



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Extension Education Committee Agenda Videoconference (See link at bottom of agenda)

OR

**Jefferson County Extension Office
864 Collins Road, Room 12, Jefferson, WI 53549**

DATE: Monday, February 09, 2026
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 January 12, 2025
7. Communications
8. Review of 2026 Departmental Budget
9. Update on 4-H Associate Position
10. Update on Support Position
11. 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)
12. Possible Items of Discussion/Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings
13. Discussion and Possible Decision on Dates/Times of Extension Education Committee meetings:
March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8
14. 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." The University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.

Extension Education Committee Minutes

Date of Meeting: January 12, 2026

Call to Order: John Kannard called the meeting to order at 8:32 am.

Roll Call: Committee members present in person: John Kannard and Matt Foelker.

Chrissy Wen, Jerry Wilcenski, Steven Chmielewski, Alison Pfau, and Sarana Stolar were present in-person. Elizabeth Hafften was present via Teams.

Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law: In compliance.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Foelker to approve the agenda as printed. Seconded by Kannard and passed.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of University Extension Education Committee Minutes from December 08, 2025: Motion by Foelker to approve the minutes as printed. Seconded by Hafften and passed.

Dwayne Morris in person at 8:34 am.

Communications: None.

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

Update on 4-H Associate Position: Posting of this position was opened and is now closed. Screening of applicants was completed and four (4) people will be moving on to final interviews that are scheduled for January 20, 2026. Discussion followed.

Update on Office Staffing/Hours: Update provided by Chrissy Wen.

The position has been posted and the hiring process will begin as soon as possible. The team is working together to ensure office coverage and keep the doors open during regular business hours. If no one is available in the office, signage will be posted on the doors. A general notice will also be placed on the website asking visitors to call before coming in, as office hours may be limited during this transition period.

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.
- Several new initiatives were discussed.

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

December Program Highlights:

- Bake-Off challenge
- Youth will learn about safe food handling, common pathogens, and proper internal temperatures of meat products.
- Countywide Cloverbud Programing.
- You will learn about all aspect of draft horse management and care.
- Youth learn about the science of chocolate at local 4H groups.

January through March Program Highlights:

- Youth will learn the science of Chocolate.
- Several new initiative ideas discussed.

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

Josh Kamps, Regional Crops Educator, provided a written report for the committee.

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 4-H Associate and Administration positions will remain on the February agenda. Morris requested the development of a standing quarterly agenda item in which each department, along with Chrissy Wen, provides an update from Madison and explains how it relates to their department.

Next Scheduled Meetings: February 9, March 9, and April 13

Adjourn: Motion by Morris to adjourn at 9:50 a.m. Seconded by Foelker and passed.

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

02/04/2026
16:06:17

Jefferson County
FLEXIBLE PERIOD REPORT

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glflxrpt

FROM 2026 01 TO 2026 12

ACCOUNTS FOR:
100 General Fund

	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	ACTUALS	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
13301 UW Extension							
13301 411100 Gen Prop T	-319,030	0	-319,030	.00	.00	-319,029.69	.0%
13301 451100 Misc Bill	-1,500	0	-1,500	.00	.00	-1,500.00	.0%
13301 457020 Publ Sales	-50	0	-50	-21.00	.00	-29.00	42.0%
13301 457027 4-H Annual	0	0	0	-2,230.00	.00	2,230.00	.0%
13301 471130 St Bill Or	-2,608	0	-2,608	.00	.00	-2,608.00	.0%
13301 511210 Wage Reg	55,196	0	55,196	4,562.53	.00	50,633.55	8.3%
13301 512141 SS	3,091	0	3,091	341.57	.00	2,749.54	11.1%
13301 512142 Ret (Emlr)	3,974	0	3,974	107.70	.00	3,866.42	2.7%
13301 512144 Health	23,496	0	23,496	.00	.00	23,496.48	.0%
13301 512145 Life	7	0	7	.00	.00	6.60	.0%
13301 512151 HSA Contri	1,600	0	1,600	.00	.00	1,600.00	.0%
13301 512173 Dental	1,104	0	1,104	65.72	.00	1,038.28	6.0%
13301 521258 Comp Maint	0	0	0	500.00	.00	-500.00	.0%
13301 529299 Purch Care	180,071	0	180,071	.00	.00	180,071.27	.0%
13301 531298 UPS	50	0	50	.00	.00	50.00	.0%
13301 531311 Postage	2,608	0	2,608	.00	.00	2,608.00	.0%
13301 531312 Office Sup	4,600	0	4,600	.00	.00	4,600.00	.0%
13301 531314 Small Item	500	0	500	.00	.00	500.00	.0%
13301 531322 Subscript	150	0	150	.00	.00	150.00	.0%
13301 531324 Memb Dues	370	0	370	.00	.00	370.00	.0%
13301 531348 Educ Sup	2,000	0	2,000	79.71	.00	1,920.29	4.0%
13301 532325 Registr	1,200	0	1,200	.00	.00	1,200.00	.0%
13301 532332 Mileage	3,500	0	3,500	.00	.00	3,500.00	.0%
13301 532334 Com Travel	700	0	700	.00	.00	700.00	.0%
13301 532335 Meals	500	0	500	.00	.00	500.00	.0%
13301 532336 Lodging	1,000	0	1,000	.00	.00	1,000.00	.0%
13301 532339 Other Trvl	30	0	30	.00	.00	30.00	.0%
13301 533225 Tele Fax	315	0	315	.00	.00	315.00	.0%
13301 535242 Maint Mach	2,100	0	2,100	.00	.00	2,100.00	.0%
13301 571004 IP Tel All	1,650	0	1,650	.00	.00	1,650.00	.0%
13301 571005 Dup Allc	65	0	65	.00	.00	65.00	.0%
13301 571009 MIS PC	30,244	0	30,244	.00	.00	30,244.00	.0%
13301 571010 MIS Sys	2,063	0	2,063	.00	.00	2,063.00	.0%
13301 591519 Oth Ins	1,003	0	1,003	.00	.00	1,003.03	.0%
13301 594809 Cap Build	0	0	0	.00	7,608.00	-7,608.00	.0%
13302 UW 4-H Program							
13302 457032 Prg Public	-11,405	0	-11,405	-570.00	.00	-10,835.00	5.0%

02/04/2026
16:06:18

Jefferson County
FLEXIBLE PERIOD REPORT

PAGE 2
glflxrpt

FROM 2026 01 TO 2026 12

ACCOUNTS FOR:	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	ACTUALS	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
100 General Fund							
13302 521258 Comp Maint	500	0	500	.00	.00	500.00	.0%
13302 531326 Advertise	500	0	500	.00	.00	500.00	.0%
13302 531348 Educ Sup	4,175	0	4,175	.00	.00	4,175.00	.0%
13302 532335 Meals	500	0	500	.00	.00	500.00	.0%
13302 535242 Maint Mach	1,000	0	1,000	.00	.00	1,000.00	.0%
13302 536535 Act Center	4,000	0	4,000	.00	.00	4,000.00	.0%
13302 591519 33001 Oth Ins	730	0	730	.00	.00	730.00	.0%
13302 594950 Oper Res	483	0	483	.00	.00	482.59	.0%
13302 699700 Res Oper	-483	0	-483	.00	.00	-482.59	.0%
13303 UW Ag Programming							
13303 457032 Prg Public	-1,000	0	-1,000	.00	.00	-1,000.00	.0%
13303 531348 Educ Sup	700	0	700	.00	.00	700.00	.0%
13303 532335 Meals	300	0	300	.00	.00	300.00	.0%
13303 594950 Oper Res	3,710	0	3,710	.00	.00	3,710.31	.0%
13303 699700 Res Oper	-3,710	0	-3,710	.00	.00	-3,710.31	.0%
13303781 UW Ag Pesticide							
13303781 594950 Oper Res	8,003	0	8,003	.00	.00	8,002.83	.0%
13303781 699700 Res Oper	-8,003	0	-8,003	.00	.00	-8,002.83	.0%
TOTAL General Fund	0	0	0	2,836.23	7,608.00	-10,444.23	.0%
TOTAL REVENUES	-347,788	0	-347,788	-2,821.00	.00	-344,967.42	
TOTAL EXPENSES	347,788	0	347,788	5,657.23	7,608.00	334,523.19	

02/04/2026
16:06:19

Jefferson County
FLEXIBLE PERIOD REPORT

PAGE 3
glflxrpt

FROM 2026 01 TO 2026 12

	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	ACTUALS	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
GRAND TOTAL	0	0	0	2,836.23	7,608.00	-10,444.23	.0%

REPORT OPTIONS

Sequence 1	Field #	Total	Page Break	From Yr/Per: 2026/ 1
Sequence 2	1	Y	Y	To Yr/Per: 2026/12
Sequence 3	9	N	N	Budget Year: 2026
Sequence 4	0	N	N	Print totals only: N
	0	N	N	Format type: 1

Report title: FLEXIBLE PERIOD REPORT

Includes accounts exceeding 0% of budget.
 Print Full or Short description: S
 Print full GL account: N
 Sort by full GL account: N
 Print Revenues-Version headings: N
 Print revenue as credit: Y
 Print revenue budgets as zero: N

Double space: N
 Suppress zero bal accts: Y
 Amounts/totals exceed 999 million dollars: N
 Roll projects to object: N
 Print journal detail: N
 From Yr/Per: 2026/ 1
 To Yr/Per: 2019/10
 Include budget entries: Y
 Incl encumb/liq entries: Y
 Sort by JE # or PO #: J
 Detail format option: 1
 Multiyear view: D



Steve Chmielewski
Community Development
Educator

Community Development

December Program Highlights

- A study to better understand the economic impact of the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad system with communities and businesses. Results will help communicate value of the Rail Transit Commissions work and help inform opportunities for improvement with the system.
- 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 for Housing advocates, policymakers/local government officials, developers, urban planners, real estate agents, non-profit leaders, community members, financial institutions, school districts, and businesses. These planning sessions are being conducted in collaboration with SEWRPC, WHEDA, and M7. The goal is to provide data to support community-level housing conversations, practical strategies for communities to address NIMBYism, and raise awareness of best practices and current initiatives in SE and beyond. These goals hope to support an increase for all income levels throughout Southeastern Wisconsin.
- A community-led process where local leadership team discovers gaps and support needed to then strengthen their entrepreneur ecosystem.
- Planning for community needs assessment in collaboration with community leaders, businesses and organizations in Jefferson County. The goal is to engage new participation to learn about trends, challenges and goals to develop new programming, raise awareness of local and statewide resources, and increase relational capital.





Alison Pfau
Bilingual Regional
Dairy Educator

Agriculture Dairy

December Program Highlights

- A statewide program promoting humane dairy cow-handling practices for dairy cow handlers where the participants will learn to be aware of their own beliefs about working with cows, which affect how they interact with them. They will also learn how to form or maintain good habits, which will make the cows easier to handle and their job smoother.
- A statewide survey for dairy producers, where participants shared detailed records on inputs, management practices, and expenses associated with raising replacement heifers to generate updated benchmarks and highlight cost-saving opportunities, to support more informed decision-making and improve the economic sustainability of dairy operations.
- 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.
- 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. In this webinar, I discussed the practical aspects of managing newborn calves, from birth to the first 24 hours. I covered how to handle and stimulate newborns, techniques and tools for caring for calves after a difficult birth, and finally, how to ensure a successful start.
- Planning and developing a Forage management workshop on March 27 in collaboration with the Crops & soils educator of the region. In this program, we will discuss BMR alternatives and the importance of short corn as a forage alternative, the impact of corn rootworm on the plant, and the new updates about soybean oleic acid on animal nutrition.





Jerry Wilcenski
4-H Program Educator

Jefferson County 4-H

Winter 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.
- Carcass Education: Youth learn about how animals are transformed into consumer meat products. Youth learn about yields, grades, margin factors for producers as well as how quality effects price and consumer demand.
- 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 that highlights the various projects and activities 4-H has to offer.
- Palmyra In School Club- Every Friday, serries goes through all of the project areas of 4-H from rabbits to Legos.





Jerry Wilcenski
4-H Program Educator

Jefferson County 4-H



Winter Program Highlights

National Western Stock Show



Jefferson Co represented Wisconsin at this national 4-H livestock judging event

- 19th over all was Gabe Mindemann
- 55th over all was Aiden Mindemann
- 69th over all was Elliott Small
- 78th over all was Vivian Stahl
- Jefferson Co 6th in Swine
- Jefferson Co 10th in Sheep





Jerry Wilcenski
4-H Program Educator

Jefferson County 4-H

Winter Program Highlights

Youth Livestock Line Dance Night



Youth leadership in livestock has reached new levels with a new active committee that plans and executes educational and social events

On Jan 2nd the youth put on a Line Dancing Night and silent auction fundraiser. They raised \$2000 for project support and education in the county.





Jerry Wilcenski
4-H Program Educator

Jefferson County 4-H



Winter Program Highlights

Food4ward Chocolate Making





Julie Hill
Horticulture Educator

Agriculture Horticulture

December 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.
- Planning for community needs assessment in collaboration with community leaders, businesses and organizations in Jefferson County. The goal is to engage new participation to learn about trends, challenges and goals to develop new programming, raise awareness of local and statewide resources, and increase relational capital.
- Upcoming Programs:
 - **Houseplant Essentials** at Jefferson Public Library, February 25, 2:00 p.m. For more information: <https://live-jeffersonpl.pantheonsite.io/event/houseplant-essentials-uw-extension-1327>
 - **Making the Cut: Hands-on Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop** at UW-Whitewater, March 7, 10:00 a.m. For more information, see attached flyer or <https://www.uww.edu/ce/gardenlandscape/handsontreepruning>



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JEFFERSON COUNTY

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Josh Kamps
Regional Crops & Soils
Educator

Agriculture Crops & Soils

January Program Highlights

- A study to better understand the influence of corn management on corn rootworm beetle populations. Results from this study will assist farmers and agronomists with reducing the risk of resistance to corn rootworm management strategies. This research aimed to generate accurate, localized data that would support better decision-making, reduce unnecessary inputs, and help delay further resistance development by layering in corn management factors with systematic beetle-count surveying.
- 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. The breakout session provided information on planting soybean into a green cereal rye cover crop and delaying the termination timing to increase cover crop biomass which improves weed suppression and promotes soil health. Using cover crops as a tool for weed suppression reduces the risk of development in herbicide resistant weed populations and provides important soil health benefits like living roots and ground cover to increase soil aggregation, reduce nutrient leaching, and improve water infiltration.
- 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. The goal of the workshop is to discuss the use of on-farm nitrogen rate trials to improve confidence with nitrogen rate decisions.
- An on-farm study to better understand the influence of soil management and nitrogen rate on corn grain yield potential. Results from this study will assist farmers, agronomists, and conservation professionals in making nitrogen rate decisions and providing nitrogen rate recommendations.
- Planning for an educational workshop for farmers, agronomists, and conservation professionals in collaboration with multiple Producer-Led group leaders and County Conservation staff. The goal is to provide cover crop and soil management to assist farmers with adoption of soil health practices within Wisconsin cropping systems.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
JEFFERSON COUNTY

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Multiple Dates and Locations | March 2026

Understanding AI: A Forum for Local & Tribal Governments

Join Extension and UW-Madison experts at one of four locations throughout the state to gain a clear understanding of how local and tribal governments can use AI.

Through hands-on sessions and discussions tailored to address the unique needs of local and tribal governments, participants will gain critical tools and strategies.

[Register](#)[About](#)[Tracks](#)[Contact](#)

Locations: [Wisconsin Dells](#) [Oshkosh](#) [Eau Claire](#) [Lac du Flambeau](#)

About

Designed for government leaders and employees to gain practical uses of generative AI in their work, the Understanding AI Forum will equip participants with actionable skills.

The Jefferson REV Team presents...

START STRONG: START YOUR OWN BUSINESS!

*A training for emerging entrepreneurs
in Jefferson, WI.*



GOT A GREAT BUSINESS IDEA?

Learn the fundamentals of starting a business in this four-part workshop series organized by the Jefferson REV Team and Extension:

- Resources for Rural Entrepreneurs
- Intro to Starting a Business
- Developing your Marketing Strategy
- Financial Planning & Accounting Fundamentals

LEARN HOW TO MAKE IT A REALITY!

Come together with other new entrepreneurs in Jefferson County for an in-person workshop that equips you to turn your ideas into a successful local business. Learn the fundamentals, network with local small business owners, and connect with additional opportunities to support your effort.

WHEN

Wednesdays from 6-8 pm:

- February 4, 2026
- February 11, 2026
- February 18, 2026
- February 25, 2026

WHERE

Extension Jefferson County
864 Collins Road, Room 8
Jefferson, WI 53549

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.



[CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER!](#)

QUESTIONS?

steven.chmielewski@wisc.edu
(262) 548-7781



GARDEN WORKSHOP

Hands-on Fruit Tree Pruning

Join us for a hands-on workshop focused on understanding the art and science of pruning your fruit trees. You will learn the essential why, when and how of fruit tree pruning to encourage healthy trees and improve fruit yield.

We will discuss best pruning practices for different kinds of fruit trees, including young vs. mature trees.

This is ideal for home fruit growers. After a classroom portion, we'll practice these skills in the Campus Garden. BYO tools (e.g. loppers, hand saws, hand pruners).

Saturday, March 7, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

143 Upham Hall, UW-Whitewater, 771 W Starin Rd, Whitewater, WI

Presented by UW-Madison Division of Extension: Josie Dillon, Statewide Fruit Outreach Specialist and Julie Hill, Horticulture Educator for Walworth, Rock and Jefferson Counties



FREE! Registration is required.
Scan the code to reserve your spot.



University of Wisconsin
Whitewater

Continuing Education

(262) 472-3165
cesevents@uww.edu
uww.edu/ce



Milk Quality from the Udder World

Trainer Certification Program

[Upcoming Events](#) |

[About](#) |

[What You Will Learn](#) |

[What You Will Receive](#) |

[Contact](#)



English | **Español** (<https://dairy.extension.wisc.edu/programs/calidad-de-la-leche-del-mundo-de-la-ubre-programa-de-certificacion-para-capacitadores/>)

About the Program

Designed for **those who train dairy farm teams**, the **Milk Quality from the Udder World (MQUW)** course provides practical tools and knowledge to improve milk quality and udder health. Participants will learn how to **explain the “why”** behind best milking practices, **coach their teams** in consistent routines, and develop the skills needed to prevent mastitis and **achieve high-quality milk** together.

The **online course** includes five interactive modules with videos, graphics, and practical content:



Module 1
Quality Focus—Defining milk quality



Module 2
Udder Secrets—Udder anatomy and function



Module 3
Mastitis Matters—Prevention, Detection, and Management



Module 4
Parlor Heroes—Best practices for milking routines



Module 5
Protective Shield—Strategies for Udder Health

During the **in-person workshop**, participants will practice hands-on skills and learn **how to train, communicate, and give feedback to their teams**. They will also receive laminated handouts designed for on-farm training and daily use.

The online course, the workshop, and all materials will be available in **English and Spanish**.

*Please note: the online course **must** be completed before attending the in-person workshop.*