

Cooperative Extension Centennial Celebration  
Your Trusted Partner... Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

As Cooperative Extension marks 100 years of working for Wisconsin, the following is an excerpt from Cooperative Extension in Grant County – The First Forty Years by Wilfred Pierick, written in 1963.

#### State Fair Participation

It would appear that relatively active participation in State Fair activities by Grant county 4-H members began about the year of 1934. From this time on, records would indicate that representatives were selected to represent Grant county in the various events and contests held at State Fair. As previously indicated, the annual 4-H Round-Up became, for the most part, a means of selecting these representatives.

In the year 1937, twenty-six Grant county 4-H members participated in State Fair activities. Representatives attended in home economics team demonstration, individual demonstration in home economics, team demonstration in agriculture, clothing judging, foods judging, canning judging, livestock judging, dairy cattle judging, crops judging, meats identification, and top boy and girl in the county health contest.

#### Recognitions for 4-H Work

A series of five monthly 4-H newsletters were put out by county agent Ben Walker for the months of June to September of 1937. This was perhaps the first publication of its kind in Grant county.

The June issue lists two stories written for a "4-H News Writing Contest," one by Lorraine Schneider of the Busy Brownie 4-H Club and another by Pearl Williams of the Hurricane Hustlers 4-H Club, winners of the contest. The story by Pearl Williams concerns the organization of the Hurricane Hustler 4-H Club. She states that the Hurricane Hustler 4-H Club was

organized in 1928 with Mrs. Earla Wieland as the leader. In 1929, Keith Roesch became boy's leader.

Another contest—an "Experience Story Contest," appeared in the July issue. Winners of this were Joyce Gates of the Livingston Lifters, Irma Schaal of the Badger Builders, and Pearl Williams of the Hurricane Hustlers.

Of the 1939 State Fair participants, Frederick Lenz placed first at State Fair in the dairy products contest; Maynard Nelson and Albert Cummer placed second with their team demonstration; and Helen Callaway was selected to the Dairy Queen Court of Honor. Nelson was later awarded a trip to National 4-H Club Congress at Chicago on the basis of his outstanding 4-H work.

Three additional honors were won by Grant county 4-H members in 1939: Walter Hauk of Cassville won the grand championship with his Angus steer at State Fair, Richard Munns of Fennimore was selected on the basis of his project work to a free trip to the World's Poultry Congress in Cleveland, Ohio, and Lester Cummer and Louis Vesperman placed first in a 4-H "Zinc Demonstration" contest held at Dodgeville. Cummer and Vesperman later placed third in the state.

In 1940, George Harris won first place in the dairy cattle judging contest and represented Wisconsin at the National Dairy Show at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. George was a member of the Patch Grove Handy Helpers 4-H club at the time.

Cletus Lepaska and Theodore Griswold were the first place livestock judging teach at the 1940 State Fair. Maynard Nelson and Richard Kraemer won first place with their team demonstration and went on to the International Livestock Show at Chicago. Joyce Schwer won

second place in the girl's style revue contest. All in all, Grant county groups made a very commendable showing at State Fair, especially in 1939 and 1940.

Grant county delegates to National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago in 1941 included Harold Wagner, healthiest 4-H boy in state, and first place state livestock judging team members Ruth Beetham, Maynard Nelson and Fred Lenz.

County Agent Wally Voskuil also attended the 1941 National 4-H Club Congress as chaperone. Burnell Egan, Cuba City, was awarded a scholarship to the American Youth Foundation Camp.