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Agriculture &  
Extension Committee

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## UW-Extension Sheboygan County

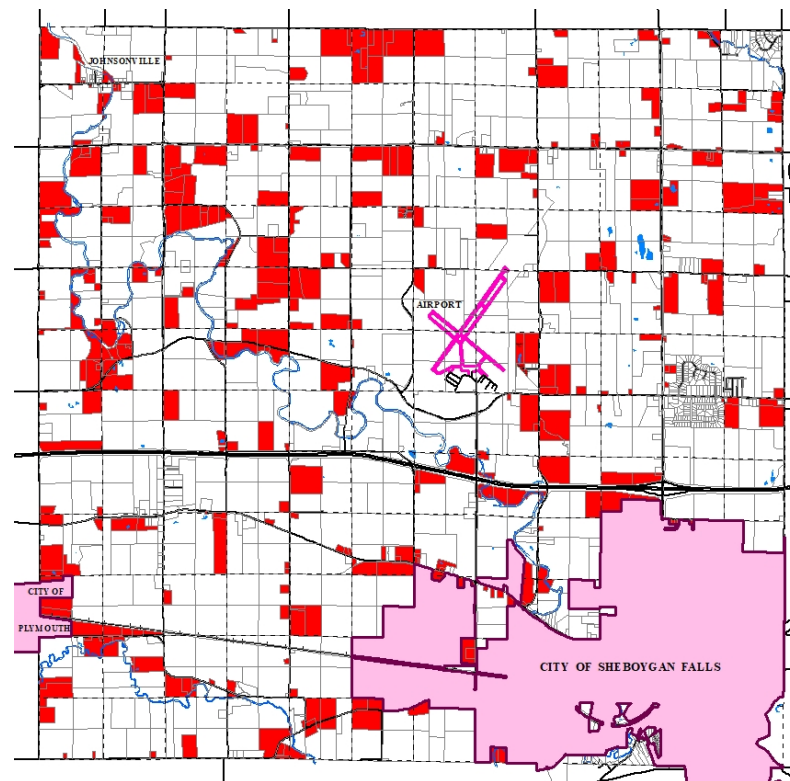
*Community Growth Management Education*

Kevin Struck, Growth Management Educator

The **farmland preservation zoning ordinance for the Town of Sheboygan Falls** expires at the end of this year. The Town must receive recertification from Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection or local farmers who are eligible for the program will lose income tax credits. The Town has called on Kevin to help local officials understand what changes need to be made to the Town's zoning ordinance and map, and to work with them in making those changes.

Since the Town is amending its ordinance and map for this purpose it makes sense to clean up any other issues as well that have accumulated over the 30+ years that the ordinance has been in place. For example, Kevin found that there were over 300 properties zoned "A-1 Exclusive Agricultural Use District" that fell short of the minimum 35-acre lot size required by the ordinance for this district. This is a typical finding for almost any town in the County, due mostly to unintended oversights and parcel remnants left over from land divisions.

Such properties are called "nonconforming lots" and can become a problem for owners when they seek to expand an existing structure or build a new structure and have difficulty meeting the large setbacks for A-1. These setbacks are large because it is assumed that the property is at least 35 acres and will therefore allow for plenty of buffer space between buildings and property lines. However, nonconforming lots are often much smaller than 35 acres—yet the large setbacks are still in force.



Kevin used GIS to identify all A-1 properties less than 35 acres.

To remedy this situation, Kevin will facilitate mapping sessions to determine the best district for each property to 1) make it conforming, 2) provide smaller setbacks, and 3) still retain the ability to continue existing agricultural uses. "That software is really something! It would've taken us weeks to figure all this out without your help," one of the committee members told Kevin.



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## UW-Extension Sheboygan County July 2018 - IMPACT REPORT

*Agriculture and Natural Resources*

Mike Ballweg, Agriculture Agent



Photo credits: Sheboygan River Progressive Farmers

### Sheboygan River Progressive Farmers Kickoff Field Day Event

June 13, 2018  
Eden, WI

About 80 people attended the 1st annual Sheboygan River Progressive Farmers Kickoff Field Day Event, a group unique in that it is farmer led and directed. Funding and support was provided by DATCP, Kohler Trust, and The Nature Conservancy, with Sheboygan County UW-Extension adding educational resources and research updates as needed. Mike was invited to give a presentation on **Cover Crops and Soil Health**.

A link to that presentation can be found at:  
<https://sheboygan.uwex.edu/files/2018/07/Cover-Crops-and-Soil-Health-Presentation.pdf>

Below is information about the Sheboygan River Progressive Farmers<sup>1</sup>

### Mission and Purpose:

To test and explore farming strategies that lead to improved soil health, greater farming efficiency, sustain profitability and lessen the impact on the environment. Members of the alliance will share information gained through field trials with fellow farmers, thus increasing the sustainability of farming across the basin.

### Goals:

- Member farmers will **identify the most vulnerable fields** that have potential to be improved with on farm conservation methods.
- **Measure** soil health of fields that will act as test/demo sites.
- **Commit** to several years of **action** on individual fields to better show a shift in **soil health and crop sustainability**.
- **Work with the non-farming community** to reach water quality goals and enhance the **sense of community** between rural and urban residents in the basin.



Mike Ballweg and Mike Patin  
discuss soil health

<sup>1</sup>Information provided is from the Sheboygan River Progressive Farmers website.



## UW-Extension Sheboygan County

*Family Living and FoodWise*

### Jane Jensen, Family Living Educator

Along with a fellow Extension Educator and an Outreach Specialist from UW-Madison, Jane was recently selected to present **“Creating Aging Friendly Communities”** at the National Health Outreach Conference in Minneapolis. The conference brought together stakeholders and partners from across the nation and Extension to explore transformative approaches for improving community health.

Jane and the team shared the toolkit they created for discussion, implementation, and call to action around this important issue. Case studies of application in rural, suburban, and urban communities were shared as well. Older adults remain in their homes and communities as they age. Addressing the needs of the aging population and their families is critical to maintaining community health and wellness, preventing public health problems, and supporting economic productivity. An aging friendly community is a livable community for people of all ages. It is important to note that almost one in four Sheboygan County residents will be over age 65 by the year 2040.



### Amanda Miller & Janeth Orozco, FoodWise

The FoodWise Program always takes advantage of opportunities to promote healthy eating habits and expose children to new fruits and vegetables. During the summer, the **Sheboygan County FoodWise program partnered with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sheboygan County** to provide nutrition education to youth attending the Stayer Unit and the Club at the Y.



K-3rd graders received nutrition education using the **Read for Health** curriculum. Using three adaptations from classic children’s stories (*Little Red Riding Hood*, *Goldilocks* and *The 3 Bears*, and *The Three Little Pigs*) Janeth delivered six lessons that helped children reflect on what is healthy eating, why it’s essential, and the importance of food safety. Kids were also able to taste different fruits and vegetables and whole grains.

The **Choose Health: Food, Fun, and Fitness (CHFFF)** curriculum was chosen for the 4th-6th graders. CHFFF is a very interactive curriculum developed by Cornell University. Some of the topics covered in the curriculum include 1) replacing sweetened drinks with low-fat milk and water, 2) eating more fruits, vegetables and whole grains, and 3) eating fewer high-fat and high-sugar foods. With the support of a staff person from Boys and Girls Club, each lesson included a food preparation activity where kids learn to appreciate healthy, easy to make recipes.

During the month of July, youth attending the Club at the Y (7th-12th graders) will be receiving nutrition education through the **Teen Cuisine** classes. The Teen Cuisine curriculum teaches teens to become more self-sufficient in the kitchen, while learning healthy eating habits.

## UW-Extension Sheboygan County

*4-H Youth Development*

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

Parents want the best opportunities for their children. They want them to have whatever it takes to be happy and successful—good health, ability to get along with others, thinking and problem solving skills, a good self-concept. Children need resiliency skills: self-esteem, life skills, self-reliance, and pro-social behaviors. The camp experience offers a nurturing environment away from the distractions of the city or home. Peter Scales, Ph.D., a noted educator, author, and psychologist with the Search Institute in Minneapolis says, “Camp is one of the few institutions where young people can experience and satisfy their need for physical activity, creative expression and true participation in a community environment. Most schools don’t satisfy all these needs.”

**The Sheboygan County 4-H Program facilitates a strong and comprehensive camping program.** With a camp staff training program for high school youth, a **five-day overnight camp** for grades 3-7, a **Cloverbud Day Camp** for grades K-3, and an **Adventure Camp** for grades 7-10, there are opportunities for all. This year, over 160 youth are participating in one or more 4-H Camps. Significant time and resources are devoted to the camping program to ensure a positive youth development experience. Our philosophy and goals for 4-H Camp are focused on three audiences: the camper (grades 3-7), youth staff (grades 9-13), and adult staff (certified 4-H volunteer leaders).



Fifty-five 4-H members and five non-4-H members grades 3-7 enjoyed their five-day camping experience July 14-18 at Upham Woods in Wisconsin Dells. It was an exciting week of growth and learning for the campers and staff. The responsibility and independence that comes from an overnight experience, the belonging to a greater camp community, the opportunities to give back by helping with meals and cabin clean-up, and the chance to learn and practice project skills were major parts of this year’s 4-H camp.

Prior to and throughout camp, 24 older youth and 11 adult staff developed leadership and life skills that helped them plan and teach activities. All participants attended sessions in recreation, nature, canoeing, team building, arts and crafts, and more, learning new skills and making new friends. Campers reported they learned problem solving skills and gained confidence in more effectively expressing and asserting themselves. Older youth planned cabin themes and activities, and were responsible for the youth in their cabins. Adult staff offered advice and support for the youth staff, while Sarah provided the training, leadership, and overall direction for the camp.

Along with the traditional camping experience, 23 youth grade 7 and older and 4 adult volunteers will participate in the 4-H Outpost Camp July 26-29, 2018. Under the leadership and direction of Sarah, participants will be camping in Copper Falls, WI and will be given the chance to explore, enjoy, and reflect upon their experiences.