



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
TAYLOR COUNTY

Taylor County July/August 2026 Highlight Report

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 –
.8 FTE CDI
.2 FTE Strong Bodies
Coordinator

Programs designed to strengthen the capacity of nonprofits and community leaders across Wisconsin.

As a member of this team, Michelle helps create and teach workshops and webinars on topics including **artificial intelligence for nonprofits, plain language communication, grant writing, nonprofit program evaluation**, and **nonprofit board development**. Through these collaborative statewide efforts, Michelle works with Extension colleagues to provide practical, research-based training that helps organizations improve communication, increase effectiveness, build leadership capacity, secure funding, measure impact, and better serve their communities.

AI for Nonprofits offered in August and January designed to provide a clear, accessible introduction to AI and highlight real-world applications that can help nonprofits save time, strengthen outreach, and improve program effectiveness. Participants will learn how AI tools can support everyday tasks such as content creation, grant writing, data analysis, volunteer engagement, and administrative efficiency. The session will also address important considerations around ethics, data privacy, and responsible AI use in mission-driven organizations.

Introduction to Plain Language offered in September and October assists attendees to make communication clear, and inclusive, by offering impactful training and tools to communicate effectively. This is an interactive training where they'll discover practical strategies, from choosing the right words and fonts to refining grammar and testing with real users. To gain tools to connect effectively with both native and nonnative English speakers—quickly and confidently.



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Grant Writing 101 offered in September is an informative and hands-on virtual training on grant writing to learn:

- The most common grant writing mistakes.
- The outline of a common grant proposal.
- Where to look for funding for your organization.

A Five-Week Series Understanding Impact offered in October introduces Evaluating Nonprofit Programs Designed for small nonprofits and individuals new to outcome evaluation. This five-session webinar series will provide participants with the tools and strategies needed to assess and communicate the effectiveness of their programs and services. Participants will identify outcomes they want their programs and services to achieve, develop a plan to evaluate effectiveness, and explore ways to communicate their organization's impact.

Nonprofit Boards 101 being offered in February. Serving on a nonprofit board is one of the most meaningful ways to give back to your community, but it can feel overwhelming without the right foundation. In this 90-minute hands-on workshop, new board members will explore the nonprofit landscape, their core roles and legal responsibilities, and tools to lead with confidence. Walk away with the knowledge and confidence to lead effectively and make a lasting impact in your community.

Organizational and Leadership Development Program

Webinars for Nonprofit Teams

We support leadership development as a foundation for effective organizations and thriving communities by delivering leadership programs and assisting organizations and communities with their leadership programs.

AI

Plain Language

Grant Writing

Understanding Impact

Boards

Fund Development & Donor Relations



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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 – Faculty
.8 FTE

July 2026 Farm Technology Days Outcome

More than 250 attendees participated in UW Extension Beef Team educational activities at Farm Technology Days. Presentations and displays highlighted cattle handling, biosecurity, animal health, and meat quality. **Participants gained awareness of management practices that can improve profitability, reduce disease risks, and support high-quality beef production.**

Building Awareness About Emerging Disease Threats

Through the Wisconsin Agriculturist Livestock Insights column, Division of Extension educators help increase beef producers' awareness of current best management practices. Sandy chose to write *Anaplasmosis and Theileriosis: Similar Signs, Different Responses* for the Aug/Sept issues. This article discusses two diseases, anaplasmosis (relatively common in Wisconsin) and theileriosis, which is an emerging disease risk in Wisconsin. Accurate diagnosis is critical because anaplasmosis and theileriosis require different individual and herd responses. **The WI Agriculturist circulation is 24,000 print subscribers.** Typically, articles garner between 1,000 and 4,000 online page views depending on the article. The magazine is part of the Farm Progress communications group, which shares articles across several national agricultural magazines.

EXTENSION COW-CALF WORKSHOP

September 23, 2026: Attend One Session or Both!

Tour: Rain or shine • Walking & standing required • Wear clean washable footwear.
4:00 - 5:15 pm • Trusty Ranch, W5805 Cty Rd D, Westboro, 54490: Topics: Cattle handling renovations • Pasture weed control

Supper & Classroom: 5:30 - 8:30 pm • Westboro Community Center, N8855 2nd St, Westboro. Topics: Biosecurity Update, Sandy Stuttgen, DVM, UW-Extension Taylor Co • Pasture and Hay Field Management-tips for quality & quantity, Marta Kohmann, Assistant Professor, Forage Systems Agroecology, UW- Madison • Culling Decisions & Building Cow Longevity - Ryan Sterry, UW-Madison Extension Regional Livestock Educator and Bill Halfman, Extension Beef Specialist

No Cost but RSVP REQUIRED:

•For Meal & Classroom Session: ☎ 715-748-1413. Deadline: Sept 14, 2026.
Leave message: • Name • Phone number • Number of meals requested

•For Accommodations: ☎ 715-748-3327 ext. 1. Deadline: Sept 8, 2026

This program is held in English and is open to all who are interested in raising or managing beef cattle. Language translation and other accommodations are available to enable your participation. Please contact Sandy Stuttgen, 715-748-3327 or email sandra.stuttgen@wisc.edu by Sept 8 for all accommodation requests.

Directions: To the Trusty Ranch: From Hwy 13 near Westboro, head west on Cty Rd D for 2 miles. Look for the Extension sign on the south side of the road. To the Community Center, from the Trusty Ranch, return east on D to the intersection with Hwy 13, continue through into the village, turn south on 2nd Street. Look for the Extension flutter flag.



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The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.



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WCA Recognition

The Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association (WCA) recognized leaders in Wisconsin's beef industry during its 2026 Annual Summer Tour. **The Beef Quality Assurance Award was presented to Sandy for her commitment to improving beef quality, cattle well-being, and producer education throughout Wisconsin.** As the agriculture educator for Taylor County with the University of Wisconsin Division of Extension, Sandy is a driving force behind Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) programming statewide: developing educational resources, leading BQA workshops, and helping producers implement best management practices that strengthen consumer confidence.



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 –
.5 FTE

Day Experiences

Many youth in Northern Wisconsin need more opportunities to experience new and different places and learn more about the world around them. This one-day focused on connecting 4-H youth with peers from neighboring counties while increasing their understanding of agriculture and food production.

Participants participated in a cooking class led by the Food+Farm chef, who demonstrated how to incorporate nutritious ingredients into delicious, wholesome meals. The group also toured the farm with a staff member who provided insight into the farm's daily operations and agricultural practices. The experience concluded with an exploration of the many interactive exhibits at the Food+Farm Exploration Center.

Throughout the experience, youth had valuable opportunities to build relationships with 4-H teens and adult volunteers from nearby counties while gaining a deeper appreciation for Wisconsin agriculture and the journey of food from farm to table.



Food+Farm Exploration

Many youth in Northern Wisconsin need more opportunities to experience new and different places and learn more about the world around them. This one-day trip was all about exploring another community, connecting with other 4-Hers, and learning about a fish hatchery. The expedition included: a train ride on the Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad, a tour of the Governor Tommy G. Thompson State Fish Hatchery, and time to explore downtown Spooner, all while having time to connect with 4-H teens and adults from nearby counties. **The evaluations reported that all youth learned something new about Wisconsin's history, environment or community and learned more about wildlife, conservation or natural resources than they knew before.** Youth enjoyed trying new activities and experiences, felt included, respected and supported by the group and would participate in another 4-H Older Youth Expedition in the future.



Older Youth Expedition



Taylor County Fair

The Taylor County Fair provides an outstanding opportunity for county residents to observe the wide range of projects and skills that Taylor County 4-H members have been developing throughout the year. Whether people stroll through the barns and visit with 4-H members about their animal projects, watch one of the many livestock shows, explore the Youth Building to view the impressive variety of exhibits on display, enjoy a meal at the 4-H Food Stand, stop by the YLO Pizza and Soda Stand, or attend the MASS Auction, they are helping support and encourage local youth.

For many 4-H families, the fair is a highlight of the year, offering members the chance to showcase their accomplishments, knowledge, and hard work. The fair provides opportunities for young people to build positive relationships with their peers and adult mentors, create lasting memories and develop confidence and leadership skills.



2026 Taylor County Fair – 4-H Food Stand

Nourish & Flourish

Summer 4-H programs give young people extra time and space to explore skills they may not learn at school or home. Many families want their children to feel confident making healthy food choices, but youth often have limited chances to practice these skills in a hands-on way. Our Taylor County AmeriCorps Member and our 4-H Summer Intern were able to address this need by offering practical nutrition and food preparation experiences in a safe, supportive setting by partnering with REC to teach youth nutritional information and how to make quick, nutritious snacks. Activities included preparing foods like biscuit pizzas, apple salad, bean dip, rice cake pizzas, raspberry fruit dip, and french toast—recipes chosen because they are fun, affordable, and easy for youth to recreate at home. Each session encouraged youth to try new foods, practice basic kitchen skills, and learn how simple choices can support their overall well-being. **A total of 27 youth and 2 adults took part in these hands-on nutrition activities. Youth practiced real-life food preparation skills, learned how to handle ingredients safely, and gained confidence making healthy snacks on their own.** These experiences help young people build independence and support long-term healthy habits, contributing to stronger families and a healthier community.



Nourish and Flourish program at the Rec Center



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Extension Taylor County's Primary Partnering Organizations

- Equity Livestock Marketing Association
- Federation of Taylor County 4-H
- FFA Colby High School
- Gilman School District
- Huey's Hideaway Children's Museum
- ICAA Taylor County Food Pantry
- Medford Area Public Schools
- Medford Farmer's Market
- Northcentral WI Cattleman's Association (NCWCA)
- Rib Lake School District
- Taylor County Broadband Committee
- Taylor County Department of Health
- Taylor County Fair Board
- Taylor County Food Resource Group
- Taylor County Public Libraries
- Taylor County Solid Waste & Recycling Committee
- Taylor County Tourism
- Taylor County Unit of WI Towns Association
- WI Beef Council



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Office Administration



PROGRAM SPECIALIST – KELLY PHILLIPS

Support

During the months of July and August, Kelly provided coordination and support for the following programs: 4-H Email Blast, 4-H Newsletter, Fair Display, Ag Workshop communications via EMMA email blasts and over 500 postcards as well as social media and web postings, continuous horticulture, community development and agriculture social media posts, Strong Bodies 2026-2027 registrations, and website additions/remake. Moreover, she administered a range of services offered, statewide administrative informational zoom sessions, horticulture and agriculture inquiries and research, and general questions that may or may not be related to the services of Extension. Just in the months of July and August, Phillips has assisted over 60 Taylor County Residents via phone, e-mail, and office drop-ins. She plays an important role connecting community members with UW resources and research.

Professional Development

As Phillips provides strong administrative support, she strives to continue building and developing the needed skills to utilize best practices and resources. She is also committed to supporting other administrative professionals and serves on a statewide committee that organizes professional development opportunities for administrative professionals around the state. Phillips recently co-led a statewide Zoom focusing on Transitioning from Microsoft Publisher to Adobe Express for admin support. Phillips also attended a Zoom re: AI in the workplace and WordPress Hangout/updates. Phillips continues to seek the latest and greatest tools to assist in her daily job responsibilities.



AREA 3 EXTENSION DIRECTOR – AMBER REHBERG
(Taylor, Price, Lincoln, Langlade, and Oneida)