



**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

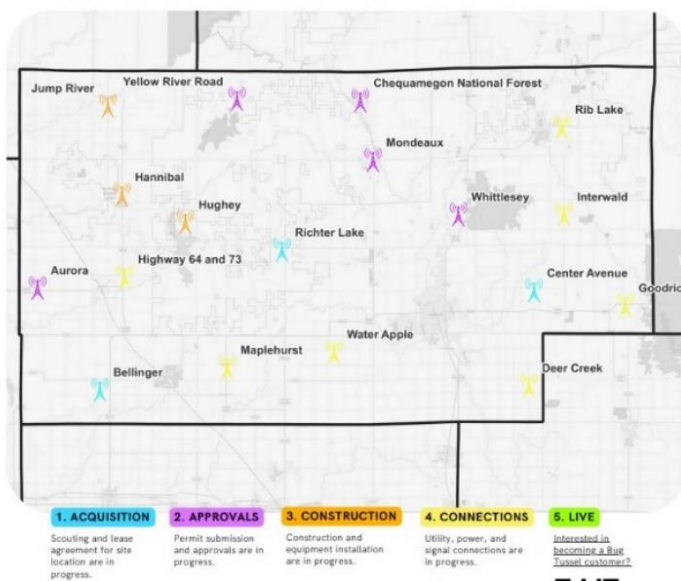
### Taylor County Broadband Update

These are the latest maps showing the Broadband initiatives in Taylor County. The new grant that the Taylor County Broadband Committee applied for would include expansion to serve areas in the Town of Hammel, the Town of Medford, the Town of Chelsea, and the Town of Molitor.

#### FIXED WIRELESS

Representation of project-funded sites and other sites. Subject to change.

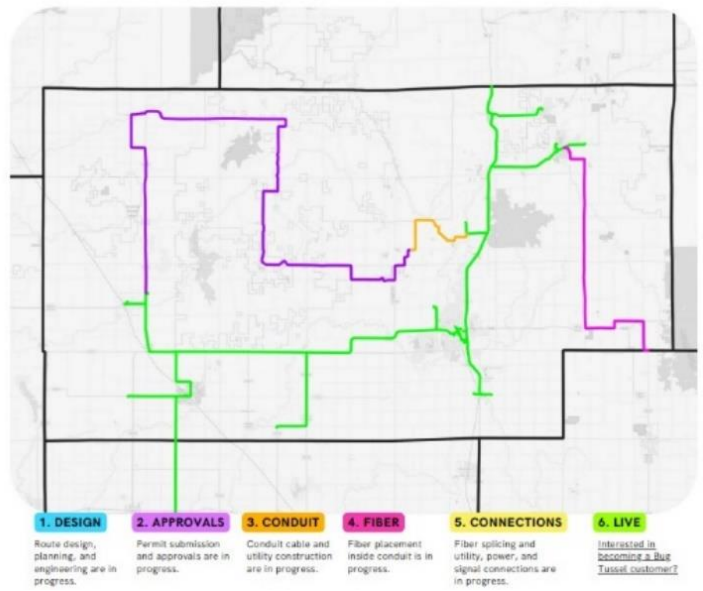
PROJECT SITES: 18  
FUNDING TYPE: BOND / GRANT



#### FIBER

Representation of backbone for all projects, phases, and pre-existing fiber. Subject to change.

PROJECT MILES: 70+  
FUNDING TYPE: BOND / GRANT





## Agriculture

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

SANDY STUTTGEN, EDUCATOR



Sandy Stuttgen

### Beef x Dairy Crossbreeding Practices

The research that Sandy participated in has been published by the Journal of NACAA (the National Association of County Agriculture Agents). *Beef x Dairy Crossbreeding Practices and Management of the Resulting calves on Wisconsin Dairy Farms*, ISSN 2158-9429, appears in Volume 16, Issue 2, December 2023 of the Journal of NACAA. Our results indicate an opportunity for Extension educators to work with dairy farmers to explore how adding a beef enterprise to the dairy operation impacts farm resources, and to establish good feedlot management practices amongst dairy managers.



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### Transportation Practices

Sandy collected survey data from Two Taylor County dairy farms, one calf hauler from Taylor County and a calf hauler from Clark County for a Wisconsin field study in collaboration with Colorado State University. The purpose of this research is to better understand the practices and challenges associated with transportation of pre-weaned dairy heifer, dairy bull, and beef x dairy calves from the source (dairy farms), hauler, and receiver (calf raiser). Results from this study will help dairy farmers, managers, haulers, calf raisers, and the dairy community in adopting practices and improving transportation welfare to improve farm business viability and food safety.

### Biosecurity Practices

A Qualtrics survey was used to collect feedback about five biosecurity articles written by educators for the topic hub at [livestock.extension.wisc.edu](http://livestock.extension.wisc.edu). Three of these articles were written by Sandy and 10 area readers completed the survey. We asked them to describe one thing they learned from reading



the article that they are likely to implement on their farm, if they have a written biosecurity plan for their farm and what additional biosecurity information they need. Results will be used for reporting our efforts to our federal partners and to learn more regarding producer practices and challenges to shape future biosecurity efforts to keep our WI beef herd protected and healthy.

**North Central Wisconsin Cattlemen’s Association (NCWCA)**

Sandy is planning the North Central WI Cattlemen’s Association in-person Winter Event for beef producers to learn about production practices to help them achieve/maintain the economic viability of their operations.

**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

**Bowling and Awards**

Through the years, Taylor County 4-H has celebrated youth and volunteer achievements from the previous 4-H year at an Achievement Banquet in the Fall. Covid brought a halt to that tradition in 2020. Since then, awards have been presented virtually. Finally, in November, the awards were again presented in person when the Federation sponsored Bowling and Awards for our Taylor County 4-H families. These awards are earned by 4-H members who have not only completed their project and exhibited at the fair, but also completed and submitted a 4-H record book with stories, photos, and of course, records, which demonstrate their accomplishments in various projects. In addition, the prestigious Key Award is one of the highest recognitions a 4-H member can receive. Youth receiving this award have demonstrated consistent growth in their 4-H involvement, developed and applied their leadership skills, and actively participated in their club and community. The Wisconsin Farm Bureau and Rural Mutual Insurance Company sponsor the Wisconsin 4-H Key Award program. They have sponsored these awards for over 50 years, helping 4-H to honor some of Wisconsin’s finest youth. At the Bowling and Awards, Rob Klussendorf presented the 4-H Key Award to Olivia Krause.



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**Educational Travel Experiences**

Taylor County has 3 young ladies who have been chosen to attend American Spirit East 4-H Travel Experience during the summer of 2024. Only 132 Wisconsin 4-H youth are able to experience history & heritage by immersing in a 10-day bus journey to the East Coast and Canada. Youth visit Niagara Falls, Boston, New York City and more to increase knowledge of American history while experiencing where it occurred. This experience helps youth build awareness of the many steps taken to gain U.S. independence and freedom. American Spirit East allows youth to further develop skills in leadership and personal expression of values and increase awareness of self in relationship to others. In addition, we have one 4-H member who is planning to attend Citizenship Washington Focus in Washington DC and one who is planning to attend Space Camp in Huntsville, AL.

**CLC - After School programs at MAMS, Stetsonville Elementary, Gilman Public Library**

I have reached out to youth in the after school programs this Fall with traditional and STEM 4-H activities. November included LEGO robotics at the Gilman Public Library and Bread in a Bag at both MAMS and Stetsonville Elementary After School programs. In December I taught youth to make 3 Holiday Treats which were: Deviled Eggs, Fruit Smoothies and Cake Mix Cookies. Food preparation involves measurements, following instructions and encourages hands-on creative thinking skills.



**FoodWise**



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

SHARA ALLEN, FOODWISE NUTRITION EDUCATOR



Shara Allen

FoodWise attended the Taylor County Supporting Healthy Aging Coalition’s Home Safety & Seniors event at Medford NTC on November 28th. Food safety information was available to seniors via a display board. FoodWise Educator Shara Allen was available to answer questions. Senior specific food safety handouts were available in English and Spanish for seniors to take home.



FoodWise has been in discussion with Taylor County's Commission on Aging Director, Jenn Viergutz, on bringing Stockboxes to eligible seniors in Taylor County. Stockbox is a free, monthly box of food staples available to low-income people age 60+. The Stockbox program exists in neighboring counties and a similar program can be set up in Taylor County with support and interest from the community. Currently, promotional literature is being distributed to gauge interest in the program.



Shara is working on setting up nutrition education programming at some of the dining sites in Taylor County starting in early 2024.

Shara continues to connect with the community food pantries and will be providing indirect nutrition education to their participants in early 2024.

Planning for Shara to provide classroom nutrition lessons with Head Start in Medford in early 2024. Additional lessons will be offered for parents.

FoodWise is an active member of the Taylor County Coalition, Supporting Healthy Aging Coalition and the Food Resource Network and attends meetings regularly. This serves as a great opportunity to develop and strengthen partnerships for current and future programming opportunities with other agencies and organizations.



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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)

**Shara Allen:** *FoodWise Nutrition Educator* (Shared with Lincoln 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**