

EDUCATIONAL POINT REQUIREMENTS FOR OCONTO COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR ANIMAL EXHIBITORS

What are educational points? The county fair is the showcase event for animal project exhibitors, but these projects are expected to be learning and development activities for exhibitors--not just showing up for the four days of the fair. Educational points are earned throughout the year by participating in activities that increase members' knowledge of raising and showing project animals.

Who needs educational points? Exhibitors showing animals in the Junior Fair Division at the County Fair are required to document participation in a minimum of three programs/activities in order to be eligible to sell in the Sale of Champions. 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 an exhibitor's eligibility to sell a project in the Sale of Champions if they should otherwise qualify.

How many educational points are needed? Exhibitors must earn points for a minimum of **three (3) different educational activities each year** to meet this requirement. No duplicate activities 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 point must be species specific. Youth showing rabbits must participate in at least one activity that is rabbit focused, dairy project youth must earn at least one dairy point, etc. The minimum requirement for all exhibitors is three points. Exhibitors showing in more than three animal departments would be eligible to sell in all departments in which they qualify as long as they meet the three-point minimum. Participation in a MAQA program could count as one point for any of the species for which it is required. Educational points for the county fair can be earned any time from the day after the end of the previous fair through the date of check-in for this year's fair. (This would be Saturday or Sunday before the fair for horse and dog obedience exhibitors respectively, and Thursday of the fair for all other animal exhibitors.)

What counts as educational points?

Activities must fall into the following categories to count for points:

- ❖ Attend animal project workshops hosted by 4-H project leaders, agriculture education instructors, the Fair Youth Animal Project Committee, and/or UW-Extension.
- ❖ Teach a session at an animal 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, dairy, dairy goat, meat goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep and swine exhibitors*** and would count as one point for any one of the above species.
- ❖ Participate in livestock, dairy, equine, or small animal judging team practices and a contest (4-H Area Animal Science Day or FFA CDEs).
- ❖ Successfully complete a semester high school agriculture education course on livestock, dairy, equine, small animal production or veterinary science with a grade of C or better.
- ❖ Exhibit dairy, livestock, or small animals at the Wisconsin State Fair, or horses at the State 4-H Horse Show.
- ❖ 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, district or state Holstein or colored breed dairy cattle shows, World Dairy Expo or World Beef Expo junior or open shows).
- ❖ Watch an organized junior or open show (must watch the show- just attending another county fair does not count).
- ❖ Attend an animal-focused camp (examples: Badger Dairy Camp, 4-H Livestock Show Camp).
- ❖ Volunteer with animals (examples: Humane Society, volunteer work at a show).
- ❖ Participate in UW-Extension, technical college, or industry sponsored workshop, seminar or other program on animal nutrition, reproduction, health, facilities, etc.

These are the activities that will be accepted for eligibility for the Sale of Champions. Activities that do not fall into these categories will not count unless pre-approved by the County Youth Animal Project committee. Plan ahead to be sure this requirement is met before fair time.

When participating in events outside the county, get the signature of a person coordinating the event, a project leader who is also attending, or someone who can validate 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/chapters, individuals or families that wish to sponsor training programs. Contact one of the above for materials or assistance. Questions about the educational point requirement can be directed to Fair board Animal Exhibits Committee Chair, Chris Engebretsen (920) 373-3799.