



UW-Extension Sheboygan County

4-H Youth Development

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

It's summertime and that means it's officially **4-H Softball** season! Now, one might say, "Softball has nothing to do with cows! Why would they play softball?" Quite often in 4-H Youth Development, we talk about the importance of positive youth development by presenting the 4-H Essential Elements as central to helping young people become competent, contributing adults. One of the four Essential Elements is **BELONGING**. Belonging is about a positive relationship with a caring adult, having an inclusive environment, and having a safe emotional and physical environment.



As the teams are formed, there is a strong component of belonging occurring. The coaches are enrolled 4-H volunteers; they have gone through orientation, learning about youth protection and mandatory reporting. Coaches and teammates form a bond during the summer months as they work together

during practices and games. 4-H Softball is considered a safe place for youth to learn and practice skills in a supportive environment. Since the average age of players on the field at one time must be 14 years old or younger, quite often the older and more experienced youth will work with the younger youth, helping them improve for the overall betterment of the team. Finally, youth learn about good

sportsmanship while playing 4-H Softball. Youth are expected to cheer on other players, respect and follow all rules, and shake hands with players and coaches of the opposing team.

4-H Softball is not meant to be competitive, but rather fun. This creates a relaxed environment for youth to get to know each other. They are building trust and improving their communication skills amongst themselves; which will lead to better teamwork and cooperation within their clubs and the service activities they do. As the volunteer coaches build a strong team on the field, the 4-H club becomes more unified as a whole.



This summer, 12 Sheboygan County 4-H Clubs formed 9 teams to participate in 6 4-H Softball games over the next 2 months. This gives around 100 youth the ability to participate in a sport that they may not typically have an opportunity to play. Youth are forming friendships, trusting adults, becoming a cohesive team, and gaining a sense of belonging—all while having fun!

Sheboygan County
Planning, Resources,
Agriculture &
Extension Committee

Fran Damp
Chairperson

Keith Ablor
Vice-Chairperson

James Baumgart
Paul Gruber
Henry Nelson
Board Members

Stanley Lammers
Citizen Member



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.)

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

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

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



**Sheboygan County
UW-Extension Staff**
920.459.5900

Michael J. Ballweg
Agriculture Educator

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
Director**

Cindy Sarkady

UW-Extension Sheboygan County June 2018 - IMPACT REPORT

Community Growth Management Education

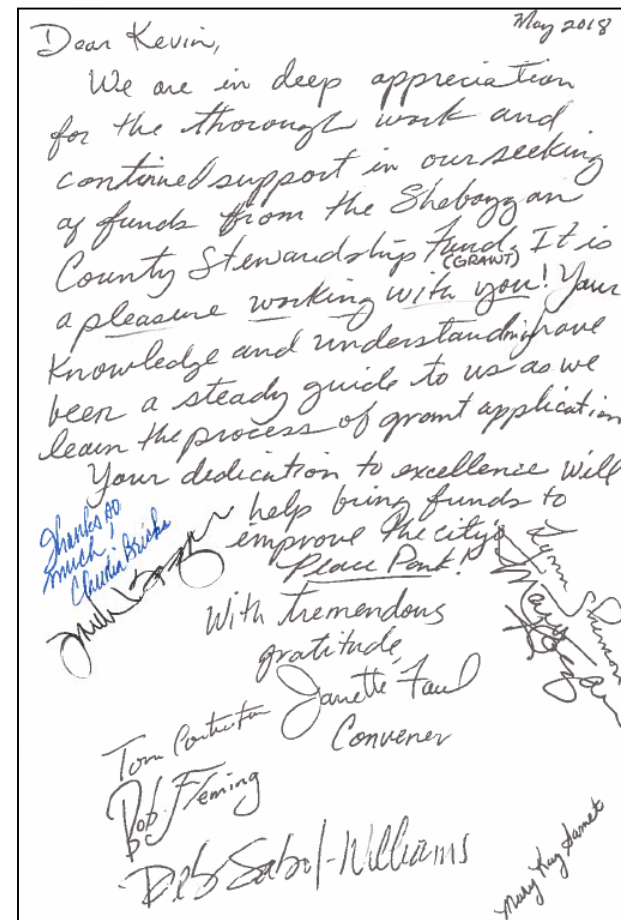
Kevin Struck, Growth Management Educator

In early April 2018, representatives from **Friends of Peace Park Sheboygan** contacted Kevin for help writing a proposal for a Sheboygan County Stewardship Grant. They had been referred by a member of the Town of Wilson Plan Commission who had previously worked with Kevin on two successful grants.



A computer rendering of the proposed Peace Pole Patio.

Peace Park Sheboygan is an approximately 1-acre unimproved green space that has been "adopted" by a group of residents who have volunteered numerous hours in enhancing the green space and promoting its potential.



Located at a triangle intersection of three major streets, with an unobstructed view of Lake Michigan, Peace Park is a highly visible property with untapped potential to add several amenities to the surrounding city neighborhoods and lakeshore. To begin making the vision for Peace Park become a reality, the 48-page grant application focused on the first part of the first phase of what will eventually be three phases of enhancements. Specifically, the grant application requested funds to 1) install an enhanced "Peace Pole Patio," and 2) create three "Sister City Gardens."

On June 12, the Sheboygan County Planning, Resources, Agriculture and Extension Committee voted to approve a grant award of \$19,110 for Peace Park. Work will begin this summer.

UW-Extension Sheboygan County

Family Living and FoodWise

Jane Jensen, Family Living Educator

The **Wisconsin Bookworms Early Literacy Program** has been a collaborative program among Jane, Sheboygan County Home and Community Education, Sheboygan County Head Start, and Wisconsin Public Television for 20 years. Fifteen trained volunteer reading mentors contributed over \$5,500 of volunteer time to read children's books and share early literacy materials with 205 Head Start children each month during the 2017-18 school year. Each child received a set of 8 high-quality books. Almost \$5,000 was leveraged in partnership with the local Head Start program to purchase the books.

Activity sheets sent to the parents/caregivers help reinforce early literacy skills at home. Reading to young children helps them develop a love of reading, along with an enthusiasm for learning. Wisconsin Bookworms is designed to provide free books to children who might not otherwise own books, giving them the experience of being read to and helping preschool children gain a lifelong love of reading.

Since 1998, Sheboygan County's Wisconsin Bookworms Project has reached 4,480 low-income children between the ages of 3 - 5, and with Head Start raised almost \$100,000 that was used solely to purchase books for the program.

Amanda Miller & Janeth Orozco, FoodWise

Amanda and Janeth are involved in state-wide efforts to improve Cooperative Extension for all employees. Amanda is Secretary on the Committee for Academic Staff Issues, which advises the Dean on issues that concern Academic Staff in Cooperative Extension. Janeth is a member of the Latino Employees Resource Group (LERG). As the Latino population grows in Wisconsin, UW-Extension is acting on its commitment to serve this community by further understanding it and assessing its needs. LERG provides resources and data for employees working with Latino families. For more information see: <https://fyi.uwex.edu/latinowisconsin/>

In addition, Amanda is working with the state FoodWise program team to improve programming delivered in the local counties. For example, she has contributed to the following "up and coming" projects:

- **Farmers Market Education:** Amanda is working with the state FoodWise office to pilot test farmers' market tours using a curriculum called "Michigan Fresh." Youth audiences will also choose and prepare produce from the farmers' market; for this Miller will use a curriculum called "Shake It Up."
- **Early Childhood Education:** The state FoodWise office is providing a training to all county staff on new curriculum for preschool children and their parents, particularly those that attend Head Start. Amanda has experience in child development and parent education while working with parents at Head Start, so she has provided feedback on the curriculum and training.
- **FNV Campaign:** FNV stands for "fruits and vegetables" and the goal is to use the same marketing as well-known brands to promote eating fresh produce. Amanda is working with state FoodWise staff to bring the FNV campaign to the local counties. For more information see: <https://fnv.com/>
- **Farmers' Market Promotion:** Both Fond du Lac and Sheboygan Counties have farmers' markets that accept EBT (electronic benefits transfer for FoodShare benefits), but there remain barriers to accessing healthy foods by all, including a lack of knowledge of the farmers' market. Amanda is working with the state FoodWise office and both farmers' markets to promote EBT and other programs at the markets.



UW-Extension Sheboygan County

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Mike Ballweg, Agriculture Agent

Growing and Harvesting Quality Alfalfa Essential to Sheboygan County's Dairy Industry



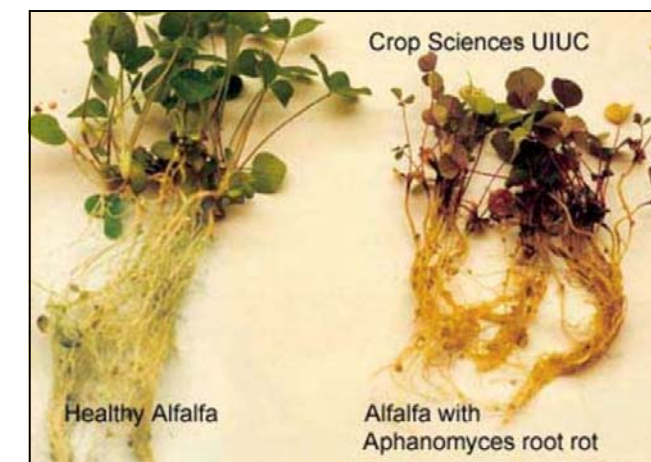
UW-Extension partnered with the Sheboygan County Forage Council, Adell Co-op, and Country Visions Co-op to conduct the 2018 Alfalfa Quality Monitoring Project. Yearly weather variations make twice-weekly monitoring important to ensure harvesting high quality forage for dairy cows. In addition to a postcard being mailed to area dairy producers, results are also emailed to the Tri-County Ag List, as well as posted to the UW-Extension Website.

Outcome – Economic Impact

The forage quality difference in 2018 between harvesting May 26th and June 1st translates into approximately \$325/acre of increased milk yields. If half of Sheboygan County's 43,000 alfalfa acres were harvested one week earlier as a result of this UW-Extension alfalfa quality educational program, an additional \$6.5 million of annual milk sales would be generated for Sheboygan County Dairy Farmers. The alfalfa quality monitoring project was especially valued by dairy farmers in 2018 because hot temperatures in late May were resulting in a rapid decline of alfalfa quality.

Alfalfa Rot Disease Research Survey Kicks Off

Alfalfa is one of our agronomic crops that provides a foundational feedstuff for Wisconsin dairy herd rations. However, the alfalfa plant is not without its problems, and rot diseases are of major concern. Sheboygan County UW-Extension, the Midwest Forage Association, and Dr. Damon Smith (University of Wisconsin Field Crop Pathologist) are undertaking a project to conduct a formal Aphanomyces race survey of alfalfa fields throughout Wisconsin. Mike will be working with Dr. Smith to collect soil samples from alfalfa fields that are suspected to be suffering from Aphanomyces root rot here in Sheboygan County . . . it is well known that earlier races of Aphanomyces root rot are present and a concern in Sheboygan County.



Many commercial cultivars of alfalfa have resistance to the documented races 1 and 2 of *A. euteiches*. However, if race 3 or even other races exist, resistance is likely limited. Before concerted breeding efforts are implemented to try to breed for aggressive *A. euteiches* isolates, it is important to understand the race structure and distribution of the pathogen. The results of this survey work can help direct future alfalfa breeding efforts to achieve multi-race resistance to *A. euteiches* in alfalfa.