

Extension Education Committee Minutes

Date of Meeting: December 8, 2025

Call to Order: John Kannard called the meeting to order at 8:32am.

Roll Call: Committee members present in person: John Kannard, Dwayne Morris and Matt Foelker.

Chrissy Wen, Jerry Wilcenski, Steven Chmielewski, Julie Hill and Katelyn Broedlow were present in-person.

Dan Herbst, Elizabeth Hafften and Josh Kamps were present via Teams.

Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law: In compliance.

Approval of Agenda: No changes.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of University Extension Education Committee Minutes from November 10, 2025: Motion by Morris, seconded by Foelker, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed.

Communications: Wen stated that Extension Area Directors are being reorganized. However, Area 19 (which includes Jefferson County) will not be affected by these changes.

Review of 2025 Departmental Budget: Wen stated that we received the final invoice for the educator contracts for the year and that will get paid soon. Discussion was had.

Update on 4-H Associate Position: Wen stated that the job has been posted and closes on December 15. Wen explained the interview process to the committee.

Discussion of Monthly Educator Reports:

Steve Chmielewski, Community Development Educator, provided an oral report for the committee.

- The Rural Entrepreneurial Venture Program continues in Jefferson. A Workshop Series will start in February.
- There is another group in Palmyra interested in the Rural Entrepreneurial Venture Program. The kickoff for this will happen in January with a presentation for the group.
- The Regional Housing Summit is planned for Thursday, May 7 at the Milwaukee County Zoo. This will cover approximately 12 counties.
- Continues to work with Julie on the needs assessment with a few more areas to visit. They plan to visit Fort Atkinson in January.
- Working with the Jefferson Food Pantry on strategic planning.
- Discussion was had.

Alison Pfau, Regional Dairy Educator, was unable to attend the meeting.

Jerry Wilcenski, 4-H educator, provided an oral report for the committee.

- Charters have been reviewed and letters are being sent out.
- There has been a big push to get all volunteers reenrolled and volunteer trainings done.
- Cloverbud meeting was food focused and the youth made butter.
- The Palmyra in school program is making chocolate this month.
- Taught at the Beulah Homestead Club about parasites and how it can affect a herd.
- There will be a food cook-off to see what product will be sold at the food stand at the fair.
- Youth Livestock Committee will be doing a line dancing fundraiser on January 2.

- Discussion was had.

Julie Hill, Horticulture Educator, provided an oral report for the committee.

- This is a slow time for horticulture.
- Wrapped up programming at MATC in Watertown – which has been a great location.
- Still getting some questions from the online Ask Your Gardener over the winter season.
- Referred to the preliminary summary created in the packet and explained some of those findings.
- Developing some new programs for the next year.
- Wrapping up the community needs assessment with Steve.
- Discussion was had.

Josh Kamps, Regional Crops Educator, provided an oral report for the committee.

- Badger Crops and Soils update meeting went well.
- Next week is the Water and Soil Health Conference. Will be presenting at a breakout session.
- Working through plot data from the NOPP trials to get ready to share through programs and written reports.
- The WI DNR, Department of Agriculture and UW Madison have been looking at the broader landscape of water quality and where the nutrients that leave end up.
- Discussion was had.

Possible Items of Discussion/Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings: None.

Next Scheduled Meetings: January 12, February 9, March 9

Adjourn – Motion by Morris, seconded by Foelker, to adjourn at 9:11am.

Minutes recorded by Katelyn Broedlow, Administrative Specialist