

Agriculture & Extension Committee Minutes

Thursday, June 12, 2025 – 4:00 pm

Health and Human Services Center

303 W. Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533

Dan Nankee called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm

Roll Call: Dan, Ricky, Brad, Kevin, and Darrell attended in person. Extension Staff in attendance; Lynn, Dan, Maggie, Jackie and Barry

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Kevin, seconded by Brad, motion carried

A motion to approve the March 20, 2025 minutes was made by Brad, seconded by Darrell, motion carried

Report from the committee members and an opportunity of members of the audience to address the committee was invited: Dan Nankee shared a poster from a recent HCE meeting that told the history of the “County Charmers” HCE club. The club disbanded in 2026. Dan also shared a promotion of the June 18 Forage Field Day that was posted in the Chronicle. No other reports, no audience comments.

AED Update: AED Perkins shared staffing updates, a recent resignation of PT Dept Assistant, Tom Harman. Tom accepted SUN Coordinator position. Also, Regional Livestock Educator, Kim Kester resigned to accept a Livestock/Dairy Program Manager position with the State Extension office. Perkins will meet with the County Administrator to seek approval of refilling positions. The regional livestock educator position will also need State Extension Agriculture Institute approval. Perkins shared that SNAP-Ed federal funding was in the federal reconciliation bill as a proposed cut. The Senate would take up the bill next. If the federal bill is passed it would cut the FoodWise program entirely. In Area 17 it would eliminate both Maggie Milcarek and Julia Harman’s positions and all FoodWise programs. Currently, foodwise programs are offered in 70 counties throughout WI and reaching over 35,000 children and adults in Wisconsin.

Communicating and Promotion of Extension Programs in Iowa County – Perkins shared Extension has struggled to promote programs in Iowa County. The Chronicle has posted several great photos of 4-H programs but have not been successful with radio in the area. The cost is \$75 for 5 mins. Typically extension does not pay for radio programming and has had several opportunities in other counties, live interviews and pre-recorded announcements and content. Board members shared several suggestions such as contact with Chronicle Reporter for a featured story and suggested inserts in the Shopping News.

Highlights from Educator Reports:

Community Development – Barry shared work on First Impressions program with Pat Malone in Columbus County, no date has been set. He also shared the Community Resources work he is doing and talked about the survey he is sending out to county municipalities. He asked Board members to provide support by encouraging their local towns/ villages to complete the survey and attend future discussions. Barry is also working with Bill Oemichen to provide Artificial Intelligence training for Iowa County employees.

Agriculture – Jackie shared the automation awareness project she was been working on with the assistance of local dairy producers and Extension Faculty and Specialists. A model was developed to help producers determine if adding automation to their facilities is a good economically decision. The model can be used for milking and feeding systems. She also shared Kim was working on heat abatement on pasture project and Jordyn was preparing for the Forage Field Day that involved several Extension specialist and Faculty.

4-H Youth Development – Dan shared he is working on a lot of 4-H camp details. Iowa County youth will be camping June 23 – 25 with two other counties. He highlighted several clover bud programs recently held at the Public Library and recent community service work at the Feeding Friend organization.

FoodWise – Maggie provided several projects and programs in her written report highlighting work on community gardens such as the one at Dodgeville Apartments. Julia shared that she has been working on an early childhood education nutrition series at Head Start in Dodgeville. She also shared several positive testimonies from both Teachers and kids that have participated in her impactful nutritional education classes.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 21, 4:00 pm. Kevin made a motion to and seconded by Brad to adjourn. Motion passed.

Posted by County Clerks Office, 7/2/2025, Barbara Weinbrenner