



**Extension Mission: *We teach, learn, lead, and serve, connecting the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.***

## **Community Development/Strong Bodies**

PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING TO ASSIST  
LEADERS, COMMUNITIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS  
REALIZE THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL.

MICHELLE GRIMM, EDUCATOR



Michelle Grimm

### **Broadband and BEAD**

I have been assigned to a sub-committee of the Taylor County Broadband Committee to work on the BEAD planning grant that Taylor County has received.

#### BEAD Local Planning Grant Program

Counties that have opted-in to the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program will need to submit a grant application and a placeholder budget to be used until a final budget is developed. This grant application and placeholder budget will be due on May 1, 2023.

By June 19, 2023, it will be expected that each grant signatory will have:

1. convened an initial planning group or provide documentation of meetings of an existing group.
2. began outreach to stakeholders in their community and/or region related to broadband planning.
3. identified a preliminary regional broadband vision and draft goals.
4. identified key barriers and opportunities related to Internet for All in their community and/or region.
5. and submitted a detailed budget by cost category.

### **FEED Webinar Series**

Planning for a series of webinars for food entrepreneurs in collaboration with county educators, statewide specialists, and local experts. This effort is designed to equip food entrepreneurs with increased skills and knowledge for operating successful food business enterprises.

### **Outreach Survey**

Assisted in creating a bilingual, qualitative survey with Taylor County Health Department and Aspirus regarding how to better serve the underserved in regard to their health in our county.



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## Agriculture

PROVIDING RESEARCH-BASED LIVESTOCK AND FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION, RESOURCES AND DECISION-MAKING TOOLS TO FARMERS AND AGRIBUSINESSES.

SANDY STUTTGEN, EDUCATOR



Sandy Stuttgen

### **Cow-Calf Workshop**

The March 18, 2023, cow calf workshop held in Ridgeland, WI was attended by 32 beef producers from Taylor, Polk, Barron, Chippewa, and St Croix counties. Extension Beef Outreach Specialist, Bill Halfman, and educator Sandy Stuttgen presented information about designing cattle handling facilities that improve handling efficiency and safety for the cattle and handlers during herd health events. Sandy also discussed establishing veterinary relationships to maintain access to prescription products and farm biosecurity. The goal for this program is to increase economic sustainability of WI beef producers regarding their cattle handling and health management practices. Evaluation data from this program is being summarized and will be reported.

### **Beef Producers**

Twenty-eight beef producers including three youth participated in an on-farm grazing and fencing workshop that Sandy organized. She collaborated with the North Central WI Cattlemen's Association, the UW-Madison Extension Grazing Outreach Specialist and an area fencing professional to provide hands on instruction on fence and corral design, and spring pasture management. Producers from Taylor, Lincoln, Marathon, Ashland, and Price counties attended this workshop that was held on April 13, 2023.



*Beef producers learned fencing tips and pasture management updates at the NCWCA Spring Workshop held on April 13, 2023.*

Photo by Sandy Stuttgen



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## Wisconsin 4-H



Julie Diepenbrock

TAYLOR COUNTY 4-H HAS OVER **200** YOUTH AND ADULTS WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO PROVIDE YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN LEADERSHIP AND LIFE SKILLS.

JULIE DIEPENBROCK, EDUCATOR

### Club Activities



Poplar Grove 4-H Club in Gilman seemed to have a great time with the Spaghetti and Marshmallow construction!! Lots of smiles while building positive relationships with other youth and learning some good STEM skills!

Ashley Armstrong is the new Taylor County 4-H Horse Project leader and has been planning some great activities for our 4-H youth in the horse project. In February, they attended a saddle fitting clinic. Other events scheduled include English/Pleasure Clinic, Panel placing and pizza, Mock Fair Clinic, and others. She also does a great job of communicating other opportunities (not just Taylor County 4-H) to our youth in the project.



### MAMS 4-H Afterschool

Beginning in February, I have been presenting some 4-H programming at MAMS after school as a part of their Community Learning Center (CLC). Three sessions were scheduled for LEGO robotics. LEGO robotics is an exciting and engaging way to help youth learn about engineering and coding. After a brief introduction, the youth worked at their own pace and asked me for help as needed.





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March and April have provided several youths the opportunity to learn to sew. Youth learned to thread the machine, sew straight lines and were able to make a pillowcase to take home with them. Sewing provides youth with an activity that helps with positive mental health and a skill that can last a lifetime. Youth in both of these afterschool programs were respectful and worked well together.

## FoodWise



ADVANCES HEALTHY EATING HABITS, ACTIVE LIFESTYLES, AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTS FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS WITH LIMITED INCOMES.

TERRI KOLB, FOODWISE ADMINISTRATOR



Terri Kolb

### Partnerships

A new effort in partnership with the Taylor County Food Resource Group to develop a comprehensive guide detailing resources for accessing emergency, supplemental and locally grown food, and meal services. This guide is available in English and will be made available in Spanish next quarter. Several other partnerships have been identified and established within Taylor County: ADRC, First Baptist Food Pantry, Taylor County Human Services Economic Assistance, and Taylor County Commission on Aging.

### Key Efforts

- Build support through collaboration for community-based food/nutrition and food security programs for SNAP-eligible (limited-income) populations.
- Provide helpful staff training, and needs-based programming and evaluation, which is fiscally responsible.
- Collaborate with nutrition educators and partner agencies to plan and implement interventions that improve healthy food practices and encourage practical healthy food and physical activity choices.
- Participate in FoodWise Nutrition Educator staff recruitment and lead local onboarding.

### Other Significant Administrative Efforts

- FY24 Plan of Work and Budget (first draft due April 14) – 56 hours to date
- Review of FY23 efforts and creation of Impact Reports





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- Performance Reviews – 5 educators
- FY23 Action Plan reviews, edits, and updates

(Note: It has been determined that the Lincoln/Taylor FoodWise Educator position is scheduled to be posted in late April/early May of this year. If a change occurs, we will let county representatives know.)

### Extension Taylor County's Primary Partnering Organizations

- Huey's Hideaway
- Northcentral WI Cattleman's Association
- Taylor County 4-H Federation
- Medford Farmer's Market
- Taylor County Tourism
- Taylor County Department of Health
- WI Beef Council
- DATCP
- WI Animal Healthy ER Mgmt Working Group
- Athens School District
- Farm WI Discovery Center
- Northwest WI Head Start
- Lutheran Social Services
- ICAA Taylor County Food Pantry
- CDI Medford Head Start
- Prentice School District
- Taylor County Public Libraries
- Gilman School District
- Rib Lake School District
- Market Animal Show & Sale
- Taylor County Fair Board
- Medford Area Public Schools
- Taylor County Solid Waste & Recycling Committee
- Taylor County Fair Board
- Taylor County Unit of WI Towns Association

**Julie Diepenbrock:** *4-H Educator* (Shared with Price County)

**Terri Kolb:** *FoodWise Administrator* (Multi-county)

**Michelle Grimm:** *Community Development Educator/Health & Well Being Educator* (*Strong Bodies Coordinator*)

**Sandra Stuttgen:** *Agriculture Educator*

**Kelly Phillips:** *Program Assistant*

**Art Lersch:** *Area Extension Director, Langlade, Lincoln, Price, Taylor* (715-218-5360)

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**Kelly Phillips**