

Crawford County Agriculture and Extension Education  
225 N. Beaumont Rd, Suite 215 Prairie du Chien, WI 53821  
Thursday, January 8, 2015  
Minutes

Chairman Flesch called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Roll Call: Derek Flansburgh, David Olson, Elling Jones, Wade Dull, Pete Flesch. Extension staff in attendance: Vance Haugen, Jane Schaaf, Amy Mitchell, Karen Snitker.

Posting of agenda verified by Chairman Flesch.

Motion by Dull to approve the minutes as submitted, second by Jones. Motion carried with no negative votes cast.

University of WI Extension Items - Agent reports:

Sonya Lenzendorf, WNEP Nutrition Coordinator –Working in Vernon County.

Jane Schaaf, Family Living Agent - Jane has been working on end-of-year reports and shared a few updates.

- Co-parenting classes – Jane reported on the co-parenting education Family Living is providing across the state. In Crawford County, this class is mandated for all parents who are going through a divorce or never-married parents who are separating. It is also ordered in other cases where custody is an issue. Jane teaches an 8 hour co-parenting class on a quarterly basis. She also chairs the family living statewide co-parenting work team
  - Wisconsin Family Living Agents have been using the “Parents Forever” program. The University of Minnesota developed the program and they have revamped it by adding a lot more components than the original. While maintaining its integrity, Wisconsin is working with Minnesota and North Dakota to try and condense the program for counties who hold 4 hours classes.
- Farm-to-School update – Harvest of the Month presentations are done by our two AmeriCorps members, Lauren and Kate in Wauzeka, North Crawford, Seneca, Prairie du Chien and Prairie Catholic. In connection with the Harvest of the Month, a flyer is created that focuses information specific food and highlights a local producer. A connection has been made with the hospital dietician and she provides a recipe using the harvest of the month food. Seven stores in the county now have a harvest of the month display each month, providing the flyers and the recipes to the general public. An additional component of farm-to-school is the monthly meeting of the five school food service directors. This meeting enables them to brainstorm and problem-solve how to encourage healthy eating and how to incorporate more local foods.

Vance Haugen, Agriculture Agent – Vance is involved in reporting 2014 programming and planning 2015 events for UW-Extension.

- During this process, he puts together numbers of contacts and documents impact; direct, indirect, etc. Direct contact, for example, 380 attended Pasture Walk series. Indirect, implementing or controlled grazing system and number of acres is increasing the numbers over the years. Having controlled grazing has a conservation impact reducing off-site phosphorus, stream sedimentation, etc. We can look at improvements in immediate environment and look at economic activity.
- UW-Extension is looking at refilling the Ag positions in Vernon and Grant County. This makes a difference to Crawford County because, until the positions are filled, consumers are encouraged to call Crawford County Extension Office. As the Regional Vice-Chair for the Ag Dept. Vance will be on the screening committee at the Madison level, not the county level.

- Farm Bill update – Held a joint meeting in Boscobel with Ted Bay. A specialist from Madison put on the update. FSA directors from all the surrounding counties Grant, Richland, Crawford and a number of bankers attended the event.
- Individual consults: 1) Couple folks interested in putting in 10 acres of hops for commercial production, 2) An individual is interested in raising meat goats, not as a hobby, but perhaps 500-1000 goats and 3) Person interested in relocating their business to Crawford County. The relocation depended on whether they could get high-speed internet, which they were able to do. This is an example of the importance of Broadband to Crawford County.

Amy Mitchell, 4-H Youth Development Agent – Amy has been working on end of the year reports and shared 2014 highlights.

- Amy focused on STEM programming in relationship to the 1) Monsanto Ag Innovator grant that made it possible for youth to take a field trip to Roth's fish farm and participate in a Fish Farm Challenge, 2) the Tech Wizard After School Robotics program, 3) the Robotics Rally and 4) Summer Day Camps. She also focused on the Healthy Living programming, Eat 4-Health program she's involved with that's funded by a United Health Care grant. Amy mentioned she uses an evidence based program, Choose Health: Food, Fun and Fitness, from Cornell University and brought Healthy Living into an After-School Program.
- Looking ahead, Amy has applied for an Ag Innovator grant which will utilize older youth to teach younger youth about agriculture and science topics. This grant is through National 4-H Council, which they will, in turn, distribute to the states. Amy works with two university specialists in these programming areas. Amy is also on the Healthy Living Coalition and gets feedback from that group as well.

Will Cronin, CNRED Educator – In Madison at an appointment.

Review Agents Programs and Activities – January 2015 Agent calendars were distributed.

Date of next meeting: February 5, 2015.

Presentation of bills: The monthly Fair and Ag/Extension Committee meetings are typically held the same day, one following the other. Bills for both are then presented and voted on at just one of those meetings. The Fair Committee is not meeting today and Dull requested a clarification for payment of bills for both the Fair and Ag/Extension today. Chairman Flesch clarified and the bills were presented for both. Motion to pay the bills by Olson; second by Flansburgh. Motion carried by call of the roll.

Ag and Extension Education Committee Related Items - Matt Hanson would like to come for annual review.

Correspondence: None presented

Motion by Jones, second by Olson, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 10:44 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Snitker, Program Assistant