

EDUCATIONAL POINT REQUIREMENTS FOR OCONTO COUNTY ANIMAL PROJECTS

What are educational points? The county fair is the showcase event for animal project exhibitors, but these projects are a lot more than just the four days at the fair. Educational points are earned throughout the year by doing activities that help you learn more about your project, raising animals, and agriculture.

Who needs educational points? All 4-H, FFA, and Boy Scout/Girl Scout members showing animal projects at the County Fair are required to participate in educational opportunities in order to be eligible to sell in the Sale of Champions. Your eligibility to show at the fair is not affected by educational points. While all animal project exhibitors are strongly encouraged to meet this requirement, not doing so only affects your eligibility to sell your project in the Sale of Champions if you should qualify.

How many educational points do you need? Youth must earn points for **three (3) different educational activities each year**. No duplicate points will be counted. (For example, showing at three shows does not count as three points- this would be counted as one point.) At least one of your points must be species specific. Youth in the rabbit project must participate in at least one activity that is rabbit focused, dairy youth must earn at least one dairy point, etc. For most animal exhibitors, this won't be difficult at all since they are already participating in many activities that relate to their projects. Educational points for the county fair can be earned any time after the completion of last year's fair through the date of check-in for this year's fair. (This would be Saturday before the fair for horse exhibitors, Sunday before the fair for dog and cat exhibitors, and Thursday the week of the fair for all other animal exhibitors.)

How can you earn educational points?

Your three educational points need to fall under the following categories:

- ❖ Attend animal project workshops hosted by county-wide project leaders and/or Oconto County UW-Extension or animal workshops held in another county
- ❖ Teach a session at a project workshop or give a demonstration about your animal project at the county, club, or chapter level
- ❖ Attend Meat Animal Quality Assurance (MAQA)- **this point is required for beef, sheep, swine, and meat goat exhibitors**
- ❖ Participate in livestock, dairy, equine, or small animal judging team practice and a contest (4-H Area Animal Science Day or an FFA CDE)
- ❖ Take one semester of a high school agriculture education course on livestock, dairy, equine, small animal or veterinary science with a grade of C or better
- ❖ Exhibit animals at the Wisconsin State Fair
- ❖ Exhibit animals at a district or state junior or open show (examples: Northeast Jr. Livestock Show, WLBA Spring Preview Show, Northeast District 4-H Horse Association Open Show)
- ❖ Watch an organized junior or open show (must watch the show- just attending another county fair or show does not count)
- ❖ Attend an animal focused camp (examples: Badger Dairy Camp, Livestock Show Camp)
- ❖ Volunteer with animals (examples: Humane Society, volunteer at a show)
- ❖ Participate in UW-Extension or industry sponsored workshops, seminars or other programs on livestock nutrition, reproduction, health, facilities, etc.

These are the activities that will be accepted as educational points towards your eligibility for the Sale of Champions. Activities that do not fall into these categories will not count. Please read through this list closely to make sure you have the right number and type of educational points before fair time.

When participating in events outside the county, please collect a signature whenever possible from a person coordinating the event, a project leader who is also attending or someone that can validate your attendance at the activity. A form is available from the UW-Extension Office or online at <http://oconto.uwex.edu/agriculture/youth-agriculture-programs/>.

UW-Extension educators, agriculture education instructors, and the Youth Animal Project Committee are available to help clubs that wish to sponsor training programs and workshops in addition to those already scheduled at the county level. Please contact us if you need materials or assistance. If you have any questions about educational points, please call (920)834-6845.

New For The 2014 Oconto County Youth Fair

The Oconto County Fair is successful in large part due to the efforts of many volunteers. Since Junior Fair exhibitors are major beneficiaries of the fair it is only fair that they contribute by assisting the volunteer fair board and superintendents after the fair. This year Junior Fair exhibitors in all departments will be expected to help clean up the fairgrounds after the fair.

The following are the guidelines for the 2014 County Fair clean-up day:

- ❖ All Junior Fair exhibitors will be expected to volunteer a minimum of three hours to help clean up the fairgrounds on Monday, August 18. The work may or may not be in the area the exhibitor showed in and this expectation is in addition to time that may be required of all exhibitors by superintendents in any of the barns.
- ❖ To allow for some flexibility, the Monday workday hours are between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. The fair board is optimistic that with plenty of help and organization the job can be done by early afternoon.
- ❖ Exhibitors will be checked in, organized into crews, assigned jobs, and checked out by a designated fair board member.
- ❖ An adult will supervise each youth work crew.
- ❖ The fair board will provide lunch for all exhibitors working on Monday.
- ❖ If transportation to and from the fair grounds is an issue, fair board members do come from all parts of the county and may be able to help with rides if requested.
- ❖ Exhibitors whose club is responsible for food stand clean up and who are working in the food stand on Monday will be exempt from this requirement.
- ❖ Parents and other adults are also invited and encouraged to volunteer to help.
- ❖ Out of fairness to all, every effort should be made by exhibitors to be free to help on Monday. Those exhibitors who have unavoidable conflicts on Monday should notify the fair secretary by August 1 so that alternative arrangements can be made to fulfill this requirement.