nominations Are Open Through May 20<sup>th</sup>**

Columbia County 4-H is a strong program and that is due to the many youth and adults who work together to "Make The Best Better!" We need your help in nominating prospective honorees for induction into the 2021 Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame. Give some thought to who you would like to honor and talk to others to get the ball rolling in your county! You will find the nomination form attached. Review the criteria and enlist any help you may need in writing up a nomination or talk to your agent and set out on your own. The deadline for receiving nominations is **May 20, 2021.**

If you have nominated someone in the past and they were not selected to be inducted, it is fine to submit them again, but you must refresh the nomination, carefully considering the criteria. Laureates will be notified in late June if they have been selected for induction next fall. Thank you for your help in finding those special 4-H people to receive this honor!

### **Columbia County Directory Cover Design Contest Rules**

Each year the Columbia County Clerk's Office has the task of updating the county directory. The directory is a valuable source of information for county employees, elected officials and county residents. This information is also requested from students throughout the state. Curriculum at the 4th grade level includes a study of the State of Wisconsin and its counties. We are targeting 4th grade students who are learning about Wisconsin to assist us with a design for the directory cover. The contest is open to 4<sup>th</sup> grade students who reside in Columbia County. If interested in making an entry into this contest, please contact the Extension Office at 608-742-9680 and a copy of the contest rules and submission form will be sent to you. Entry deadline is **April 30<sup>th</sup>**. *"This event is not organized by UW-Madison Extension and you can check with its organizers for details on safety protocols."*

## Get Involved in the Plarn Mats 2021 Service Learning Project

Did you know about one trillion single-use plastic bags are used every day in the U.S? That's according to EarthDay.org. And many in our community are experiencing homelessness. We've created a service project to reuse plastic bags and to help the community. It's the 2nd Annual Wisconsin 4-H Service Learning Project.



Youth can take part in the Plarn Mats project. Plarn is plastic yarn, made by looping plastic bags. The plarn is then crocheted together to create a mat. The mat can be used to lie on or to help with warmth.

Youth of all ages can participate in the project. If you work with a group of youth who are interested in doing a service-learning project, please visit the Plarn Mats Service Learning Project resource website at

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/4h-resources/plarn-mats/>

## 4-H Rules for Gathering / Meeting Are Changing Beginning April 1

**Program Guidance Update from the Wisconsin 4-H Program and Positive Youth Development Institute:**

- Events held April 1 - June 1 have new guidance
- Read and talk with your county 4-H Extension professional if you have any questions.
- Continue to submit Extension Program Guidance and Approval checklist with support of Extension staff
- **Read the updated FAQs** with changes effective April 1st. You can find the FAQs at <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-faqs-related-to-covid-19/>

### **What is changing April 1?**

1. Number of people who can be at events or programs is increasing
  - 30% of room capacity with a maximum of 50 people allowed indoors
  - 150 people allowed for outdoor programming
2. Pod Size increasing to 20
  - Groups of 20 or fewer can meet together.
    - For example, a club or committee with 20 or fewer people
  - If you have 21 or more people you will need to break into groups.
    - For example, 34 people at a workshop could meet in a group of 17 and 17 OR any combination that is less than 20 per group.
3. Maximum length of indoor events increasing to 4 hours

### **What continues after April 1?**

- Continued Use of Face Coverings
- No Eating Indoors
- Physical Distancing (6 ft between members outside household; 20 ft between pods)
- Hand sanitizing/disinfecting requirements
- When there is more restrictive local guidance we must follow that rather than our guidance.

## Extension Program Guidance & Approval Forms For Face-to-Face Gatherings

Whenever people are gathering in the name of 4-H, there needs to be an approved plan. Please request an Extension Program Guidance and Approval form from the Extension Office or find it on the Columbia County Extension website under 4-H Forms. Then, complete the form and return it to Pat Wagner, who will then submit the form to the *workflow* for approval by the UW-Madison Division of Extension 4-H Positive Youth Development Program. Once approval is received, the gathering may proceed. Following the gathering, a contact log must be submitted with names of all who were in attendance. If you have questions, feel free to contact Pat Wagner at 608-742-9685

[pat.wagner@wisc.edu](mailto:pat.wagner@wisc.edu)

## Wisconsin Junior Poultry Association



Wisconsin Junior Poultry Association  
2021 Virtual Winter Workshop Series

*Free to all youth and adults interested in raising  
and showing poultry*

Saturday evenings from 6-7 pm on Zoom

**April 24:** information on Egg Judging, Hatchery Incubation and a Kahoot Breeds Game

**May 8:** information on Nutrition, Show Prep, and a fun poultry Show & Tell

Register here to get the workshop link: <https://forms.gle/yLm1jdmv6VxNztUw6>

*"This event is not organized by UW-Madison Extension and you can check with its organizers for details on safety protocols."*

## Planning Continues for the 2021 Lodi Ag Fair – September 2-5

Details continue to be worked out around scheduling of judging, entertainment and more for the Lodi Fair in September. Youth and adults should plan for the opportunity to exhibit their animal and non-animal projects. Watch the 4-H Weekly Update, the Lodi Agricultural Fair website

<https://www.lodiagfair.com/> and the Lodi Agricultural Fair Facebook page for details as they are released! Questions can be directed to the [secretary@lodiagfair.com](mailto:secretary@lodiagfair.com).

## A Sampling of the Virtual Learning Community Sessions—Register Today

Youth interested in any of the following topics are encouraged to check out the Virtual Learning Community. The Virtual Learning Community is a group of staff, volunteers, and youth members from across the state that are working to provide high quality virtual learning opportunities to people all across Wisconsin. You can find the Wisconsin 4-H Virtual Learning Community and check out their schedule of events at <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/virtual-learning-community/>. As noted above, you'll register using your family "member list" in 4-Honline.

## **JOANN Stores Discount Save 15% with JOANN 4-H Rewards!**

Current & lifetime members, parents of members, volunteers and 4-H staff can save 15% off total in-store and online purchases every day with 4-H Rewards. JOANN will give a minimum of 2.5% of every eligible transaction to support 4-H programming.

## **The NEW 2021 Columbia County Plat Book Is Here**

Mapping Solutions delivered the “NEW” plat book which is sponsored by the Columbia County 4-H Leaders Association as a fund raiser for that organization. Plat Books will cost \$35 and are available at the Extension Office, Johnson Sales (Arlington) and the Farmers and Merchants Union Banks of Columbus, Friesland, and Fall River. The new plat book includes aerial photos of every township of the county in addition to the usual plat maps of each township. Get yours today and support Columbia County 4-H in the process. These make great gifts for friends, family and neighbors! Please note: You may have received a post card from a competitor’s plat book. If you’re in the market to purchase a plat book, we hope you’ll support 4-H and purchase the Mapping Solutions plat book. It includes the aerial photos (new in 2021) and plat maps just like our competitor and funds raised help support Columbia County 4-H programs.



## **Check Out The New Wisconsin 4-H Website**

It's new! It's full of information! Find it at this link! <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/>

## **June 2021 Explore 4-H At Home Project Kits – Registration for June ENDS 5/15!**

Can't have an in-person 4-H project meeting, but still want to learn through 4-H. Why not sign up for one of the **Explore At Home 4-H Project Kits**? Columbia, Dodge and Sauk County 4-H Educators have created them just for you! There will be 3 kits created for each of the first 6 months in 2021. Each kit will include the supplies necessary to complete the learning experience in your home for the fee listed on the registration form. Sign up is open until May 15<sup>th</sup> for the June kits. The June, 2021 project kits are described below. Register now at <https://forms.gle/aHXqAZvWcYZsUP827>.



- **Sewing and Textiles—June 2021**

Using the 4-H STEAM Clothing series from University of Nebraska at Lincoln, we will explore some basics of sewing. Projects will be introductory sewing and will require users of this Explore 4-H Project kit to use their own sewing machine. The “Let’s Sew!--A Beginner’s Sewing Guide” by Nancy Zieman will also be referenced. There will also be a Halloween textiles project that will not require the use of a sewing machine, but rather will use skills for following instructions and using tools to cut and create with deco mesh.

- **Cloverbuds—June 2021**

Here comes SUMMER - let’s get outside and EXPLORE! The June Cloverbud Explore kit will be full of activities to explore nature. You will go on a scavenger hunt for signs of wildlife, learn to identify different types of birds and plants, collect objects from nature, learn how seeds travel, and create some fun nature inspired art pieces.

- **Animal Science—June 2021**

Using the Veterinary Science Project curriculum, we will explore what you need for animals. From their basic needs, to body language and some areas in between. No matter what kind of animal you may have this information can be helpful to learn. You may also get some ideas for non-animal exhibits for the fair.

Register at <https://forms.gle/aHXqAZvWcYZsUP827>

# imagine how far you could go...

Collaborative Community Art Project



Download and print a feather template from our website, pick one up at the PCA office, or design your own.

Let your inspiration be your guide as you decorate your feather!

Drop your feather off at the PCA office or email a clear digital photo or scan of your feather to [info@portagecenterforthearts.com](mailto:info@portagecenterforthearts.com) by April 24.

Your feather will be added to a human-sized set of wings mounted outside of PCA. The wings can be "worn" for selfies starting on or about May 15th.

Stop by this summer and take your photo in front of the wings YOU helped create!



The Drury Gallery at Portage Center for the Arts  
301 E. Cook Street | Portage, WI 53901 | 608-742-5655  
[www.portagecenterforthearts.com](http://www.portagecenterforthearts.com)

## ART EXHIBIT & WORKSHOP

WISCONSIN REGIONAL ART PROGRAM  
Nonprofessional, student, and emerging artists are encouraged to enter!

### PORTAGE

Virtual Exhibit Opens April 9, 2021

[www.portagecenterforthearts.com](http://www.portagecenterforthearts.com)  
Virtual exhibits are funded with a grant from the Community Foundation of South Central Wisconsin.

Onsite Exhibit Runs April 9 - 30

Please note that opening receptions have been temporarily suspended, and both gallery hours and capacity limits are reduced until further notice. Free admission always!

Virtual Artist Workshop

with Angela Johnson

Artist, Creativity Coach and Educator

Saturday, April 17 via Zoom

Workshop from 9-10am

Awards & Discussion at 10:15

\$5 for general public;

free for participating artists.

Workshop RSVP required by April 9.

[info@portagecenterforthearts.com](mailto:info@portagecenterforthearts.com)



The Drury Gallery at Portage Center for the Arts  
301 E. Cook Street, PO Box 699 | Portage, WI 53901 | 608-742-5655  
[www.portagecenterforthearts.com](http://www.portagecenterforthearts.com)

Sponsored by  
festival



## Portage High School STUDENT ART EXHIBIT

Rahim-Amin Kahn, Grade 12

Virtual Exhibit Opens May 7, 2021

[www.portagecenterforthearts.com](http://www.portagecenterforthearts.com)

Virtual exhibits are funded with a grant from the Community Foundation of South Central Wisconsin.

Onsite Exhibit Runs May 7 - 28

Opening receptions have been temporarily suspended, and both gallery hours and capacity limits have been reduced. Free admission always!



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[www.portagecenterforthearts.com](http://www.portagecenterforthearts.com)

## SKATEBOARD ART EXHIBITION

### CALL FOR ARTISTS

All submissions are donated and will be auctioned off as a fundraiser for the Portage Family Skate Park in Portage, WI.

All media will be considered. The Portage Center for the Arts in Portage, WI will provide blank decks for \$10 deposit and griptape can be purchased for \$10. Entries not in keeping with the vision of the Portage Family Skate Park may not be accepted.

**Submission Deadline: May 31, 2021**

Please submit one piece of original art for consideration by sending us a digital image via CD or email to: [info@portagecenterforthearts.com](mailto:info@portagecenterforthearts.com). The application form will be available on [PortageSkatePark.org](http://PortageSkatePark.org) and [PortageCenterForTheArts.com](http://PortageCenterForTheArts.com).

Accepted entries will be contacted after the deadline with further information on delivering artwork for the August exhibit. Artwork will be on display and up for auction!



The Drury Gallery  
at Portage Center for the Arts  
301 E. Cook Street | Portage, WI 53901  
Portage Center for the Arts

Weekly Emails Online!

<https://columbia.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/4-h-newsletters/>