

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!**

Happy Wednesday!

I attended the North Scott 4-H meeting last weekend and on my way home, I passed a "Join 4-H" sign on Albert Street in Portage. It made me smile as I drove by and I thought that together we are going to re-build the Columbia County 4-H program after a tough year last year. Please consider putting a sign in your lawn or inviting families to the program who left during the pandemic or who are new to the program. Take the opportunities a new 4-H year offers and change things up. Remember to include the three parts of a great 4-H meeting in your 4-H club's meetings: Lead, Learn and Laugh. The business meeting can be boring so keep it to 10 – 15 minutes. Then, learn together about something that interests your group. Finally, LAUGH together. We all need that right now. Together we will grow a greener clover!



Don't forget --- there are a couple of new 4-H table top displays available for you to borrow for an event. Give the Extension office a call and we'll arrange to get one in your hands.

National 4-H Week is October 3–9, 2021! Spread the word about Columbia County 4-H!

Finally, mark your calendar now for **Sunday, September 26th** for the **2021 4-H Fall Celebration and Recognition Event in the afternoon in Portage at the Collipp-Worden Park Shelter** -- 226 W Slifer St, Portage, WI 53901. More details will be shared next week!

That's all for now. So, until next time, this is "Wednesday's Word From Pat!"
Pat Wagner, Columbia County 4-H Youth Development Educator

Click the topic below you are interested in and you will be directed to that topic's information. The topics in "red" are new this week, while other colors are being repeated from previous updates.

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Wreath Making at Miller's Christmas Tree Farm

Saturday, November 6th 9:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. or
 Saturday, November 13th, 2021 9:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.



It's Back! 4-H members, of any age, are invited to the Miller Christmas Tree Farm between Rio and Doylestown to make their own pine wreath and tour the farm on Saturday, November 6th or 13th. The times to pick from are 9:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. Parents may attend, but only youth will be completing the wreath making experience. Cost is \$7/per youth and is non-refundable.

During the approximately 2-hour experience, Mr. Miller gives the kids a tour of his farm and then they each get to make a 12" wreath that they can take home with them. They can add a velvet ribbon and pine cones for decoration. When the 4-H members arrive, the group is divided in half. One half will make their wreath while the other half gets a tour of the farm. About half way through, everyone switches.



How to register:

1. **Register online:** <https://v2.4honline.com/> (**deadline October 29th**)
2. **Make check payable to:** Miller's Christmas Trees (Cost is \$7/per youth and is non-refundable)
3. **Mail check to: (by October 29th)**
 Columbia County Extension
 Attn: Lori/Wreath Making
 112 E. Edgewater St., Room. 212
 Portage, WI 53901
4. You will **receive a confirmation via email** once payment is received

Location: Miller's Christmas Tree Farm N3763 Otsego Rd. Rio, WI 53960 <https://www.treerex.com/> Located 8 miles west of Columbus and 4 miles East of Rio on Hwy 16. Turn North 1/2 mile on Otsego Road. Watch for the signs

Livestock Committee Fall Meeting – September 16

The regular evaluation meeting of the Columbia Co. Livestock Committee is this week Thursday evening at 7 p.m. It will be in person at the Columbia County Health and Human Services Building, 111 E. Mullett St., Portage, WI ---Please enter the ADRC doors. Please note: There will be a virtual option available as well. Please see Zoom link below for those who are not able to or do not wish to attend in person.

The meeting's agenda will focus on the evaluation of the Livestock Committee's 2021 programs, events, activities and it will include some planning for 2022. Columbia County Fair premium list suggestions may be made at this meeting as well. A more detailed agenda will be available at the meeting that night.

Zoom Link for the meeting as well.

Topic: Columbia Co. Livestock Committee

Time: Sep 16, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uwmadison.zoom.us/j/93923894244?pwd=Vk8xbHFEZGpyYmk4ZVNNRW1MSklWdz09>

Meeting ID: 939 2389 4244

Passcode: 066063

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

September 4-H Leaders Council Meeting – Save The Date!

The regular meeting of the 4-H Leaders Meeting is set for Thursday, September 23 at 6:30 p.m. The agenda will include the election of officers for the 4-H Leaders Council as well as final review of the 2021-2022 budget. Meeting location is set of Rms. 2 and 3 of the Columbia Co. Health and Human Services Building, Portage.

WI 4-H Educational Program Updates & Transition Plans

By **MATTHEW C CALVERT, Wisconsin Positive Youth Dev. Institute Director**

As summer is wrapping up and we look forward to fall and winter, we'd like to share some educational program plans and updates. A lot of thought and consideration has gone into these plans and decisions as we work through state staff vacancies, adapt to the changing COVID situation, and further develop overall program priorities. Please know that moving forward, as new state staff are hired, we will continue to re-evaluate and plan for what is best for the program and membership.

Arts

- **State Art Teams (Arts, Communication, and Drama)** – We are currently wrapping up this year's State Art Teams. Although programming looked different in 2021, the volunteers who provided leadership for each team and the young people who engaged and participated had a great year and are looking forward. There was a final State Teams Workshop Weekend in August and the adults currently working with each team are planning to provide leadership and support in 2022. Applications for the State Teams will be available in October through 4H Online. State Team opportunities are open to ALL youth participating in Extension Programming.
- **State Arts Camp and Art BEAT!** – Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer a State Arts Camp in October. With the COVID Restrictions at Upham Woods at the end of the summer and our current state staff situation, the timeline for training counselors and planning for camp made it prohibitive for 2021.

- **State 4-H Photo Display** – There have been a lot of questions surrounding the State 4-H Photo Display and we apologize that we have not had more information. The State 4-H Photo Display has previously been organized and the top photos selected by the State Photo Advisory Team. With COVID the State Photo Advisory Team has not connected. We are working on reconnecting and looking at plans for the future.

State Experiences

- **Youth Conference**

For the past several years, there has been a lot of discussion around WI 4-H & Youth Conference. Some new ideas have been proposed and several staff members, youth leaders and volunteers have expressed interest in helping frame out and develop new goals that are connected to Post-Secondary Pathways (PACE).

We are hopeful that in 2022 we will be able to offer a youth conference back on the UW-Madison Campus with a new focus and direction. In the next few months, we will be building out a planning team.

- **National 4-H Congress**

At this time, Wisconsin is planning on traveling to Atlanta, GA with a delegation of 43. The National 4-H Congress Design Team is closely monitoring COVID around the country and will continue to evaluate the situation and plan for the safest experience possible. Correspondence was sent to all registered Wisconsin youth leaders last week

- **National 4-H Conference**

We know National 4-H Conference will happen in the spring of 2022; however, we do not yet have details. Applications for National 4-H Conference will be available soon through 4H Online, with selection in early 2022. Please consider encouraging young leaders you work with to apply!!

National 4-H Conference is a pinnacle civic engagement experience, providing a unique opportunity for young people from across the nation to connect, learn, engage, lead and plan for ways to impact their communities, their nation and their world. National 4-H Conference Delegates work together to prepare briefings on important topics and then present their prepared briefings to federal officials in Washington, D.C. While participating, young leaders also have the opportunity to engage in personal development experiences that increase their knowledge, resources, and skills while discussing topics affecting youth and 4-H programming nationwide. Delegates not only learn while at the National 4-H Conference, they are empowered to create positive social change in their communities and have the opportunity to practice and apply their skills in a real-world setting.

- **American Spirit**

During the past several years, the interest in the American Spirit has grown across the state. It is a valued educational experience that is largely planned and facilitated by a strong group of volunteers and staff. With new contracting policies, we will be meeting with the American Spirit Planning Committee to review what would need to be in place to start planning. It is our hope to have information available regarding American Spirit 2022 by October.

- **Collegiate 4-H**

Our Collegiate 4-H Program has started a resurgence around the state. We have several young alumni very passionate and interested in furthering their leadership skills and providing support for the program. We are excited to continue building out a statewide system and this may take time as we hire new state staff and prioritize programming.

- **Space Camp**

WI 4-H will not be offering Space Camp in 2022. This decision was not made lightly. We evaluated the educational impacts on many levels, and although the program meets a variety of youth development needs and engages middle school youth in meaningful and powerful ways, we are looking at how and if it fits with our overall STEM programming goals and objectives.

- **CWF**

National 4-H Council is planning on holding a Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) in Washington DC next summer. Information regarding the 2022 CWF has not been shared with states. The experience is still in the planning stages as National 4-H Council evaluates past programming efforts and looks at securing a new location for the experience. We are confident that there will be CWF in 2022 and that Wisconsin will have a delegation.

- **WI 4-H Leadership Council**

[Applications](#) are available for the WI 4-H Leadership Council. If you have youth and adult volunteers who are looking to further develop their leadership skills and connect with and support the State 4-H Program, please encourage them to apply today!

- **WI 4-H International Program**

Adam Riley, UW Madison Student and WI 4-H International Program Assistant will be working to provide some Virtual Global Citizenship Programming this fall and to work with volunteers and staff to start planning for some possible exchange experiences in 2022.

- **WI State Fair Youth Expo Exhibits**

There have been a lot of questions regarding this year's WI State Fair, especially around the process for nominating and selecting exhibits. Please know that the Youth Expo is run by the WI State Fair. We also recognize and acknowledge that the Youth Expo has been a part of the recognition and acknowledgement of outstanding 4-H project work from across the state. Because of that, we do want to work with the WI State Fair to expand access to youth across the state and provide the best experience possible for all youth participants.

We are working to pull together a team of youth leaders, adult volunteers and staff from across the state to meet with WI State Fair Staff to reflect on this year and brainstorm for the future. If you and/or any of your youth or adult volunteers are interested, please let Amber know at amber.rehberg@wisc.edu.

Again, thank you for your patience and understanding. We have done our best to share a comprehensive list of updates on the state, national, and international programming offered through the State 4-H Office.

Please know that all decisions were made with the best interest of our staff (current and future), members, volunteers, and the program overall. We believe ALL of these educational programs are valuable and make a difference in the lives of the participants and the WI 4-H program. Unfortunately, our current situation does not allow us to offer some of them in 2022. As new state staff are hired, programs will be re-evaluated based on program direction, priorities, and staff capacity.

Sincerely,

Matt Calvert, PYD Institute Director

Amber Rehberg, Past State, National and International Programs Specialist

Columbia County 4-H Educational Travel Opportunities 2021-2022

After receiving the above information from the State 4-H Office, this topic will be discussed and plans for support finalized at 4-H Leaders Council meeting on September 23rd. Watch for more details related to Columbia County following that meeting.

Wisconsin 4-H Fall Forum 2021 is Going Virtual!

In response to rising COVID-19 infection rates, the planning team has decided to take Fall Forum 2021 virtual. The 2020 Virtual Fall Forum was a huge success, and the planning team believes 2021 will be just as great, if not better!

Fall Forum registration details:

- Open Friday, September 17 through - Sunday, October 10
- \$25 registration fee includes a t-shirt, an incredible keynote presentation, fantastic educational seminars, and more! (This fee can be covered by a “request for reimbursement” to the Columbia County 4-H Leaders Council). The form is found at <https://columbia.extension.wisc.edu/request-for-reimbursement/>
- Register through 4-H Online 2.0
- Pay by credit card or check.

The planning team was hopeful Fall Forum would be in-person. This difficult decision was made thoughtfully by staff on the Fall Forum Leadership team with support from the Institute Director. Considerations included:

- Current COVID data available
 - “Very high” COVID transmission through most of the state and low hospital ICU bed availability. That trend is expected to continue.
 - CDC guidance for large indoor gatherings
- Impacts of waiting to make this decision
 - Facility cancellation policy
 - Ability to pivot and work with presenters to create a virtual experience
- 2020 Fall Forum evaluation
 - People participated virtually who otherwise could not have attended.

The planning team is excited to offer an incredible slate of educational sessions along with the amazing keynote from Chad Littlefield. Fall Forum is a powerful program planned and implemented with youth leaders, volunteers, and Extension professionals.

Watch for more details about registration coming to your email boxes soon!

4-H Online is Open for Enrollment and Re-Enrollment

It's now time to re-enroll in 4-H for the 2021-2022 4-H year! The 4-H online system has rolled over and is ready to go! Project enrollment details are available in paper form and on the Columbia County 4-H website at <https://columbia.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/>. Please let me know if you have any questions!

WI Honey Producers Association 2021 Poster Contest

The Wisconsin Honey Producers Association announces its 2021 Honey Bee Poster Contest for youth in grades 5K-12. The 2021 theme is: *Honey Bees – Why Do We Need Them?*

Rules:

1. Size 11"x14" poster board
2. Print name, age, grade & address clearly on back side
3. Include theme in design
4. Posters become property of Wisconsin Honey Producers Association

Prizes for each grade division. Postmark deadline: October 29, 2021.

2021 Honey Bee Poster Contest

<https://blogs.extension.wisc.edu/programcomms/files/2021/09/2021-Honey-Bee-Poster-Contest.pdf>

Mail by OCT. 29, 2021 to:

Shelly Astle, Kids & Bees Coordinator – WI Honey Producers Association

S4131A St. Hwy 80

Hillsboro, WI 54634

Questions? Call Shelly Astle at 608-489-2456

Program Leaders Working Group - AEBC Youth Advisory Committee Focus Group



We want to hear from youth like you!

JOIN THE CONVERSATION & SHARE YOUR IDEAS

Please join the **Access, Equity and Belonging Committee (AEBC)** for a listening session with youth and provide new and exciting ideas to help us establish a Youth Advisory Group.

Focus Group Goals

- Provide a youth perspective and partner with AEBC in the decision-making process of building a youth advisory group
- Establish youth advisory group purpose
- Determine what makes a youth advisory group successful
- Identify barriers to youth advisory group participation

Open to youth and young adults ages 15-20.

Youth with diverse backgrounds and experiences are welcomed and encouraged to participate.

Interested? Simply click and register via one of the four Zoom focus group links below:

Tuesday
September 14, 2021
6:00 pm
Closed

Saturday
October 12, 2021
7:00 pm (Central)
[Click to Register](#)

Tuesday
November 9, 2021
8:00 pm (Central)
[Click to Register](#)

Tuesday
December 14, 2021
9:00 pm (Central)
[Click to Register](#)

For more information, please contact Phillip Ealy at ple13@psu.edu. The Access, Equity and Belonging Committee provides resources and professional development to 4-H professionals and 4-H volunteers to strengthen their capacity to engage and sustain the participation of diverse youth in 4-H, who will have equitable access and opportunity to fully engage and feel a sense of belonging in 4-H.

4-H Policy Update

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/files/2021/09/Wisconsin-4-H-Policy-Update-for-2021-22.pdf>

Columbia County Fair Premium Checks Ready for Pick Up

The Columbia County Fair treasurer dropped off exhibitor premium checks this week. 4-H club leaders and/or individual families may pick up checks if they are in Portage during Extension Office hours. Otherwise, checks will be handed out at the September 23rd 4-H Leaders Council meeting later this month.

\$100 COVID-19 Vaccine Reward Program Extended

Governor Tony Evers and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) announced Wisconsin residents who get their first dose of any COVID-19 vaccine from a vaccine provider located in Wisconsin, Michigan, or Minnesota between August 20, 2021 and September 19, 2021 can receive a \$100 U.S. Bank Rewards Card. Wisconsin residents ages 12 and over are eligible for the reward and can request the reward by going to the **[Reward Sign-up page](#)** or by calling 844-684-1064 (language assistance is available). Proof of insurance, citizenship, ID is not required to be eligible for or to receive the \$100.

In order to receive the reward, Wisconsinites ages 12 and older will need to have received their first COVID-19 vaccine within the period of August 20 through September 19 and submit the request for the \$100 Visa Gift Card on the DHS **[Reward Sign-up page](#)**. Information submitted in the form will be used to verify you received your shot. Visa cards may take up to six weeks to be mailed to participants. For more information on the incentive program, visit the **[DHS \\$100 reward page](#)** or call 844-684-1064 (language assistance is available).

We are asking partners to help get the message out to their networks about this time-limited reward program. To help support these efforts, we ask you to share widely, use, or adapt the social media graphics and fliers, which can be found on our **[Vaccine Partner and Vaccinator Resources](#)** page. To find a COVID-19 vaccine location in your community, visit **[Vaccines.gov](#)** or call **211 or 877-947-2211**.

Borrow Resources from the PYD Media Collection

The Positive Youth Development (PYD) Media Collection is a library of educational tools that can be borrowed from anywhere in the state. The collection has a new home and a new checkout system. Visit the PYD Media Collection **[website](#)** to see what is available. You will find displays, skillathons, learning lab kits, interactive CD ROMs, DVDs, and more. Project materials currently include horse, dairy, livestock, small animal, and some arts. We have kept the most used and current materials. Most outdated materials have been removed.

There is no cost to order materials for Extension-sponsored programs. Non-Extension user groups must pay for outbound and return postage plus a \$10 handling fee.

To learn more about the PYD Media Collection, see lists of materials by project area, and find out how to request materials, visit the **[website](#)**. Contact Monica Lobenstein, Learning Resources Specialist, **monica.lobenstein@wisc.edu** or 715-896-0377, with questions.

[4-H Clubs Are Challenged to Create New Cedar Crest Ice Cream Flavor—Fun Fall Club Project](#)

Cedar Crest Ice Cream, of Cedarburg, Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation have teamed up again to present the “Cedar Crest Ice Cream 4-H Flavor Contest” for Wisconsin 4-H clubs. More than 1600 clubs are eligible to create and submit a flavor ‘recipe’ with the top clubs named as finalists, and the top flavor produced for summer 2022.

According to Brenda Scheider, Executive Director of the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, the contest is a great opportunity for 4-H youth to work together to develop and name their flavor. “The most exciting part of the contest is the winning flavor will be available through Cedar Crest beginning next July.” The 2021 winning flavor was Tractor Tracks, created by the Country Clover 4-H Club in Green Lake County.

A panel of ice cream experts, chosen by Cedar Crest, judges the entries. The company manufactures more than 80 flavors of ice cream, along with frozen custard, sherbet and sorbet at its Manitowoc, Wisconsin, plant, and distributes products in five states. Many of the flavors now produced by Cedar Crest, including Wisconsin Campfire S’mores, Big Muddy, and Deep Woods, are a result of the contest. More information and the entry form are available at

<https://cedarcresticecream.com/2021-cedar-crest-ice-cream-4-h-flavor-contest/> **Entries are due by November 12, 2021** with the winner being announced in December 2021.

[4-H Shooting Sports Certification Workshops](#)

2022 Certification Workshops--Green Bay and Eau Claire area will be offered in the spring and Marshfield offered in September. The State 4-H Shooting Sports Management Committee will consider requests for local certification workshops providing they do not conflict with the certification workshop schedule.

[The NEW 2021 Columbia County Plat Book Continues to Be Available](#)

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 Wisconsin 4-H Website](#)

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

[Weekly Emails Online!](#)

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

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Tel: 608-742-9680; Fax: 608-742-9862

Questions about COVID-19 vaccines?



COVID-19 vaccines **protect** against severe illness and death.

+

COVID-19 vaccines are **free** for all people.



COVID-19 vaccines went through in-depth safety monitoring.



Everyone aged 12 and over can get a COVID-19 vaccine today.

You are fully vaccinated 2 weeks after your final vaccine dose.



+



+



Until then, wear a mask, wash your hands frequently, and stay 6 feet apart from others.



Health experts recommend getting vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19.



Serious side effects that would cause a long-term health problem are extremely unlikely.



The rapid spread of COVID-19 made developing these vaccines an international priority.

Billions of dollars in funding were dedicated to developing a vaccine.



All COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing severe illness from the Delta variant.

Getting infected after vaccination is extremely rare. No vaccine is 100% effective at preventing illness.



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Make a decision that's right for you:
go.wisc.edu/yourshot