

Crawford County Ag/Extension Committee Meeting
Crawford County Administration Building,
Room 215, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821
Thursday, July 7, 2022

Mary Kuhn, Chair, called the meeting to order 10:57a.m.

Members Present: David Olson, Don Stirling, Wayne Jerrett and Owen DuCharme. Others present – Adam Hady (Area Extension Director), Kathy Lange, Carolyn Ihde, Amy Mitchell, Amanda Griswold, Karen Snitker.

Verify posting of Agenda by Mary.

Approval of June minutes – Motion by Dave, second by Owen. Motion carried unanimously.

University of Wisconsin Extension Items:

Educators/Coordinators report

Carolyn Ihde, Ag Educator, Educator presented a report on her programming.

- Carolyn focused on Wisconsin farmers and farm families related to every day. Wisconsin farmers and farm families face financial challenges, demands of the job and changes outside of their control that impact their lives and livelihoods. These situations tend to cause increase stressors and mental health challenges.
 - Carolyn reports mental health matters to farmers and farm families. However, embarrassment, cost and awareness of mental health tend to be obstacles to the farmer seeking help or treatment for mental health. With that in mind, Carolyn shared, this situation offers an opportunity for UW-Madison Division of Extension, to be able to partner with other organizations to help farmers cope with and alleviate the stress that accompanies uncertainty and change.
 - Carolyn introduced a fairly new program, “COMET,” which she and Amanda are promoting to farmers and community members of Crawford County.
 - COMET (Changing Our Mental & Emotional Trajectory) - It’s main focus is teaching community members how to ‘Be “the other person” ’ – How to intervene when they encounter someone who is in a “vulnerable space” and help shift the person’s mental health trajectory back to a place of wellness instead of proceeding towards a mental health crisis.
 - This and other programs, etc. are being and have been developed to help increase the awareness/understanding of farm culture for healthcare and mental health care providers. Business management practices can also help to reduce the stress farmers are facing and help improve the outlook and well-being of farmers and their families.
 - A hardcopy of the handout – “Changing Farm Financial Conditions” – “How to Help ‘When You Don’t Know What to Say’ ” - will be placed on file.
- Kathy announced she will be transitioning to a FoodWise Coordinator position over several counties with this Friday being her last day serving as our FoodWise Educator
- Amy provided a brief review of the various 4-H programming that’s been occurring.

Ag and Extension Education Committee Related Items:

- Adam Hady, Area Extension Director,
 - Provided an update on Area 13 vacancies
 - Is preparing for the upcoming budget season
 - Will be holding “mid-point” conversations with Educators and
 - Reports the Community Development Educator posting will close July 21

Public Comments: none presented.

Date of next meeting: August 4, 2022. Room 236, 10:00 AM or immediately following the Fair Committee Meeting.

Motion by David, second by Wayne to approve payment of bills as presented; motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Correspondence – none presented

Adjournment: Motion by Owen, second by Wayne. Meeting adjourned 11:23 AM

Minutes submitted by Karen Snitker