

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, August 16, 2012**  
**James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room**

**Members Present:** Nancy Barker, Guy Hegg, Susan Locke, Tom Widener, and James Englebert.

**UW-Extension Staff:** Chris Kniep, Katie Roen, Rene Mehlberg, Kayla Oberstadt, Kelsie Smith, Nick Schneider, Leonard Polzin, Catherine Neiswender, Kim Biedermann, and Susan Bongert.

**Meeting called to order** at 9:03 a.m. by Chair Nancy Barker.

**Comments from the Public related to items on the Agenda** None

**Motion to approve July 19, 2012 meeting minutes** by Englebert/Widener. Motion carried.

**Program Reports**

**Agriculture Programs:**

Leonard Polzin, Youth and Sciences Educator was introduced to the group.

Nick Schneider went over his work with 4-H and the Meat Animal Committee. Since Nick started in Winnebago County the group has introduced and implemented the Meat Animal Quality Assurance (MAQA) program for youth, to educate them on their farm animals. The training program has been in place for two years now with significant improvements to animals exhibited at the fair. In previous years the Carcass judge for the fair noted issues regarding meal quality. Since the implementation of MAQA she reports seeing many improvements and was very pleased with the products she judged. At the Fair Meat Sale, Schneider stated that there were 95 exhibitors this year; a higher number than average and 59 buyers; being the highest since 2006. \$103,000+ was raised at the Meat Sale and \$3000+ in donations were received from Equity that donated a toy tractor. The donation are going towards the livestock fund. Schneider has also been supporting farmers dealing with the drought conditions. He has sent out many publications on this topic and there are many websites that have information regarding the drought. Schneider then reviewed his work at Farm Technology days and shared some cover crop tips.

Englebert questioned who receives the information Schneider assembles in newsletters. Schneider stated all working farms in Winnebago County.

Hegg questioned what percent of corn raised in Winnebago County is used for food versus ethanol. Schneider responded that he did not have that specific data however he noted that corn raised in Winnebago County primarily remains here, for personal farm use or sold to Utica for ethanol.

**4-H Youth Development Program:**

Fair updates were provided by Kayla Oberstadt, Kelsie Smith, and Rene Mehlberg stating that 4-H had many fair attending participating in 4-H sponsored activities; over 400 people participate in archery, 30+ juggling, 40+ scrapbooks, and 90+ tie dying. Sunday at the fair, 22 4-H youth graduated and 4 were given Key awards. The one and only team to enter the bath tub races were the Science Campers. Science camp results were shared by Smith stating that the feedback was very positive, many parents would like more camps, and the children loved it.

Smith has completed her Summer VISTA assignment - 56 days of service.

**Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program:**

Highlights of "Rethink Your Drink", with posters and handouts, was presented by Susan Bongert. Bongert encouraged committee members to come and view a full presentation of the lesson on beverages at WNEP sites.

Hegg questioned where this information was being presented. Locations and times were shared.

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**Committee Chair Report – Nancy Barker**

**County Fair:**

Fair went well and there were many more people in attendance then last year.

More participation is needed in the bathtub race.

Barker attended the department budget review with Chris Kniep. The County Executive complimented Kniep on her budget preparation, with no changes made to the proposal.

**UW-Fox Up-date- Nancy Barker & Tom Widener**

Water pipes are being replaced this week and water use should resume shortly.

Widener stated that UW Fox will be having a budget meeting today 8/16/2012.

Widener stated that Michigan Tech will be coming to do a hands-on STEM learning experience to encourage enrollment in their Engineering program. This will occur in mid- April of next year for middle school students.

**UW-Extension – Administration**

**2013 Department Budget Proposal:**

Kniep explained that as discussed last meeting the fringe benefits of \$4300 were taken out of the budget leaving it at an increase of 0.59 %.

**UWEX Up-Dates & Department Activities**

Polzin discussed his 4-H County Fair observations and his blended role of Youth and Science.

Neiswender introduced Kim Biedermann. Biedermann will be filling in for Neiswender while she completes her internship for 1 year. Biedermann will be here 25% of the time. Tasks that Neiswender has assigned her include a Business Survey, involvement in the Sustainability Committee, and Airport Impact study. Neiswender and Biedermann will be reporting to the committee in September.

Hegg asked what role our department could play in helping with discussions regarding ownership of the Tri County Ice Arenas. Neiswender requested addition information on what information is needed, who is involved, etc.

**Staff Up-dates**

Extension Office brochure has been updated with all new employees.

**Comments by Committee Members:**

Hegg shared his frustrations with being unable to obtain information on the total cost per student at UW Fox Valley. Hegg also stated he was not interested in seeing presentations done by staff like the one shared by Bongert. He wants to know who is reached and what impact it is making. Hegg also questioned Winnebago County's ties to the Transportation Committee that held a meeting here this week.

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 am.** by Englebert/Hegg. Motion passed

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Katie Roen, Support Staff