

MINUTES
Agriculture & Extension Education Committee Meeting
Kewaunee County Fairgrounds, 625 Third Street, Luxemburg, WI
Wednesday, December 14, 2022
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, Supervisor Lazansky, and Supervisor Langteau. Educators: Aerica Bjurstrom Renee Koenig, Mariah Vandertie and Interim Area Extension Director Judy Knudsen. Excused: Supervisor Augustine. Absent: Supervisor Kinnard.
3. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Supervisor Paape and seconded by Supervisor Langteau to approve the December 14, 2022 agenda and approve minutes of the November 9, 2022 meeting. Motion carried all voting aye.
4. Public Input. No input.
5. Review Dog Damage Payment Schedule: No claims were submitted in 2022.
6. Educators Reports – Written/Narrative/Q/A
 - a. Renee Koenig: There has been good attendance at the Aging-Friendly Coalition meetings. This coalition aims to reduce social isolation and loneliness through community-based solutions. Small scholarships are being awarded to older adults to help them advance their community volunteer work and increase impact. Literacy Partners requested assistance in identifying tutoring needs for individuals and families arriving from Ukraine.
 - b. Aerica Bjurstrom: Planning for and promoting educational programming to be conducted during the upcoming months including but not limited to the Midwest Manure Summit, webinar series on robotics for farmers, managers, etc. dairy/livestock production meeting for women farmers and Badger Dairy Insight webinar series.
 - c. Mariah Vandertie: Conducted 4-H project club officer training for 4-Hers holding elected offices. Gave presentation at the November 2022 Algoma Board of Education meeting related to in-school programming. Will begin programming with first and second grade students. Partnered with the Human Development and Relationships Educator to deliver a presentation on “The Stars of Our Town” to share efforts of the Kewaunee County 4-H program.
7. Department Head/Area Director Report – Judy Knudsen
 - a. 2023 136 Contract between Kewaunee County and Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System was signed by Supervisor Lukes
 - b. Explained role of Assistant Area Extension Director position held by Laura Apfelbeck for Door, Kewaunee and Manitowoc Counties.
 - c. Provided update on survey being prepared by Patrick Nehring, Community Development Educator for Kewaunee County veterans to complete.
 - d. Supervisor Lazansky agreed to complete questions being asked as part of a strategic planning process being undertaken by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension.

8. Review and Set Future Committee Meeting Dates. January 11, 2023 and February 8, 2023 are dates for upcoming committee meetings.
7. Adjourn: Motion made by Supervisor Langteau and seconded by Supervisor Lazansky to adjourn meeting at 2:47 p.m. 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

Television Interviews

A digital media/television interview for farmers and consumers on farm inflation discussing farm inflation and how farmers are addressing rising farm costs. This effort aimed to increase awareness about why food costs are increasing and how farmers are working to keep their costs low and remain profitable.

A television interview where we discussed upcoming Extension dairy programming events. This effort aimed to increase awareness about educational opportunities that can increase farmers' knowledge of dairy production which could improve herd health, environmental quality, and profitability.



Livestock Selection Meeting

A meeting for youth producers in the dairy beef project where attendees learned how to select a project animal that will suit the criteria of a quality show steer. The goal is to support youth producers in selecting and raising project animals to produce a wholesome product for its buyer at auction.

Program Planning and Development

- A monthly electronic newsletter for agriculture professionals, dairy producers, and livestock producers where they learn about herd management practices. The goal of the newsletter is to support farmers in making ecologically and financially viable decisions based on non-bias university research.
- Development and planning for in-person CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operations) Update Meeting series for WPDES (WI Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permitted farms, crop and dairy managers, agriculture engineers, crop consultants, agronomists, professional and on-farm nutrient applicators, government agency personnel, and other interested individuals in collaboration with WI DNR (Department of Natural Resources). The goal of this effort is to discuss and teach individuals to protect ground and surface water and dairy farm sustainability through dairy management and feeding efficiency; manure storing and handling; and nutrient management utilizing the latest research and regulatory updates.
- A dairy production and management newsletter for farmers, managers, employees, and agribusiness professionals, where subscribers learned about fit for transport of pre-weaned calves, prototheca mastitis, dairy business builder grant opportunity, and Extension dairy production and management resources. This effort was designed to provide a timely and reliable source of dairy management news and updates.
- Planning for a dairy/ livestock production meeting for women farmers. The goal of this effort is to educate women farmers on various production methods, so that they can keep their farms profitable or implement new enterprises to keep their farm profitable.
- A statewide webinar series (Badger Dairy Insight) for dairy farmers, employees, industry representatives promoting the latest research-based information.
- Dairy health and welfare educational videos for farmers and those who work with dairy cattle to help them learn proper care of animals. Proper care of dairy cattle improves growth and production, quality of life of the animal, and improves work environment for those who care for the animals.
- Planning for the bi-annual 2023 Midwest Manure Summit conference for farmers, consultants, engineers, and other agribusiness industry professionals. The goal of this effort is to show innovation, research, and solutions in handling dairy manure in an environmentally and financially sustainable manner so that farmers can protect the environment and community.
- Planning for webinar series on Robotics for farmers, managers, business owners, bankers, consultants, and other agri-business professionals. The goal of this effort is to teach individuals the latest, unbiased, university-based research on emerging automation technologies, so that they can improve farm efficiencies and increase farm business viability.

Families, Finances & Wellness

Renee Koenig, Human Development & Relationships Educator

Aging-Friendly Coalition

Earlier this year, I received a \$7500 grant award to form the Aging-Friendly Coalition and implement initiatives to support our aging population. We have monthly meetings and 26 members have been attending. We have identified opportunities to reach out and engage older adults in community programs. The week of November 13-19 was proclaimed Social Isolation & Loneliness Awareness Week in Wisconsin by the governor. Research reveals that 43% of U.S. adults over age 65 say they feel lonely some or all of the time and according to a 2020 AARP Foundation report, two-thirds of adults in the U.S. are experiencing social isolation. Given the scope of the problem, the Aging-Friendly Coalition aims to reduce social isolation and loneliness through community-based solutions. We have been awarding small scholarships to older adults to help them advance their community volunteer work and increase their impacts.

Language and Literacy Education and Resources

The Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County contacted me to help identify tutoring needs for individuals and families arriving in the area from Ukraine. I have worked closely with the Literacy Partners organization and volunteers for several years as we adapted educational programs for Spanish-speaking adults. In order to identify the number of potential refugees arriving from Ukraine, I contacted several government-funded agencies based in Green Bay and Manitowoc. I identified resources for individuals and families who are arriving in our area with language barriers and the need to adapt culturally. I also attended local agency meetings to share resources and discuss plans to serve immigrating families that have language and culture barriers to thriving in Kewaunee County.

Strong Couples Coaching

I am preparing to start offering a program called Strong Couples, a prevention education program. I have been meeting weekly with colleagues and researchers at Iowa State, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, and Purdue Universities. I will be coaching and educating couples on relationship skills that protect marriages from divorce. Divorce is costly for communities, detrimental for families and harmful for children. Over 40% of married couples will divorce, and 31% of married people report being unhappy in their marriages. The fundamentals of the program have been rigorously researched and evaluated around the world for more than forty years. There is usually a cost for couples to participate but Wisconsin Extension has joined a grant funded effort with the other Universities to offer it for free. I have been teaching co-parenting classes for divorced and separated couples for more than nine years and this program could be helpful for preventing families from struggling in those situations. A few of the key learning objectives include: identifying communication danger signs, practicing tools to use in the marriage to avoid the relationship from going off the rails, building dedication to the relationship, and increasing problem solving skills.

Parenting Education

In November, I completed teaching a six-week course for parents and caregivers, where they learned tools and strategies to manage the challenges of raising children with special health needs. 73% of the participants rated the program 10 out of 10 for excellence and 27% rated the program 8 out of 10 for excellence. 100% of participants reported more caregiving confidence as a result of the class. 90% said they learned about new resources and 82% they gained new communication skills.



4-H Program

Mariah Vandertie, 4-H Program Educator

Know Your Community

Partnership with Human Development and Relationships in Kewaunee County for rural older adults and people with disabilities, where they learn best practices and nutrition education. Participants engage in regular strength training exercises to improve strength, balance, and flexibility so they can stay healthy and socially connected. A presentation on The Stars of Our Town was given to share the efforts of Kewaunee County 4-H. It was a learning experience for older adults to learn about this program and promote community engagement.



4-H Officer Training

4-H Community and Project Club Officer Training where youth and adults gathered to learn about their elected leadership positions in 4-H. Youth learned from the Kewaunee County 4-H Leader's Board their responsibilities as president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

Adult Volunteers engaged in in person Title IX Reporting Sexual Misconduct Training. All Wisconsin 4-H volunteers are required to report incidents of sexual misconduct that take place in Extension programs and complete training on how to report concerns. In order to ensure the safety of our youth members and volunteers, we reviewed protocols and procedures and developed county specific resources.

School Connections

A partnership with the Algoma School District was established at the November Algoma Board of Education meeting. In school programming will begin after the first of the year with first and second grade students. This in-school 4-H club is an effort to remove barriers and increase access (i.e. transportation, socioeconomic, extracurricular conflicts). Programming will be once a week, during lunch/recess, for a six-week project period.

Agri-Education meeting took place to discuss current agricultural education opportunities across Algoma, Luxemburg Casco, Kewaunee, and Denmark. Educational professionals, administrators, local stakeholders, ag-professionals, and more gathered to analyze where our county currently stands with ag-education, and to develop a plan for success moving forward. Kewaunee County 4-H was active in this meeting to offer ideas, brainstorm, and speak to future partnerships/opportunities.

Cake Decorating

4-H volunteers and community partners hosted a Cake Decorating Basics class for 20 4-H youth. This event was a great success with a lot of interest. Youth learned how to apply frosting, utilize various decorating tips, manipulate edible materials to create designs, and properly clean supplies for storage.



FoodWise Nutrition Education

Laura Apfelbeck, FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator

Building Culinary Skills in Teen Cuisine at Pathfinder Academy

Partnered with Algoma's Pathfinder Academy, Teen Cuisine is a nutrition and life skills course for teens. During this series FoodWise nutrition educator Jace Purdy and FoodWise intern Jennifer Franzen from UW-Green Bay's Dietetics program taught Pathfinder students to read nutrition labels, consider food safety, build healthy meals, and most importantly, cook. Each week the group would meet, discuss the topic of the day, practice and discuss why it is important to use these skills, cook together and share a healthy meal. On the last day, while cleaning up from the session Pathfinder's lead teacher Alexis Gauger said to Jace, "You got more out of these kids than any other outside presenter."

Pathfinder student Dezi Floor stirs ingredients to make homemade granola as part of the Teen Cuisine series at her school.



A Strong Finish for Strong Bodies at Algoma Wellness Center

In December, FoodWise Nutrition Educator Jace Purdy and UW-Green Bay Dietetics Intern Jennifer Franzen, wrapped up an 8-week series of StrongBodies exercise classes. Hosted at the Algoma Wellness Center and partnered with ESI, StrongBodies is a strength training program designed to improve overall health, bone density, and quality of life. At the end of this series a participant told Jace, "After these 8 weeks I have been able to put my arms above my head for the first time in years!"



The ESI and Algoma Community Wellness Center pose together during their last class of StrongBodies.

Communications

A newsletter series for low-income families promoting inexpensive seasonally appropriate foods available in Wisconsin to encourage healthier eating.

Programming Planning & Development

Exploring opportunities for future collaboration with a partner serving summer meals to low-income children in Algoma.

Indirect Education

Spotlighting healthy foods available at the Kewaunee County Food Pantry through display and recipes promoting healthy eating and underutilized nutrient-dense foods such as dried beans.



Community Development

Patrick Nehring, Community Development Agent/Professor

Veterans Study

A study to better understand the perspective of veterans in Kewaunee County. Results from this study will help Kewaunee County Veterans Services Office understand how well it is serving the people of the county, what is working well, and where there may be room for improvement.

Workshops

- A workshop with individuals and agencies that work with older residents, where participants learned about ageism, existing, and potential resources for older residents of Kewaunee County to explore the possibility of forming an aging coalition or coordinate and provide resources for older Kewaunee County residents.
- Basic grant proposal workshop for local government, businesses, and organization members and staff. The goal of this effort is for people to learn how to find, write and apply for grants so that they can carry out the activities of their organization, business, or government unit.

Educational Sessions

Educational sessions at UW-Madison Extension's Food Entrepreneur Ecosystem Development (FEED) Summit for food business entrepreneurs, where participants learned about key partners, cost structures, and revenue streams from a business expert and a Wisconsin business owner to assist the entrepreneur in exploring starting an food related business or better operate their business.

Volunteer Management

A facilitated conversation with nonprofit leaders in Northeast Wisconsin where participants discussed innovations in volunteer management. The purpose of this effort is to learn ways to recruit, manage, and build a strong volunteer process for an organization, and as a result, increase organizational capacity to address community needs.



Crops & Soils

Krishna Bhandari, Regional Crops Educator

Farmers recruitment in the Resilience CAP project

The participation of farm pairs (one pair from Luxemburg, Kewaunee County, and another pair from Sturgeon Bay Door County) under climate Resilience CAP project is confirmed. This is a NIFA funded 3-yr project led by Michigan State University to study the soil health between a dominate annual cropping system and diverse perennial circular system in Kewaunee and Door Counties. Farmers recruitment process will be started in middle of December.

Newsletter on Alfalfa winter kill

Finalize article on **Assessing alfalfa winter kill and management practices for winter survival** to be published in Kewaunee County Extension Newsletter to inform local farmers about management practices for alfalfa winter survival. Article contains how to manage cutting intervals, last cutting window, and phosphorus fertilizer to avoid alfalfa winter kill. In addition, article has an information about how to manage severely-injured alfalfa stands by winter temperature.

Meeting among farmers and agronomists in northeast region

Preparing to host a meeting in northeast region to bring agronomists and farmers from Brown, Door, and Kewaunee Counties in February of 2022. The goal of this meeting to provide the updates on management of alfalfa winter kill and alfalfa persistency, dealing with weather issues, dealing with short window of cover crops after corn silage, winter hardy cultivars of winter rye and winter triticale, and nutrient management.

Program planning

Preparing PowerPoint presentation on alfalfa winter kill and its management to be presented at 2023 Peninsula Pride Farm and Low Fox Demo Farms annual meeting February/March of 2023. The goal of this presentation is to share the latest research results about alfalfa winter resilience among alfalfa growers, producers and profession agronomists in Brown, Door, and Kewaunee Counties.

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*