

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors
Agriculture & Extension Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 26, 2021
Walworth County Government Center, County Board Room 114
100 West Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin**

Chair Brian Holt called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Roll call was conducted and the following members were present either in person or by remote attendance: Chair Brian Holt; Vice Chair Daniel Kilkenny; Supervisor Nancy Russell; and Citizen Members Kathleen Papcke and Jennifer Straus. FSA Representative Sharon Travis was absent. A quorum was declared.

Others in Attendance:

County Staff: Area UW-Extension Director Christine Wen; Horticulture Outreach Specialist Julie Hill; Agriculture Educator Jim Versweyveld; 4-H Youth Development Coordinator Janel Heidelmeier; 4-H Youth Development Educator Debbie Harris; Human Development and Relationships Extension Educator Amanda Kostman; and Natural Resources Regional Educator Michelle Probst

On motion by Vice Chair Kilkenny, second by Supervisor Russell, the agenda was approved with no withdrawals.

On motion by Vice Chair Kilkenny, second by Supervisor Russell, the February 15, 2021 Agriculture and Extension Education Committee meeting minutes were approved.

Public comment – There was none.

Reports

7a. Horticulture Outreach Specialist Report

Horticulture Outreach Specialist Julie Hill discussed webinars that were hosted this spring which covered topics like shoreline gardening, invasive species, and pollinator gardens. She then highlighted upcoming webinars being offered this summer. Discussion followed. Hill noted, the online Foundations in Horticulture course is being revised to be available in other counties in the fall to a more public audience. She also stated more in person Master Gardener volunteer opportunities are becoming available. COVID-19 guidelines are being recognized to keep volunteers and participants safe.

7b. Agriculture Educator Report

Agriculture Educator Jim Versweyveld provided an overview of the youth tractor safety program currently being conducted. This is a certificate program required by Wisconsin Act 455 and the Fair Labor Standards Act. Taking this educational course allows 12 to 13 year olds to operate a tractor safely on their family farm. It also allows 14 to 15 year olds to operate a tractor on another employer's farm and on highways. This course covers the hazards of tractors, particularly with implements attached along with general farm safety. In order to complete the course and obtain the certificate, participants must pass a written test and an in person driving test.

7c. 4-H Youth Development Coordinator Report

4-H Youth Development Coordinator Janel Heidelmeier discussed the 4-H monthly projects and noted these will now be emailed rather than mailed. However, participants could elect to receive projects in the mail. She also spoke about the County Project Spotlight and elaborated on past and future themes. The Cloverbuds at Home program has recently finished and Heidelmeier read positive feedback from participants. She also highlighted in person happenings across the county and noted there are more in person activities to come. Discussion followed.

7d. 4-H Youth Development Educator Report

4-H Youth Development Educator Debbie Harris spoke of preparations for a two-day 4-H Day Camp event. This year's camp will be held at the Walworth County Fairgrounds in lieu of Upham Woods due to COVID-19 restrictions. Efforts are being made to have the same activities that would usually take place at the overnight camp. Harris provided an update of outreach programming which included kit-based hands-on activities and after school workshops. She also highlighted the 4-H Science Explorers: Scientists Live virtual career series by explaining the purpose of the program along with details of the curriculum.

7e. Human Development and Relationships Extension Educator Report

Human Development and Relationships Extension Educator Amanda Kostman provided an update of various ongoing programs. She spoke regarding the continued success of the Rent Smart program and noted the format was transformed to online in order to adhere to COVID-19 guidelines. Kostman also highlighted a new curriculum for Encouraging Financial Conversations in March. This is a professional development program designed to educate professionals on having financial conversations with their clients. In addition, a grant funded Aging Mastery Program is being held in April and will continue through October. Kostman has been trained on this curriculum so the program can continue to be offered in the future, even after grant funding has expired. Starting soon is a new WeCope program developed by extension educators. This program will be beneficial to individuals who need help dealing with the stresses of life. Kostman also noted the Independent Living program is beginning again in a hybrid format with both in person and virtual participants.

7f. FoodWise Program Coordinator Report

No report was given at the meeting.

7g. Natural Resources Regional Educator

Natural Resource Regional Educator Michele Probst introduced herself and provided background to the work she does in the Rock River Basin and southeastern Wisconsin. Her work includes collaborating with urban and agriculture groups across the region on water quality and conservation. Probst assists organizations with education and program development to reach their water quality goals. She noted she is available as an extension resource for Walworth County. Discussion followed.

Reports/announcements by Chairperson- There were none.

Confirmation of next meeting: The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, June 14, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On motion by Citizen Member Papcke, second by Vice Chair Kilkenny, Chair Holt adjourned the meeting at 2:44 p.m.