

Extension Education Committee Minutes

Date of Meeting: March 09, 2026

Call to Order: John Kannard called the meeting to order at 8:33 am.

Roll Call: Committee members present in person: John Kannard, Matt Foelker, and Dwayne Morris. Present via Teams: Elizabeth Hafften and Dan Herbst.

Chrissy Wen, Alison Pfau, Cadance Hawk, and Sarana Stolar were present in-person. Michael Luckey, James from Watertown Daily Union, Julie Hill, and Josh Kamps were present via Teams.

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 February 09, 2026: Motion by Herbst to approve the minutes as printed. Seconded by Foelker and passed.

Communications: None.

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

Introduction of Cadance Hawk, 4-H Associate Educator: Cadance was present and introduced herself.

Update on Support Position: Update provided by Chrissy Wen.

Interviews were held and a candidate was chosen. Human Resources is completing the background check and following up on the referrals. There should be an update early this week and if everything checks out, an offer can be made. In the next week or two, an update email will be sent with the outcome and starting date. 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 a written report for the committee.

- Facilitated 3 of 5 strategic planning sessions in our process with Jefferson Area Food Pantry.
- Completed and presented the findings of our study to better understand the economic impact of the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad system with communities and businesses.
- Conducted 3 small business development workshops with 5 participants. Topics included: Planning to start up a business, marketing, financing and accounting.
- Announced 5/7 Southeastern Wisconsin Housing Summit invite for Housing advocates, policymakers/local government officials, developers, urban planners, real estate agents, non-profit leaders, community members, financial institutions, school districts, and businesses.
- Palmyra REV team building goals and strategies from community economic data.
- Beginning to finalize county community needs assessment in collaboration with community leaders, businesses, and organizations in Jefferson County.

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.
- Developing a certification training called “Milk Quality from the Udder World” in Madison WI on March 18th and 19th.
- Developing the Bilingual Forward Farm Safety Toolbox. This pilot event will be on March 16th and 17th at the Research Station in Arlington WI.
- 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 a written report for the committee.

Winter/Spring 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, series goes through all of the project areas of 4-H from rabbits to Legos.

Julie Hill, Horticulture Educator, provided an oral report based on the written report provided to the committee.

- A yearlong activity/service for residents of Jefferson County to provide research based answers to their horticulture questions.
- An in-person presentation in partnership with Jefferson Public Library, where participants learned about plant health requirements and proper maintenance techniques to successfully grow indoor plants.
- Upcoming Program: Making the Cut: Hands-on Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop at UW-Whitewater, March 7, 10:00 a.m.
- Master Gardeners, certified by UW-Madison Division of Extension, completed 1,666 hours of volunteer service for 15 organizations throughout Jefferson County.

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

March Program Highlights:

- An educational workshop for farmers, agronomists, and conservation professionals where participants learned about updated research-based nitrogen management considerations and explored strategies to improve crop production profitability and local water quality through fine tuning on-farm nitrogen management.
- A multi-year, multi-location, nitrogen management on-farm study to better understand nitrogen value of manure, biosolids, or decomposing cover crops as nitrogen sources for corn production across the region.
- Participation in regional winter agronomy meetings alongside farmers and agronomists promotes relationship building, program needs assessment and opens opportunities for new partnerships and collaborations.
- An educational program for farmers seeking restricted use certification to apply pesticides for controlling weeds, pest insects, or plant pathogens that are impacting crop production.
- An educational workshop for farmers, agronomists, and conservation professionals where participants learned about the economics of cover cropping and other soil health practices for

crop production.

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.jeffersoncountywi.gov.

Possible Items of Discussion/Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings: The update on the Administration position will remain on the April agenda.

Next Scheduled Meeting: April 13

Adjourn: Motion by Foelker to adjourn at 9:13 a.m. Seconded by Morris and passed.

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