

Agriculture & Extension Committee Minutes
Thursday, July 21st, 2022 5:00pm
Health & Human Services Center & Zoom
303 W. Chapel Street

Dan Nankee called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

Roll call: Dan, Ricky, Roger, and Darrell attended the meeting in person. Kevin was excused from the meeting. Lynn, Joe, Barry (via Zoom), Kathy, Josh, Sarah, Tom, and Dana were at the meeting.

Motion to approve agenda by Ricky, seconded by Roger. Motion passed.

Motion to approve minutes of the May 19th, 2022 meeting by Darrell, seconded by Roger. The motion passed.

Report from Committee Members – Ricky had heard that Iowa County was mentioned in the Wisconsin State Journal for reportedly spending \$30 mil on roads.

Wisconsin Extension Association (WEXA) Application Update – Ricky and Lynn talked about how the Extension Committee would be acting as a steering committee for the Wisconsin Counties Association. Ricky applied to be a part of this committee, and he is waiting to learn if his application was approved.

AED Update – Lynn Perkins discussed the need for updated Extension signage with the new Extension Iowa County logo; examples of the logo were passed around. We are looking to update the hanging sign outside the office as well as purchase a couple of yard signs that can be brought to events, activities, etc. Ricky mentioned that last year's fair book had the old logo in it as well, but it is not certain if this year's book has any Extension logo in it. Tom has contacted a couple of printing places, but their response has been slow. Ricky knows someone who may be able to assist – he will forward that information to Lynn.

Highlights from Educator Reports

Positive Youth Development

Sarah and Dana – Sarah introduced this year's 4-H Summer Intern, Dana Hanson. Dana spoke of the recent 4-H Ambassador interviews and banquet that were held earlier this week. She also talked briefly about some of the things that 4-H Ambassadors do (help with events, help at the fair, etc). Dana's summer project is going to be a Forensic Analysis event held at the Health and Human Services Building in August. This will be open to 4-H and non-4-H youth in middle school and will include such topics as fingerprinting, DNA extraction, and chromatography (analysis of colors in ink).

Sarah highlighted the 4-H Day Camps at Bethel Horizons. The theme was "Wild, Wild West", and 53 youth from Iowa and Lafayette Counties participated. The camp was planned by a group

of nine older youth, under the direction of the county 4-H educators, beginning last December. The older youth learned things such as stages of youth development, how to say “no” to youth in certain situations, and inclusion as well as gaining experience in planning and organizing a successful event. The campers, in addition to having fun, benefited from learning to be more independent, practicing social skills, and to be more in-touch with nature. Everyone was introduced and expected to follow RISE – Respect, Inclusion, Support, and Empathy. Each morning, American Legion members came out to perform a flag-folding ceremony. Bethel Horizons does not currently have a flagpole; the Legion offered to purchase/provide a flag if Bethel Horizons would put up a flagpole.

Sarah also mentioned that tonight there will be a state-wide zoom for 4-H youth on the topic of cake decorating. 19 youth from Iowa and Lafayette counties signed up to participate and received a booklet and a cake decorating kit.

National Resources Institute

Joe – Joe began with information regarding a WDNR Surface Water Planning grant that he coordinated, which was approved. The grant provide funding for soil sampling and stream bank erosion assessment in an effort to determine if phosphorus in the water is coming from agricultural land or bank erosion. Work will begin on this in the spring. The hope is that by determining high-risk areas and how the phosphorus is entering the water, we will be able to work with landowners to find ways to reduce this risk through conservation practices.

Joe next discussed working with DATCP to support farmer-led groups in the area. Currently, there are 10 farmer-led groups that he is working with. He, along with other Extension colleagues in the Ag & Water Quality and Nutrient & Pest Management programs coordinate events, such as an upcoming field day in August, where participating farmers have the opportunity to learn about different practices, connect with other farmers, and share ideas relating to conservation. Grant County is trying to get a farmer-led group started, so they may invite some farmers from that area to this August event to offer peer support and show them the benefits of these types of groups.

The Clean Sweep event is scheduled for Friday, Sept 23 and Saturday, Sept 24 in Grant County, Friday, Sept 30 in Iowa County, and Saturday, Oct 1 in Lafayette County. They are nearly ready to begin promoting the event, with the goal of beginning promotion on August 1st. People will be able to register online or call Tom to register. There will be a limited number of time slots (about 750 total), and people can register for any of the locations, regardless of where they live. There is no charge for individuals; commercial enterprises will need to contact the disposal company directly and will likely need to pay. Due to the cost, it is unlikely that this will be an annual event, but perhaps will occur every other year or so.

Human Development and Relationships Institute

Ruth – Ruth was not able to attend the meeting, as she was judging at the Dane County Fair. Her report focused on the Money \$mart in Head Start newsletter program that is sent to about 275 families in southwest Wisconsin in an effort to improve their long-term financial security.

Community Development Institute

Barry – Barry began by pointing out an article that was in the June issue of the Wisconsin Counties Magazine that featured the new Law Enforcement Center in Dodgeville and the use of renewable energy sources in the building (it also mentioned the solar panels that are on the roof of the HHS building).

The 3rd annual Dodgeville Town Square, which began on Saturday, July 10th and will run through this coming Saturday. The Town Square includes many different events throughout the two-week period and offers the community many opportunities for entertainment and just gathering together in a relaxing social atmosphere. This is a culmination of the efforts of a great group of volunteers as well as the city government and various local organizations.

There has been some exciting activity on the broadband front. MHTC was awarded an \$8.5mil grant that will allow fiber service to 25 businesses and 427 homes in the towns of Arena and Brigham. There was a second grant submitted by MHTC that was not awarded; however, the project is moving forward this fall anyway. MHTC, the Town of Dodgeville, and the residents of the Green Leaf Glen subdivision are working together to have broadband access installed in that area. This is a \$250k project, and the residents have pledged to raise \$75k of it. This is a great example of what can be accomplished when everyone works together toward a common goal. Also, Alliant Energy and MHTC have partnered to expand high-speed Internet service to residents in Hollandale.

Bug Tussel proposed an \$8.5-\$10mil project that would install a ring of fiber in Iowa County to connect all of their fixed wireless towers with a fiber backbone. Word was received that this project was just recently given board approval.

Regional Ag Educators

Josh – Josh represented that three Regional Ag Educators at the meeting, and he began by discussing subsoil moisture levels in southwest Wisconsin, based on data from June. He then highlighted a no-till planted green soybean plot near Wiota. This plot is being used for pest management study, specifically the effect of roller crimped winter cereal rye on the control of white mold and pigweed pest pressure in soybean production. There will be a late-summer field day highlighting this plot announced shortly.

Josh is part of a team working on the Badger Crop Connect Series website (a QR code with a link to the website was included in Josh's report). The site is updated every two weeks; they are currently working through the summer portion of the series and will be transitioning to the fall portion in September.

Josh then shared and discussed briefly the reports provided by Amanda and Jackie, highlighting the joint Planning Emergency Livestock Transportation Response program that occurred in Mineral Point on June 11th, where attendees learned about the handling of livestock during a transportation accident. Participants are expected to take what they learned back to their organizations in order to come up with an action plan in case anything like this happens in the future. Jackie attended the Four State Dairy Nutrition Conference in Dubuque, at which there

were over 250 dairy agricultural participants. She was also a table monitor for The Summit, an in-person workshop on farmer stress and mental health. Amanda is involved in a project where they are collecting data on the performance on dairy x beef cross cattle to try and determine what specific beef breeds will cross best with dairy cattle. She was also part of a Grassland 2.0 meeting in Dodgeville that discussed meat processing topics.

Health and Well-Being Institute

Kathy – Kathy Lange was introduced to the committee by Lynn, who also reported that Jessa had left our office to pursue a different career opportunity. Kathy will be serving as FoodWise Nutrition Educator in our four-county area, a position that she had occupied the past couple of years in Crawford County. Kathy reported that she went to and met with the organizers of five area farmer's markets over the weekend to advocate for and promote nutrition programs and SNAP/EBT acceptance. She will continue to visit other markets in the area.

Kathy has scheduled events over the course of the next week at four area apartments, where residents will learn about topics such as stretching food dollars, making smart grocery decisions, tailoring recipes to fit their lifestyles, and nutrition label analysis.

As families get ready for back-to-school time in August, she is also planning on participating in the Back-to-School Bonanza event on August 8th in Dodgeville, promoting the free and reduced lunch program (people need to apply now that lunches are no longer free for everyone). She will also be promoting this subject on the radio.

Iowa County Contacts Update – Tom reported that calls regarding agriculture-related questions have been going smoothly. To his knowledge, there have not been any issues or complaints with area callers not having their questions answered in a timely and useful manner.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 15th at 5:00 pm. Darrell made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Ricky. Motion passed.