

AGENDA
Agriculture & Extension Education Committee Meeting
County Board Room
810 Lincoln Street, Kewaunee, WI
Wednesday, January 5, 2022
Conference Room Near Main Entrance
8:30 AM

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Review/Approval of Minutes of the December 1, 2021 meeting minutes
5. Public Input
6. Educators Reports – Written/Narrative/Q/A
7. Dog Claim damages
8. Department Head/Area Director Report – Judy Knudsen
 - a. Extension Updates
9. Review and Set Future Committee Meeting Dates.
10. Adjourn

The Committee welcomes all visitors to listen and observe, but only Committee members and those invited to speak will be permitted to do so. Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to attend or participate should contact the County Administrator's Office at (920) 388-7164 prior to the meeting so that accommodations may be arranged.

A majority of the members of the County Board of Supervisors or any of its committees including: Finance & Public Property, Personnel, Advisory & Legislative, Health, Child Support, & Veterans Service, Human Services, Aging Services Unit Advisory, Extension Education, County Farm, & Zoning, Law Enforcement & Emergency Management, Land & Water Conservation, Highway & Solid Waste, Promotion & Recreation, and others may be present at this meeting to listen, observe, and participate. If a majority of any such committee is present, their presence constitutes a "meeting" under the Open Meeting Law as interpreted in State ex rel. Badke v. Greendale Village Board, 173 Wis. 2d 553 (1993), even though the visiting body will take no action at this meeting.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
KEWAUNEE COUNTY

Aerica Bjurstrom
Agriculture Agent

Prepared for January 5, 2022

Beef Quality Assurance Training – Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) training was held at the Kewaunee County fairgrounds in December. It was also broadcast to a remote location in Marinette County for beef producers in that area. BQA is a course farmers can take to certify they have taken education and implemented best management practices on their farms to produce safe, wholesome beef. Dairy farmers typically do not need to take this program because they have a program called Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM). While BQA is not required on a national level, it is recommended for all beef producers. Some buyers such as Tyson require farmers who sell beef to them to have taken the course. Farmers from Calumet, Kewaunee, Brown, Door, and Manitowoc Counties attended the session.

Professional Development – Attended a meeting sponsored by a dairy industry company. Topics included personnel management, herd health, nutrition. Attended (online) the all-colleague conference, which took place over three Wednesdays in December. The program focused on evaluation, technology, and strategic planning, and other educational planning topics.

Program planning – I will begin my role as an area dairy educator in 2022 and will focus specifically on dairy programming:

- Pesticide Applicator Training – January 13 (Kewaunee County Fairgrounds), January 14 Brown County Extension
- CAFO Meetings – February 15/16 (online) I will be presenting and assisted with the development of the agenda
- Registration/agenda: <https://www.browncountywi.gov/departments/extension-brown-county/agriculture/forms/>
- Dairy and Beef Well-Being Conference – February 22
I am a co-chair of this event and have been coordinating planning meetings and working with a team on promotion and sponsorship
- Badger Dairy Insight – A series of webinars presented by dairy science specialists at UW-Madison and UW-River Falls.
- Manure Hauler's 101 Meeting – Dates TBA

Media/Videos – I released my newest Five Minute Farm Focus video in December. The video features Jacob Brey from Sturgeon Bay speaking on how they use genetic selection to breed a healthier cow. The video can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7iSgPg8rvI>

Since releasing my first video in April, the six videos have been viewed over 6,500 times. I received feedback from a dairy industry professional in Canada who works in publishing, and he said, *"This is such a great video. Professional, informative, farmer friendly, I just can't say enough good things about it."*

I also had an article published in Hoard's Dairyman this month. The magazine reaches dairy farmers in over 80 countries and is published in three languages. (see reverse for article)

It's time to cull "cull cows" from our vocabulary

Cattle that leave the dairy for beef purposes are still an asset and should be treated as such.

by Aerica Bjurstrom

DECIDING when and how a dairy cow departs the farm is different on every operation. Making the decision to remove a cow from the herd is not always an easy one, but determining when the cow leaves and how is equally important.

Changing the vocabulary from cull cow to market cow is a way to focus on what kind of animals are leaving the dairy. According to FarmBench, dairy cows sold for slaughter make up about 6.6% of total farm sales per year. To put that into perspective, a 250-cow dairy could see between \$60,000 and \$100,000 a year in market cow sales.

Market cows create opportunity on the farm. Besides income from sales, removing market cows from the herd frees up space for younger, better producing cows with higher genetic value. There are also reduced labor costs, feed savings, and resource savings such as bedding and medication when removing inefficient cows from the herd.

Market cows are an asset

Dairy cattle are estimated to contribute 20% to 25% of the U.S. beef market. As a dairy producer, you should consider yourself a beef producer from the day that calf hits the ground to the day it leaves your farm. With that in mind, cows leaving the farm for beef should be considered market cows and not culls.

A market cow is an asset with value and opportunity. The definition of cull is to discard or destroy as inferior. As a beef producer, why would you want to send an inferior animal to market? A market cow should be a quality animal in good health, fit for transport to the processing plant.

Cows leave the herd under two conditions. The first is voluntary, which is often based on milk production and/or reproduction. The second is involuntary, which can be for a variety of health issues, but typically it is due to lameness, mastitis, or injury. According to a 1996 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) survey, reasons why dairy cows leave the farm for slaughter were 27% reproduction, 27% udder/mastitis problems, 22% poor production, 15% lameness/injury, and the remaining 9% for disease, aggressive behavior, and other issues.

Ready to ride?

Deciding when and if a cow should be sent to market depends on farm protocols and management decisions. One factor that should remain constant throughout all farms is if a cow is fit for transport to the packing plant. According to the Transportation and Fitness-to-Travel Recommendations for Cattle from the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP), farm personnel should be trained to assess welfare of cattle on a daily basis and determine if an animal is fit for travel. Both Beef



COWS THAT ARE SENT TO SLAUGHTER at a healthy weight, greater than a body condition score of 2, are more likely to make the trip safely and earn a better market price.

Quality Assurance (BQA) and the FARM Animal Care Program Version 4.0 include fitness for transport standards and guidelines based on AABP guidelines.

Assessing animals before shipping should include physical and health evaluations. Determining if a cow can travel today, if it needs to recover, or if it needs to be euthanized should be done with every animal leaving the herd. A simple set of questions (Table 1) adapted from AABP guidelines by Jennifer Van Os, assistant professor and extension specialist in animal welfare at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, addresses evaluation of cattle for transport.

It may be tempting to put a marginal cow on the trailer because you know there is a processing facility nearby. Don't take for granted your market cows will be processed locally, though. A 2016 National Beef Quality Audit (NBQA) showed cows and bulls

arriving at processing plants nationwide were in transit an average of 6.7 hours, with some riding over 24 hours. That does not include holding time at sale barns and time spent loading or unloading. Long transit times, multiple moves on and off trailers, and attempting to establish dominance with other cattle are all potential situations where even a moderately compromised cow can become injured or sick.

Make better beef

Holding a cow on the farm to recover from a condition is an important management and well-being decision. In addition, cows that appear healthy and in good condition typically bring better prices at market. Contrary to what many believe, dairy cattle contribute much more to the beef industry than just ground beef. According to the 2012 NBQA audit, 75% of individual dairy cow and/or bull carcasses are sold as whole cuts, specifically rear leg round cuts.

The NBQA audit also highlighted dairy carcass issues that can be addressed on the farm before cows are sent to slaughter. It showed dairy cattle have over twice as many rear leg injection lesions than beef cattle. These lesions appear in the high-value rear leg meat and must be cut away and discarded. Following the BQA standards and injecting cattle in the low-value neck muscle would significantly improve dairy carcass quality.

NBQA also found that 90% of dairy cows are too light muscled. While it is understandable that dairy cows would be lean and light muscled, holding back and feeding very thin cows (body condition score less than 2) will improve the likelihood of withstanding transport. Feeding a cow to a healthy weight will also raise muscle mass, which should pay off at slaughter with a more desirable market cow.

Every farm should establish a set of fitness for transport standards with herd managers and their veterinarian that results in marketing the best cow possible. It is the dairy producer's responsibility to ensure the cow's well-being until harvest. 🐄

Consider these factors to determine fitness for transport		
	Yes	No
1. Are any udders distended?	Do not ship — milk right before shipping.	Okay to ship.
2. Were cows milked right before shipping?	Okay to ship.	Do not ship — milk right before shipping.
3. Do any cows have ambulatory issues?	Do not ship. Allow to recover on farm or euthanize.	Okay to ship.
4. Do any cows have cancer eye or blindness?	Do not ship. Euthanize.	Okay to ship.
5. Do any cows have fever greater than 103°F?	Do not ship. Allow to recover on farm or euthanize.	Okay to ship.
6. Do any cows have potential drug residues (still within drug withdrawal or withhold period)?	Do not ship. Wait until withdrawal or withhold period has passed.	Okay to ship.
7. Do any cows have peritonitis?	Do not ship. Allow to recover on farm or euthanize.	Okay to ship.
8. Do any cows have leg fractures or severe lameness (4 or 5 on 5-point scale)?	Do not ship. Allow to recover on farm or euthanize.	Okay to ship.
9. Do any cows have unreduced prolapses?	Do not ship. Allow to recover on farm or euthanize.	Okay to ship.
10. Are any cows currently calving or have a high likelihood of calving during transport?	Do not ship. Allow to calve on farm first.	Okay to ship.
11. Do any cows have suspected nervous system symptoms?	Do not ship. Allow to recover on farm or euthanize.	Okay to ship.
12. Do any cows have visible open wounds?	Do not ship. Allow to recover on farm or euthanize.	Okay to ship.

Source: Jennifer Van Os (University of Wisconsin-Madison), adapted from the American Association of Bovine Practitioners' guidelines.

The author is a University of Wisconsin Division of Extension agriculture agent in Kewaunee County.



Renee Koenig, MS
Associate Professor, Human Development & Relationships Educator

Report for January 5, 2022

Co-Parenting Courses –

Each month, I continue to offer co-parenting courses for recently divorced and separated parents. The parents are referred to me from the Kewaunee and Manitowoc courts. In 2021, there were 83 parents of 178 children who successfully completed the course. Evaluations are collected at the end of each course to measure learning and satisfaction of the course. Parents consistently report increases in knowledge of child development and improved communication skills. Parents also indicate 98% of the time that the course was worth their time and 95% think it should be required for divorcing parents. I will continue to offer these courses in 2022 to Kewaunee and Manitowoc county parents. In 2022, there are plans to offer supplemental courses and learning material to blended families to extend the learning beyond the initial year of the family transition.

Suicide Prevention and Mental Health First Aid Training -

In December, I partnered with Sheriff Joski to offer two training sessions of QPR Suicide Prevention. There was a lot of interest from the community and both sessions were well attended. Some of the participants who attended the QPR training were so convinced of the value and impact of it that they decided to schedule additional sessions in 2022 for their church groups, workplaces, and other organizations. At the training, I also promoted the full-day training that I offer in Mental Health First Aid. In January, I will be offering a local session of Mental Health First Aid for adults who interact with youth. The Kewaunee County Public Health Needs Assessment also indicated mental health as a top need. Plans will continue in 2022 to address this need.

Extension’s Annual Conference -

In December, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Extension held the annual conference in a virtual format over three business days. The conference offered topics and speakers focusing on equity, communicating value and digital innovation. There were also many opportunities to connect with colleagues in a less formal setting.

End of Year Reporting -

All Extension employees involved in educational programming are required to report on their work on a monthly basis through a statewide reporting portal. At the end of each year, there are also updates needed to be reported on participation records, tracking partnerships, classifying scholarly products and quantifying community events and media outreach efforts.

Raising Wisconsin’s Children Conference -

The Raising Wisconsin’s Children Conference will be held January 13 & 15, 2022. It is free and 100% virtual. We will have two keynote speakers – one each day. Colleagues will also present 15 sessions over the two days. Dads, moms, grandparents, foster parents, community members, child care providers, and more are all welcome. The conference is geared toward parents (no CEUs for professionals). Feel free to direct folks to register via our website (<https://parenting.extension.wisc.edu/raising-wi-children-conference/>).

