

## Extension Education Committee Minutes

**Date of Meeting:** September 8, 2025

**Call to Order:** John Kannard called the meeting to order at 8:31am.

**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 was 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 August 11, 2025:** Motion by Foelker, seconded by Kannard, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed.

**Communications:** None.

**Review of 2025 Departmental Budget:** Wen stated everything is on track for the year. The biggest expense is the educator cost and an invoice will come in November/December.

*Josh Kamps joined the meeting at 8:35am.*

*Michael Luckey joined the meeting at 8:36am via Teams.*

**4-H Support Vacancy:** Wen referred to the attached memo. Wen discussed the various options that were included in the memo. Discussion was had.

*Alison Pfau joined the meeting at 8:43am.*

### **Discussion of Monthly Educator Reports:**

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

- The Whitewater Childcare Study is up and running. The committee has decided to add an incentive for people to complete the survey. Survey results will be reviewed in the next month or so.
- The Entrepreneurial Venture Program in Jefferson is currently working on a needs assessment. They will be focusing on start-up companies and small businesses.
- The needs assessment for Jefferson County Extension Office will resume this fall.
- The Wisconsin River Trail Transit Committee will be deploying a survey and gathering results this fall.
- Offered a Real Colors Workshop to group of county staff.
- Working with a regional team to bring a housing summit to the area.
- A Plan Commission Workshop is scheduled for October 20 in Waukesha.
- Discussion was had.

Alison Pfau, Regional Dairy Educator, provided an oral report for the committee.

- Handed out the August Bovi-Noticias newsletter and a postcard for the Smart Calf Rearing Conference.
- Hosted the calving management training two weeks ago here in Jefferson. Had great attendance - 30 in the Spanish training and 12 in the English training
- Started the El Break Info Lechero webinar series last week.

- Helping with a pilot training in November on safety in collaboration with farm management. This will be a train the trainers program to allow farm managers to then train their employees.
- Will be helping in the booth for World Dairy Expo.
- The heifer survey to understand the cost of raising a heifer is almost ready to send to farmers to complete.

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

- 4-H enrollment is now open and this year we are now able to accept payments online.
- Held the 4-H Open House last week and it went well.
- Starting to review Club Annual Financial Reviews.
- All of the record books and end of year awards were due this past week.
- Will start meeting with club leaders this month.
- Our new year programming will soon start again.
- Last week went to the Sheep and Wool Festival to take a couple of classes – eco printing and needle felting.
- Discussion was had.

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

- Partnering with the Lake Mills Community Recreation Department to offer a fall gardening for a winter ready landscape workshop in September.
- Many programs continue to happen.
- There are still many questions coming in.
- Continuing to work to establish new partnerships.
- The online Foundations in Gardening course starts this week.
- Attended a workshop for professional development.

Lisa Krolow, FoodWise Coordinator, was unable to attend the meeting.

- Wen gave an update for Krolow.
- Krolow has gleaned over 2,000 pounds at the Watertown Farmers Market so far this year.
- Priscilla has found new work.
- There will be no funding for the FoodWise Program coming from anywhere else.

Josh Kamps, Regional Crops Educator, was unable to attend the meeting.

- Working with a farmer who had a complete loss of their sweet corn field. Sweet corn is not a crop that is insured in Wisconsin. Trying to connect the grower with info and/or programs to help offset the cost of the loss.
- Continue to answer questions submitted to the online ask an agriculture question.
- Working on identifying a grass weed that has been showing up in the Jefferson County area.
- Partnered with Jefferson County Soil Builders last week for a cover crop workshop on the options farmers have after winter wheat.
- Discussion was had.

**Possible Items of Discussion/Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings:** 4-H Support Vacancy

**Next Scheduled Meetings:** October 13, November 10, December 8

**Adjourn** – Motion by Foelker, seconded by Morris, to adjourn at 9:51am.

*Minutes recorded by Katelyn Broedlow, Administrative Specialist*