

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 participating in activities that help project members learn more about their project, raising animals, and agriculture.

Who needs educational points? In order to be eligible to sell in the Sale of Champions junior fair exhibitors of animal projects at the fair are required to participate in qualifying educational activities related to their project. **Eligibility to exhibit 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 eligibility to sell a project in the Sale of Champions if it should qualify.

How many educational points are needed? Exhibitors must earn points for **three (3) different educational activities each year.** No duplicate activities will be counted. (For example, showing at three shows does not count as three points- this would count as one point.) At least one of an exhibitor's 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. *An exhibitor entering more than three exhibits that may be eligible to sell is only required to earn 3 educational points.* 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.

What activities qualify for educational points?

Activities qualifying for educational points must fall under the following categories:

- ❖ Attend animal project workshops hosted by county-wide animal project leaders, 4-H 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, dairy, sheep, swine, and meat goat exhibitors**
- ❖ Participate in livestock, dairy, equine, or small animal judging team practice and contests (4-H Area Animal Science Day or FFA Career Development Event [CDE or judging contest])
- ❖ Complete one semester of a high school agriculture education course in livestock, dairy, equine, or small animal production; 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 eligibility for the Sale of Champions. Activities that do not fall into these categories will not count unless advance approval is given by the youth animal project committee and the fair board. Please read through this list closely. It is the responsibility of exhibitors to insure they have the minimum number of educational points covered by the time of the fair.

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, ag education instructors, and the youth animal project committee members 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 fair the secretary (920)846-2046.