

4-H ECHO



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The source of 4-H news in Grant County

4-H GROWS LEADERS

June 2020

What's Inside...

COVID - 19 / Extension Update	2 - 4
Grant County Fair	5
4-H Events Update	6
Ideas for Fun at Home	7
4-H Ambassadors' Corner	7
4-H Member of the Month	8
4-H Volunteer of the Month	9
Announcements	10
4-H Ambassador's Coloring Page.....	11

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Find *Grant County 4-H* on [Facebook!](#)

Charisse Orth
4-H Program Coordinator
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Email Reminder:

As you all may know, Extension's transition to UW-Madison became final on July 1, 2019. With the transition our email addresses changed. **As of June 30, 2020 we will no longer be receiving forwards from our old email address to our new email.** PLEASE update your address books to ensure your emails are being sent to us. Our email addresses are:
Charisse Orth – charisse.orth@wisc.edu
Jenny Dixon – jenny.dixon@wisc.edu

Updates via 4hOnline:

The information following in the ECHO is the information we have received as of June 8, 2020. We are in an ever changing time as the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve. Please be checking to make sure your email in 4hOnline is the best way to reach you via email. This is the email address that Wisconsin 4-H and I use to communicate changes throughout the month to keep you updated. You should refer to your email for the most up to date information.

4-H grows confident, capable, and caring kids with the life skills to thrive in today's world and succeed in their boldest dreams for tomorrow.

COVID-19 / Extension Update

WI 4-H Update sent via email on June 2, 2020:

Dear 4-H members, families, & volunteers -

This has been a year unlike anything we've seen. And, while Wisconsin has done a good job of limiting the spread of COVID-19 in many communities, the virus is still spreading. We are basing our decisions on health guidance and none of us has a crystal ball. But with more than 30,000 youth in our programs, we are weighing the disappointment of not having a normal set of summer experiences against the need to take care of everyone in our communities. And, we are trying to strike a reasonable balance as we transition back to in-person programs.

JUNE

- During this month of June, the preferred method of program delivery is "virtual/online" and most planning efforts should focus on these types of programs for the remainder of the summer.
- In June, we are also allowing some in-person but "**No-contact**" programs. "No-contact" programs are defined as programs that:
 - cannot be conducted virtually
 - are held outdoors
 - have only one youth or household engaged at a time (Note: household members may help ensure a child is never alone with an adult)
 - are staggered so there is no contact, if more than one youth/household is engaged, and any shared equipment is sanitized between uses

Some examples include:

- one-at-a-time/staggered times dog obedience training, horse riding lesson, or individual animal project work
- one household-at-a-time/staggered times community gardening and service projects
- supply sharing and sales using curb-side pick-up/delivery methods.
- Activities that clearly meet the "no-contact" guidelines will move forward. Work with your 4-H Educator to seek organizational approval. These will be the exception and not the rule. They will be limited to things that cannot be accomplished virtually.

WHEN READY – and no sooner than July 1, 4-H programs may begin for **Small Groups** with an approved plan

- We are currently planning to move to "small-group" meetings and activities of 10 or fewer people that allow social distancing. Before we can move to this phase, both staff and volunteers must be trained on safety procedures. Plans will need to be created using the Extension template and shared with the 4-H Program Educator who will seek organizational approval.

NEXT STEPS -- Anything can happen, and we are open to making changes as conditions improve. We hope to scale up to larger groups of no more than 50 by the end of the summer. And it seems unlikely that 4-H will organize programs or participate in any activity or event with more than 50 participants for a considerable time.

REMINDER: Overnight camp and travel programs are cancelled through August.

Please know this a fluid situation and depending on how the summer progresses these plans and dates may need to be modified. Thank you for your continued patience and support as we all navigate these unprecedented times.

Thriving together,

Dei & Matt

Dondieneita Fleary-Simmons

WI 4-H Program Manager

University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension



COVID-19 / Extension Update

Extension Office Hours:

At this time, the Grant County Extension Office and the Grant County Fair Office is closed to the public until further notice but still working internally. Watch our website for the most up-to-date office hours.

During this time, the Extension Educators are working remotely and can be reached by e-mail. A full listing of our staff is at grant.extension.wisc.edu. Office support staff can also be reached by e-mail or limited hours by phone. Our staff will be checking e-mails and voicemails periodically. After the Extension Office opens back up to the public, please call for current office hours as staff is limited. Grant County Extension Office - 608-723-2125 or the Fair Office at 608-723-2135.

Update from Charisse:

Hi Everyone,

The sun is shining, the temperatures are increasing and we are seeing a lot of farmers in the field around Grant County, this means summer must be coming! I hope you are staying healthy and taking some time to enjoy the outdoors. Now is the perfect time to go for a walk/hike or bike ride and do some exploring around your house or neighborhood. My two little girls and I have definitely been doing some exploring around our house and woods. We have found plenty of dandelions, different shaped leaves, weird shaped rocks, different species of birds and their nests, animal tracks and more! What fun things can you see?

I would love to see what you and your family are doing and what 4-H projects you have been working on. You can email me pictures to charisse.orth@wisc.edu, I would love to feature them our Grant County 4-H Facebook page or in the next ECHO. Did you build a bird house for your yard? Did you make a nature craft from things you found on your hike? Have you been cooking supper, baking cookies or cakes, making jam with your Mom or Dad? Have you been feeding, washing and walking your beef, sheep, goats or other animal projects? Maybe you are sewing cloth face coverings for your family or to donate to others. These are all things I would love to see pictures of! I know how creative you all are so I am sure there are a ton of other fun things and projects you are doing!

In the next couple pages you will see updates on programs, activities and events that we usually highlight in our June ECHO. I know there are a lot of changes happening right now and we are doing our best to communicate them to you. Please make sure that you are checking your e-mail listed in 4hOnline as that is where the most up to date information will be sent from Wisconsin 4-H and Grant County 4-H. If this is not an email you check often then you can login to <http://wi.4honline.com> and update it to a better e-mail address.

The guideline for June 4-H programs are listed on page 2 and you should have received them via e-mail as well. If you feel that you need to do a "no contact" program please send me an e-mail to further discuss the program and work through the approval process. We are really doing our best to ensure that everyone stays safe and healthy. If you would like to host a ZOOM virtual meeting for your club or a project meeting send me an e-mail and we can get that set up!

If you have any questions regarding the guidelines or anything please send me an e-mail at charisse.orth@wisc.edu. Wisconsin 4-H and the Division of Extension are doing their best to communicate updates regarding COVID-19.



Extension / Fair Update

Grant County 4-H members, volunteers and families –

The Grant County Fair Board made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Grant County Fair due to COVID-19. I do not envy them for having to make this challenging decision, and know it did not come lightly for them. There were hours of work and planning put into exploring every option of having a fair this year. The attached press release shares many of the factors taken into consideration as they made their decision: implications of physical distancing at an event that is all about bringing people together; health and safety for our whole community; as well as the economic impact COVID-19 has had on our entire community. I am proud of the Grant County Fair Board members for putting the physical, social and financial well-being of our entire community first.

The Grant County Fair is an important part of our 4-H year. It is a chance for youth to showcase and receive feedback on the skills, talents and knowledge they have learned throughout the last year. Remember the skills, talents and knowledge you have gained this last year are YOURS. Be proud of what you have accomplished. Celebrate what you have learned. The effort, dedication, and time you put into your project work are not wasted. You have learned, you have grown, and you have changed.

The past few months of accommodations to deal with COVID-19 have been extremely challenging. Hearing the news about the cancellation of the fair will raise many more feelings of sadness, relief, disappointment, grief, hopefulness, etc. Name the feelings, feel the feelings, be kind to one another, and be patient with one another. Like many of you may be, I am disappointed, the Grant County Fair will not happen like “normal” this year.

The Grant County 4-H Program will continue to provide opportunities for education within our 4-H Clubs and project groups. Our Club Leaders and Project Leaders are embracing the challenge to keep our youth engaged, learning and growing through virtual or at home experiences. We are also developing new virtual experiences for our members coming up in July and August. Watch the ECHO newsletter for information about these NEW experiences. 4-H will continue to be a program full of fun, learning, friendship, growth, and new experiences.

Watching our 4-H members and leaders rise up together through all of this adversity is truly inspiring. Let me know if there is anything I can do to support you. Please continue to stay healthy and safe. I believe that this challenging time goes well with the 4-H motto, “to make the best better” and we will truly come out better on the other side of this.

Charisse Orth
Grant County 4-H Program Coordinator



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

Grant County Fair

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(608) 723-2135 Email – aolson@co.grant.wi.gov
Amy Olson, Fairgrounds & Operations Director
www.grantcountyfairwi.org



June 8, 2020

The Grant County Fair has been a tradition for 165 years. We come together to provide educational displays and entertainment. We showcase our exhibitor's hard work, and provide the community a place to gather with their family and friends. However, the most important part of the fair is you.

Given the uncertainty and hardship that COVID-19 has created everywhere it has made planning for the 2020 Grant County Fair challenging. It takes a year to plan a fair and when the COVID-19 pandemic hit we knew there was a chance our fair would not look the same this year. The situation was monitored and meetings were held to determine alternate ways of having a fair. Difficulties in sanitizing, maintaining social distancing, and still having an enjoyable experience were identified. Also, the unknown of UW-Madison Extension Staff to be in person to assist was evaluated. Ultimately, the answers kept coming back to the safety concerns of everyone attending the fair.

After careful consideration and many discussions with the Grant County Health Department about potential health concerns as well as reviewing guidance from the WEDC and CDC on limitations on large public gatherings, it is with a heavy heart we announce the cancellation of the 2020 Grant County Fair. The need to limit exposure for the health of our community and provide a safer venue were considered and weighed in our decision.

We understand this places a huge disappointment to many that have been planning to exhibit or want to attend our fair, along with those organizations that count on our fair as a fundraiser. Please know, the decision was not taken lightly. "The fair is a huge part of my life as it is for many", said Amy Olson, Grant County Fairgrounds & Operations Director. "We considered every option and had to make the decision based on what we know today rather than what we think August will be like."

Jeff Kindrai, Health Officer for Grant County Health Department, said "The fair is an important part of our community and this is a difficult choice. However, not knowing what the future will look like forces us to reflect on what we are seeing now and what we have seen in the past and elsewhere. From a public health point of view, there is good reason to have concerns until we have better tools to control the spread of this virus. Unfortunately, our most effective tool today is not gathering together in large groups like what we would see at our fair."

On behalf of the Grant County Fair Board and I, we want to thank all the support we've had in the past from the community and our sponsors. We also want to thank those that called to offer help and make suggestions. Your opinions didn't go unnoticed and we appreciate that you love the fair just as much as we do. We look forward to better days ahead in planning the 2021 Grant County Fair.

Be well everyone and stay safe through the summer. We will see you next year August 15-22 with the same line up for entertainment and events.

4-H Events Update

Grant County Fair: Cancelled

Project & Club Meetings: Contact your leader to see if any virtual meetings or e-mail information will be shared.

Shooting Sports - Postponed until further notice

County Dog Practices & Meetings - All dog practices and meetings in June are cancelled.

Grant County Dairy Breakfast - Cancelled

Grant County Rural Safety Day - Cancelled

Wisconsin 4-H & Youth Conference - Will not be happening on the UW-Madison campus. They are exploring alternate options and will be communicating via email.

Wisconsin State Fair - Cancelled. Visit <https://wistatefair.com/fair/home/> for more information.

Creative Youth Expo: Cancelled

Wisconsin 4-H Dog Agility Show (Middleton) - Cancelled

WI 4-H Obedience & Showmanship Show (Washington County Fair Park) - Cancelled



4-H Club Minutes

Dairyland Diamonds By Courtney Spease

Our last meeting was Sunday, May 3rd via Zoom. We discussed our trips that were canceled due to the COVID-19, we hope to get them rescheduled. We voted on 100 gallons of milk to use at Kwik Trip. Make sure to be watching the echo for due dates for the fair.

We know other clubs are also meeting and still doing great things. E-mail us what you or your 4-H club has been up to.



Ideas for Fun at Home

I know this is an overwhelming time for all of us as we navigate through new challenges. Make sure to take time for yourself and your mental health;

- Explore the outdoors by going on a walk or bike ride
- Make cards to send to friends and family or even nursing home residents
- Listen to your favorite song or music genre
- Do some fun exercises with Avery Williamson, NFL Linebacker and 4-H Alumnus:
<https://www.facebook.com/4-h/videos/198245927927339/>
- Spend extra time working with your 4-H project animals
- Spend some time in the kitchen learning a new recipe. Here is a link to download a free cookbook:
<https://4-h.org/parents/healthy-living/cookbook/>
- Work on some of those 4-H projects that you have been putting off
- Call a grandparent, family member or friend and see how they are doing
- Plant a flower or vegetable garden
- Go exploring through your camera lens, summer is such a beautiful time to capture
- Maybe even start a new hobby or project

Looking for more resources for at Home Activities including STEM projects? Check these sites out:

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/home-activities/>

<https://4-h.org/about/4-h-at-home/>

Make sure to take pictures of all the fun things you are doing during this time. I would love to see pictures of all the fun 4-H projects you are working on. If you have pictures you would like to share please send them to charisse.orth@wisc.edu and they might even be featured on the Grant County 4-H Facebook page or in the next ECHO.



4-H Ambassadors' Corner



(Back L-R)
Randy Winch, Amber Stenner
(Front L-R)
Makenzie Wiest, Allison Adrian

Coloring Contest Extended!

The Ambassadors are hosting a coloring contest. The coloring pages are on the website to choose from. This contest will be extended to June 30. The pages will be judged by age groups. Official rules are posted with the coloring pages on the website.

Grant.extension.wisc.edu. If you need coloring pages mailed to you, please contact jenny.dixon@wisc.edu or charisse.orth@wisc.edu. A coloring page is also included in this Echo on page 11.

4-H Member of the Month

Congratulations!

Cal Reuter

Town & Country Kids 4-H Club



What is your favorite 4-H project? Why?

I am involved in many projects, and enjoy them all. One of my favorites is Legos. I like the challenge of building things with Legos from scratch, and when you're finished building you can take them apart and build something new.

Why did you join 4-H?

I joined 4-H because I really like animals and working with them. My older brother and sister were in 4-H and I liked watching them show, and couldn't wait until I could join 4-H to do the same. I also enjoy building things, taking pictures, and arts and crafts.

What is your favorite part about 4-H?

My favorite part about 4-H is the people I meet and friendships I have made. I also like participating in service projects, because helping and giving to others is important to me. Going on trips with my club is exciting and gives me new experiences. Another favorite for me is riding my horse at the horse and pony practices. I like learning to do new things with my horse and at times can be challenging, but worth it.

Accomplishments and Awards:

The last 2 years I have competed in the Horse Bowl and Hippology. Over the last couple of years I have been the Secretary, Vice President, and President of my club.

Congrats

4-H Volunteer of the Month

Lindsay Hollingsworth

Cornelia Badgers
4-H Club

How many years have you been volunteering with 4-H?

I have been a 4-H volunteer for the past 6 years.

Why did you start volunteering?

I began volunteering when my daughter, Eva, joined 4-H in third grade.

What areas/projects do you enjoy helping with the most?

I am currently serving as one of the leaders of the Cornelia Badgers. I have really enjoyed getting to know the youth and families in this club and supporting their interests in leadership, service, and education.

As far as projects, photography was a favorite project of mine when I was in 4H, and I enjoy supporting youth with photography projects. The world is a beautiful place and photography is a wonderful method of capturing it.

I also enjoy opportunities to learn through engagement with projects that are 'new' to me. My children have developed a great interest in goats and poultry. It's been an exciting journey as we've learned more about the care and feeding of these animals.

What is your favorite part about volunteering with 4-H?

For me, volunteering with 4H is a wonderful way to 'give back' to a community I love. As a youth, I was a member of 4-H in Grant County and benefitted greatly from the programming it offered. I enjoy participating in 4-H as an adult volunteer today to support opportunities for youth.

Why do you think 4-H is so important for youth?

4-H is a wonderful organization for youth because it has something for everyone. 4H programs range from legos and robotics, to food science, to horticulture and livestock. Through involvement in 4H, youth are able to explore their interests and develop skills that will benefit them in life.



Announcements

Livestock Animal Project Members:

With the 2020 Grant County Fair being cancelled we know that you still have animal projects that are ready to be harvested or go to market. We are hoping that you have already made arrangements with a locker plant to have your animal harvested as we encouraged at the beginning of the identification process. If you haven't secured a spot for your animal to be harvested, we have been working with the local locker plants to save some space for 4-H and FFA animal projects that would be traditionally harvested around fair time. To take advantage of these spots please contact the locker plants no later than the end of the business day on Monday, June 22. On Tuesday, June 23 the locker plants will no longer be reserving spots for 4-H and FFA project animals. Locker plant availability is pretty scarce right now as we have seen so much change in the market animal world with the COVID disruption and spots are very limited. We would like to thank Bloomington Meats II, The Butcher Shop, Weber's Meats and Avon Locker plant for doing their best to work with us during this uncertain time.

4-H Camp In a Box:

We know that our campers look forward to 4-H Camp every year and we all are disappointed that it was cancelled this year. The camp committee has been looking at ways to provide you some kind of camp experience so not all the fun is lost. We have decided to offer Camp in a Box! These boxes will feature some camp experiences that you can enjoy at home. There will be a small fee for these boxes, we are still working through the details. Please watch your e-mail and the Grant County Facebook page for more details and how to sign up. Camp in a Box will be available in July.

4-H Record Books:

Even though the Grant County Fair is cancelled for 2020, 4-H record books can still be completed. Exhibiting and showing at Fairs was never a requirement to do a record book. Your books show progress, work you have done and what you have learned throughout the year. Record books are an excellent learning experience and a great way to keep records for future reference, whether it is for scholarships or keepsakes. Score cards will be adjusted this year to reflect the COVID situation. If you have not received your record book sheets from your 4-H main leader, you can also find record book sheets at grant.extension.wisc.edu.

Club Charters:

Wisconsin 4-H is making a few updates to the form, so hold tight until Charisse can get you the most updated form.

Fennimore Fair Update from Fennimore Fair Committee

As of right now, we are going ahead with the Fennimore Junior Fair. We will keep you all updated as we know more, final date of decision will be July 6th. If we do have to cancel, all sponsorship money will be used for the 2021 Fennimore Junior Fair. Everyone please be patient with us as we try and work out every "what if" situation. It has been decided that for this year only 4-H members of Stitzer Go-Getters, Plum Valley Boosters, Mt. Ida Hilltoppers, and Golden Gates clubs along with Fennimore FFA members will be allowed to exhibit at the fair to maintain smaller numbers for safety reasons. We are doing our best to make sure we have a safe and healthy 2020 Fennimore Junior Fair.

4-H Ambassadors' Coloring Contest

We See
Fun???



June 2020 4-H ECHO
UW-Madison Division of Extension
Grant County
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