

HISTORY OF JUNEAU COUNTY 4-H

The Wisconsin State Agricultural Society staged the first State Fair by 1862. Farmers Institutes, beginning in 1885, led the way towards official Extension work. Dairying received a big boost in 1890 when the first Dairy School in the nation opened at the Wisconsin College of Agriculture.

The remaining years before 1912 found cooking schools, dairy cattle work, field crop demonstrations, traveling schools, and demonstration trains typifying this work. Boys and girls club work started with corn and grain projects.

In 1912 seed dealers interested boys in farming corn clubs to test seed corn and grain for them. In 1914 Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act, which set up federal, state, and county government as sponsors of Extension education.

When Wisconsin adopted the Federal Agricultural Extension Program, Thomas Lyman Bewick, a native of Wisconsin, was appointed State Leader of Boys and Girls Club Work. "T. L.", as he was popularly known, was one of the pioneers in boys and girls club work. He was an ardent supporter of camping for rural boys and girls. He also arranged for the first State Boys and Girls Club Week.

Boys and Girls Clubs were originally formed in rural schools, under the supervision (in Juneau County) of the County Superintendent of Schools. This continued until 1919, when Juneau County hired their first County Agent, Mr. William T. Rogan. During the period from 1912 - 1919, clubs in Purebred Corn, Soybeans, Potatoes, Purebred Pigs, Purebred Calves, and Poultry were developed. Each project formed a separate club. When Mr. Rogan became County Agent, club work was shared by him and the County Superintendent of Schools, Myrta D. Cuenot.

In 1920, Boys and Girls Club Roundups were held with exhibits at the Lone Rock School (Mauston), Town of Orange, Crossville School, Town of Lindina, and Lyndon Station. Exhibits with suitable prizes were made at the Elroy and Juneau County Fairs.

In 1921, Mrs. Tim Wright, Mrs. Elmer Niles, and Mrs. Guy Carter, together with T. L. Bewick, State Leader of Boys and Girls Club work, organized Boys and Girls Club Work on a county, rather than local, level. On July 1, 1921, Mr. Stanley Sands replaced Mr. Rogan as County Agent, and took over most of the Boys and Girls Club Work, relieving the County Superintendent of Schools.

In 1922, five Girls Canning Clubs were organized and exhibited at the Elroy and Juneau County Fairs. Two canning demonstration teams were sent to the State Fair. One team (Jane Wright, Mary Wright, and Borghild Larsen) won top honors at the State Fair. The National Pressure Cooker Company gave them a special prize of a pressure cooker. These girls had never before seen one - the old wash boiler was their "hot pack" for canning.

In 1923 there were 226 boys and girls in club work in Juneau County. Clubs were added in Bread Making, Sewing, Milk Drinks, and Beekeeping. A bread demonstration team (Antoinette Hamerle, Cecelia Miller, and Vera Niles) won top honors at both the Juneau County Fair and the Wisconsin State Fair. Robert Meade of New Lisbon won a trip to the International Stock Show at Chicago, having done the best work in the Shorthorn Calf Club. A county demonstration "Fitting a Calf for Show" won first place at State Fair and a trip to the International Livestock Show also, for Bessie and Edna Carter and a boy from Elroy.

In 1924 a Home Nursing Club was added. A demonstration in this project placed 4th at the State Fair. A Holstein calf demonstration placed second. The Sewing Club put up an exhibit at Wisconsin State Fair that they won second place with.

In 1925, new clubs were organized at Mather, Necedah, and Wonewoc. In July a three-day camp was

held at the Dells. It was held on the Wisconsin River at Kilbourn. Thirty-six youngsters attended this camp - 16 from Juneau County - the rest from Monroe, Vernon, Marquette, and Columbia counties. County Agent Stanley Sands, with the help of two other County Agents, took charge of this camp.

In 1926 Farm Record Clubs were added. Sixty-five boys and girls kept actual farm records.

1927 found the first 4-H Club Leaders hired in Wisconsin in Marathon, Marinette, and Milwaukee counties. Boys and Girls Clubs were gradually taking on 4-H policies and records. Members themselves did very little record keeping in Boys and Girls Clubs.

In 1929 Douglas Curran was hired from the University of Wisconsin to conduct Boys and Girls 4-H Club Work in Juneau County for the summer. He was to work from May 25, 1929 through the first week in September. For the first five weeks he was here on Saturdays only. The Juneau County Agricultural Society (Fair Association) and the State College of Agriculture paid his salary. In July a 4-H Club Leaders Conference was held at the Juneau County Court House, with State Club Leader T. L. Bewick, present. A County Roundup was held at Island Resort on August 11.

In 1930, under the supervision of Douglas Curran, there were 8 4-H clubs in Juneau County, with an enrollment of 173. Five of these clubs were Duldahl 4-H, Lindina Pioneers, Cheery 4-H, Lone Rock 4-H (Mauston), and Wonder Workers 4-H.

In 1931, Mr. G. B. Price was hired as County 4-H Club Leader for the summer. There were now 23 4-H clubs with an enrollment of 475. Six 4-H clubs participated in the Memorial Day Program at Mauston. A 4-H Adult Leaders Conference was held on June 6, 1931. The program committee of the Leaders Conference were Mrs. E. G. Craine, Mrs. Carrie Jackson, Milo Nilès, Art Robinson, and Dan Conway.

In 1932 Juneau County 4-H Club work was carried on under the supervision of A. F. Robinson and Christine Quamme (Mrs. Harold Durnin). Due to the Depression, the county felt it could not afford to hire a summer County 4-H Leader. Juneau County did not have a County Agent from April 1, 1928 to January 20, 1934, so 4-H work was entirely voluntary. Due to the efforts of Mr. Robinson and Miss Quamme, 4-H Club work was carried on. Among early adult 4-H leaders in Juneau County were Art Robinson, Jane Wright, Mary Wright, Jessica Wilcox, Mrs. Ed Mauer, Mrs. J. MacKenzie, and Mrs. Louis Brux.

In January 1934, Juneau County hired Mr. V. E. Brubaker as County Agent. In July of 1934 he was replaced by Mr. Manley Sharp.

In 1935 there were 13 4-H Clubs in Juneau County with a membership of 146. Mr. Manley Sharp helped Mr. Robinson with the club work in 1935 and in 1936 when there were 10 clubs with a membership of 160.

* 1937 found 10 4-H clubs in Juneau County, with a membership of 153. Liming, alfalfa, and soil improvement and management programs were improved. Together with livestock improvement programs were being carried out to cooperate with the A.A.A. (Agricultural Adjustment Administration) and help promote such programs as animal disease control measures. An office girl was hired for the County Agent for the first time.

In 1940 there were 13 4-H clubs in Juneau County, some of which were Daughters of Duty, Lyndon Station 4-H Club, Elroy 4-H Club, Pioneer 4-H Club, Cheery 4-H Club, Happy Workers 4-H Club, Wonder Workers 4-H Club, Busy Bee 4-H Club, Pleasant View, Cardinal 4-H Club, Hustler 4-H Club, American Elm, Suldahl, and Lindina Pioneers. 80% of the 155 members in 4-H clubs in Juneau County this year achieved. There were 74 who exhibited calves at the county fair, 28 of which went on to State Fair.

In 1941 there were 257 4-H members in 18 Juneau County 4-H clubs, 81% of whom completed their

project work. Juneau County 4-H members and the Juneau County Livestock Breeders Association themselves raised the money to hire a County 4-H Club Leader. Achievement of 81% in Juneau County was above the state average for 1941. County 4-H members won 35 ribbons and over \$200 on 35 calves exhibited at the State Fair.

In 1942, Helen Davies was hired as Juneau County's first County Home Demonstration Agent. She was to assist with the Home Economics projects of 4-H. There were 13 4-H clubs, with 187 members, 80% of whom achieved. Evelyn Pelon and Ilene Pech of the Mosquito Dodgers 4-H Club won medals for blue ribbon dairy demonstrations. Marie Kieffer of Big Pine 4-H Club represented Juneau County at the Style Revue at State Fair; Mildred Benson of the Hustling Hustlers was Juneau County Dairy Queen and Mae Carter of Suldahl 4-H participated in the State 4-H Chorus. There were also club tours held this year. Due to the war, no exhibits were made at the State Fair. James Barrett of the Hustling Cardinals 4-H Club was honored as the "All Around Agricultural Member of 1942".

In 1943 there were 21 4-H clubs in Juneau County with 290 members. There were clubs in 14 townships (last year only 8). Club work was organized in February and early March. The program was streamlined to meet war conditions. Only projects pertaining to food production and conservation were offered. Mr. S. T. Peterson was the president of the Adult Leaders Association. Stanley Rynearson of the Lindina Busy Bees 4-H Club and Helen Mackin of Sevenweir 4-H Club received special awards as the two 4-H members contributing the most to the war effort. Outstanding Home Economics Girl was Bernadine Donlin of Big Pine 4-H; Outstanding Agricultural Member - James Barrett of Hustling Cardinals, and the Danforth Award for Outstanding Leadership went to Mildred Benson of the Hustling Cardinals.

1944 saw Miss Mildred Olson replacing Miss Dairs as County Home Agent. This year there were 24 4-H clubs in Juneau County, with a membership of 334, 70% of whom achieved. There was a 4-H Kittenball Tournament, Kittenball being a popular form of recreation. Outstanding Home Economics Girl was Mildred Benson of Hustling Cardinals; Harry Sharfenberg of Sumi-Linda was the Outstanding Agricultural Member.

1945 was the first year that dairy, foods, and clothing judging became part of the regular activities of the Juneau County Fair. There was 70% achievement among 349 members in 26 clubs this year. Mildred Benson (Mrs. C. Mack) of the Hustling Cardinals was the Outstanding Home Economics Girl and William Miller of Lindina Busy Bees was the Outstanding Agricultural Member.

In 1946 Juneau County hired Mr. Bradford T. Scott to act as Assistant County Agent in charge of 4-H club work, which he did until the end of the year. This year there were 325 members in 23 4-H clubs in Juneau County, 72% of these members achieved. Juneau County had been annually holding a County 4-H Achievement Day at the completion of the project year, after the checking of record books. This was when members received their achievement pins and special awards.

1947 found 22 4-H clubs in Juneau County, with a membership of 365, and an achievement of 65%. This year emphasis was given on Quality Milk. Oscar Remington of Lindina Busy Bees 4-H won top honors in dairy judging at the Wisconsin State Fair, which earned him a trip to the National Jersey Cattle Show at Columbus, Ohio. Russell Robinson of Sumi-Linda 4-H won a trip to Washington, D. C.

Three Juneau County 4-H boys attended the Wisconsin State Conservation Camp at Eagle River, Wisconsin. Conservation Camps were held every year, and Juneau County 4-H was always well represented. On August 25, 1947, Mr. Leo Schaefer was hired to replace Mr. Manley Sharp as County Agent. The annual Achievement Day was held on November 1, 1947 with a morning theatre party at the Gail Theatre. The Achievement program was completed in the afternoon.

In 1948 there were 26 Juneau County 4-H Clubs with a membership of 395. This was Centennial Year for the State of Wisconsin. For the first time since World War II, Juneau County 4-H Clubs exhibited at the State Fair. They also took part in the Centennial Exhibit at Milwaukee during State Fair Week. Nine calves, one home economics demonstrator, one dairy judge, one foods preservation judge, one foods

and nutrition judge, and two dress revue contestants participated.

In 1950 there were 30 4-H Clubs in Juneau County with an enrollment of 509, 80% of whom achieved. The 4-H Adult Leaders Organization now met every two months. They sponsored a food stand at the County Fair, proceeds being used to further 4-H work in the county. This year a boys demonstration team participated in the State Fair, and one girl demonstrator from Juneau County participated in a special State Dishwashing Demonstration and won a blue ribbon.

In 1951 Mr. Harry Papcke was hired as the summer County 4-H Leader. A County 4-H Chorus was started this year, with Mrs. Lawrence Larson as director, in which 19 clubs took part. Louise Hancock, Cheery 4-H, was the winner in the Juneau County 4-H Speaking Contest, which won her a trip to State 4-H Camp. Miss Hancock was also the winner in the senior division of Garden Judging. Marilyn Mason, Cheery 4-H, took her prize winning demonstration to State Fair; Ardis Robinson and Connie Lindsey of Sumi-Linda 4-H were county representatives in the Style Revue at State Fair.

1952 found 37 4-H Clubs in Juneau County, with a membership of 635 and 74% member achievement. A 4-H Officers School was conducted at the New Lisbon Legion Hall on March 8, 1952. Donna Hancock of Cheery 4-H was a candidate for Dairy Queen of the West Salem Parish Show on June 2, 1952. Robert Franke, Lindina Busy Bees, and Richard Zumstein, Big Creek Badgers, were Achievement Boys; Donna Hancock, Cheery 4-H, and Ilda Kallian, Big Creek Badgers 4-H, were Achievement Girls. Marilyn Mason, Cheery 4-H, was Outstanding Clothing Member; Sandra Gordon, American Elm 4-H, had the prize winning Dairy Demonstration. Mr. Walter Christensen served as the summer County 4-H Leader of 1952.

In 1953 we again had Mr. Harry Papcke as a summer County 4-H Leader. Our County 4-H Chorus was again organized under the direction of Mrs. Lawrence Larson, among other activities they participated in the Juneau County Fair. Richard Zumstein, a member the past seven years of the Red School Wonder Workers and the Big Creek Badgers 4-H Club, won top honors in achievement, and received a \$100.00 Agricultural Education Scholarship from Arthur Overgaard.

In 1954 Juneau County had 620 boys and girls enrolled in 36 4-H Clubs, with an achievement of 61%. This year Herbert Mocadlo was hired as the first full-time County 4-H Club Leader. The Officers and Leaders training school was conducted at Lyndon Station in March. A County 4-H Rally Day was held on May 15, 1954, to select representatives to attend the first state-wide 4-H Club Week to be held in Wisconsin since before World War II. Fifty campers went to Camp Upham Woods July 5, 6, and 7 at Wisconsin Dells. Donna Hancock of Cheery 4-H was the district winner of the Wisconsin Guernsey Breeders award for 1954.

A trio of girls (Jeannette Robinson, Betty Kopecky, and Arlene Shafer) of Cheery 4-H and an instrumental number by 11-year-old Alice Tremi of Pleasant Valley 4-H won starred blue ribbons at the Juneau County 4-H Music and Drama Festival of 1955. This gave the girls the chance to represent Juneau County at the district Music Festival. Rocky Arbor 4-H won county and district honors with their play "Little Women". A county-wide 4-H party to welcome April Fools Day was held. Josephine Moriarty, Lindina Pioneers 4-H, had the prize winning demonstration "Making Yeast Rolls".

In 1956 Juneau County had 600 boys and girls enrolled in 32 4-H Clubs, 79% of whom reached achievement. Kieran Powers, Blackhawk 4-H, went to Venezuela as an IFYE (International Farm Youth Exchange). Robert Franke, Sumi-Linda 4-H, was 1956 Achievement Boy; Achievement Girls were May Ann Schauer, E'erdowell 4-H, and Arlene Struck, New Lisbon Chimney Rock 4-H. Art Robinson, 21 year leader of Lindina Busy Bees, was honored with a special leadership certificate. Citizenship awards were given Robert Franke, Lindina Busy Bees, and Eileen Georgeson, Cheery 4-H. Lindina Pioneers 4-H Club won the Milwaukee Journal Farm Safety Award, and an expense paid trip to Milwaukee. Leaders of this club were Louis Brux, Mrs. Charles Krug, and Mrs. Ed Moriarty. Rudy Ennis of Hillview 4-H won state recognition for 4-H Dairy Practice Work. Robert Franke, Lindina Busy Bees, also won the first city service "Key Award."

The Milwaukee Journal Farm Safety Award was won in 1957 by the Deertail 4-H Club, with Mr. and Mrs. Leonard as leaders. Home Economics girls were Carol Wells, Lindina Pioneers, and Joan Morrissey, Blackhawk 4-H. Richard Lange, Hillview 4-H, and Betty Skalak were Achievement Boy and Girl. Key Award was won by Donn Hancock, Cheery 4-H. The Hillview Hand in Hand Hustlers of Wonewoc presented a safety program on Bill Grove's farm. Mr. Carl Gutenberger was hired in September of 1957 to replace Mr. Mocadlo as County 4-H Leader.

1958 found 25 4-H Clubs in Juneau County. There were 565 members, 81% of whom reached achievement. This year the district Music Festival was held in Mauston. Cattail Valley 4-H Club received the highest rating at the district Drama Festival at Baraboo. They were later recognized as the second best drama group in the state, out of 150 groups. Achievement Boy and Girl this year were Michael Scully, Lyndon Pioneers and Joan Morrissey, Blackhawk 4-H. The Danforth Award was won by Jerry Larson. Key Awards were won by Richard Lange, Hillview 4-H, and Kathleen Quinn, Cattail Valley 4-H. Richard Lange won National Recognition in the Soil Conservation Program, and a trip to National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. A "Friend of 4-H" Award was presented to Mr. Oliver Witte of the Mauston Newspapers.

In 1959 the Adult Leaders Association voted to instigate Junior Honor Awards. Only 4-H members 14 years of age or older were eligible for awards. It was now decided to give an award to the outstanding member enrolled in each project in the younger group. This was to encourage these younger members, and done by the Juneau County Adult Leaders Association with financial aid of Pure Milks Cooperative. "4-H Welcomes You" signs were put up. Mary Lynn Demaske, Sumi-Linda 4-H, and Kathleen Johnson, Lyndon Pioneers 4-H, represented Juneau County at the State Fair in Style Revue. June Isaacson, Rocketeers 4-H, took her prize winning demonstration to State Fair. There were 530 boys and girls in 21 4-H Clubs with an 85% achievement in 1959. James Kelley, Blackhawk 4-H, won the Key Award, and was also Achievement Boy. Carol Wells of Lindina Pioneers 4-H was Achievement Girl. The "Friend of 4-H" Award was given to Dr. Westerfeldt, Mauston veterinarian.

1960 found 118 adult leaders, and 500 boys and girls enrolled in Juneau County 4-H. The Hustling Hustlers 4-H girls vocal ensemble won local, district, and state Music Festival honors, and appeared on a TV program. Cattail Valley 4-H again won local and district drama honors, and the chance to be invited to present their play at the Wisconsin State Fair. Larry Johnson, Mauston TNT 4-H, won top honors as a State Fair demonstrator. TNT 4-H Club won top honors in the State Safety Program, and placed 4th in a national contest for their efforts in the Community Builders Program. James Kelley, Blackhawk 4-H, and Joan Byington, TNT 4-H, received 2 of 3 God-Home-Country Awards given in the state. Mr. Tom Barrett, Sr., Hustling Hustlers 4-H, was honored with a trip to Chicago as one of the top 4-H dairy leaders in the state. Gerald Larson, Cloverleaf 4-H; won the Key Award, Barbara Eltag, Pleasant Valley 4-H, was Achievement Girl.

In 1961 Juneau County was honored to have four Canadian 4-H club members as guests in July. In 1962, four 4-H club members from Juneau County will be going to Canada. Willard Stark, Lindina Pioneer 4-H, and Robert Arrowsmith, Rockview Boosters 4-H, participated in the State 4-H Band, which was highlighted by a trip to National Club Congress in Chicago. Ann Marie Phillips, Pleasant Valley 4-H, was Achievement Girl, and William Kelley, Blackhawk 4-H, Achievement Boy. A 4-H Junior Dairy Judging team (Tom Barrett, Jr. and Sam Bell, both of Hustling Hustlers 4-H, and Robert Scully, Lyndon Pioneers) won top state honors.

*The author of this history of Juneau County 4-H is currently unknown. It appears to have been written in 1961. There has been a minimal amount of editing of this original writing.