Extension Education Committee Minutes

Date of Meeting: September 14th, 2026

Call to Order: Supervisor Kannard called meeting to order at 0831

Roll Call: Quorum – Supervisor Dwayne Morris, Supervisor Francine Gies, Supervisor Dwayne Morris, and Supervisor Matt Foelker were present in person. Supervisor Elizabeth Hafften was absent.

Jerry Wilcenski, Chrissy Wen, Steven Chmielewski, Alison Pfau, Julie Hill and Lilianne Bidwell were present in person. Josh Kamps and Cadance Hawk were not present.

Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law: In compliance.

Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved as printed by Foelker, second by Gies

Public Comment: None.

Approval of University Extension Education Committee Minutes from July 13, 2026: Motion by Foelker to approve the minutes as printed. Second by Gies and passed.

Communications: None

Review of 2026 Departmental Budget: Wen stated nothing new with budget and is on track.

Division of Extension update: Wen stated nothing new.

County Leadership Engagement Assessment: Chrissy talked about an assessment that is being asked of each county leadership team to answer 4 questions. These questions were discussed and will be written in Wen's report at the end of October.

Discussion of Monthly Educator Reports: Steve Chmielewski (Community Educator), Alison Pfau (Bilingual Regional Dairy Educator), Jerry Wilcenski (4-H Program Educator), and Julie Hill (Horticulture Educator) presented in-person. Josh Kamps (Regional Crop Educator) and Cadance Hawk (4-H Associate Educator) were not present.

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

- Planning and partnership development continued for the Rural Entrepreneur Venture (REV) Program in Palmyra. REV is a community-based economic development initiative designed to strengthen entrepreneurship, support small businesses, and identify opportunities for long-term community vitality. Local leaders, business owners, and community stakeholders are working together to assess assets, identify priorities, and develop strategies that support business growth and economic resilience. Locally developed REV Goals include:
    - Support and grow local businesses and entrepreneurs. (Comprehensive webpage in development stages as well)
    - Strengthen downtown vitality and community attractiveness. (Conducting commercial vacancysurvey)

- Build local leadership and partnerships to advance economic development workforce development with Youth Apprenticeship Program (Changes in PEASD staffing with DWD Youth Apprentice program need to be addressed).

- Extension is working with UW–Whitewater, City of Jefferson and Village of Palmyra to explore launching the RenewTowns program, an initiative that helps rural communities strengthen entrepreneurship, support local businesses, and build long-term economic vitality. Community leaders, entrepreneurs, and residents collaborate to identify local assets, explore opportunities for business growth, and develop strategies that enhance community resilience and economic development. The program increases awareness of available resources, strengthens local partnerships, and supports sustainable community growth throughout the region. The program strengthens community partnerships, supports local entrepreneurs, encourages investment in downtown areas and provides a framework to build on for years to come.
- Program planning for Jefferson County Transformative Government Workgroup to discuss development of a program to address community engagement and awareness strategic priority.

- Additional discussion was conducted with Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission on analyzing economic impact of Public Rail System per member county to follow a request to better understand individual county's ROI of being part of a freight system.

Events Coming Up:

Solar panels and wind turbines are becoming increasingly common in Wisconsin's energy portfolio as low-cost, reliable energy sources. As our state's energy landscape shifts, many communities are facing new challenging conversations and navigating complicated processes, some for the first time.

To help communities navigate these changes with confidence, we invite you to join the Fall 2026 Renewable Energy Cohort.
This virtual series will take place weekly on Thursdays from September 17th to October 8th from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM.

- September 17: Wisconsin's Energy Landscape & Community Engagement
- September 24: Community Priorities in Locally Permitted Projects
- October 1: State Regulatory Process & Joint Development Agreements
- October 8: Local Government Actions

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

- The Youth Livestock Producers is series of programs and a youth lead committee that aims to build future leaders in fields of genetics, animal science, meat science and veterinary science.
  - Ongoing

- Weekly in-school programing at the Palmyra Montessori school that provides and, exploration of 4-H and its diverse project areas for new and primarily first generation 4-H youth
  - Programming completed in: Legos, Food Science, Plants and Soil Sciences, Rabbits, Global Exploration, Archiving and Collections and Gems and Minerals.

- Countywide Cloverbud Programing that highlights the various projects and activities 4-H has to offer
  - Improved understanding of 4-H, excitement for Cloverbud projects, improved sense of

belonging to 4-H

- Summer Programming focused on youth sparks and expanding skills in food production and animal care with Beulah Homestead
    - Ongoing

Cadance Hawk 4-H Associate Educator, was not present. Wilcenski went over her report based on the written report provided to the committee.

- An event for current and prospective 4-H families, where attendees had the opportunity to complete an experiential learning escape room with clues based on various 4-H project areas, as well as gaining additional information about 4-H. Through this effort, current and prospective 4-H families could engage in experiential learning, connect to the program, and gain information about 4-H topics.
    - This event provided an open opportunity for prospective 4-H members to engage in an experiential learning activity and gain more information about the program. It contributed to the community centric nature of our program, encouraging communication and connection from both prospective and current 4-H members.

- An event for both enrolled and prospective 4-H families, where attendees were able to gain a better understanding of experiential learning and the scope of 4-H. This goal was achieved by providing activity stations, information, and an opportunity to chat with the 4-H Associate Educator. Through this effort, prospective 4-H families were able to gain the information necessary to enroll and succeed in the program.
    - Connected with three prospective 4-H families and provided the information necessary so they may be confident in their choice to enroll--an outcome that each family shared with me following our conversation. This will achieve the goal of 4-H reaching families across the county and providing positive youth development for as many youths as possible.

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. The goal of this effort is to educate individuals of Jefferson County so they can implement best practices in their landscapes that will positively affect the environment and their communities.
    - Ongoing

- A weekly social media outreach campaign for consumer gardeners utilizing Extension Jefferson County Facebook page to help promote local plant health diagnostic services and upcoming programs, and improve understanding of how sustainable horticultural practices positively impact landscapes and ecosystems.
    - Ongoing

- An informational booth at Lake Geneva Farmer's Market for the general public, where Extension Horticulture Volunteers provided Extension information and resources about gardening and answered gardening questions

Events Coming Up:

- Presentation for the Jefferson County Retired Teachers, **September 10**
- Gardening with Extreme Weather, hosted by UW-Whitewater Continuing Education, **September 22**, 5:30 p.m. For more information and to register, visit: https://www.uww.edu/ce/gardenlandscape/gardenweather (flyer attached)

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

- A bilingual (English and Spanish) newsletter, Bovi-noticias, for dairy farms, their employees, and industry partners, where research-based information is shared in accessible language to explain the reasons behind key farm management practices and provide practical insights for daily work, to strengthen communication, support the implementation of best practices, and foster a healthy farm culture that ultimately builds an engaged workforce, improves animal herd and well-being, enhances safety, optimizes resource use, and supports farm profitability.
    - The Wisconsin dairy industry continues to face challenges in animal health, productivity, and farm efficiency. While owners and managers often have strong foundational knowledge, frontline employees—responsible for daily animal care, feeding, and parlor work—need information that is both practical and easy to access. Language barriers further limit understanding and adoption of best practices. To address this gap, Dairy and Farm Management Extension Educators collaborated to create Bovi-noticias, a bilingual (English and Spanish) e-newsletter.

- To support beef and dairy farms and their employees, the UW-Madison Extension Dairy program developed the “Best practices for cattle handling and medication administration” workshop. This program helped farm personnel to understand the importance of the vaccine and medicine, the proper use and handling, and the consequences of the not proper administration and manipulation of animal health products. Also, they had a Hands-On demonstration.

- Presented at the Wisconsin State Fair in Milwaukee on August 16th about milking procedures, animal handling and milk production. On the presentation we had a diverse bilingual audience and children that asked questions and interacted with the animals.

- Bovi-noticias fall issue: https://dairy.extension.wisc.edu/bovi-noticias/)

- For the El "Break" Info-Lechero 2026 Webinar

Webinar Dates:
For the El "Break" Info-Lechero 2026 Webinar

- September 16th, 2026, 12:00 pm Dr. Sebastián Umaña Sedó, Assistant professor, Production management medicine – Integrated Management of Neonatal Diarrhea in Dairy Calves. Virginia Tech

- September 23rd, 2026, 12:00 pm Dr. Adrián Barragán, Associate Research Professor Extension Veterinarian – Your Cows' Success Begins Here: Preventing, Monitoring, and Managing Diseases During the Transition Period. Penn State University

- September 30th, 2026, 12:00 pm Dr. Mariana Guerra Maupome, specialist in Animal Health Management, Animal Welfare, Pathology, Animal Production, and Applied Research – Managing Animal Mortalities with Respect, Compliance, and Responsibility. TELUS, Agriculture & Consumer

Goods

- October 7th, 2026, 12:00 pm Hernando Duarte, Farm Management Outreach Specialist – Caring for Yourself While Caring for the Cows: How to Build a Culture of Safety on the Farm. University of Wisconsin Madison, Division of Extension.

- October 14th, 2026, 12:00 pm Manuel Peña, Bilingual Regional Dairy Educator – Dairy Cow Nutrition: Nutrients, Management, and Production. University of Wisconsin Madison, Division of Extension.

- October 21st, 2026, 12:00 pm Dr Paola Bacigalupo, Dairy Technical Services Veterinarian – Drying Off Dairy Cows: Preparing Them for a Healthy and Productive Next Lactation. Zoetis

- An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and American with Disabilities (ADA) requirements.

- La Universidad de Wisconsin-Extensión, un empleador con igualdad de oportunidades y acción affirmative (EEO/AA), proporciona igualdad de oportunidades en empleo y programas, incluyendo los requisitos del Titulo VI, Título IX, y de la Ley para Americanos con Discapacidades (ADA).

- October 28th, 2026, 12:00 pm Dr. Victor Cabrera, Professor & Extension Specialist Dairy Farm Management Extension; Ing. Pablo De Caso Udave, MS student at the Department of Animal & Dairy Sciences – Create Your Own AI Advisor: Converting Farm Data into Profitable Decisions. – University of Wisconsin Madison

- November 4th, 2026, 12:00 pm Katy Schultz - Schultz Dairy Farm; Rosario Ibarra - Grotegut Dairy Farm Inc; David Maldonado - Statz Bros., Inc. Dairy Producer Panel from Wisconsin

Josh Kamps, Regional Crops Educator, was not present.

- A pilot studies to better understand the risk of corn earworm damage of sweet corn based on moth trapping counts and field scouting data. Results from this study will help farmers, agronomists, and crop consultants in managing the risk of corn earworm damage to sweet corn while also studying moth populations for the development of insecticide resistance.
    - The study will generate baseline data on the relationship between moth activity and field-level corn earworm infestations, providing valuable information for improving pest risk assessment. Results will help farmers, agronomists, and crop consultants make more informed management decisions, optimize insecticide use, and enhance protection of sweet corn crops. The findings will also contribute to long-term resistance monitoring efforts that support sustainable and effective corn earworm management strategies.

- A weed management field day for farmers, agronomists, crop consultants, and ag industry professionals where weed management techniques including cover cropping, herbicide tank mixing, and timing and weather conditions for treatment were discussed to improve the control of weeds within corn and soybean production through an integrated management approach.
    - Participants increased their knowledge of integrated weed management practices and gained practical insights into combining cultural and chemical control methods to enhance weed suppression in corn and soybean systems. The field day supported informed decision-making that can improve weed control effectiveness, reduce the risk of herbicide resistance, and promote more sustainable crop production practices.

- Planning for a cover crop management field day for farmers, agronomists, crop consultants, and conservation professionals with a producer-led watershed group to share information on cover crop strategies following small grains and plant back intervals of cover crops following herbicide applications within conservation cropping systems.
    - The planning effort supported the development of an educational program that equipped participants with knowledge to make informed cover crop management decisions. Attendees gained a better understanding of cover crop establishment opportunities, herbicide-related considerations, and conservation practices that can enhance soil health, improve system resilience, and support successful implementation of cover crops on working farms.

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: Would like to keep this on the agenda to ensure it's an ongoing cause.

Next Scheduled Meeting: October 12th & November 9th @ 0830

Adjourn: Motion by Morris to adjourn at 0935. Second by Foelker and passed.

Minutes recorded by Lilianne Bidwell, Administrative Specialist