

# UW-Extension Sheboygan County 2017 Annual Report

## MISSION STATEMENT & SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Sheboygan County  
UW-Extension Staff  
920.459.5900

Michael J. Ballweg  
Crops & Soils Agent

Jane E. Jensen  
Family Living Educator

Amanda Miller  
County Coordinator  
(Sheboygan &  
Fond du Lac County)  
FoodWise

Janeth Orozco  
Nutrition Educator  
FoodWise

Linda Robson  
4-H Youth Development  
Program Coordinator

Kevin Struck  
Growth Management  
Educator

Sarah J. Tarjeson  
4-H Youth  
Development Educator

Cindy Sarkady  
Area Extension Director

### Support Staff

Nancy Brown  
Ann Herzog  
Tammy Zorn

We teach, learn, lead, and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.

Through UW-Extension, the people of Sheboygan County and beyond can solve their most pressing issues and uncover their most promising opportunities through hundreds of programs and initiatives.

Fundamental to this mission are UW-Extension's partnerships with Sheboygan County government, UW-Sheboygan campus, and other public and private organizations.

UW-Extension's wide-ranging initiatives impact 1.5 million people every year by providing access to university resources and engaging people in learning, wherever they live and work.

- Integrating a scholarly approach to outreach into Sheboygan County focusing on Youth Development, Growth Management, Family Living, Nutrition, and Agricultural education
- Addressing the specific educational needs of under-served populations in our community
- Empower area residents to make informed decisions, become more self-sufficient, to improve their lives, and add value to the communities in which they live.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED IN 2017

### Sheboygan County Master Gardener Volunteers Build Community

UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) are trained individuals who help UW-Extension Educators. During 2017, 111 MGVs provided nearly 4,500 hours of horticultural expertise to Sheboygan County residents. Since 2000, MGVs have provided 68,672 volunteer hours at a value of over \$1,306,520.

#### Project highlights included:

- MGVs partnered with **Above and Beyond Children's Museum** to develop *Eat, Play and Grow*, weekly programs to teach children about gardening;
- Sensory Plants added to Yankee Garden in the heart of Sheboygan Falls;
- Composting at UW-Sheboygan.

You will find MGVs helping out at the Old Plank Road Trail, Generations, Marsh Park Tower, Kohler Andre State Park, Meals on Wheels Gardens, UW-Sheboygan Campus, Plymouth Art Center, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, and Sharon Richardson Community Hospice to name a few.



*Mike Ballweg (center) UW-Extension Sheboygan County leads a discussion around cover crop use at the 2017 Wisconsin Cover Crop Conference.*



*MGVs teach UW-Sheboygan students how to construct composting bins on campus.*

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED IN 2017

### Educational Approaches Addressing Community Needs

Wisconsin statutes require community comprehensive plans to be updated not less than once every 10 years. In 2017, the towns of Herman, Mitchell and Wilson, and the village of Howards Grove all faced update deadlines and risked losing the legal standing to rezone property. Growth Management Educator Kevin Struck made the four communities aware of the requirement, explained their planning options, and helped them make an informed choice of which update option was best for them. Kevin then followed up with data related to demographics, housing, economic development, transportation, utilities, and natural resources. All four communities ultimately adopted official updates that will help guide them over the next 10 years.

Other educational programs for local officials and citizens were provided as needed, and information requests were filled throughout the year. Topics included groundwater and private wells, land use, zoning, and farmland preservation.

### It's all about Improving Water Quality

Work towards improving soil health and improving water quality continues by conducting on-farm research, holding educational programs and by fostering partnerships.

Two highlighted research projects included:

**1. Can Gypsum in Cropping Systems Improve Water Quality?** This gypsum study is to evaluate improved soil physical conditions and the potential benefit for gypsum application to reduce dissolved reactive phosphorus moving from area fields into area waterbodies.

**2. Clover Cover Crops After Short Season Crops**

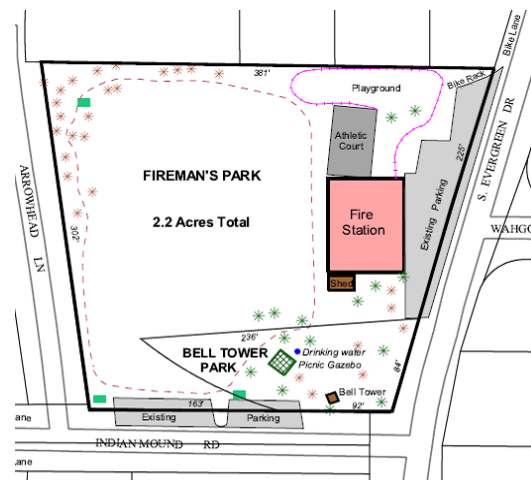
Research trials in Sheboygan County have shown that planting annual clovers as cover crops after wheat can be quite beneficial. The 2017 growing season marks the third and final year of this study, conducted by UW-Extension Sheboygan County and the UW-Madison Soil Science Department.

Research partners have included: UW-Madison - Soil Science Department, Nutrient & Pest Management Program; Natural Resources Conservation Service; Sheboygan County Planning and Conservation Department; and The Nature Conservancy. Approximately 250 people attended Extension educational programs in 2017 to learn about cover crops and other best management practices. Research results will be disseminated throughout Sheboygan County and across the state.

### 2017 Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Short Course

One hundred thirty-six (136) registered for the Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Short Course in 2017. Over 99% of short course participants rated the class as either **excellent** or **good**. Comments included: *Great speakers, Very interesting, Very good instructors, Great talk on soils, Excellent presenters & presentations—enthusiastic & informative*. The goal of the short course is to provide timely information and education that will allow Green Industry professionals the opportunity to improve their skills, quality of services offered, and the profitability of their horticultural businesses.

**Engaging Youth in Citizenship Sheboygan County Youth Government Day** program took place on April 19, 2017 in collaboration with Sheboygan County Government and the Sheboygan County American Legion Posts. Approximately 145 students from Cedar Grove, Oostburg, Random Lake, and Plymouth High Schools participated in the day-long program where they toured various county departments and participated in experiential learning to increase knowledge of the services, roles, and responsibilities of elected officials; increase their knowledge and confidence of students when engaged in voting at the polls; and increase confidence in engaging in government decision making. Participants visited with the District Attorney, Register of Deeds, Treasurer, County Clerk, Veteran's Services, and participated in a mock trial with the Sheboygan County Judge. 100% of the participants reported that they either agree or strongly agree that they have greater understanding of county government as a result of this program. 90% of participants reported an increase in their ability to engage civically in decision making. Finally, 87% of participants reported that they are more likely to vote in local elections when they are of age than prior to participating in this program.



*The redevelopment of Fireman's Park in Wilson is one of the goals of the latest update to the Town's Comprehensive Plan.*



*UW-Madison Soil Science graduate students measure the rate of water infiltration to access the effectiveness of gypsum application for reducing soil surface water run-off. (Plymouth)*



## Developing Youth and Adult Leaders

Sheboygan County 4-H Base Camp has always been a place where youth can try new experiences, practice valuable social skills and master new skills. Often this learning happens unintentionally, however. This year Sarah Tarjeson, 4-H Youth Development Educator, prepared staff to intentionally challenge participants to try something new, learn new skills, and be generous to others. As a result of this intentionality, youth were able to identify times and places throughout camp that they achieved these goals. 100% of youth participants (n=76) indicated they felt safe at camp and were able to identify why they felt this way. 100% were able to identify a time and place they served another person or group at camp. 100% were able to identify a time or place they learned something new and tried something new at camp. From these results program development staff and volunteers were able to see what experiences contributed to accomplishing these goals as well as which times and places at camp are not conducive to meeting these goals.

The Youth Development Program Coordinator, Linda Robson, provided primary leadership and support for 33 4-H Community Clubs throughout Sheboygan County. The 4-H Community Club Program enrolled 968 members, grades K-13, and approximately 348 adult leaders. Members participated in citizenship, leadership, service, teamwork, and decision-making through their participation in club meetings and activities. Approximately 22,700 volunteer service hours were contributed to youth and communities in Sheboygan County in 2017 for an estimated value of over \$534,800.

Over 550 volunteers and consumers were reached with training and resources regarding literacy skills, food preservation, food safety, and parenting skills. 225 children and their parents in Head Start classrooms were impacted by these volunteers on a monthly basis. Over 1,650 volunteer service hours at an estimated value of \$28,050 were contributed to families and communities in 2017.

**The 4-H American Spirit Experience** develops citizenship knowledge and skills through education and travel. Content focuses on America's revolutionary heritage while traveling to historical locations. Annually, 44 participants increase their ability to express values, awareness of self in relationship to others, and identify historical and present day role models of civic leadership. Youth practice responsibility, caring, compassion, and tolerance while developing their sense of personal identity. These characteristics are essential first steps toward being engaged politically or at the community level (Van Camp, 2016). One participant in 2017 indicated, "being responsible for certain bus duties has taught me the importance of everyone doing their job." Facilitated mixers and new roommate assignments each night of the experience are designed to enable youth the opportunity to practice caring, compassion, and tolerance as well as personal identity formation. Preliminary results for a longitudinal assessment of participants experience over the past five years indicate 100% of respondents agree or strongly agree they gained an understanding about the contributions of early leaders in American History and how this connects to roles and responsibilities as a citizen through the American Spirit Experience.

## Building on Community Strengths

Family Living Educator Jane Jensen provided adult and family multi-session caregiver education that increased family caregivers' ability to manage caregiving responsibilities, delay placement of their care recipients in expensive long-term care, lessen costly hospital stays, and balance employment with caregiving. The Family Caregivers Coalition in Sheboygan County, co-chaired by Jane, provided monthly educational programs, access to local resources, and quarterly newsletters to almost 1,550 local family caregivers and the agencies that serve them. Jane also shared the results of a number of focus groups she conducted with family caregivers to identify ways in which the coalition can meet the needs of family caregivers in the next 3-5 years.

This past year's emphasis has been of building new relationships, both internally and externally. On October 1, the FoodWise program realigned to be with Fond du Lac County. Amanda Miller (FoodWise Coordinator) made efforts to bring together staff in both offices to build a strong, unified team. FoodWise also developed external relationships with new partner agencies that share in the goal of a healthier community, including six local food pantries, an elementary school, a low-income housing site, an after-school agency, and the Sheboygan County Activity and Nutrition (SCAN) coalition. These relationships resulted in an additional 130 classes to be taught by FoodWise in 2018.



Photo: Janeth Orozco, Nutrition Educator, and a WIC client.

## Supporting Healthy Families

The evidence-based, seven-part Strengthening Families Program for Parents and Youth 10-14 was facilitated for the 8th time in Plymouth to provide outreach. The family skill-building program saves nearly \$10 for every \$1 invested in the program in future costs for drug treatment, lost earnings, and time in the juvenile justice system. Jane provided leadership for the program. Trained facilitators instructed the youth and adults separately for the first hour and joined together for the family session. More series are planned for 2018.

A farmer's market survey was conducted to assess the ability of food insecure households throughout the county to access the fresh fruits and vegetables at the farmer's market. Jane Jensen utilized the university research base to customize a survey instrument that was used to survey limited income users of the farmer's market. The results are being used by a variety of family serving organizations, including the food pantries.



Sheboygan County  
Planning, Resources,  
Agriculture &  
Extension Committee

Keith Abler  
Chairperson

Fran Damp  
Vice-Chairperson

Steven Bauer  
Secretary

James Baumgart  
Curt Brauer  
Stan Lammers  
Members



Use your phone, iPad, or  
tablet camera to scan the code  
above to find UWEX on the  
web! (Barcode Reader or  
Google Goggle apps may be  
needed.)

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University of Wisconsin,  
United States Department of  
Agriculture, and  
Wisconsin Counties  
cooperating.

University of Wisconsin-  
Extension provides equal  
opportunities in employment  
and programming, including  
Title IX & ADA.

## BUDGET

The UW-Extension Sheboygan County 2017 approved budget was \$459,416, with actual expenses of \$423,408. The 2018 levy amount is \$431,936. The total approved budget for 2018 is \$467,836. Our budget more closely reflects our expenses and revenue than in past years due to the accountability in financial management. The 2017 budget goals were accomplished primarily by responsible operations, pursuits of matching funds, sustainable program revenue, and support from community, county, and state stakeholders.

## ISSUES AND CHALLENGES AHEAD

Many UW-Extension programs leverage substantial local, state, and federal dollars to enhance the quality of life for residents in Sheboygan County. The state's 2015-17 biennial budget reduced the University of Wisconsin System funding by \$250 million. Cooperative Extension's portion of the cut is \$3.6 million per year – 8.3% of its ongoing state funding. The nEXT Generation Cooperative Extension movement has implemented the start of the regionalization of counties by creating 22 Areas. Local programming continues in all 72 counties. The regionalization structure instituted Area Extension Directors starting in July 2017 with the responsibility of Administrative oversight of an area consisting of 2 to 5 counties. The nEXT Generation model continues to move forward and will now be moving under the UW-Madison structure starting in July 2018. The commitment to local needs and education is still the driving mission of the UW-Extension system.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2018

The primary goal of UW-Extension for 2017 is to continue providing quality educational programs and useful, research-based information to the people of Sheboygan County to help them gain the understanding, capabilities, and skills necessary for solving farm, home, family, business, and community issues and problems.

### UW-Extension Sheboygan County has identified the following shared goals:

- Identify at least two populations of protected audiences throughout Sheboygan County, and implement at least two new strategies to meet the needs that are unique to these communities.
- Develop educational programs in crop science aimed at improving the profitability of cropping systems while implementing practices that protect natural resources.
- Support area farmer led groups to successfully implement useful on-farm demonstrations, and provide information and educational resources as requested.
- Provide technical assistance to Greenbush, Glenbeulah, Mosel, Rhine, Waldo, and Adell as each works on and adopts the required 10-year update to its comprehensive plan. With price quotes from consultants as high as \$20,000 per plan update, these communities will save substantial money partnering with UW-Extension.
- Provide groundwater and private well education through 1) year-round availability of homeowner testing kits at our UW-Extension Office, and 2) a local well water testing event to be held in cooperation with Sheboygan County Planning and Conservation, and the certified lab at UW-Stevens Point.
- By October 2018, at least 50% of participants will report an intent to spend their FoodShare dollars more wisely by using food resource management strategies they have learned from FoodWise classes.
- Strengthen relationships and increase the capacity of youth serving agencies by offering at least two opportunities for professional or organizational development (e.g., parliamentary procedure, youth-adult partnership) to nonprofits throughout Sheboygan County.