



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**Extension Education Committee Agenda  
Videoconference (See link at bottom of agenda)  
OR  
Jefferson County Extension Office  
864 Collins Road, Jefferson, WI 53549**

**DATE:** Monday, October 13, 2025

**TIME:** 8:30 a.m.

**Committee Members:** Matt Foelker, Elizabeth Hafften, Dan Herbst, John Kannard, Dwayne Morris

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call (to establish a quorum)
3. Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law
4. Approval of Agenda (for possible rearrangement)
5. Public Comment (Members of the Public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time.)
6. Approval of University Extension Education Committee Minutes from September 8, 2025
7. Communications
8. Review of 2025 Departmental Budget
9. Discussion and Possible Action on 4-H Support Vacancy
10. Discussion of Monthly Educator Reports – Steve Chmielewski (Community Educator), Alison Pfau (Bilingual Regional Dairy Educator), Jerry Wilcenski (4-H), Julie Hill (Horticulture Educator), Lisa Krolow (Bilingual FoodWise Coordinator), Josh Kamps (Regional Crop Educator)
11. Possible Items of Discussion/Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings
12. Discussion and Possible Decision on Dates/Times of Extension Education Committee meetings: November 10, December 8, January 12
13. Adjourn

Virtual TEAMS Link

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 240 650 167 874 2

Passcode: Re2YX3UE

A quorum of any Jefferson County Committee, Commission or other body, including the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors, may be present at this meeting. Individuals requiring special accommodation for attendance at the meeting should contact the County Administrator 24 hours prior to the meeting at 920-674-7101 so appropriate arrangements can be made. "Enriching people with knowledge, perspective, skills, and aspirations. "University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture & Wisconsin counties cooperating. UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming including Title IX & ADA.

## 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*

10/10/2025  
 10:46:07

 Jefferson County  
 FLEXIBLE PERIOD REPORT

 PAGE 1  
 glflxrpt

FROM 2025 01 TO 2025 12

| ACCOUNTS FOR:             |                  | ORIGINAL  | ESTIM REV | REVISED  | ACTUAL      | REMAINING  | PCT    |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------|------------|--------|
| 100 General Fund          |                  | ESTIM REV | ADJSTMTS  | EST REV  | REVENUE     | REVENUE    | COLL   |
| <b>13301 UW Extension</b> |                  |           |           |          |             |            |        |
| 13301 411100              | Gen Prop T       | -297,454  | 0         | -297,454 | -223,090.74 | -74,363.63 | 75.0%  |
| 13301 424001              | 22217 Fed Grants | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301 451002              | PP Photo         | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301 451100              | Misc Bill        | -1,500    | 0         | -1,500   | -1,128.33   | -371.67    | 75.2%  |
| 13301 457020              | Publ Sales       | -30       | 0         | -30      | -7.00       | -23.00     | 23.3%  |
| 13301 457027              | 4-H Annual       | -11,000   | 0         | -11,000  | -2,440.00   | -8,560.00  | 22.2%  |
| 13301 471100              | St Bill          | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301 471120              | St Bill Mc       | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301 471130              | St Bill Or       | -2,608    | 0         | -2,608   | .00         | -2,608.00  | .0%    |
| 13301 485200              | Donat Res        | 0         | 0         | 0        | -300.00     | 300.00     | .0%    |
| 13301 511210              | Wage Reg         | 102,136   | 0         | 102,136  | 68,067.48   | 34,068.43  | 66.6%  |
| 13301 511210              | 22101 Wage Reg   | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301 511220              | Wage Ovt         | 5         | 0         | 5        | 80.92       | -76.32     | *****% |
| 13301 511240              | Wage Temp        | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301 511310              | Wage SL          | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301 511320              | Wage Vac         | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301 511330              | Wage Long        | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301 511340              | Wage Hol         | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301 511350              | Wage Mic         | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301 511380              | Wage Berv        | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301 512141              | SS               | 7,155     | 0         | 7,155    | 4,137.33    | 3,017.60   | 57.8%  |
| 13301 512141              | 22101 SS         | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301 512142              | Ret (Emlr)       | 6,665     | 0         | 6,665    | 4,593.51    | 2,071.58   | 68.9%  |
| 13301 512142              | 22101 Ret (Emlr) | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301 512144              | Health           | 20,738    | 0         | 20,738   | 20,736.81   | 1.22       | 100.0% |
| 13301 512144              | 22101 Health     | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301 512145              | Life             | 5         | 0         | 5        | 7.47        | -2.79      | 159.6% |
| 13301 512145              | 22101 Life       | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301 512147              | ED & Train       | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301 512150              | FSA Contr        | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301 512151              | HSA Contri       | 1,800     | 0         | 1,800    | .00         | 1,800.00   | .0%    |
| 13301 512152              | Limted FSA       | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301 512153              | HRA Contri       | 0         | 0         | 0        | 1,128.08    | -1,128.08  | .0%    |
| 13301 512173              | Dental           | 1,104     | 0         | 1,104    | 900.28      | 203.72     | 81.5%  |
| 13301 512173              | 22101 Dental     | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301 521258              | Comp Maint       | 500       | 0         | 500      | 500.00      | .00        | 100.0% |
| 13301 529170              | Grounds Ke       | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301 529299              | Purch Care       | 100,093   | 0         | 100,093  | 55,245.86   | 44,847.14  | 55.2%  |

10/10/2025  
10:46:08

Jefferson County  
FLEXIBLE PERIOD REPORT

PAGE 2  
glflxrpt

FROM 2025 01 TO 2025 12

| ACCOUNTS FOR:      |        |                  | ORIGINAL  | ESTIM REV | REVISED  | ACTUAL      | REMAINING  | PCT    |
|--------------------|--------|------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------|------------|--------|
| 100 General Fund   |        |                  | ESTIM REV | ADJSTMTS  | EST REV  | REVENUE     | REVENUE    | COLL   |
| 13301              | 531243 | Furniture        | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301              | 531298 | UPS              | 50        | 0         | 50       | 41.89       | 8.11       | 83.8%  |
| 13301              | 531303 | Comp Eq          | 7,210     | 0         | 7,210    | .00         | 7,210.00   | .0%    |
| 13301              | 531311 | Postage          | 2,608     | 0         | 2,608    | .00         | 2,608.00   | .0%    |
| 13301              | 531312 | Office Sup       | 5,000     | 0         | 5,000    | 1,137.66    | 3,862.34   | 22.8%  |
| 13301              | 531313 | Print & Dp       | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301              | 531314 | Small Item       | 500       | 0         | 500      | -123.37     | 623.37     | -24.7% |
| 13301              | 531314 | 22101 Small Item | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301              | 531314 | 22217 Small Item | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301              | 531322 | Subscript        | 300       | 0         | 300      | .00         | 300.00     | .0%    |
| 13301              | 531324 | Memb Dues        | 500       | 0         | 500      | 161.16      | 338.84     | 32.2%  |
| 13301              | 531325 | 4H & Ext B       | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301              | 531326 | Advertise        | 500       | 0         | 500      | 127.65      | 372.35     | 25.5%  |
| 13301              | 531348 | Educ Sup         | 5,000     | 0         | 5,000    | 1,552.92    | 3,447.08   | 31.1%  |
| 13301              | 532325 | Registr          | 1,200     | 0         | 1,200    | 720.00      | 480.00     | 60.0%  |
| 13301              | 532332 | Mileage          | 3,500     | 0         | 3,500    | 2,345.70    | 1,154.30   | 67.0%  |
| 13301              | 532334 | Com Travel       | 700       | 0         | 700      | .00         | 700.00     | .0%    |
| 13301              | 532335 | Meals            | 500       | 0         | 500      | .00         | 500.00     | .0%    |
| 13301              | 532336 | Lodging          | 1,000     | 0         | 1,000    | .00         | 1,000.00   | .0%    |
| 13301              | 532339 | Other Trvl       | 30        | 0         | 30       | .00         | 30.00      | .0%    |
| 13301              | 533225 | Tele Fax         | 1,000     | 0         | 1,000    | 209.60      | 790.40     | 21.0%  |
| 13301              | 533236 | wirel Int        | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301              | 535242 | Maint Mach       | 3,600     | 0         | 3,600    | 1,801.57    | 1,798.43   | 50.0%  |
| 13301              | 536535 | Act Center       | 4,000     | 0         | 4,000    | .00         | 4,000.00   | .0%    |
| 13301              | 571004 | IP Tel All       | 1,275     | 0         | 1,275    | 956.25      | 318.75     | 75.0%  |
| 13301              | 571005 | Dup Allc         | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301              | 571007 | MIS Direct       | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301              | 571009 | MIS PC           | 29,650    | 0         | 29,650   | 22,237.47   | 7,412.53   | 75.0%  |
| 13301              | 571010 | MIS Sys          | 1,879     | 0         | 1,879    | 1,409.22    | 469.78     | 75.0%  |
| 13301              | 591519 | Oth Ins          | 1,190     | 0         | 1,190    | 1,292.28    | -102.15    | 108.6% |
| 13301              | 591519 | 33001 Oth Ins    | 1,200     | 0         | 1,200    | .00         | 1,200.00   | .0%    |
| 13301              | 594813 | Cap Office       | 8,000     | 0         | 8,000    | .00         | 8,000.00   | .0%    |
| 13301              | 594819 | Cap Oth Eq       | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301              | 594950 | Oper Res         | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301              | 699700 | Res Oper         | 0         | 0         | 0        | .00         | .00        | .0%    |
| 13301              | 699999 | Budget FB        | -8,000    | 0         | -8,000   | .00         | -8,000.00  | .0%    |
| TOTAL General Fund |        |                  | 0         | 0         | 0        | -37,698.33  | 37,698.33  | .0%    |
| TOTAL REVENUES     |        |                  | -320,592  | 0         | -320,592 | -226,966.07 | -93,626.30 |        |
| TOTAL EXPENSES     |        |                  | 320,592   | 0         | 320,592  | 189,267.74  | 131,324.63 |        |

10/10/2025  
10:46:09

Jefferson County  
FLEXIBLE PERIOD REPORT

PAGE 3  
glflxrpt

FROM 2025 01 TO 2025 12

|             | ORIGINAL<br>ESTIM REV | ESTIM REV<br>ADJSTMTS | REVISED<br>EST REV | ACTUAL<br>REVENUE | REMAINING<br>REVENUE | PCT<br>COLL |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| GRAND TOTAL | 0                     | 0                     | 0                  | -37,698.33        | 37,698.33            | .0%         |



**Steve Chmielewski**  
Community Development  
Educator

# Community Development

## September Program Highlights

- Planning for a business development cohort in Jefferson County in partnership with the Rural Entrepreneurial Venture Program to help build local entrepreneurship.



**Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
JEFFERSON COUNTY

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.





**Alison Pfau**  
Bilingual Regional  
Dairy Educator

# Agriculture Dairy

## September Program Highlights

- A series of videos for dairy farmers and agribusiness professionals, where viewers increased their knowledge on effective heat abatement practices on dairy farms to increase their knowledge in keeping dairy cattle comfortable and profitable.
- Bovi-noticias is a bilingual (English & Spanish) newsletter created through collaboration between the Dairy and Farm Management teams. It provides dairy farms and their employees with accessible, research-based information that explains the reasons behind key practices and offers practical insights for daily work. Through this effort, Bovi-noticias helps build a more informed and engaged workforce, improving animal well-being, optimizing resources, and supporting farm profitability and safety.
- An article for dairy farmers, where key sources were shared of stress in young calves—such as colostrum management, temperature extremes, early transport, painful procedures, and housing transitions—and offered practical strategies for mitigating these stressors, to enhance calf welfare, improve long-term health and productivity, and support more sustainable, compassionate dairy farming practices.
- A workshop "Calving Management and Neonate Care in Dairy Cattle" for all the individuals that are involved in parturition, and calving management in dairy farms. We are creating an in person and bilingual event where participants will learn and reinforce their knowledge about obstetrics, care and support in the calving pen, neonate care and colostrum management, and how to maintain the success in the maternity areas. Through this effort we will increase the knowledge and good practices related to the earliest stage of life in dairy cattle, which will represent an increase in herd health, work safety and farm profitability.



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
JEFFERSON COUNTY

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.





**Jerry Wilcenski**  
4-H Program Educator

# Jefferson County 4-H

## September Program Highlights

- Bake-Off is a series of challenges that allow youth to expand baking skills and master a wide range of baked goods. Programming takes place at the Club level from December to July.
- Youth will learn about safe food handling, common pathogens, and proper internal temperatures of meat products. Participants in each session will learn about the nutritional components of meat products, the cost of production and innovative production methods focused on climate and sustainability. Youth will also learn about animal welfare and how it affects consumer demand and product quality.
- Youth will learn about safe food handling, common pathogens, and proper internal temperatures of meat products. Participants in each session will learn about the nutritional components of meat products, the cost of production and innovative production methods focused on climate and sustainability. Youth will also learn about animal welfare and how it affects consumer demand and product quality.
- 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 that highlights the various projects and activities 4-H has to offer.
- Youth will learn about all aspects of draft horse management and care, from reproduction to nutritional needs to safe handling. Programming involves hands on lessons throughout the year.



**Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
JEFFERSON COUNTY

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.



**Julie Hill**  
Horticulture Educator

# Agriculture Horticulture

## September Program Highlights

- 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.
- An in-person presentation for consumer horticulture audiences, partnering with Lake Mills Community Education, where participants learned about horticulture practices to prevent pests, improve pollinator habitat, and reduce the use of horticulture chemicals in the landscape. (New Partner!)
- An in-person presentation, partnering with UW-Whitewater Continuing Education, where participants learned about plant health requirements and proper maintenance techniques to successfully grow indoor plants. The goal of this effort is to increase awareness and knowledge of environmentally-sound gardening practices that simultaneously provide physical, social and emotional benefits of gardening.
- Planning, coordinating and presenting the optional Lab component of the fall 2025 Foundations in Gardening online course for course participants where they can dig deeper into important horticulture concepts and apply what they learn through interactive activities. This effort is designed to increase both knowledge and confidence in addressing topics of pruning, soil testing, IPM and plant identification. Online Labs are currently taking place, September – November.
- Coming Up:
  - Houseplant Essentials - multiple locations! November 3 at 5:30 p.m., Madison Area Technical College, Watertown Campus  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/house-plant-essentials-watertown-tickets-1549645644839?aff=oddttdtcreator>
  - November 5 at 2:00 p.m., Jefferson Public Library - <https://live-jeffersonpl.pantheonsite.io/event/houseplant-essentials-uw-extension-1064>



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
JEFFERSON COUNTY

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.



**Lisa Krolow**  
Bilingual FoodWise  
Nutrition Coordinator



## September Program Highlights





## News from Extension

Division of Extension

---

# Gleaning with purpose: FoodWise builds bridges between farmers and families in need

Thanks to a new gleaning program, food pantry guests in Watertown are taking home locally grown, fresh produce on Tuesdays. Gleaning is collecting excess fresh foods from farms, gardens, grocers, or any other sources to provide it to those in need. Through a collaboration between the Watertown Farmers Market, the Bread Basket Food Pantry, and UW–Madison Extension’s FoodWise program, more than 3,200 pounds of produce have been donated by farmers market vendors this year.

“We had no idea what would happen when we began this in June,” said Lisa Krolow, a FoodWise Coordinator in Walworth and Jefferson Counties. The first week they gleaned 33 pounds of produce from market vendors. “We were over the moon. We thought we were so successful, because we didn’t know what we would get or if we would get anything.” After almost four months, the program is collecting an average of 250 pounds weekly.

For over 30 years, the Extension FoodWise program has worked to improve access to affordable and healthy foods in communities throughout Wisconsin. FoodWise is supported by the federal SNAP–Ed program, the funding for which was eliminated in the recent congressional reconciliation bill and takes effect Sept. 30, 2025. The Watertown project is an example of the type of work that FoodWise educators will no longer be able to provide to communities all across Wisconsin.



## Increasing local food security through gleaning

Access to healthy food is challenging in rural areas, and many Wisconsin families struggle to afford healthy food on a limited budget. At the same time, many edible and nutritious foods from farms and retail sites never make it to the table. Gleaning is one way to improve access to healthy foods while also reducing local food waste.

FoodWise works with gleaning projects around the state to help connect SNAP–Ed eligible communities with gleaned fruits and vegetables. Often, gleaning projects come down to establishing partnerships and figuring out logistics. Krolow says that those pieces can be difficult to work through when you have an organization run completely by volunteers. That’s where she comes in.

## Bringing experience and best practices to local organizations

“We know from years of experience and developing best practices within FoodWise that gleaning projects are most successful when certain things are in place,” said Krolow. Using the experiences of her FoodWise colleagues in other counties, she worked with local partners to make sure there was enough space to store donations and enough volunteers to transport and sort the

items after the market. Now, as soon as the market ends for the day, volunteers take donations directly to the food pantry for that day's guests.

With the logistics in place, Krolow has turned her focus to helping the market promote the gleaning project. Each week, there is a sign that shows market shoppers how the project is doing, and market vendors display a badge identifying them as a gleaning project participant. Krolow also works with the vendors to weigh their donations and the pantry provides receipts if the market vendor requests a record for tax purposes.



## Providing locally grown, fresh food

Krolow began the project by bringing partners together. She thought the Bread Basket Food Pantry might be interested in providing more locally grown, fresh produce at their weekly food pick-ups so she approached them first. "They were completely on board. They said that they also had recognized the opportunity, they just didn't know how to start it," said Krolow.

The Bread Basket serves 47,000 people each year in Jefferson and Dodge Counties where 30% of the community lives paycheck to paycheck. Run entirely by volunteers, they have limited capacity to build new partnerships and start new programs. When Krolow approached them, they were excited to discuss options for a new gleaning program.

"We are not only providing fresh and nutritious produce to our guests, but also offering them a sense of hope and care. We've seen firsthand how our guests are adjusting their schedules to come in for the fresh fruits and vegetables, knowing that this abundance is there for them," said Jess Thomm, a Bread Basket Volunteer assigned to the gleaning project. "It's more than just food – it's a reminder that they are seen, valued, and loved. This initiative not only improves their health but lifts their spirits, creating a ripple effect of positivity in our community."

Krolow knew that produce vendors at the Watertown Farmers Market had produce leftover at the end of the market. "It's still usable, but they may throw it out because they're not having a market in the next few days and the produce will go bad, or they just don't want to transport it back," said Krolow. Working with the Watertown Farmers Market manager from the Main Street Program, Krolow got the go-ahead to set up the gleaning project and talk with vendors about their willingness to participate.

"I'm proud that our partnership with FoodWise has brought 3,230 pounds of fresh produce to the Bread Basket," said market manager Missy Kuckkan. "This generosity from our vendors is making a real difference for families in our community."

Krolow estimates that 80% of produce vendors are participating in the gleaning program, often donating produce that they could easily sell the next day, but want to donate to the food pantry. Krolow remembers their biggest week so far when they gleaned 640 pounds of produce. "We broke a wagon. Literally. Broke a wagon. The pantry sent a wagon, they put stuff in it, and the wheel broke off," said Krolow with a smile.

The enthusiasm is spreading to the larger community. Market shoppers often engage with food pantry volunteers to check on the running total of donations and buy extra produce to donate.

## The role of gleaning in local food systems

As food prices increase, more families are turning to emergency food providers, like food pantries, to help put food on the table. Emergency food providers also face challenges in procuring food, particularly healthier options such as fresh and shelf-stable fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and dairy products.

As part of the SNAP-Ed grant, FoodWise educators are trained and available to assess the need and feasibility of gleaning as a way to increase access to nutritious food. They also spend time developing partnerships with local organizations. Through those partnerships, they are able to connect gleaning opportunities with distribution sites.

Creating a successful gleaning program means that nutritious food is more available for SNAP-eligible residents. The next step is making sure they know what they produce is and how to prepare it safely. Krolow created educational materials that explain what the produce is, how to prepare it, and how to use it, including recipes. Having those handouts to go along with the gleaning program has encouraged pantry guests to try new foods, such as kale and kohlrabi.

For SNAP-eligible residents, the availability of produce has been very welcome. “They’re so happy to know that it’s fresh from the market. You hear people saying, ‘Oh yeah, it’s market day. What did you bring today? What do you have today?’” said Krolow. “They are so thankful to have the opportunity to have something from the market that they probably would not have been able to spend their own money on.”

Share  Share:    

© 2025 The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System

The University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.

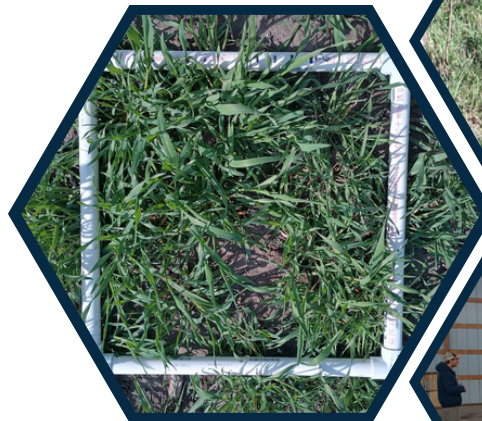


**Josh Kamps**  
Regional Crops & Soils  
Educator

# Agriculture Crops & Soils

## September Program Highlights

- A study to better understand the impact of frost seeded red clover on weed suppression following wheat grain harvest. Results from this study will provide farmers, crop consultants, and conservation professionals with information to inform weed management strategies.
- A field day for farmers, crop consultants, agronomy sales staff, and conservation professionals where participants learned about the practice of frost seeding red clover with wheat production and the impact on weed suppression, soil health, and nitrogen fixation for the subsequent corn grain crop.
- An educational workshop where participants learned about foundational weed management strategies, proper spray nozzle selection, and agronomic research results of targeted spray technologies to reduce the spread of herbicide resistant weeds, deliver an effective weed spray treatment, and identify techniques to use targeted spray technology in the application of pesticide directly to weed plants reducing the amount of active ingredient applied on farm fields and reducing the impact of pesticide on crop growth and development.
- An agricultural homestead walkover which provided soil management and pest management recommendations for forage production and nutrient conservation. Through this service work the farmer has access to research based tools and techniques to better manage the forages and nutrient produced at this agricultural homestead.
- An on-farm research study to better understand manure application, commercial nitrogen application rates, and nitrogen credits on corn yield and potential effect on ground water. Results from this study will help farmers, agriculture industry professionals, and agency professionals in adjusting manure and commercial nitrogen applications to optimize corn yield and protect groundwater resources.
- An on-farm research project to determine the performance of five winter barley varieties at different planting dates, where performance is determined by winter survival, yield as well as malt, forage, and feed analysis. Results from this study will help determine if/how winter barley can be integrated into Wisconsin cropping systems and if it can serve as an overwintering cover crop that can potentially garner higher prices and yield than winter wheat for farmers in the state.



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
JEFFERSON COUNTY

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.