

**MINUTES**  
**Agriculture & Extension Education Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 10, 2022**  
**Kewaunee County Fairgrounds, 625 Third Street, Luxemburg, WI**  
**2:00 PM**

1. Call to Order. Chair Lukes called meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call. Present: Supervisor Lukes, Supervisor Paape, and Supervisor Lazansky, and Supervisor Augustian. Educators: Aerica Bjurstrom, Laura Apfelbeck, Jace Purdy, and Interim Area Extension Director Judy Knudsen. Absent: Supervisor Kinnard, Supervisor Langteau, Renee Koenig, and Mariah Vandertie.
3. Approval of Agenda and Approval of Minutes of the July 13, 2022 meeting. Motion made by Supervisor Lazansky and seconded by Supervisor Paape to approve the August 10, 2022 meeting agenda and minutes of the July 13, 2022 meeting. Motion carried all voting aye.
4. Public Input. No input.
5. Educators Reports – Written/Narrative/Q/A
  - a. Aerica Bjurstrom was recognized at the National Association of County Agriculture Agents conference with the Distinguished Service Award and was a national finalist in two communication award categories. Date for silage dry down has been scheduled. Working on another five-minute focus video. An article printed in the *Wisconsin State Farmer* on proper footbath management research project written by Aerica was shared as she is working with a number of Extension colleagues on this project.
  - b. Laura Apfelbeck and Jace Purdy provided an overview of the FoodWise program and specific programs being offered in Kewaunee County to low-income individuals and families. FoodWise programming targets individuals and households who are low-income and eligible for SNAP benefits.
7. Department Head/Area Director Report – Judy Knudsen
  - a. Extension Updates:
    - Provided update regarding Extension’s recent move to the Exhibition Building on the Kewaunee County Fairgrounds. Committee toured space Extension office.
    - Share 2023 Extension proposed budget will be submitted soon.
8. Review and Set Future Committee Meeting Dates. September 14, 2022 and October 12, 2022 are dates for upcoming committee meetings. The September 14, 2022 meeting will be held at Dana Farm in the Ramson Asa Moore house. The October 12, 2022 meeting will be held at the Kewaunee County Fairgrounds.
9. Adjourn: Motion made by Supervisor Paape and seconded by Supervisor Augustian to adjourn meeting. Motion carried all voting aye.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Judy Knudsen

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.



## Regional Dairy

Aerica Bjurstrom, Regional Dairy Educator



Aerica Bjurstrom attended the National Association of County Agriculture Agents (NACAA) in West Palm Beach, FL. The conference is a professional improvement opportunity that includes educational sessions, trade show, and agricultural tours. Bjurstrom was a national finalist in two communications awards; educational video and promotional package (with Tina Kohlman, Fond du Lac County). Additionally, Bjurstrom was awarded the Distinguished Service Award (DSA), which is given to one member in Wisconsin with more than 10 years of service to Extension. She was presented with her award during the awards banquet during the conference.

### Other Agriculture Highlights

- A popular press article (Wisconsin State Farmer) for dairy farmers where they learned that proper footbath management has long-term environmental implications, resulting in an improved understanding of how to manage footbath solution. Footbath use has herd health and environmental impacts, and an increased understanding of proper footbath management can positively improve herd health and environmental impact. **Please see attached article.**
- A dairy production and management newsletter for farmers, managers, employees, and agribusiness professionals, where subscribers learned about managing heat in pre-weaned calves and overstocking affects on cow performance. This effort was designed to provide a timely and reliable source of dairy management news and updates.
- A factsheet for dairy farmers, managers, employees, and agribusiness professionals, where they learned the importance of weighing heifers and how to incorporate scales into their facilities and management. The effort is designed to teach individuals the positive impact of heifer weight on first lactation so they can increase farm economic viability and milk production/income.

# WISCONSIN STATE FARMER

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**COLUMNISTS | Opinion** *This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.*

## Proper footbath management has long-term environmental implications

**Aerica Bjurstrom**

Published 10:29 p.m. CT July 12, 2022

Adaptation is commonplace on the farm. The weather changes, we adapt by changing our attire and adjusting. Sooner or later a new season will arrive, and we'll need to adapt again. In some cases, adaptation becomes a permanent change. One change farmers have implemented on their operations is managing digital dermatitis (DD), or hairy heel warts.

Thirty years ago, DD was uncommon on US dairies. But as farms grew bigger and smaller herds combined to form larger herds, DD began to spread rapidly around the country. Adapting to DD became a permanent management change.

### Incurable but manageable

Digital dermatitis is incurable, but it can be managed. Footbaths are an important tool utilized to prevent animal lameness, limit the spread of DD, and maintain hoof health on dairy farms.

According to a 2015 survey of 45 eastern Wisconsin dairy farms, 75 percent of the farms utilized footbaths to promote hoof health and animal productivity, and longevity. The same project, which was conducted by eastern Wisconsin Extension Agriculture Educators, determined copper sulfate was the most used footbath disinfectant in the region, due to both its relatively low cost per animal treated and effectiveness in reducing the incidence and severity of hoof lesions.

More than 65 percent of the 45 surveyed farms utilized copper sulfate in their footbaths, with 33 percent of farms using a footbath four to seven times a week, and 27 percent using a 12 to 30 percent copper sulfate solution.

While copper sulfate is a low-cost effective solution to manage DD, what happens to it after disposal? Most farmers dump spent solution, which is then washed into the manure storage. A typical footbath holds 40 to 50 gallons of solution and should be changed after 150 to 300 cows walk through it.

Take, for example, a 250-cow herd that would use one fill of solution per treatment. Using the UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine's recommended practice of treating cows four times per week, that equals 1,000 gallons of waste copper sulfate per week. This scenario adds 52,000 gallons of copper sulfate solution to the manure storage per year. Copper sulfate concentration varies per farm, but typically it is two to five percent.

After the contents of manure storage are applied to fields, it provides nutrients to plants. As copper is utilized in small amounts by plants and is not readily leached from the soil, it can accumulate within the soil profile, particularly with regular, long-term applications of dairy manure containing copper footbath materials.

Such applications can significantly increase copper to toxic levels in plants and soil. According to Texas A&M University, the toxic levels raise several concerns for dairy farmers:

1. Excess soil levels may reduce crop yields.
2. Forages grown in excessive copper level soils may be toxic to livestock.
3. Recycling (applying manure from cattle who ate excessive copper-rich feedstuffs) back to the field escalates copper loads in soil and forages.
4. Improper footbath management may not comply with nutrient management plans or environmental permits.

Substantial research has not been conducted on the impact excessive copper has on livestock. However, secondary issues are beginning to present in dairy cattle that could be tied to copper sulfate footbath solution being applied to forage crop fields. An extensive review of Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (WVDL) accessions along with the results of slaughterhouse surveys indicate that copper is accumulating in the livers of Wisconsin Holsteins of all ages.

More research needs to be completed to understand the impact copper sulfate footbath management has on the health of livestock, soil, and forages. Footbaths should be managed according to recommendations to manage DD, but also reduce the negative impact it has on virtually every part of dairy herd management. It's not just a problem that gets washed down the drain, it is a long-term management practice.

*Aerica Bjurstrom is the Regional Dairy Educator for Kewaunee, Brown & Door Counties, UW-Madison Division of Extension*

## Families, Finances & Wellness

Renee Koenig, Human Development & Relationships Educator

A community safety event (Algoma Night Out) where children and families received Extension's family wellbeing resources and educational opportunities in order to foster trust with families and bridge the gap in accessing resources.



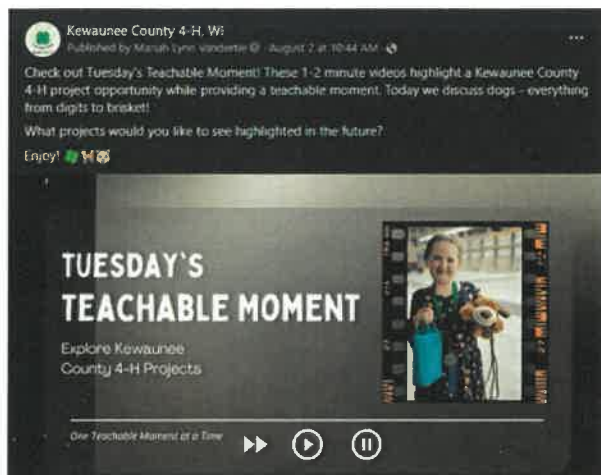
### Other Families, Finances & Wellness Highlights

- Significant preparation and planning to form an aging friendly coalition in Kewaunee County. The goal of the planning effort is to determine community needs and feasibility for efforts to support older adults with life span programming, research and service.
- A series of monthly news articles ("Extension Connect") for communities, schools, individuals and families, where educational resources are provided to assist with parenting, relationships, managing money, wellness, and mental health.
- A social media educational series (Home Alone online) where families are provided safety lessons and modeling videos with worksheets and tools to support their children's development for staying home alone.
- A study to better understand co-parenting education impacts on mothers and fathers separately and how mothers and fathers differently experience co-parenting education. Results from this study will help Extension educators and University specialists in developing curriculum and materials for co-parenting education.
- A program online and in-person (Money Matters) for participants who want to improve their financial knowledge, where they complete 1-12 modules on different financial topics and learn about credit scores and reports, making a spending plan, what to do when you can't pay your bills, and identifying financial strengths. The goal of the program is to increase participants' financial stability.



## 4-H Program

Mariah Vandertie, 4-H Program Educator



### Community Engagement

We are amping up our social media presence to meet families where they are at. Tuesday's Teachable Moment was created to explore the project book for Kewaunee County 4-H and provide an educational component to the video. These 1-2 minute videos are posted every Tuesday. As they develop, my goal is to interview community members directly involved in the topic to provide expertise. This serves as education, promotion, and fostering community partnerships.

### Youth Enrollment and Participation

*All youth will have the opportunity and means to learn with Kewaunee County 4-H as we work to expand access to marginalized populations, multilingual learners, and our home school community.*

As we wind down the 4-H year and prepare for new enrollment, here is a look at our current participation. The state has an increase of 69.9% of first year members and enrollment is up 7.3%. In comparison, Kewaunee County showed an increase of 77.8% in first year membership, and a 9.2% increase in enrollment overall. Youth demographics in Kewaunee County this year show 96.4% of our enrollment is Non-Hispanic, while 1.3% identified as Hispanic. The retention rate of the state for first year members is 72%, while Kewaunee County's retention rate from last year is 76.84%. Efforts will be focused on expanding access to all ends of our county while also working to retain our first-year members for a second 4-H year.

### Other 4-H Program Highlights

- Door County Daily News featured me on WBDK as well as their website. This was a wonderful opportunity to introduce myself to the area and reach new populations.
- On Thursday, August 11th, I will be taping an episode of Midwest Farm Weekly - WFRV, to talk about all things Kewaunee County 4-H.



Judy Knudsen  
*Area Extension Director*

Aerica Bjurstrom  
*Regional Dairy Educator*

Renee Koenig  
*Human Development &  
Relationships Educator*

Mariah Vandertie  
*4-H Program Educator*

Patrick Nehring  
*Regional Community Development  
Educator*

Laura Apfelbeck  
*FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator*

Krishna Bhandari  
*Regional Crops Educator*

Erin Dahle  
*Communications & Educational  
Program Support Specialist*