



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



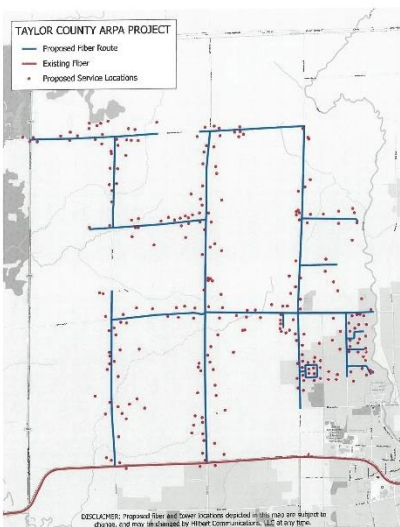
PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING TO ASSIST LEADERS, COMMUNITIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS REALIZE THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL.

MICHELLE GRIMM, EDUCATOR



Michelle Grimm

Taylor County Broadband



The Community Development Educator collaborated with Grant Bub, the Taylor County Broadband Manager, to compile a comprehensive summary of all components of the Taylor County Broadband Project. **This project aims to enhance internet connectivity across the county, ensuring that residents and businesses have access to reliable and high-speed broadband services.** Efforts included identifying key areas for infrastructure development, securing funding, and coordinating with various stakeholders to implement the project effectively. Additionally, to meet the objectives of the strategic plan, a document was created to communicate the different components of the project.

We are also preparing for upcoming BEAD (Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment) grants to further support Taylor County initiatives. In Wisconsin, BEAD requires counties to identify preferred ISP providers in BEAD-eligible areas for upcoming grants.

Gilman Design Project

The Design Gilman Implementation Meeting for community members, where the student council facilitated a discussion for the community, started the process to implement some of the suggestions on Design Gilman.

A group of 38 student council members, community stakeholders and UW-Extension members collaborated with the Village of Gilman and the Gilman School District to support the community in discovering a shared vision for the future. Design Wisconsin is a community design program offered



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by the University of Wisconsin-Extension’s Community Vitality & Placemaking Team; a “Signature Effort” that combines best practices and expertise from applied research in community development, economic development, natural resources, positive youth development, organizational and leadership development, and sustainability. **Through this process, the Design Wisconsin team helped the Gilman community identify and visualize their short-, medium-, and long-range visions for their town.**

Gilman conducted a Community Economic Analysis that identified three areas to work on. As a next step, the community plans to host a Design Wisconsin Event to further the goals of a vibrant downtown, volunteering, and community vitality.

The Community Development Educator met with the Gilman Student Council and community members to review the outcomes of the community engagement event and identified three key areas to focus on.

Goals for the project for the School Year:

1. Design Contest for the Mural: Organizing a contest to create a design for the mural.
2. Trail Development on School Property: Working on developing a trail on the school property.
3. Signs for the Swinging Bridge: Creating and installing signs for the swinging bridge.



Photo caption: Gilman Student Council



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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

Transfer of Passive Immunity in Beef Calves from Wisconsin Dairies

Principal investigators Heather Schlessler, Ryan Sterry, and Sandra Stuttgen completed data collection for their passive immunity transfer study in calves. **The study aims to compare replacement dairy heifer calves to non-retained female, male, and crossbred calves and identify gaps in colostrum management practices.**

They collected blood samples from 3,117 calves aged 1-7 days between September 1, 2023, and August 31, 2024. The calves were from 29 farms in Wisconsin, including eight in Taylor County. Farms varied in size and management style. Each farm provided its colostrum feeding protocol and quarterly updates. Of the calves, 1,610 were retained (51%) and 1,507 were non-retained (48%).

Thirty-one percent of farms used a Brix refractometer to measure colostrum quality. Seventy-nine percent of farms provided two colostrum feedings to retained calves, while 62% did so for non-retained calves. First-feeding colostrum quantities ranged from 1-6 quarts, and second-feeding quantities ranged from 0-4 quarts.

Serum total protein (STP) values were measured and scored as excellent (STP \geq 6.2 g/dL), good (5.8-6.1 g/dL), fair (5.1-5.7 g/dL), or fail ($<$ 5.1 g/dL). The industry goal is for more than 90% of calves to pass, with ~20% fair, ~30% good, and >40% excellent. In this study, 88% of retained calves passed, with 28% fair, 20% good, and 51% excellent. This is slightly below industry recommendations, indicating a need for better education.

For non-retained calves, 78% passed, with 42% fair, 26% good, and 32% excellent. This is lower than industry recommendations and lower than retained calves. Future research should examine the long-term effects of failed passive transfer on calf mortality and morbidity rates.



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Livestock Articles

Livestock educators write articles for beef producers on best management practices and current research in livestock systems. **These articles keep livestock producers up to date with local and regional livestock news, market trends, and production ideas to help increase the economic viability of producers.** The circulation of The Wisconsin Agriculturist Magazine is 24,000 print subscribers. The Beef Columns also appear on the website and garner between 1,000 and 4,000 page views (it is different for every column). Articles are intended for the magazine's farming audience, including those written for the monthly Beef Column. We peer-review each other's work for unbiased scientific content, grammar, and audience appeal. We also meet the editor's and our program's goal for increasing the economic viability of producers. **Sandy Stuttgen wrote "Why Adding Cattle to Your Herd is Risky" for the February 2024 print issue which summarized biosecurity 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. **For the December 18, 2024, online edition, Sandy wrote Tips for Helping Cows and Calves Recover After Dystocia which summarized best management practices for post-calving care to help with the animals' recovery and productivity within the herd.** Several other Farm Progress editors also plan to use it in their December newsletters. This article will appear in the February 2025 print edition.



Tips to help cows, calves recover from difficult birth

Beef Column: Providing the right care following dystocia makes a huge difference for both the cow and her calf.

[FULL ARTICLE](#)

Photo caption: December 18, Wisconsin Agriculturist



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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

Leadership Training

One of the key skills that 4-H helps youth and adults develop is Leadership Skills. Sunday, January 5, 2025, the 4-H Educator hosted a Leadership Training for 4-H Club Officers, youth 12 and older, and 4-H Volunteers (including club leaders). Some of the topics covered included: What is a Leader, Officer Expectations, Encouragement for Volunteers to Host Project Meetings, and 4-H Clubs Hosting One Activity/Event Other Clubs are Invited to Participate (increasing opportunities for all youth). **This leadership training provides the opportunity to connect/reconnect with youth and adult leaders across the county, a chance to further develop leadership skills and the chance to share opportunities in 4-H for further Leadership Development.**

After School Programs

This Fall the 4-H Educator has been presenting some 4-H Afterschool Programs at the Gilman Public Library, Medford Area Elementary School, Medford Area Middle School, and Stetsonville Elementary School. September programs were LEGO Robotics, October was 3Doodler Pens, November was Omelet in a Bag at MAMS and Cultural Crafts at MAES and SES and December was Holiday Treats where youth learned to make deviled eggs. **These activities expose youth to 4-H projects including STEM, Foods and Nutrition, and Crafts.**





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Project Fun Day - January 11

Taylor County 4-H will host our First Project Fund Day (in recent years) on Saturday, January 11 at MAMS for all of 4-H youth. Thanks to the expertise of Taylor County volunteers and some community members, we will offer 11 sessions (youth are able to attend 3). These sessions include: Photography 101, LEGO Robotics, Growing Plants, Communication (the art of getting (almost) anything you want, Sewing, Tie Pillows made with fleece for Home Decor, Crafting with Leather, Whether you like the Weather or Not; Here it Comes, Cookie Baking, How to Show your Rabbit, and Get the SCOOP on Showing Cats. Special thanks to the Federation for providing the funding for lunch for everyone who attends. **This opportunity provides 4-H youth a chance to learn more about a project in which they are enrolled, experience new activities and learn new skills.**



SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

MAMS



9:00AM-2:00PM

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED!

OPEN TO ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 5K-13TH

Youth 2nd grade and younger need to be accompanied by an adult.

This event cost \$5 to attend which covers lunch and all project supplies!

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR PROJECT SESSIONS!

Youth will participate in 3 sessions but will choose 5 because sessions may fill up or be offered at the same time.

tinyurl.com/TCProjectFunDay2025



or

SCAN



DEADLINE DECEMBER 30



The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension is an EEO/AA Institution committed to diversity among its employees and in its programs.

Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Please do so as early as possible prior to the program or activity so that proper arrangements can be made. In certain situations, information related to requests may be shared with staff or units necessary to help coordinate an appropriate accommodation.





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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

SOAR and the Raider Academy

In November, SOAR, Raider Academy, and FoodWise met for their second lesson. This lesson focused on reading a nutrition label, something new to almost all the students. Students used a nutrition label to determine the amount of added sugar in various energy, sport, and soft drinks. After measuring out this amount of sugar, they shared the results with the class. **With the knowledge the students gained by learning how to read a nutrition label, they have the ability to understand what is in the food they choose to consume.** Students then put this idea to use when they made a ramen noodle skillet and added their own seasoning instead of the high-salt seasoning packet that comes with ramen.

Rib Lake Senior Center

In November, FoodWise finished the series of 4 nutrition classes at the Rib Lake Senior Center. On the last day of class, **16 seniors were given air fryers, thanks to the Social Isolation Grant Taylor County was awarded.** The feedback from the class was very positive. Comments such as: "Very informative class. Would like to see more classes like this in Rib Lake." and "Thank you. It was not just informative but fun also." were common. Plans to hold a similar series in Gilman in January and February are in the works.



Stetsonville Elementary

Throughout October, November and December our FoodWise Educator visited the first and third grade classrooms in Stetsonville Elementary School. Each of the five lessons began with a story, then had an activity that reinforced the lesson of the day and ended class with a food sample. **Students learned about MyPlate, how food grows, and how to take care of their bodies through nutrition and exercise.** Everyone loved the salsa/refried bean mix, with some students trying salsa for their first time and loving it. Many children said they were going to make it at home.

Supporting Healthy Aging Coalition

Due to FoodWise being an active member of the Supporting Healthy Aging Coalition Extension was invited to have a table at the New Year, Healthier You Event at The REC Center on December 17th. **FoodWise provided the 65 seniors that attended the event a healthy trail mix and talked about the benefits of whole grains and how to check the nutrition facts label on processed food to ensure it was made with whole grains.**





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
- Taylor County ADRC

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*

Amber Rehberg: *Area 3 Extension Director, Lincoln, Price, Taylor (715-784-1540)*

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