Hello 4-H Families and Friends:

I thought I’d share what happened at the Oneida County Fair Strategic Planning session November 18th. This is an excerpt from an article written for the Hodag Pride newsletter coming out in January.

Recently the Fair committee; made of up volunteers, a paid coordinator, and a paid Treasurer and Secretary engaged in a Strategic Planning session with other members of the public. Forty-two people got together to determine how to proceed for the next 5 years. With dwindling county funding, the Fair needs to become self-sustainable. How to do that and what the Fair should look like were issues to be decided. From the Strategic Planning session on Nov. 18 these things were envisioned: a fair that is sustainable, infrastructure (electricity and buildings) in place, a Fair that includes involvement by all townships throughout the county, and a sufficient volunteer base to make the event happen from year to year. The basic steps that were generated to reach the vision were to generate money to secure a permanent Fair home and infrastructure, secure volunteers, reach out to the townships, and secure major financial sponsors.

The County Fair is a connecting event between towns, organizations, businesses, schools, families, churches, and other networking associations. It is for adults, youth, and families. As well, it is developed and run by those same entities. Winter is the time of year when planning for next summer takes place. Similar to looking through garden seed catalogs, it is a time when plans are made with regard to what type of entertainment to have at the fair, what types of vendors, and creating a schedule for it all to get done.

The priority step toward creating the dream of what the Oneida County Fair should look like is reaching out to those who enjoy the Fair and asking for their involvement. The Fair is doing just that currently by inviting anyone with an interest in the Fair to attend their monthly meetings. They are normally the first Tuesday of the month, starting at 5:30 p.m. in the lower level of the Rhinelander Oneida County Airport. Currently there are openings for Fair Treasurer, coordinator of the school exhibits, and board members. If interested in developing more of a personal interest in the Fair, contact either the UW-Extension office at 715-365-2750 or Nancy Gehrig at 715-362-5684.

This has been a great 4-H year, and the Fair was a huge success both for the county and for the 4-H program. As future committee meetings are scheduled, I will post them in the Cloverpatch. The committee and their work is truly something about which Oneida County 4-H can be extremely grateful.

Happy Holidays to all!

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All meetings and projects will be held at the UW-Extension office unless otherwise noted.

**December**
1. Adult Volunteer training 6:30-8:00 p.m.
4. Junior Leader Meeting 4:30-5:30 p.m.
6. Holiday Craft Workshop- Curran Bldg 9-12
9. 4-H Info meeting/Drama group-Congregational Church 5:30 p.m.
10. Legos project group- 4:30-5:30 pm. Library
15. Rescheduled 4-H Leaders’ Association 7 p.m.

**January**
6. Registration deadline for Art Lab
17. Ice Fishing afternoon Lake Julia 1-3 p.m.
18. Camp 10 Skiing
30-31. Art Lab- Upham Woods

*Note: Leaders, when you plan workshops, please continue to notify the UW-Extension office of the dates. Also: If you would like to submit an event to be featured in the newsletter please contact Lynn at lynn.feldman@ces.uwex.edu.

**REENROLLMENT**

It is very important to get everyone reenrolled before Jan. 1. This includes all trained leaders.

Go to [www.4honline.com](http://www.4honline.com)
If you struggle with it, give the office a call.

**KEEP IT IN THE NORTHWOODS CLUB**

The Keep it in the Northwoods Club will meet at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 18, to go skiing at Camp 10. The cost will be $16 for ski equipment rental and lift ticket. It will be $10 if you have your own equipment. There will be a less included. This is a great opportunity to try out this sport and engage in winter weather. Shonda King has agreed to lead an instruction session Saturday afternoon at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, for those in need of information regarding what to wear, etc. At that time shoe size, height, etc. will be recorded to speed up the process on Sunday for getting the gear.

The Keep it in the Northwoods Club will be going ice fishing from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, on Lake Julia. Take Boyce drive to Timber Lodge Rd. Turn right and the boat landing is right there. You do not need to have ice fishing equipment to participate. Just dress warmly. The group did this last year and it will be a lot of fun. John Kubisiak is the contact leader. 715-362-2758.

Tentatively the Keep it in the Northwoods Club is planning on going ice skating in February or early March at the Rhinelander Ice Arena. See the January Cloverpatch for more details.
This is a reminder to bring your food items to the Holiday Craft Workshop on Saturday, Dec. 6. The basket is being prepared for a client with Tri-County Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. If you have forgotten what you signed up to bring, call the 4-H office.

Below is the list of items still needed. Just a note that one of our leaders, Braden Bayne-Allison, is employed as an advocate at Tri-County Council.

Canned Ham
$5 toward milk products
$5 toward a pie
Chunk of Cheddar cheese

There is still the opportunity to sign up for Art Lab, Jan. 30-31, at Upham Woods in Wisconsin Dells. Lynn is planning on attending so transportation exists. This program is for adults and high school age youth. The overnight allows participants to dive into a specific art track. The tracks available are Taekwondo, Photography, Digital Storytelling, Theatre Arts, Film Making, Basketry, and Print Making. The full cost is $50 but there are scholarships for both adults and youth available through the Leaders’ Association. Registration deadline is Tuesday, Jan. 6. Give Lynn a call if interested.

Due to bad weather, the November Leaders’ Association meeting is rescheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, in the lower level of the airport. At that time there will be election of officers. Officers serve for two year terms, and the offices open for these next two years are Vice President and Treasurer. All are welcome to the Leaders’ meeting (parents, leaders, youth leaders). Their work is so important to the continued functioning of the 4-H program as they set the guidelines for the Fairbook, set up the 4-H portion of the fair, raise money for trips and workshops, and explore new programming ideas. Come and be a part of 4-H expansion in Oneida County.

There is a change in the meeting time for the upcoming Junior Leaders’ meeting. It will be held from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4. Mary Puestow will be present to talk about the Holiday Craft Workshop. Also, discussion will take place regarding the next Champs afterschool program on Wednesday, Dec. 17.

The annual Space Camp trip will be from April 16-20, 2015. 4-H Missions in Space program is a fun-filled weekend at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center where participants
will complete a simulated Space Shuttle mission, experience training simulators, tour the U.S. Space & Rocket Center and learn about becoming an astronaut. The bus pick-up site for this area is Wausau. 4-H members in grades 6-8 may apply. The time for enrollment is Jan. 2-12 through the 4honline.com program. Cost is approximately $525 but keep in mind that first-year 4-H members have 25 percent paid by the Oneida County Leaders’ Association. Second-year members have 50 percent and third-year members 75 percent. There are ways that the club could help you raise the rest of the money if you make the request.

There is the opportunity for adults to participate as chaperones where the fees are paid. Just ask Lorenz King about how worthwhile the trip is. Deadline for chaperone sign-up is Feb. 13.

The next Lego project group meeting will be from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19, in the Rhinelander District Library basement. For the month of November only the session will not fall on the normal second Wednesday of the month. Call Braden at 715-572-9475 or Amy at 715-360-0783 for more information. New members are welcome.

4-H will continue to help out with the Crescent School Champs program on the early release days. Anyone wishing to help with the Dec. 17 program please come at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, to the 4-H office to help plan.

Set up for this event will be from 8-9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Curran Building in Rhinelander. A Big Thank You to Mary Puestow for heading up this popular event. If you have questions, call the 4-H office or Mary at 715-482-2846.

Just a reminder that the DNR quiz is available and a lot of fun. You sign up to receive a DNR quiz question once a week by email. The question is about our Wisconsin plants and wildlife. The website to sign up is http://www.wiatri.net/NHC/Quiz/

There will be the start of a new project: 4-H drama. The first meeting will be held from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9, at the Congregational
Church on Larch St. across from Rhinelander High School. The project sessions will consist of drama games and skits. What is done as a big project will be determined by the project members. This is open to all youth in 3rd grade and up. Preceding the Dec. 9 meeting will be a lite meal served at 5:30 p.m. The first project session is designed more to introduce new members to the 4-H program, so if any seasoned 4-Hers can’t make it, there is no problem. For this meeting, please RSVP. If you can’t make it but would like to be at future 4-H drama sessions, let Lynn know that as well. She is leading the project.

**ADULT VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

The next adult 4-H volunteer/parent training will be 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1. This is open to all parents as well as those interested in helping in any volunteer capacity. Let Lynn know if you are planning on attending.

**QUIZ CORNER**

What is one way that Oneida County 4-Hers are giving back to their community this Christmas?