



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

A presentation and regular consultations to the Taylor County Broadband Committee where I provided information and resources about broadband proposals in order for the committee to make informed choices to improve broadband access in the community.

Leadership Workshop

A workshop on Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership where participants in the Wisconsin Library Association Leadership Development Institute learned about characteristics of an effective leader and what model leadership was most effective in their work. The purpose of this effort is to contribute to the development of effective and locally engaged library leaders.

StrongPeople/Strong Bodies

Management, recruitment, leadership, oversight, and retention of the Strong Bodies program and Strong Bodies Health Volunteers (5) in Taylor County. These Strong Bodies volunteers lead Strong Bodies programs communitywide. The goal of this effort is to build health leadership capacity, create opportunities for civic engagement and to expand the reach of the Strong Bodies program to create healthier people and communities.

Clean Sweep

Hosted an electronics, appliance, and chemical recycling day and facilitated a countywide tire collection for residents in Taylor County. The goal was to remove hazardous elements from the environment.

- 696 participants at the electronics and appliance pick up in Medford and Gilman.
- 704 TVs or monitor, up from last year.
- 48,111 pounds of miscellaneous electronics, up from last year.
- TBD pounds of hazardous waste was collected from 222 participants (230 gallons of waste/oil).



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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

COMMUNICATIONS

In April, Sandy contributed articles to and distributed the *Extension Central Newsletter* to share timely educational information for improving agricultural production with farmers and stakeholders in the Taylor County area. 754 newsletters were mailed, and 266 copies were emailed using the EMMA platform. Sandy wrote *Confused by Livestock Drugs? Ask Your Veterinarian for Help* for the April 28, 2023, issue of the *Wisconsin State Farmer* newspaper. This article provides un-biased, research-based information to help livestock producers achieve and/or maintain economic viability. The newspaper's circulation is 10,000. Sandy's article, *Are You Ready? Antibiotics Will Be Prescription Only in 2023*, published by the *Wisconsin Agriculturist Magazine* (circulation 27,000), was shared with 785 subscribers of the Extension Area 6 E-newsletter, *Extension in the Valley*.

Sandy and her colleague Ryan Sterry completed two publications:

- *Administering Reproductive Hormones to Dairy Cattle* to increase knowledge of best practices for worker safety, and injection placement according to quality assurance guidelines.
- *Determining Bovine Pregnancy Status* to increase knowledge of the different options available for determining the pregnancy status of cattle, and the importance of implementing at least one method into their herd management. She and Ryan also recorded a presentation of this publication that is available to view on the Extension Dairy website.

Sandy's responses to questions from local farmers included verbal and email discussions and written materials provided about: land and building rental rates and contracts, leasing land for hunting, and care and management of newborn calves. She received aid from her Extension colleagues for addressing pricing first crop hay and selling last year's corn silage.

PROGRAMMING

Artificial Insemination (AI)

A hybrid course (two ZOOM sessions and two in-person trainings) was held in April for fifteen individuals (from Taylor, Marathon, and Clark counties in Wisconsin, and Illinois). Extension Agriculture Educators providing instruction were Sandy Stuttgen and Heather Schlessler. The post-training self-reported evaluation results indicate a positive 1.32-point average change in the participant's understanding of the topics discussed (1.91 points on average before participating in the training/3.23 points on average after). This was determined using



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a 4-point Likert scale, ranking excellent at 4 points, little/ no knowledge at 1 point. The highest average change (1.90 points, 1.6 before/3.5 after) in knowledge occurred in reproductive tract and semen handling. Participants pre- and post- scores from written tests of the material indicated a 15% increase in knowledge. Many participants indicated that they plan to put their new knowledge to work right away breeding their cattle.

Compromised Cattle Care and Euthanasia Training

An in-person training about care of compromised cattle and euthanasia was held on May 10 for the UW-Madison College of Agriculture and Life Science (CALs) Marshfield Agriculture Research Station (MARS) staff. The station manager requested we lead this training and their protocol review. The staff’s skill development helps ensure the best care of the cattle residing at the station. MARS/CALS livestock programs are accredited, inspected and governed and they must be able to show written evidence regarding the handling of animal morbidity and mortality as requested by the public’s right to request access from any federal agency. The station manager confirmed that our training provided what was needed to improve her staff’s competency with compromised cattle care and providing euthanasia. Extension Agriculture Educators Sandy Stuttgen, Heather Schlessler and Bill Halfman provided this training.

Changing our Mental and Emotional Trajectory (COMET)

Stuttgen and Schlessler provided ZOOM training for 12 Wisconsin Department of Administration employees on May 18. This training provides skill development to aid their ability to respond to their clients who are stressed and may be considering suicide.

Wisconsin 4-H



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



Julie Diepenbrock

Library Programs

This year’s Library Summer Reading program theme is “All Together Now: Todos Juntos Ahora Kindness/Friendship/Unity.” With the help of our 4-H Summer Intern, Emma Tingo, I presented our first program at the Rib Lake Public Library on June 6. We began by talking about how people are different and yet the same in many ways and how we can get along with others who are not like us. We then taught the youth the Friendship Wish (May all I think, say, and do, not hurt



anyone, and help everyone) in American Sign Language. Youth finished the program by decorating a wood bookmark to take home with them. Through these activities, we hope youth learn that while we all have differences, we have many similarities and can develop friendships and be kind to those who are different from us.

MAMS After School and Summer School

April and May have provided several youths the opportunity to learn to cook. Youth learned to make pancakes, banana bread, cake in a mug, breakfast omelets, and sugar cookies. Learning to cook is a valuable life skill that can save money and help make healthy food choices. I was also able to offer LEGO robotics through the MAMS Summer School. Youth learned about engineering and coding. Youth learned to follow the program instructions to build LEGO creations that moved and had sound.



Summer Camp

Taylor County 4-H had several participants attend the Northern Region 4-H Summer Camp at Northern Lakes Impact Center. Youth had an opportunity to experience leadership in the outdoors through boating, rock climbing, an archaeological dig, learning about animal tracks, night hiking, and team building activities. The Federation of Taylor County 4-H helps supplement the cost of camp to make it more affordable for youth. Summer camp helps youth improve their mental health through spending time outdoors and developing new friendships.





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FoodWise



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

TERRI KOLB, FOODWISE ADMINISTRATOR



Terri Kolb

Update

Interviews for the Taylor/Lincoln FoodWise Educator position are currently taking place, with the expectation that the position will be filled no later than by the end of the summer. FoodWise reports will resume once the educator is in place.

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



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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