



GREEN LAKE COUNTY

571 County Road A, Green Lake, WI 54941

January 7, 2022

The following documents are included in the packet for the Ag/Extension Education & Fair Committee (In Person and Zoom) Meeting that is Tuesday, January 11, 2022:

- 1) Cover Sheet
- 2) Agenda
- 3) Draft minutes from the December 14, 2021 meeting
- 4) County Library Reports
- 5) Fair Coordinator Report
- 6) UW-Extension Reports for: Katie Gellings (Human Development & Relationships Educator), Ben Jenkins (Agriculture Educator), and Morgan Martinez (4-H Program Educator).



GREEN LAKE COUNTY

AGRICULTURE, EXTENSION EDUCATION & FAIR

Office: 920-294-4032

FAX: 920-294-4176

Agriculture, Extension Education & Fair Committee Meeting Notice

Date: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 Time: 9:00 a.m.

*Green Lake County Government Center, County Board Room or via Zoom
571 County Road A, Green Lake, WI*

AGENDA

Committee Members

*Patti Garro, Chair
Katie Mehn, Vice Chair
Ken Bates
Bob Dolgner
Keith Hess
Brian Floeter, alternate*

*Kathy Ninneman,
Secretary*

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Open Meeting Law
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. Minutes: 12/14/21
6. County Library Services Report - submitted monthly report
7. Fair Coordinator Report – submitted report
8. Fair: Budgetary Adjustment for 2020 Fair Budget – discussion/approval
9. Fair: Budgetary Adjustment for 2022 Fair Maintenance Budget – discussion/approval
10. Fair: Highway Ground / Fairground Improvements
11. Fair: Contracts
12. Fair: Public Comments
13. UW-Extension Staff Reports – submitted monthly report
 - Adam Hady, Area 14 Interim Extension Director
 - Katie Gellings, Health & Well-Being Educator
 - Ben Jenkins, Agriculture Educator
 - Morgan Martinez, 4-H Program Educator
14. Approval of Educator Out of County Days – Discussion/Approval
15. Committee Discussion
 - Future Meeting Dates: February 8, 2022
 - Future Agenda items for action & discussion
16. Adjourn

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be conducted and available through in person attendance or audio/visual communication. Remote access can be obtained through the following link:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86306130659?pwd=WFVPeE04TFhRcjZuR1R3enZQb1hjZz09>

Meeting ID: 863 0613 0659

Passcode: 471892

To join by phone: 1-312-626-6799

Kindly arrange to be present, if unable to do so, please notify our office. Sincerely, Kathy Ninneman

Please note: Meeting area is accessible to the physically disabled. Anyone planning to attend who needs visual or Audio assistance, should contact the Extension Office, 294-4032, not later than 3 days before date of the meeting.



The meeting of the Green Lake County Agriculture, Extension Education and Fair Committee was called to order by Chairperson Garro, on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 9:00 am in the Green Lake County Board Room, Green Lake County Government Center, 571 County Road A, Green Lake, WI. The meeting was held both in person and via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Requirements of the open meeting law were certified as being met. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call taken by Garro.

Present: Patti Garro, Chair
Katie Mehn, Vice Chair
Keith Hess
Ken Bates (Zoom)

Absent: Bob Dolgner

Staff Present: Adam Hady
Katie Gellings
Ben Jenkins (Zoom)
Morgan Martinez
Kathy Ninneman

Also Present: Zoom: Cathy Schmit, County Administrator; Dawn Klockow, Corporation Counsel and Tony Daley, Berlin Journal Newspapers.

MINUTES

Motion/second (Hess/Mehn) to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2021 meeting with no additions or corrections. All ayes. Motion carried.

COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

The submitted monthly reports are in the committee packet.

FAIR COORDINATOR REPORT

Fair Coordinator Kathy Ninneman reported that the 2022 Fair plans are under way and waiting on contracts. She is also searching for a replacement tent rental business since Modern Rentals will no longer be renting tents for events.

FAIR: BUDGETARY ADJUSTMENT FOR FAIR MAINTENANCE

Kathy Ninneman will work with Dawn Klockow, Corporation Counsel, on submitting a counter offer to Zack Knoke.

HIGHWAY GROUND / FAIRGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Hess commented the current fairgrounds is not worth putting money into. Cathy Schmit, County Administrator replied that she and County Board Chairman, Harley Reabe, will be introducing a Strategic Planning Project Committee next year. The Fair and the Highway Department will be included in this and will be an ongoing process.

FAIR CONTRACTS

None

FAIR: ADDITION OF A SUB-COMMITTEE: FAIR AUCTION COMMITTEE

The Livestock Council's next meeting is January 18, 2022 and they will discuss at that time. The committee postponed action on this item.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minute limit)

None.

UW-EXTENSION STAFF REPORTS

The submitted monthly reports are in the committee packet. Adam Hady (interim Area 14 Extension Director), Katie Gellings (Health & Well-Being Educator), Ben Jenkins (Agriculture Educator), and Morgan Martinez (4-H Program Educator), gave verbal reports.

APPROVAL OF EDUCATOR OUT OF COUNTY DAYS

None.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Nothing.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- If anyone has an agenda item, please contact Chairperson Garro or Ninneman.
- Next regular meeting date: January 11, 2022 in the County Board Room/Zoom at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was declared adjourned by Chairperson Garro at 9:29 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Ninneman, Secretary*

January 2022 Green Lake County Library Reports

Berlin –The Berlin Library is starting off 2022 with a Winter Reading Program for all ages. Once again, we are offering online and in person tracking to make it easier for everyone, regardless of technology knowledge. Our prize drawing will be gift certificates from local businesses and will be partially sponsored by our Friends of the Library.

Through a wonderful donation from one of our patrons and Thrivent, we are adding snowshoes in a variety of sizes, from kids up to adults. It will be exciting to have them ready for checkout soon for winter weather enthusiasts.

Our staff has been getting more requests for technology assistance, so we have been offering one-on-one sessions to help patrons. We are still being cautious with large group programs. Most programs have been a smaller number in attendance, so it has been working out well.

A few January programs we have scheduled are:

- Friday, January 7 (all day drop-in): DIY Snow Globes for kids
- Tuesday, January 11, 6 pm: Brown Bag Bookbinding
- Saturday, January 15: Puzzle Day
- Tuesday, January 18: Reading with Ruth the Therapy Dog
- Tuesday, January 18, 6 pm: Hygge at the Library
- Friday, January 28, 6 pm: Middle School/HS Trivia
- Saturday, January 29, 10 am: Winter Painting Class for adults

A few teachers have recently requested classroom collections for their students. Our Youth Librarian, Sam, will be working with them to provide books and other resources to help them. Sam has also been connecting with the Boys & Girls Club and doing activities with various ages.

Although January is going to be a little quieter, we look forward to providing a quiet, warm place for people to nestle in. And if patrons are looking for winter weather activities, we have plenty to offer, both physical and electronic, in the library and through our online resources.

Chris Kalupa – Berlin Public Library Director

Green Lake Caestecker – The *Library Journal* named the Caestecker Public Library one of America's Star Libraries in 2021. The *Library Journal* takes the Annual Report from the DPI and uses their own rubric to break down the info and award stars. That means the awards from 2021 are based on the Annual Report info from 2019, much like how the county data and reimbursement request are setup. Then they give the top ten scores in each expense category a 5-star rating, the next ten scores a 4-star rating, and the remaining ten scores a 3-star rating for a total of 30 libraries. We are in the 3-star rating, but in our expense category there are almost 1000 libraries from across the nation! However, it is good to keep in mind that as their Q&A session points out, "*LJ Index scores measure the levels of library service delivery relative to peer libraries nationally. The scores do not indicate the quality, effectiveness, or value of library services, nor whether the quantities of services provided sufficiently address community needs.*" It's a high honor to be a *Library Journal* starred library, but it isn't comprehensive. Our library examines these important issues locally by having our own set of assessments, community conversations, diligent pursuit of fulfilling community needs, and kind notes of encouragement to let us know we are on the right track.

Our creative library team has been hard at work refreshing the children's area with a fresh look to experience. I am continually amazed at what they can come up with by recycling packaging materials we receive with our book orders. Come be inspired, have a laugh, and enjoy a dino-mite imaginative display.

Green Lake School grade school classes have been visiting with us at the library for in-person story time with Ms. Margie, activities, and I Spy fun. It's been a great change from virtual story time and so fun to see the kids engage with the library space and services. A big thanks to Katie James for running all those kiddos up and down the stairs for bathroom breaks!

To keep this report from becoming many pages long, here's a quick project update:

1. The completion of the Badgernet install went well and we are up and running with more stable internet that can handle more users at faster speeds.
2. Our bathroom project is currently ahead of schedule. This week we are on to rough drywall and paint. The week after should be tile. While we are all getting more exercise having to run downstairs to use the bathrooms, I am grateful that our lower level was so completely renovated and improved to make it worth the trip!

3. The microfilm digitization project is half finished. More details on that at the library board meeting. Winnefox is closer to having Rescarta functional to be able to host our digitized film.
4. The website revamp is still in progress. I made a request for some pretty big changes for our current research page to invite users to engage (instead of overwhelmed) with all the many options available. Jay at Winnefox has accepted the challenge but must do a lot of background coding to make it happen. I know it will be worth the wait.
5. Jason Carley and crew helped us with a few upgrades to the front of the building in December: hooks on the pillars to hang decorations and they also installed a coded lock box for an emergency back up key to the building. This will help the Sunday volunteers have access to the building immediately instead of having to run around to North Bay or call for assistance should the standard volunteer key not be in their hands when they show up for their duty hours.

Other dates of interest: Friends Book Sales, January 5 from 1-4pm, January 22 from 9-1 pm · Knitting Club on Mondays from 10am-noon · Roasts & Reads the first Tuesday of the month at 10am · Storytime on Wednesdays at 10 am · Constant Reader Book Club on Wednesday, January 12 at 3 pm.

Christina Lyon – Caestecker Public Library Director

Kingston Mill Pond – We have a new display up for January, “Birds for All Seasons”, courtesy of Janet Burdick. The birds are blown glass ornaments, some dating back to the 1940’s. Janet inherited some of her favorites from her Mother, and she has continued to collect the ornaments for the past 50 years. The display will be up thru the month of January.

We will be starting to circulate puzzles in February. We originally started purchasing the puzzles when we opened our Senior room back in 2020 but have not had any out for the community since Covid started. Instead of letting them sit here and collect dust, we have decided to add them to our collection so they can be checked out and enjoyed.

The frame around our “Mill Pond Library” sign on the front of our building was damaged by the high winds we had a month of so ago. We are in the process of getting estimates to have it taken down and repaired. The awning that is now on the building, wasn’t there when the sign was originally put up, so that is making things a bit more challenging. I’m guessing it will be a Spring job, so here’s hoping Spring comes quickly!

Sara Wilson – Mill Pond Public Library Director

Markesan – Happy New Year from the Markesan Public Library! As you may know, our director, Nicole Overbeck, is on a leave of absence for a couple of months. Allow me to introduce myself! My name is Jessica French, and I am one of the acting directors. I have been a library assistant at MPL for 2½ years. Most of my working career was spent in Community Mental Health as a home-based Case Manager. I am loving the library world and look forward to getting to know everyone.

The painting phase of our Children’s Library mural is nearing its end. We are so pleased with the progress! Check it out on our Facebook page. Next up is exploring what our furniture needs are and making decisions. It’s been a remarkable transition thus far. We are very grateful for the community members who are making this transformation possible through their support of the library.

We had an amazing turnout for our Santa Story Time on December 9th. Almost 60 kids and their families came to see Santa, listen to a story, and engage in fun holiday activities. Each child took home a special goody bag.

We also did a Holiday Appetizer program with Mill Street Haven and Cooking School. Several tasty appetizers were made and participants were left with recipes to share during their holiday festivities. In addition to the appetizer program, we had a small Yuletide Recipe Swap. Patrons brought in and shared several of their favorite holiday recipes. A booklet was made and distributed to anyone interested.

January at the library is anticipated to be low-key. We will have Indoor Play and Learn with Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin on two Wednesday mornings. We will be having a Book Club planning meeting this month to determine what books patrons would like to read this year. Harlan Barkley will be presenting a Cell Phone Photography class on January 24. We are also doing a “Book Binge” challenge. Patrons can stop in the library to pick up a card that will provide patrons with key words to use in searching for book titles. We hope that it provides a little variety in their reading during the cold winter months!

Jessica French – Markesan Public Library Acting Director

Princeton – We had a great time at Fine Arts Night at school, and did a couple of great classes while promoting library services. Thank you to the Princeton School District for inviting us!

All of our staff was sick at one point or another this month. All staff members got tested for Covid-19, and one was positive. She had mild cold-like symptoms. Everyone pitched in and helped out with rescheduling as needed.

We would like to congratulate our Green Lake County Library Board representative Crystal Marschall on her new position as the Director of the WCTS office in Berlin! The WCTS office provides essential services to small libraries in the Winnefox Library System, and we can't think of a better person to fill that role! Crystal has been on the library board for over a year, and has been a wonderful help to us. Sadly, she must now give up her position, because it might be a conflict of interest for her to remain.



This means we are looking for a new Library Board member! This is an unpaid volunteer position, with one meeting per month, usually at 6pm on the first Monday of every month. Library board members help shape the library's policies, oversee the library budget, evaluate the Director, and sometimes volunteer at events. To be in this position, as a county representative, you must be a resident of Green Lake County and live outside city boundaries. You will need to be officially nominated by Harley Reabe of the Green Lake County Board. If you are interested in being on the library board, and you live outside city boundaries, please contact us and let us know! director@princetonpublib.org or 920-295-6777.

Sadly, we had an incident of theft on the night of December 14. A staff person noticed a teen visitor acting suspiciously, and reported it to me the next day. A review of security camera footage revealed that the teen stole at least one graphic novel, although the angle of shelving units prevented us from seeing more. This teen's library account was blocked because the teen has never returned library items checked out in May and June of 2021. Police Chief Bargaquist said he would speak to the family and attempted to recover the material(s). Library board members will be given a complete report of the incident. We are trying to figure out exactly what is missing, and on the bright side, this has prompted a reorganization of the graphic novels section. We may look at installing at least one more security camera as well.

The Friends of the Library Cookie Walk did very well! We had about 100 pounds of goodies donated, and totally sold out around noon. Thank you to all who baked or shopped! Special thanks to Dennis Filkins for the biggest and most delicious donation we've ever received.

I have decided to opt out of the Large Print Rotation service for 2022. This service sends us a selection of large print books every 3 months, and we pass on the selection we already have to another library. The rotation has not been popular with our patrons lately, and has created some overcrowding on the Large Print shelves. I will try spending the rotation money on brand new materials for our permanent collection and see if circulation increases. If we hear that patrons want us to bring back the rotation, we can still do that.

We will hold a staff in-service Monday, January 17 from 9am-5pm (Martin Luther King Jr. Day). While we are normally open on this day, many people expect us not to be open. We will be cleaning and organizing, making small repairs, and doing tech training. Beth MacGowan may also be teaching a free CPR class for library staff if her instructors' materials come in time. Volunteers and board members will be welcome- please let me know if you would like to be contacted with more details.

Upcoming Events in January

Story Time is every Monday at 9am!

Wednesday, January 5, 9:30am: Mystery Book Club: January's book will be "Blue Monday" by Nikki French. Pick up a copy at the library and join us! This group led by Vicki Duhr and meets on the first Wednesday of every month.

Mondays, January 10 & 24, 4-6pm: Knitting Club: Join us every month (twice per month in fall & winter) for yarns and a chat. All experience levels are welcome-- we'll teach you. Kids too! Please note the change in hours from 5-7pm to the new time, 4-6pm.

Tuesday, January 11: Paper Crafting Club Watercolor Techniques: Learn some neat tips for using watercolors! Free.

All Month Long: Preserve Your Memories Digitization Project: See the attached flyer for more information on turning your VHS tapes into DVDs, your floppy discs into flash drives, and your photos into computer files!



Digitization

The “Preserve Your Memories”

Project at the Library

For every year that passes, more memories fade. Some of these memories are in our minds, and we can only preserve them by sharing them with others. However, some memories are trapped in fragile physical objects, like old photographs and VHS tapes. These are memories that we can save-- and even make more shareable.

The Princeton Public Library would like to assist people in preserving their memories by scanning in their old documents, photos, VHS videos, and floppy discs. These items will be converted to computer files and put on flash drives for people to take home. Flash drives, also called USB drives or thumb drives, can be used in any modern computer. Files can then be transferred from the flash drives to the computer, email, Facebook, online photo albums, etc. Flash drives can also be taken to any photo printing kiosk, and photos can be printed from them. In the case of videos, people can choose to have a DVD made instead of having it stored on a flash drive.

There will be a small charge to cover the cost of supplies (\$2.50 per flash drive and 50 cents per DVD).

This project will start January third and continue through the entire month of January.

Due to the anticipated high demand for this service, we ask that people limit the number of items they bring in. **LIMIT PER PERSON: 4 VHS tapes, 4 floppy discs, 4 documents, and 40 photos**

We understand that people may have many more photos they wish to digitize, so we are willing to teach them how to scan more photos on our equipment themselves. Paper copies of photos (NOT on photo paper) can be printed at the library for minimal cost: each 8.5" X 11" sheet of paper is ten cents for black and white, twenty five cents for color.

The Preserve Your Memories service will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Processing time may take up to two weeks. Part of the long wait time has to do with limited staff, but it is also because any VHS tape takes as many hours to convert as there are hours of footage on the tape. The library will call people when their items are ready to be picked up. Some of the equipment the library will use to convert memories will be borrowed from the Winnefox Library System, so we are unable to extend this service past January. However, if there is enough demand, we may offer this service again at another time.

Although we will take the utmost care with any materials entrusted to us, we require people submitting items to sign a form with a waiver releasing us from liability for damage done during the scanning process. The form also guarantees that you are not submitting copyrighted material for us to copy/digitize. We cannot and will not copy Hollywood movies and other protected works. This service is strictly for people's personal memories.

We encourage people to tell us about historic family photos and documents that may be of interest to the Princeton Historical Society. We can help make digital copies of these, at no charge, to give to the Historical Society for their collection. The Historical Society will want to be able to contact people in order to document the full stories behind the photos.



Green Lake County Fair Office
Kathy Ninneman, Fair Coordinator
571 County Road A, Green Lake, WI 54941
fair@co.green-lake.wi.us
920-294-4032

Monday, January 3, 2022

TO: Green Lake County Agriculture, Extension, Education & Fair Committee

2022 Fair

- Tent Rental – waiting to hear who bought the tents from Modern Rentals
- Contracts: Zac Matthews Band – he says they will be playing no matter what ☺
- Carnival Contract: A&P – will see them at the Convention
- Semi Truck Stage: We were fortunate to get this stage from Eldorado Trailer Rentals, as it is rented by the Brewers for every home game. Cost is: \$500/day. Dimensions: 53'x24'. I will be seeking donors for the rental usage.
- Entertainment: Have a couple in the works
- Judges: sending requests out
- Awards: working on new



Others:

A group of passionate fair county residents met on December 16 to discuss fair improvements. The discussion was regarding the current area where the fair is located at the Highway Department and as well as the future of the fair. I created a list of 10 questions that everyone will be using to contact other county fairs in the state. The next meeting will be on January 13.



Out of the County Days

- Sunday, January 9 through Wednesday, January 12: WI Association of Fairs state convention, WI Dells



**See you at the Green Lake County Fair
August 4-7, 2022**

The mission of the Green Lake County Fair is to provide positive youth development and leadership skills, along with promoting family and community involvement through education and tradition.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
GREEN LAKE COUNTY

Katie Gellings Green Lake County
Health & Well-Being Extension Educator
December 2021

This report briefly describes the work that was completed within the Health & Well-Being Institute in December of 2021. During the reporting period, the educator made 107 direct educational and professional contacts.

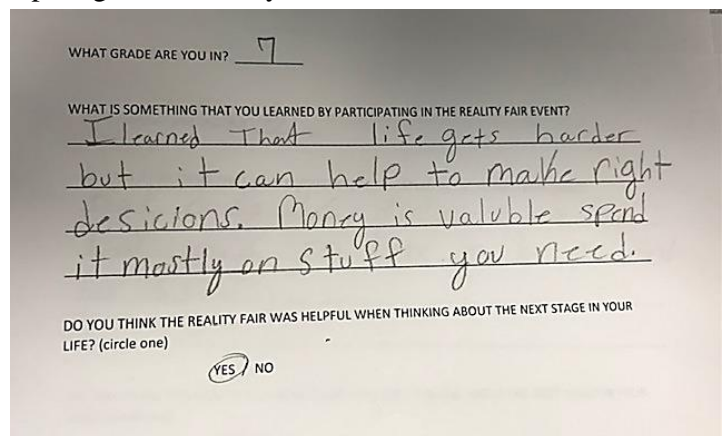
Educational Programming, Networking and Outreach in the Local Community

Reality Fair, Boys & Girls Club – Teen Center, Berlin

In early December I taught a two-part Reality Fair to 12 youth in the Teen Center at the Boys and Girls Club in Berlin. A Reality Fair is an interactive financial education experience for students. The Reality Fair concept is a unique opportunity for students to experience some of the financial challenges they will face when they start life on their own. It's a hands-on experience in which students identify their career choice and starting salaries then complete a budget sheet requiring them to live within their monthly salary while paying for basics such as housing, utilities, transportation, clothing, and food. Additional expenditures such as entertainment and travel are factored in as well. Throughout the sessions, there are many temptations for additional spending, and students must learn to balance their wants and needs to live on their own. Youth who participated received a \$10 Wal-Mart gift card if they had a positive balance in their checking account following the event.

Evaluation data – What is something that you learned by participating in the Reality Fair event?

- Showed me how bills work and how a budget work (Grade 6)
- That doing this involves a lot of hard work and patience. You have to make good decisions and not buy a lot of extra things you don't need if you don't make a lot of money with your job. (Grade 6)
- I learned that life gets harder but it can help to make right decisions. Money is valuable and spend it mostly on stuff you need. (Grade 7)
- I learned how to organize my money and how to distribute my wealthy among products and other important things. (Grade 10)



Edgewater Apartments, Berlin

In mid-December I began my monthly series of lessons at Edgewater Apartments in Berlin. There were 7 participants who took part in a lesson called Gifts in a Jar. Gifts in a Jar teaches participants how to create cost-effective gifts for people. We talked about budgeting and how we can save money by using things we have at home to make gifts for our family and friends.

ThedaCare Rural Farm Health Initiative (RHI) – Meeting with RHI, GLC DHHS, and GLC UWEX

I was contacted by ThedaCare RHI to serve as a resource for farm families who need help managing their health and aspects of health, such as finances. Two representatives (Renee Foist and Rhonda Strebek) met with myself, Jason Jerome, Allison Davey, and Rachel Prellwitz regarding this free program they are bringing to the Green Lake County area. They provide on-site/in-home preventive health services with health coaching to farm families at no cost. I will be working with these families on money management through a referral-basis.



ThedaCare™

Networking within Extension and Professional Development Opportunities

I made 31 contacts within the UW Extension system during the month of December. I continue to have a number of professional meetings scheduled with colleagues to continue to network and learn from other Extension educators.

Racial Equity Community of Practice

At the end of December, I completed a 6-month professional development, Racial Equity Community of Practice through UW Madison. It was an active learning space for colleagues to work on embedding a commitment to racial equity in all aspects of their work.

Out of County Days

- 0 Out of county days for December
- 0 Out of county days planned for January

* Travel expenses are covered by Extension



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
GREEN LAKE COUNTY

Ben Jenkins
Green Lake County
Agricultural Educator
December 2021

This report briefly describes the work that was completed within the Agricultural Program in December of 2021. During the reporting period, the educator made 145 direct educational and professional contacts plus other unknown contacts through relevant social media postings and articles.

Educational Programming, Networking and Outreach in the Local Community

General County Outreach

I have been posting to the county Facebook page any and all upcoming programs coming from UW Extension and its partners. I wrote a Focus Article for the Berlin News on how to care for your Christmas Cactus. Concerns coming in in December included ideas for new farm enterprises, meat processing, soil management, land rent, cover crops, and fertilizer prices.

On Farm Research

I wrapped up my work with Kevin Jarek to conduct an on-farm research trial studying the value alternative forages. I sent Kevin the last samples of fermented silage and are eagerly waiting for the data to be compiled.

Winter Programming

Worked with colleagues in area 14 to plan for upcoming winter programming. We have started to line up speakers and topics for grazing and soil health days. These will be in person events within the county starting in January. I was also in the process of getting a workshop put together for a Grazing Day in the county.

Meat Processing

On December 14th I hosted a meeting for anyone interested in starting a cooperatively run harvest plant. Guest speakers included Jeff Swenson DATCP, Kelly Maynard UW-Center for Cooperatives, and Andy Larson Food Finance Institute. The turnout was overwhelmingly positive with approximately sixty in attendance. There was more interest generated after the meeting and I received many phone calls about the subject as the month progressed. Fourteen people signed up to be on the steering committee. It will be exciting to see if these folks will be able to start a new plant in Green Lake County.

Land capability	
Other production constraints	
SOIL HEALTH EVALUATION	
Are there visible signs of sheet, rill, or gully erosion?	
Is the topsoil soft, dark, crumbly, and easy to work, or hard and cloddy?	
Does the field drain well after rain, or does it remain wet, pond, or run off?	
Does the soil surface crust or seal readily after rainfall?	
Is there a subsurface hardpan that restricts rooting depth?	
Do you see evidence of abundant earthworms and other soil life?	
Do most crops thrive well with few pest, disease, or weed problems?	
Do crops stand well during dry spells, or do they soon become stressed?	
Do crops sustain yields and quality in dry, wet, and other difficult years?	
Do soil tests show an adequate and stable % SOM, or upward trend in SOM?	
Do soil test P and K reach optimum ("high") range, then level off?	
Do soil tests show buildup of excessive levels of P or other nutrients?	
Do soil tests indicate a drawdown of K or other nutrients below optimum?	
Have you conducted assessments, such as microbial respiration, active SOM, potentially mineralizable N, in-field soil health scorecards, or the Cornell Comprehensive Soil Health Assessment or other soil health evaluations? If so, summarize results here.	

20 REDUCING RISK THROUGH BEST SOIL HEALTH MANAGER

Grain Marketing

On December 16th I hosted a meeting for grain producers. The topic of the day was farming in a low margin year. Due to the high cost of inputs going into the 2022 growing farmers are already thinking about ways to mitigate the high cost of these inputs. Brenda Oft gave attendees advice on how to lock in prices at a level that would cover the cost of production. I gave them cost reducing strategies for the field. Farmers were then invited to share their ideas on how to manage costs in the 2022 growing season.

Networking within UW Extension and Professional Development Opportunities

Workgroups

During the month of December, I participated in the programming plan of work meetings for Farm Management and Crops and Soils to see in what ways I can work with colleagues on program topics that are of value to Green Lake County. This month I did planning work with colleagues from area 14 on local programming, the grazing workgroup, the farm succession workgroup, the entrepreneur work group. I have also opted to be a part of a work group that is trying to determine and quantify the value of soil health.

Badger Crop Connect

Badger Crop Connect is a monthly webinar that offers CCA continuing education credits and equips producers with the tools they need to tackle crop management issues. We met as a group in December to discuss the upcoming spring schedule.

Out of County Days

- 0 Out of county days for December
- 1 Out of county day(s) planned for January (Wisconsin Vegetable Growers Conference)

*Denotes that it was paid for by UWEX





This report briefly describes the work that was completed within the 4-H Program in December 2021. During the reporting period, the program educator made 126 direct educational and professional contacts.

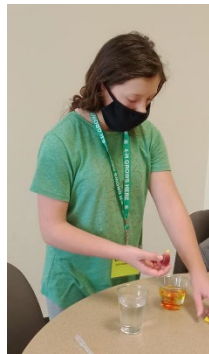
Program Highlights

Green Lake County 4-H Leaders' Association

Organized at the county level, the 4-H Leaders' Association brings together volunteers to serve as a venue for volunteer leader training and an organizing mechanism in providing volunteer and financial support for county level educational opportunities for 4-H members and 4-H volunteers. I attended their meeting on December 2, 2021. The meeting covered a variety of topics including annual leader training focusing on youth-adult partnerships, 4-H workshops, and project updates.

Cloverbud Workshop

4-H Cloverbud Workshop was held on December 4, 2012 at the Green Lake County Government Center. Over 20 4-H members and leaders participated or facilitated sessions in this project based morning of learning.



Build a Winter Wonderland Take & Learn Kits



24 youth in grades 5K through 13th grade participated in a workshop where participants explored science, technology, engineering, arts, and math with a winter twist! Through building a winter

wonderland out of graham crackers and other edible supplies, participants explored the Engineer Design Process while practicing critical thinking and problem solving skills. Participants picked up their kits from the Extension Office and then connected via Zoom on December 27 and December 29, 2021 to learn, construct, and share!

Networking within Extension and Professional Development Opportunities

4-H Thriving Academy

The Wisconsin 4-H Thriving Academy focuses on learning designed to unite the Wisconsin Positive Youth Development Institute with a common definition and grounding in the science of learning and development through the 4-H Thriving Model. The Thriving Academy met on December 7, 2021 via Zoom with a focus on reviewing, interpreting, and the application of the Wisconsin 4-H Thriving model data. The 4-H Thriving Model predicts that participation in high-quality 4-H programs helps youth thrive and that thriving youth achieve key developmental outcomes, therefore illuminating the process of positive youth development in 4-H.



Supporting Youth Mental Health- Pilot Group

Adults who volunteer with young people, care about young people. One way to show we care is to give help and support when someone is feeling down. That's what the Supporting Youth Mental Health for Volunteers Training is all about. Knowing how to support youth when they're down, whether it's simply a bad day or it's more than that.

Supporting Youth Mental Health is required for Extension volunteers who will serve in overnight custodial care roles. All volunteers who work with youth are encouraged and invited to take part in the training. On December 16 and 17, 2021 I participated in the pilot group of this training which consisted of a one-hour online training and a 1.5 hour live virtual training.

December Meetings

I continue to connect, learn and share with Extension colleagues via Zoom. Some of the meetings I participated in during the month of December:

- Positive Youth Development Institute and 4-H Program Meetings on 12/1, 12/2
- Area 14 4-H Colleague Connection on 12/9
- WI 4-H Program Quality Committee on 12/1, 12/9

Out of County Days

- .5 Out of county days for December
- 0 Out of county days planned for January

* Travel expenses are covered by Extension