



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

I am on the planning committee and presenting at the regional workshops.

[Maximize the Impact of BEAD Funding: Planning and Partnering Toward Internet for All](#) – Extension is organizing four regional two-day workshops across Wisconsin. Day One of these workshops covers various topics, including the role of local government in broadband, data-driven economic storytelling, insights into workforce development, and effective public-private partnerships for broadband expansion. Day Two continues with discussions on county financing options and legal considerations in broadband deployment. This event offers valuable strategies for leveraging BEAD funding to ensure equitable internet access. Workshops will be in Rice Lake on September 6-7; in Tomah on September 28-29; in Fond du Lac on October 9-10; and in Rhinelander on October 25-26.

Community Garden

Extension received \$4,000 from Indianhead Community Action Agency (ICAA) for refurbishment and maintenance of the Community Garden. Compost, lumber, garden tools and lawn care equipment, as well as repairs to water valves were purchased utilizing these funds.

StrongPeople/Strong Bodies

The Strong Bodies program starts September 11th in 5 locations throughout Taylor County, Gilman, Goodrich, Medford, Rib Lake and Online. I am just wrapping up the coordination of marketing materials, advertising, and supplies to start the classes. This Fall, I will conduct an evaluation on each instructor to meet the requirements of the Statewide program.

Getting to Know your Community Series

Currently on the planning committee with the Health Department to offer a free event at NTC regarding *Resilience for All: Exploring & Understanding the changing Hispanic & Latino Culture*, August 29th.



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TAYLOR COUNTY

Agriculture

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

SANDY STUTTGEN, EDUCATOR



Sandy Stuttgen

NACCA Annual Meeting

In August, Sandy joined approximately 700 colleagues from 49 states and three US territories for the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AM-PIC) in Des Moines, IA. She greeted poster session attendees where she and her WI team received Professional Development in Applied Research Regional Winner recognition for their research, *Beef x Dairy Crossbreeding and calf Management Practices on Wisconsin Dairy Farms*. The poster summarizes the dairy farm survey conducted in 2022 about general farm production of beef x dairy calves: sire and dam selection, breeding results, newborn calf management, milk feeding practices, and marketing. From the results, we have identified colostrum management practices and transfer of passive immunity for beef x dairy crossbred calves as areas of future study. In September, she and her team submitted the research project for publication with the double-blind, scientific peer-reviewed *Journal of NACAA*.

Sandy also received NACAA's Communication Regional Winner recognition for her feature article, *VCPR - Now More important Than Ever* for the *Wisconsin Agriculturist Magazine* (Farm Progress magazine group). Sandy and Heather Schlessler, Extension Marathon County, also received NACAA's Communication National Finalist award for Learning Module/Notebook with their *Artificial Insemination Program*.



Sandy discusses her team's poster at the 2023 NACAA AM.



Sandy toured IA beef operations where she learned about production practices to share with Taylor County and Wisconsin farmers.



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TAYLOR COUNTY

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

Day Camps

Taylor County 4-H had campers participate in the Day Camps at Wood Lake, Medford School Forest, Diamond Lake, and Stetsonville. Youth had an opportunity to participate in STEM activities such as: making and learning to use a foldscope, experimenting with a 3Doodler pen, and constructing a spaghetti and marshmallow structure. Day camps help both 4-H and non-4-H youth improve their mental health through spending time outdoors and participating in healthy activities and games that help develop new positive friendships. 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.



Huey's Hideaway Summer 4-H Club

Each of the past 2 summers I had worked with Huey's Hideaway during their summer day camp program. This summer was especially memorable because we were able to enroll 15 of the youth as the Huey's Hideaway Summer 4-H Club. Youth learned about the 4 Hs (head, heart, hands, and health) and often recited the 4-H pledge. Emma and I taught them the Friendship Wish (May all I think, say, and do, not hurt anyone, and help everyone!) in ASL. Each week I engaged the youth in a 4-H program based around their theme for the week. Our favorite was the experiments we did together during STEAM week (catapult and chemical reactions).



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Taylor County Fair

The Taylor County Fair is always a highlight for many 4-H families since it gives 4-H members a chance to showcase what they have learned and done throughout the year. The fair is a special opportunity for youth to spend time creating positive relationships with their peers and adult leaders.



FoodWise



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

TERRI KOLB, FOODWISE ADMINISTRATOR



Terri Kolb

Update

Shara Allen began work as the Taylor/Lincoln FoodWise Nutrition Educator on August 28th. The focus of her efforts during the first few months of her appointment will be to introduce her to Taylor and Lincoln FoodWise partner organizations and to begin preparing for any school related program that might be needed.



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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)

<https://taylor.extension.wisc.edu/>

Office: 715-748-3327



Kelly Phillips