



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
TAYLOR COUNTY

*Connecting people with the University of Wisconsin.
Strengthening each other through experience and research statewide.*

2022

Agent/Educator Annual Report

Extension Taylor County

2022 proved to be a highly productive year for in-person and virtual programming conducted through the Taylor County, University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension office. County-based educators in Agriculture, 4-H, and Community Development offered a wide range of outcome-based programming that helped create positive community change. Programming continued to receive a high degree of support from the Extension office program assistant. Over 7,700 educational contacts were made by Taylor County staff in 2022, about 2,200 more than 2021.

Extension statewide continues to develop and conduct programs in 71 Wisconsin counties. In Taylor County, Extension has existed for over a century. It continues to be a successful partnership between county government and the university, with both making investments in support of Taylor communities. Working with other community partners and volunteers, the programming Extension offers also provides access to a vast University of Wisconsin knowledge and information base.

We continue to appreciate the ongoing support of the Taylor County Board of Supervisors, its Agriculture and Extension Education Committee, and the public. Collaboration with other county departments and not-for-profit organizations in Taylor communities strengthens Extension's effectiveness and helps to direct programming efforts.

We look forward to serving Taylor County in 2023 and beyond. If you have any questions about our programs or suggestions for improving them, we would be pleased to hear from you. Please see the contact information and 2022 programming highlights in this annual report. Thank you

Area Extension Director

Extension Taylor County

925 Donald Street, Room 103
Medford, Wisconsin 54451

715-748-3327

Website:

taylor.extension.wisc.edu

Agriculture & Extension Education Committee

Ray Soper, Chair
Gregory Knight
Catherine Lemke
Jim Metz, County Board Chair

Area Extension Director

*Art Lersch, Langlade, Lincoln,
Price, and Taylor Counties*

Phone: 715-218-2646

Fax: 715-539-8323

art.lersch@wisc.edu

801 N. Sales St., Suite 101
Merrill, WI 54452

Faculty and Staff

Agriculture

Sandy Stuttgen

Ext. 1

sandra.stuttgen@wisc.edu

Community Development

Michelle Grimm

Ext. 2

michelle.grimm@wisc.edu

FoodWise Administrator

Terri Kolb

715-539-1072

terri.kolb@wisc.edu

4-H Program Educator

Julie Diepenbrock

Ext. 4

diepenbrock@wisc.edu

Program Assistant

Kelly Phillips

Ext. 3

phillips32@wisc.edu



4-H Program Educator Julie Diepenbrock

IMPACT IN 2022

- 139 youth and 36 adults were enrolled in 4-H Online in the 2021-2022 4-H Year.
- Taught/hosted 35 different sessions of learning opportunities for youth and/or adult leaders.
- Julie had 414 office contacts (emails, phone calls, in-person visits) with Taylor County residents during the year, directly related to 4-H.
- Taylor County 4-H has involved at least 932 youth contacts and 479 adult contacts (some of these are duplicates due to attending more than one of our activities) in our 4-H programs for a total of at least 1528 hours of opportunities to learn and develop a sense of belonging.

Julie Diepenbrock, is in her 3rd year as the 4-H Program Educator for Taylor County Extension. She began in July 2020. This is a half-time position as Julie is also the 4-H Program Educator in Price County as well.

4-H PARTNERSHIPS

Continuing to maintain and develop partnerships which include more youth in 4-H programming has been a major focus for Julie in the Taylor County 4-H program this year. Huey’s Hideaway Children’s Museum offered weekly day camps over the summer months. Taylor County 4-H partnered with Huey’s on a weekly basis to provide hands-on learning. Youth had an opportunity to learn some basic gardening skills, sports activities, cooking, and many other activities. These programs allowed youth to use their head and hands to participate in learning activities that correspond with 4-H projects. Julie also provided 4-H programming such as photography, LEGO robotics, and paper airplane engineering at Huey’s when school was not in session.

Taylor County 4-H also partnered with county libraries where during the summer the theme “Oceans of Possibilities” provided the perfect setting for 4-H to utilize some STEM activities to teach youth about buoyancy, ocean zones, and careers in oceanography.

“4-H helped me become a better person through Community Service.” A 4-H youth member.

Helping youth learn scientific principles through hands-on activities and encouraging them to explore STEM careers is our predicted outcome.

The Medford School Forest and Stetsonville Mini School Forest were locations for two of our Day Camps this year. Day Camps were presented in four locations in Taylor County. Youth were involved in 6.5 hours of hands-on activities in Photography, Entomology, Plants, Foods, and Geology as an introduction to these 4-H projects. This summer we had 37 youth attend our Day Camps. 10 youth were 4-H members and the other 27 were youth who were not members of a local 4-H club. Youth attending responded that they made new friends and learned new skills .



Northern Lakes Impact Center near Rhinelander became another partner with Taylor County 4-H this year along with 5 other participating counties which included over 150 youth campers in grades 3-7 and counselors 8th-13th grade. Youth participated in rock climbing, swimming, paddling, archery, and many other activities designed to



Agriculture

Sandy Stuttgen



IMPACT IN 2022

689 direct contacts during:

- 21 programs
- 4 virtual programs
- 1 hybrid program
- 2 Pesticide applicator trainings facilitated
- 67 Individual consultations by phone, email or during farm visits
- Working with community groups including Farm Bureau District 8 and the North Central WI Cattlemen’s Association.

To meet identified county priorities, in 2022, Extension Taylor County Agriculture Educator Sandy Stuttgen’s programming focused on Beef Management, Cattle Artificial Insemination, and Planning Emergency Livestock Transport Response (PELTR) with

BEEF MANAGMENT

Sandy created the *Facilities Enable Herd Health* PowerPoint presentation for 197 producers (including those from Taylor County) that attended one of the four on-farm Cow-Calf Workshops that were held between Sept and Dec 2022 in Wisconsin. Sandy also presented it with Taylor County area beef producers during a tour of Upper Peninsula Michigan beef farms. This presentation informed cow-calf producers of the change from over-the-counter to prescription availability that will occur in June 2023. Adequate animal handling facilities enable the veterinary-client-patient-relationship (VCPR) so producers may obtain prescriptions. The objective of the workshops that included her presentation was to increase the economic sustainability of WI beef producers regarding their cattle handling and health management practices.

A Qualtrics survey was used to collect and analyze post-session evaluation data received from the attendees. Respondents rated their understanding of prescription antimicrobial drug availability by selecting one option (low, below average, moderate, above average, high) describing their level of understanding before and after hearing the presentation. An 8 % increase in their understanding about prescription antimicrobial drug availability occurred.

Respondents indicated that because of her presentation they intend to

- *establish a vet-client-patient-relationship with a veterinary practice for our farm [to acquire prescription products]*
- *get a relationship with a vet*
- *update [my herd health protocols] with vet’s availability and expertise*

When asked what value changes they made to their operations because of what they learned at Extension beef programs have

- 19% indicated \$1-5/head
- 19% - \$11-20/head
- 25% - \$6-10/head
- 14% - greater than \$20/head.
- 23% had not previously attended Extension beef workshops, representing a new audience for her.

PROVIDING UNBIASED RESEARCH-BASED INFORMATION

Sandy indirectly reached 6,399 individuals within Taylor County and other Wisconsin counties in 2022 with her articles published in two issues of the Extension Central Newsletter, one special edition of the Taylor’d Ag newsletter, four issues of the North Central WI Cattlemen’s Association newsletter, and one issue of the Wisconsin Cattlemen’s CattleTrails newsletter.

In addition she wrote extension educational articles for the Extension Livestock website and for agricultural

media including the *Wisconsin Agriculturist Magazine*, the Wisconsin State Farmer newspaper and *Bovine Veterinarian Magazine*. An example of the reach Sandy has with her articles occurred with *All Antibiotics Will Be Prescription-Only in 2023* that she researched and wrote for the Wisconsin Agriculturist magazine that appeared in their August 4, 2022, online and September 2022 print editions. The article summarizes the factsheet Sandy wrote that accompanied her *Facilities Enable Herd Health* PowerPoint presentation for the 2022 Cow-Calf Workshops.

The Wisconsin Agriculturist circulation includes 24,000 subscribing to the print magazine and the editor estimates that 1,000 people

read the online article. In addition, 2,000 to 3,000 people likely read her article on the other Farm Progress websites where it was shared, including the Dakota Farmer, Nebraska Farmer, Michigan Farmer, Ohio Farmer, Missouri Ruralist, and The Farmer (Minnesota). Farm Journal Ag Web reprinted the *Drovers Magazine* December 14, 2022, article, (If you ‘doctor’ livestock, a new rule will determine how or if you can buy antibiotics) where Rhonda Brooks quoted Sandy’s original article. AgriTalk live radio interviewed Sandy about the article on December 12, 2022. AgriTalk has 100 affiliates across 20 states and their podcast has several thousand downloads.

Presented at a National Conference

Sandy and her colleague presented their bovine artificial insemination programming at the October 2022 Chad Reid National Association of County Agriculture Agents (NACAA) Western Regional Professional Improvement Conference in Tucson, AZ. Sixty-seven registered educators from 14 states participated in the conference and received the information about our WI program for teaching bovine artificial insemination. Educators discussed our program and compared ours to their artificial insemination programs, noting the seminars and differences. This feedback provides potential improvements for our course to improve breeding efforts for our Wisconsin producers. We both gained experience with presenting to a national audience of our peers.

Helping Producers Maximize Crossbred Growth: Predicting Growth by Phenotype

Sandy’s collaborative research with three area dairies and UW-Madison concluded in 2022. The goal of this project was to increase knowledge of beef x dairy growth and animal performance to determine if early age physical characteristics can be used to accurately predict their mature appearance for farmers to make better management and marketing decisions. The *Journal of Animal Science* manuscript details the first part of this research and is under review for publication. Sandy is co-author of this manuscript.

PLANNING EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK TRANSPORT RESPONSE

Sandy developed the PELTR curriculum with her Extension colleagues for area emergency response personnel planning their response to local roadside livestock trailer incidents. This curriculum is used with in-person trainings held in multi-county Wisconsin locations. She wrote the biosecurity module and case study, reviewed, and edited the other four modules, and co-authored the quizzes. She organized the material for the participants’ manual. Twenty emergency responders and county highway department employees attended three PELTR classes and field days that were held in 2022.



On-farm Cow Calf Workshop. The best part of my Extension Agriculture Educator career is the opportunity to work on beautiful farms with wonderful farm families.



Community Development

Michelle Grimm



IMPACT IN 2022

StrongPeople/Strong Bodies

- StrongPeople averaged 80 participants for each 9-week session.
- Sessions were held at five locations—Gilman, Goodrich, Medford (2), Rib Lake, and On-line.
- Numbers below reflect classes that began in September 2022
 - Gilman: 1 class, 11 participants
 - Goodrich: 1 class, 6 participants
 - Medford: 2 classes, 24 participants
 - Rib Lake: 1 class, 20 participants
 - Online: 1 class, 27 participants

Participants feedback:

“Great program; I am glad it is offered in my area.”

“Lots of fun and my balance is better.”

“I am more aware of my posture and balance.”

“My doctor noticed an improvement in my bone density.”

“I haven’t fallen yet this fall!”

“10 stars; we love the program and instructor.”

ORGANIZATIONAL AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Broadband, Business Development, and Tourism.

Broadband

The importance of electronic communications has been increasing exponentially for businesses, organizations, and individuals. For Taylor County to thrive economically and socially, it is important for all citizens to have access to high speed internet. Michelle continues to be a resource to the Taylor County Broadband Committee.

- Support the Taylor County Broadband committee by facilitating meetings with local businesses to connect to the middle mile network. Creating the list of invitees and networking during the event to ensure that we can connect as many as possible.
- Monitor the upcoming grants at the Federal and State level to keep the county informed of the opportunities.

Non Profit Leadership & Organizational Training Program

Through trainings we foster collaboration and a culture of co-creation through peer learning and network building.

Michelle along with other Extension educators offered 5-week

educational series, every quarter, cohort model where participants gain skills and knowledge as they relate to action and scenario planning.

Partnering with the County Health Department & Aspirus

Michelle and committee members coordinated a resource packet (*Diversity Outreach—A Community Conversation*). Through a grant Michelle received, she has been partnering with the Health Department and Aspirus to identify the needs of the Latino populations in Taylor County. To-date, they have hosted three meetings to understand what the needs of the area are and to identify resources. One outcome so far is the creation of a resource packet.

In November, they hosted an outreach program regarding how to better serve the “plain communities” in Taylor County, including providing educational opportunities for the community.

SERVING OUR PLAIN COMMUNITIES IN WISCONSIN

Thursday, November 17 

Attend in person at NTC - Medford Campus or Online

General Sessions - 11:30AM or 5:30PM

Health Care Session - 1:30PM

Service Provider Session - 3:30PM

Community Economic Analysis for Rural Wisconsin Communities

The Community Economic Analysis for Rural Wisconsin Communities (CEA-RWC) pilot program is a joint effort between the University of Wisconsin, the Division of Extension, and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to bring a structured community economic development strategic planning program to a set of rural Wisconsin communities.

Gilman applied for and received the Community Economic Analysis for Rural Wisconsin Communities (CEA-RWC) Pilot Initiative supported by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). Michelle is working with the statewide team and in support of the Gilman project.

AGRIBUSINESS AND AGRICULTURE-RELATED OPPORTUNITIES

Community Garden and Farmer's Market

Community Garden

Extension received \$1,000 as a donation to replace worn out garden beds. Michelle partnered with the gardeners, Black River Industries, summer school classes, and the Alternative High School to complete the work. A total of 14 beds were rebuilt.

Working with these groups in the Community Garden provided fresh produce to food pantries. As a result, we have food pantries that are able to offer fresh produce to their clients. Though the amount of food was difficult to tabulate, more than **200 pounds** of food was donated.

Late 2022, Extension received a private donation of \$4,000 to continue the improvements to the garden.



Farmers Market Vegetables

NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION ISSUES

Including Recycling and Clean Sweep

Michelle worked with the Taylor County recycling authority to inform their audience about recycling opportunities. She co-organized, advertised, and educated the public about Clean Sweeps and tire collections in Taylor County.

Clean Sweeps

Michelle worked with the Taylor County Recycling & Solid Waste Department to host the Taylor County Clean Sweep. Taylor County held two events, one in Medford and one in Gilman. Both were well attended and removed hazardous waste and other unwanted items from the environment.

- 653 participants at the electronics and appliance pick up in Medford and Gilman. This increased considerably from recent years.
- 435 TVs or monitor, up from last year.
- 33,172 pounds of miscellaneous electronics, up from last year.
- 7,870 pounds of hazardous waste was collected.

STRONGPeople™
STRONG BODIES

The *Strong Bodies* program was renamed StrongPeople/Strong Bodies by UW-Madison. These sessions are offered in-person at four locations throughout Taylor County and online (A series of strength training sessions for older adults where they improve strength, balance, and flexibility, so they can stay healthy and socially connected).

Michelle works with all the instructors so they were current with training requirements. The training requirements for a Strong Bodies Volunteer:

- Strong Bodies Position Description
- Volunteer Behavior Expectations
- Conditions of Volunteer Services
- Mandated Reporter Video
- CPR: Have a current CPR certification or watch this video
- Infectious Disease Video
- Permission for Background Check (Background checks are redone every 4 years per UW Madison's policy)

2022 Taylor County StrongPeople Survey results:

- 89% felt stronger due to the program
- 82% reported that their balance improved
- 78% reported that their health had improved throughout the course of the program
- 76% noticed an improvement in their mental health



FoodWise Administrator *Terri Kolb*



FoodWise advances healthy eating habits, active lifestyles and healthy community environments for families with limited incomes through nutrition education at the individual, community and systems levels.

FoodWise is federally funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). Each year FoodWise delivers nutrition education to more than 50,000 participants statewide.

Partnering with community-based organizations, FoodWise uses a combination of evidence-based strategies designed to promote change for individuals, families and communities and help make the healthy choice the easy choice.



Extension has hired a FoodWise Administrator, Terri Kolb, that serves Taylor County and 7 other counties and 2 tribal nations. Terri can be contacted via email at terri.kolb@wisc.edu.





Program Assistant

Kelly Phillips



Impact In 2022

- Over 40 email connections regarding but not limited to program questions, information assistance, and follow up horticulture questions.
- Over 190 phone calls regarding program questions, and follow up from previously asked questions.
- Over 250 walk-ins ranging from program questions, material purchases, plat book sales, registrations, assistance with horticulture questions, etc.
- This does not include the calls made for program specific registrations and confirmations.

StrongPeople/Strong Bodies: Kelly serves as a substitute for Michelle Grimm's on-line classes— certified.

Taylor County 4-H: Identified, created and setup two 4-H Projects for members to attend: Cake Decorating and Maple Syrup 101 (attended). Kelly also assisted at two library summer programs.

Taylor County Fair: Kelly created and set up displays at the Vendor building as well as the 4-H Food Stand.

Kelly has now been with the county serving Extension for just under two years.

In 2022, Kelly took it upon herself to create materials for the Latino audience in Taylor County — a UW-Extension in Taylor County resource pamphlet, a Taylor County 4-H informational and sign-up pamphlet, and a Taylor County 4-H Day Camp flyer.

Kelly continues to seek partnerships that can leverage and help promote the program offerings of Extension, i.e. county libraries, school administration, radio and various business connections, and chamber relations.

On top of supporting the educators in their needs for marketing materials, registrations, phone calls, etc., Kelly also manages the social media and email campaigns for Extension. Extension Taylor County was the 2nd office to embrace the new website platform from Madison with a total rewrite and build.

Here are examples of the sites Kelly has either created and/or advertises on a consistent basis.

