



UW-Extension Sheboygan County

4-H Youth Development

Sarah Tarjeson, 4-H Youth Development Educator and Linda Robson, 4-H Youth Development Program Coordinator

The life skills members learn in 4-H relate to leadership, teamwork, critical thinking, and communication; and they will do it while engaging in fun, hands-on 4-H activities. 4-H is able to help youth learn to express themselves and listen to the needs, concerns, and ideas of others. Being able to effectively communicate with your head, heart, hands, and health is a lifelong skill that is refined through practice.

According to the Communication Activities: For 4-H Clubs and other Youth Groups literature, there is value in helping youth learn what's involved in communicating effectively. The four H's show why good communication skills are significant:

- ◆ **Head:** It is important that as communicators we think about what we want to say and how we wish to behave.
- ◆ **Hands:** Communication skills enable people to reach out and respond supportively to the needs and concerns of others in their families and communities.
- ◆ **Health:** Human communication is so important that its presence or absence affects our physical and emotional health.
- ◆ **Heart:** Effective communicators are those who care about the relationship.

Throughout the 4-H year, youth learn and practice life skills tied to communication, typically at their community club meetings. The **4-H Communication Arts Festival**, where youth will be using various forms of art to communicate, is on February 25, 2018. This year, 38 youth will be exhibiting nearly 100 entries.



The Festival gives youth an opportunity to use several strategies and tools to communicate a message to the general public. Youth will be critiqued by skilled judges on speeches, demonstrations, interpretive readings, photography, posters, art pieces, and creative writing.

The judges provide both verbal and written feedback to the youth on their exhibits. The judges will talk with the youth on delivery, composition, how visual appealing it is, and other criteria that relate to the skill of communication. This event truly is a great way for youth to practice their communication skills in relation to their head, heart, hands, and health!



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UW-Extension
Sheboygan County
5 University Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53081
920-459-5900

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**Sheboygan County
UW-Extension Staff**
920.459.5900

Michael J. Ballweg
Agriculture Agent

Jane E. Jensen
Family Living Educator

Sarah J. Tarjeson
4-H Youth
Development Educator

Linda Robson
4-H Youth Development
Program Coordinator

Kevin Struck
Growth Management
Educator

Amanda Miller
FoodWise Coordinator
(shared with Fond du Lac)

Janeth Orozco
FoodWise Nutrition
Educator

**Administrative
Assistants**

Ann Herzog
Tammy Zorn
Nancy Brown

**Area Extension
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Cindy Sarkady

UW-Extension Sheboygan County February 2018 - IMPACT REPORT

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Mike Ballweg, Agriculture Agent

Nearly 40 farmers, industry nutritionists, and area agronomists attended the **All Things Corn Silage** program held January 19, 2018 at Chissy's in Waldo. This program was developed and sponsored by UW-Extension Sheboygan County, along with the Sheboygan County Forage Council. The Forage Council's purposes are: 1) To learn about and promote the production and utilization of quality forages as a prime agricultural resource in Sheboygan County, and 2) To help identify local educational needs in forage management.



Dr. Joe Lauer teaches about the best forage options for high animal performance.

- PROGRAM TOPICS INCLUDED:**
- All Things Corn Silage – Understanding the Choices
 - Agronomic Practices to Optimize Yields and Quality
 - Understanding Corn Silage Quality and Management for Increased Profits and Cow Health

Numerous positive comments were shared regarding the quality and usefulness of this educational program.

About the speakers:

Joe Lauer, UW-Extension / UW-Madison Corn Specialist



Our mission is to generate science based solutions and develop corn management educational programs that address needs expressed by Wisconsin farmers. Specific objectives focus on: grain crop productivity, corn silage yields and quality, and production system efficiencies including hybrid selection, rotational benefits and tillage practices. Emphasis is on impact of cropping practices on grower profitability, the environment, and natural resource conservation.

John Goeser, Research Director & Animal Nutritionist, Rock River Labs, Watertown



John Goeser grew up in the agriculture industry with his family's dairy near Plymouth, WI. After earning B.S. degrees in Dairy Science and Agronomy at UW-Madison, Goeser earned an M.S. degree in Plant Breeding & Genetics, as well as an M.S. and a Ph.D. in Dairy Science from UW-Madison. In his current role with Rock River, Goeser oversees animal nutrition, technical support, and research—focusing on carbohydrate digestion, forage management, and feed hygiene. Goeser also holds an adjunct assistant professor appointment with the

UW-Madison Dairy Science Department.

UW-Extension Sheboygan County

Community Growth Management Education

Kevin Struck, Growth Management Educator

The Town of Holland asked Kevin to work with the Plan Commission to revise three provisions of its Zoning Ordinance in an effort to **protect landowner property rights**.

The first of the three provisions involves accessory structures. Almost all local zoning ordinances require a principal structure—typically a house—to be under construction before a garage, shed, or similar building is allowed. Historically, this provision was included in ordinances to prevent a cash-strapped owner of a property from building a structure like a shed and then living in it despite inadequate sanitary facilities, heating, and so forth. In one case, an individual was discovered living in a chicken coop. There was also a concern that if for whatever reason a house was never built on a property, that a prior accessory structure might eventually be neglected and abandoned, which could become an aesthetic and safety issue.



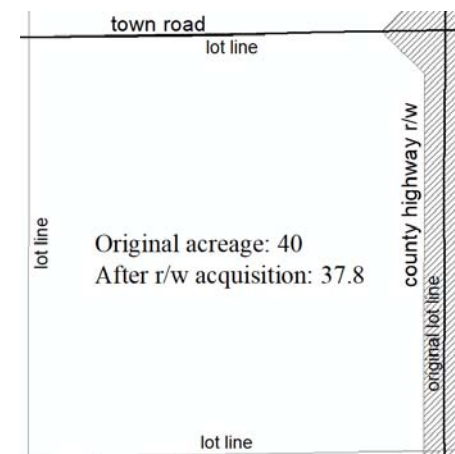
Over the years, however, towns like Holland have received many legitimate requests for sheds on vacant properties, and they have had to turn them down. Meanwhile, the reports of people living in accessory structures have been rare. Local officials began to think that maybe the provision against accessory structures was an over-reaction. To address this issue, Holland worked with Kevin to create language for its Ordinance that would allow an accessory structure prior to the construction of a residence if the structure 1) lacks electrical or gas service; 2) lacks heating or cooking devices that use propane, pellets, or similar fuels; 3) lacks a foundation other than a slab three inches thick or less; and 4) does not exceed 100 square feet in size.

The second and third provisions are similar to each other. Holland's Ordinance, like almost all other zoning codes, specifies a minimum lot size / residential density for A-1 prime agricultural land. In Holland this minimum is 20 acres. Consequently, a landowner who has been receiving a tax bill for years indicating he is being taxed on a 40-acre property would naturally expect to someday be able to divide the property into two home sites ($40 \text{ acres} \div 20 = 2$). However, after paying for an expensive certified survey map, which is required up-front for land divisions, such a landowner could suddenly discover that through no fault of his own he has, say, only 39.8 acres and has "lost" one home site. In reality, very rarely is a "quarter-quarter" or a "40" exactly 40 acres; this is due to the geometric shortcomings of trying to lay a square grid across a spherical earth, as was done when the Public Land Survey System was first laid out in the 1800's.



A similar situation exists when a landowner has land along a county or state highway where right-of-way has recently been purchased. The landowner had little or no choice in whether to sell the strip of land, but such a subtraction of one or two acres can easily drop the total acreage of the property below its original total of 40, 80, etc. Again, the number of potential home sites is decreased through no fault of the landowner.

To address these two situations, language was crafted to ensure such properties would retain the residential density the owners reasonably expected to have.



UW-Extension Sheboygan County

Family Living and FoodWise

Jane Jensen, Family Living Educator

The **Livable/Age Friendly City of Sheboygan Taskforce** asked Jane to join the taskforce to bring university resources to the table. The taskforce includes the Mayor's office, City Administrator, Transportation Director, City Planning, Aging & Disability Resource Center, Senior Activities Center, and others. The multi-year project will assess the livability of the city of Sheboygan to create and implement a plan based on qualities that include: inclusiveness, sustainability, health, accessibility, interdependence, and engagement.

It is important to analyze available data to address the gaps between what city residents need and what the city can provide to create a city that matches people's needs and fulfills their hopes and aspirations at each stage of their life. According to a mayor interviewed by AARP Livable Communities, "We need a community where it's possible to stay." Jane will provide secondary data and share pieces of the toolkit that she created with a statewide university work group on creating livable communities. The data sources and community engagement strategies in the toolkit are ready-made pieces that will move the process forward.



The assessment tools in the toolkit have been piloted throughout the state of Wisconsin and are available in hard copy and electronic format. The 13 characteristics in the assessment tool include: housing; transportation, accessibility, parking, sidewalks and pedestrian crossings; community and health care services; family caregiving; nutrition and wellness; arts, culture and lifelong learning; employment and workforce development; public safety and emergency planning; respect and social inclusion; community connectedness, civic engagement, and volunteering; taxation, finance, and protection against fraud; community leadership; and intergenerational collaboration.

Amanda Miller & Janeth Orozco, FoodWise

In Sheboygan County the estimated poverty rate in 2016 was 7.1%, which represented a 1.9% increase from 2000. With a significant number of households living in poverty, the need for a variety of programs to help make ends meet becomes more evident. Securing adequate and nutritious food becomes a struggle for families living in poverty. Households with limited incomes look at state and local agencies to help them meet their nutrition needs.

The FoodWise Program looks for opportunities to empower families with limited resources to make healthy food choices and be more food secured by utilizing their resources to the fullest. With this goal in mind, Sheboygan County FoodWise Program is partnering with Salvation Army Sheboygan to provide nutrition and food budgeting education to families that participate and benefit from Salvation Army's programs.

Janeth will be teaching a series of six lessons at the Salvation Army. Lessons will include information on 1) creating an expense plan and a food budget, 2) meal planning, 3) decreasing food expenses, 4) shopping on a budget, and 5) healthy eating on a budget. Classes will be piloted starting in early March.