



**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

### Strategic Plan Update:

**These are the four areas that the Strategic Plan Committee is working on.**

- What can Taylor County Government do to attract and retain experienced, knowledgeable staff to provide excellent service to the community?
- What can Taylor County Government do to improve public relations and communication, both internally and externally, in the next 3-5 years?
- How can Taylor County Government develop strategies to enhance fiscal resilience?
- What can Taylor County Government do to improve government efficiency and operational effectiveness in the next 3 to 5 years?

During the June meeting, **Michelle worked with the committee to begin developing action plans to address these issues.** Action planning will be finalized likely in July. The entire strategic plan will be presented to the county board for review/endorsement in late summer early fall.

### Gilman CEA:

Gilman will be visiting Mellen, WI on June 19th to compare what has worked in the CEA (Community Economic Analysis) to what is occurring in Mellen. **They hope to identify best practices from Mellen initiatives that could help Gilman reach its CEA objectives.**



**A good portion of Michelle’s time during spring was coordinating for another year the development of the community garden.** Below is a picture of the garden with replaced beds. Besides the gardeners, Michelle once again involved special needs youth and other community volunteers in the development of this year’s garden. A good portion of the produce will be donated to local food pantries.



**2024 Clean Sweep** collected a total of 51,276 lbs. of electronics this year from 487 participants. Also collected were 331 appliances, 115 gallons of waste oil, and 32 batteries from 244 vehicles.

**Summary of Taylor County 2024  
Appliance & Electronic Collection**

Conducted on:  
May 11 in Medford & Gilman

**MEDFORD SITE**

BATTERIES (lead acid)	31
WASTE OIL (gallons)	60
OLD APPLIANCES	281
TVs/MONITORS	659
MISC. ELECTRONICS	Unknown
PARTICIPANTS {Elec/Apppl}	422 + 208

**GILMAN SITE**

BATTERIES (lead acid)	1
WASTE OIL (gallons)	55
OLD APPLIANCES	50
TVs/MONITORS	156
MISC. ELECTRONICS	Unknown
PARTICIPANTS {Elec/Apppl}	65 + 36

**BOTH SITES COMBINED**

BATTERIES (lead acid)	32
WASTE OIL (gallons)	115
OLD APPLIANCES	331
TVs/MONITORS	815
MISC. ELECTRONICS	51,276
PARTICIPANTS {Elec/Apppl}	487 + 244



## Agriculture

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

SANDY STUTTGEN, EDUCATOR



Sandy Stuttgen

Sandy's programming includes writing about livestock management and being interviewed about farming practices. These articles keep livestock producers and the public up to date with local and regional livestock news, market trends, and current production practices, including ideas to help increase the economic viability of producers. Examples include:

- The *Wisconsin Agriculturist Magazine* includes articles by the Division of Extension educators. As part of its monthly Beef Column, Sandy wrote **Why Adding Cattle to Your Herd is Risky** for the February 2024 print issue which summarized steps producers should take as they bring new cattle onto their operations. Herd additions have inherent risks. Every movement of cattle onto a cow-calf operation brings biosecurity risks to the farm. The article also appeared in the magazine's December 19, 2023, online edition. The *WI Agriculturist* circulation is 24,000 print subscribers. The Beef Columns also appear on their website and garner between 1,000- and 4,000-page views (it is different for every column).
- Division of Extension beef educators provide articles for the WI Cattlemen's Association quarterly newsletter. Sandy wrote **My Farm is Infected with a FAD, Now What?** For the March edition of the newsletter. This article included links to three biosecurity videos Sandy and her colleagues created in collaboration with the WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). FAD is a foreign animal disease, and the article proved timely as producers received it just as news about dairy cattle infected with avian influenza was being reported nationally. *Cattle Trails* is distributed to 121 members and 18 affiliate members for a total of 139 (130 receive digital and hard copies. and nine requested to only receive digital). Equity Livestock Cooperative also receives 120 hard copies to distribute among their sale barns.
- The *WI State Farmer* newspaper includes the UW-Extension Corner in its weekly edition. Sandy wrote **How are Wisconsin Beef Producers Meeting Consumer Demand?** which was published in the May 17, 2024, issue. This article described why previous Governors proclaimed,



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'May is Beef Month' and how beef producers meet consumers' desire for wholesome, healthy beef. The *WI State Farmer* newspaper circulation is 10,000. Traffic on their website, depending on the articles - can range from 1,000 to 20,000 views or more.

- A reporter for the *Medford Star News* interviewed Sandy for a June Dairy Month feature he was writing for the paper, and its sister paper, the *Tribune-Phonograph*. He was looking for background information about farming trends and farmer's use of artificial intelligence in Taylor County. Sandy met with the reporter in person, and he subsequently wrote **The Futuristic Present: Dairy Technology** which was published in the June 6 editions of the *Star News* and *Tribune-Phonograph* newspapers. His article included quotes from the farmers Sandy referred to along with her statements about artificial insemination technology and the current landscape of dairy farming in the Taylor County area. The circulation for *Star News* is 4,200 and 1,700 for the *Tribune-Phonograph*.



### Cleaning and Sanitizing Multi-dose Syringes and Transfer Needles



Multi-dose (repeater) syringes are commonly used for vaccinating groups of animals. Transfer needles are used to quickly and cleanly mix vaccines. The risk for inactivating vaccines, and the risk for tissue irritation or abscess formation increases when contaminated syringes and transfer needles are used.

Properly cleaning, sanitizing, and storing multi-dose syringes and transfer needles will reduce contamination from many viruses, bacteria, and fungi. The steps described here use only tap and distilled or deionized (purified) water and do not render the equipment sterile. While not killing all microbes, these steps are acceptable for cleaning and sanitizing this equipment.

syringe or transfer needle during processing if the inside of the needle, barrel, or tubing becomes contaminated.

Small herd owners should decide if the time and labor required for cleaning, sanitizing, and correctly storing multi-dose syringes and transfer needles between events is better served by using disposable products.



**CLEANING**

You will need a clean workspace, clean...



### Planning Emergency Livestock Transport Response Facilitator's Guide

This training is intended for first responders, including dispatchers, fire, law enforcement, EMS, county emergency management, public health and safety communicators, governmental administrative, veterinarians and others (including those experienced in handling cattle, sheep and goats, pigs, and horses) who may provide support, assistance or aid in responding to roadway incidents involving cattle, sheep and goats, pigs and horses.

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**Sandy's written materials have been selected as National Finalists for the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) Communications Awards.** She will find out if they have been selected as National Winners during July's NACAA Professional Improvement Conference in Dallas, TX.



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## Wisconsin 4-H



UW-MADISON EXTENSION



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

### 4-H Summer Camp

Youth who have completed grades 3-7 in Taylor, Price and Langlade counties had the opportunity to attend the North Central Regional 4-H Camp from June 12-14, 2024, at the Northern Lakes Impact Center in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. **Our 4-H camp focused on developing leadership skills for the youths' everyday lives as well as within their 4-H career.** 4-H staff were committed to making accommodations to ensure youth have a chance to learn, grow and have fun. **The camp provided an opportunity for youth to build confidence, enjoy the outdoors, experience new activities and learn new skills, and meet new people in a safe environment.**





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## Huey's Hideaway



Taylor County 4-H partners with Huey's Hideaway Children's Museum during the summer by providing a 4-H program weekly to the youth in attendance. The youth enroll in 4-H through a simplified form as a member of the Huey's Summer 4-H Club. Youth learn the 4-H pledge and participate in a variety of programs that go along with their theme for the week. So far, we have conducted programs on "Going Green" - we talked about how green is the 4-H color and helped the youth weed the flower beds and plant peas. We have also presented programs on Fairy Tales and the Olympics.

**This is a great opportunity to introduce youth to 4-H projects as well as skills and activities the 4-H program offers.**

## Plat Books 2024

The Taylor County Plat Book is one of the major fundraisers for the Federation of Taylor County 4-H. All proceeds from the plat book sales stay local to benefit our 4-H program. Funds are used to provide 4-H programs as well as scholarships for graduating seniors who are 4-H members and scholarships to help youth attend 4-H Travel Experiences. **2024 Plat Books are currently available for purchase from the Extension office, Register of Deeds, and Romig's in Gilman.**

**ON SALE NOW!**

**NEW 2024 PLAT BOOK**

**NOW AVAILABLE AT:**  
Federation of Taylor County 4-H  
925 Donald Street  
Medford, WI 54451  
715-748-3327 Ext. 3 or 4



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## 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 Educator, Shara Allen, **finished teaching a series of 6 nutrition education classes to the Medford Head Start students in May. Lessons included hands-on activities, reading of a book, and a taste test of nutritious food items that were new to the majority of the students.** The 13 children were very interested in the lessons and the staff have been very supportive, incorporating information from FoodWise lessons into their own lessons and activities. Head Start would like to be a part of another series of classes in the 2024/25 school year.
- FoodWise is an active member of the Taylor County Coalition and Supporting Healthy Aging Coalition and are attending meetings regularly. This serves as a **great opportunity to develop and strengthen partnerships for current and future programming opportunities with other agencies and organizations.**
- Shara Allen completed a Mental Health First Aid training in May. This hybrid class consisted of 2 in-person sessions and online work. **The goal of the class is to educate one on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of someone experiencing a mental health challenge and how best to connect that person with support.** The training was offered through UW-Extension for the public.
- Shara Allen completed her UW-Extension Foundations in Extension Education training. This 6 month/12 session hybrid course is designed to inform new employees about the resources available for their roles in teaching, learning, leading and serving the people of WI. **By connecting fellow colleagues via in-person and on-line sessions, connections were made, techniques were shared, and procedures were practiced.**
- **Conversations about programming at the Medford Food Pantry are on-going.** Recipes and how-to cook guides for produce donated from the Medford Community Garden are currently being designed for distribution in July and August.



- **Summer programming at Gilman and Rib Lake senior centers is being developed.** Nutrition information, recipes, and samples of in-season produce will be made available to the seniors.

### **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**