

Extension Education Committee Minutes

Date of Meeting: February 09, 2026

Call to Order: John Kannard called the meeting to order at 8:34 am.

Roll Call: Committee members present in person: John Kannard and Dwayne Morris. Present via Teams: Elizabeth Hafften.

Chrissy Wen, Jerry Wilcenski, Steven Chmielewski, Alison Pfau, Josh Kamps, and Sarana Stolar were present in-person.

Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law: In compliance.

Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved as printed.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of University Extension Education Committee Minutes from January 12, 2026: Motion by Morris to approve the minutes as printed. Seconded by Hafften and passed.

Communications: None.

Review of 2026 Departmental Budget: Wen stated we are on track for this year.

Update on 4-H Associate Position: Update provided by Chrissy Wen. Verbal accepted offer. Waiting for formal acceptance this next week. An email with an update will be sent and if the offer is accepted, the start date will be 2/23/2026. Discussion followed.

Update on Office Staffing/Hours: Update provided by Chrissy Wen. The position was posted late 2025 and the team was able to access the applications for review last week. Once they are reviewed, applicants will be contacted and interviews will be scheduled as soon as possible. The team will continue working together to ensure office coverage and keep the doors open during regular business hours.

Discussion of Monthly Educator Reports: Steve Chmielewski (Community Educator), Alison Pfau (Bilingual Regional Dairy Educator), Jerry Wilcenski (4-H), Julie Hill (Horticulture Educator), Josh Kamps (Regional Crop Educator)

Steve Chmielewski, Community Development Educator, provided an oral report based on the written report provided to the committee.

- A study to better understand the economic impact of the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad system with communities and businesses.
- Preplanning and program introduction/community discussion with community stakeholders to begin program planning launch for strengthening local small business development ecosystem.
- Planning for a Southeastern Wisconsin Housing Summit.
- Planning for community needs assessment in collaboration with community leaders, businesses, and organizations in Jefferson County.
- Several new initiatives were discussed.

Alison Pfau, Bilingual Regional Dairy Educator, provided an oral report based on the written report provided to the committee.

- A Statewide program promoting humane dairy cow-handling practices.
- A statewide survey for dairy producers.
- Bovi-noticias is a bilingual (English & Spanish) newsletter created through collaboration between the Dairy and Farm Management teams.
- Presentation as a speaker on the Dairy Cattle Welfare Council Spanish webinar about the importance of the first 24 hours of the calves after born.
- Planning and developing a Forage management workshop on March 27 in collaboration with the Crops & soils educator of the region.

Jerry Wilcenski 4-H, provided an oral report based on the written report provided to the committee.

Winter Program Highlights:

- Bake-Off challenge
- Carcass Education: Youth learn about how animals are transformed into consumer meat products.
- Food4ward Chocolate- From bean to bar youth learn about the production of cacao and the science behind how it becomes chocolate.
- Youth Livestock Marketing- A series of events that break down into four main categories: Youth care of animals, Meat Science and Carcass Quality, Genetics Marketing and Public Speaking.
- Countywide Cloverbud Programing.
- Palmyra In School Club- Every Friday, serries goes through all of the project areas of 4-H from rabbits to Legos.
- Several new initiatives were discussed.

Julie Hill, Horticulture Educator, provided a written report for the committee.

Josh Kamps, Regional Crops Educator, provided an oral report based on the written report provided to the committee.

January Program Highlights:

- A study to better understand the influence of corn management on corn rootworm beetle populations.
- A breakout session presentation during the 2025 WWASH Conference for farmers, agronomists, and conservation professionals where participants learned about the management considerations for cereal rye to use as a cover crop tool for weed suppression and soil health promotion in Wisconsin grain production systems.
- Planning for an educational workshop for farmers, agronomists, and conservation professionals in collaboration with the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP), On-Farm Research Program and Farmers on the Rock.
- An on-farm study to better understand the influence of soil management and nitrogen rate on corn grain yield potential.
- Planning for an educational workshop for farmers, agronomists, and conservation professionals in collaboration with multiple Producer-Led group leaders and County Conservation staff.

The full reports are included in the meeting packet distributed prior to this meeting and are also available on Jefferson County's website at www.jeffersoncountyiwi.gov.

Possible Items of Discussion/Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings: The update on the 4-H Associate and Administration positions will remain on the March agenda.

Next Scheduled Meetings: March 9, and April 13

Adjourn: Motion by Morris to adjourn at 9:19 a.m. Seconded by Haffen and passed.

Minutes recorded by Sarana Stolar. Paralegal, Corporation Counsel's Office