



Sheboygan County
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Agriculture &
Extension Committee

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University of Wisconsin,
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An EEO/AA employer, University
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requirements.



4-H POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Sarah Tarjeson, 4-H Youth Development Educator

Volunteer Development and Management

In the Sheboygan County 4-H Program, **volunteer management and development** is a priority! With 226 Certified 4-H Volunteer Leaders, it is critical that staff engage volunteers in ongoing educational processes designed to build capacities for their service roles. By actively engaging volunteers and organizing volunteer efforts, we are able to provide hundreds of opportunities throughout the year for over 1,500 youth, K-13th grade.

In order to manage and develop volunteers effectively, staff hold group training throughout the year and are available for one-on-one consultations and support. Training includes research-based information on positive youth development, conflict management and problem-solving, risk management, and financial management. Along with ongoing volunteer development and management, a required 4-H Volunteer Orientation is held for new volunteers. This year, 36 adults were certified through our Sheboygan County **4-H Volunteer Youth Protection Program**. The primary purpose of this process is to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants (i.e., youth, their parents and families, salaried and volunteer staff.)

The Value of Volunteers

As volunteers offer their time, talents, and/or resources to 4-H Youth Development Educational Programs, they do so without monetary expectation and yet give generously and graciously. During the 2020 4-H Youth Development Program year, approximately 7,402 hours (roughly 33 hours per year per volunteer with 226 volunteers) of 4-H Volunteer service hours were contributed to the Sheboygan County 4-H Program for a dollar value of **\$211,253.058**.

This spirit of volunteerism isn't limited to the adults in our program. The *4-H Study of Positive Youth Development*, a longitudinal study that began in 2002 and has been repeated over eight years with the Tufts University research team, indicated that 4-H'ers in grades 7-12 are nearly four times more likely than their peers to be actively engaged in their communities. In fact, one of the essential elements of positive youth development involves Generosity. Young people need to have the opportunity to discover who they are by gaining exposure to the larger community and the world. 4-H engages youth in this opportunity through service to others—our 4-H clubs have served over 148 different organizations through their service in the last year alone.

Extension Sheboygan

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FOODWISE

Amanda Miller & Janeth Orozco, FoodWise

In an effort to provide support to kindergarten teachers during in-class and virtual education, Janeth Orozco has been developing a series of five bitmoji classrooms. Bitmoji classrooms are interactive classrooms with clickable sections where students can learn about nutrition. Each bitmoji classroom is designed to cover the information that Janeth would normally teach in person at each classroom. Each bitmoji classroom includes an introduction video by Janeth, a short lesson video that delivers the lesson objectives, different activities or games, and even activities or challenges that can be done as a group in school or individually at home. With this new resource the teachers have the opportunity of doing the activities from the bitmoji classroom as a group for those attending in-person or sharing it with their online students through a learning platform like Seesaw.

So far teachers have expressed appreciation for the bitmoji classrooms, and the feedback received has been positive. Teachers like the flexibility of covering the materials at their own pace, and kids are loving the bitmoji classrooms and the activities.



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIP

Jane Jensen, Human Development and Relationship Educator

Along with a state team of Extension Educators and UW-Madison specialists, Jane co-developed the interactive Planning AHEAD (Advance directives, Home finances, Estate planning, and Arriving at decisions for the end of this life) program over the past year. The seven-part virtual series will be offered free to county residents through a Baldwin grant.

Planning AHEAD was created to address most aspects of end-of-life planning. The seven modules examine health care wishes, financial responsibilities, estate planning, legal requirements and documentation, distribution of personal property, end-of-life decisions, and understanding grief and the emotional ramifications. The program is designed for personal planning or for others. Handouts in the planning packet will guide participants through manageable step by step actions to encourage and support planning.

Jane will co-facilitate the series locally with the Human Development & Relationships Educator from Washington County.

Virtual classes will be held May 13-June 24, 2021, 10:30-11:30 am on Thursdays. This is a Sheboygan/Washington County pilot series (one of four in the state) that will be evaluated in several different ways.

Register as soon as space is limited but no later than May 3, 2021. Please feel free to share widely with others. Register here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-SZxQQbtnTZkDhor_V6ZGovmsNQVv1T7_Z5xZ59Vlmm2RKw/viewform

Well Water Testing in Town of Holland

Since 2011, Kevin has conducted 13 voluntary well water testing events in Sheboygan County towns, including the most recent in the Town of Holland. The Town's residents submitted 99 tests, which Kevin collected on April 12th and then transported to the lab at UW-Stevens Point the following day for analysis. Town officials were happy with the turnout. "Thanks for providing this service," said the Town Chairman. "Testing is something we may not normally think of doing, but this makes it very convenient."

Indeed, several people commented that it had been a long time since they'd tested – if ever. "I've been in my house for 35 years and never tested," said one participant.

The program is not overseen by the DNR. Poor test results will not require a well to be shut down. Results are confidential and any sharing of the data is done without names or addresses attached.

For a \$20 fee (normally \$55), well owners could participate in the "Homeowners Package," which included tests for bacteria and nitrate-nitrogen, two of the most common health related water concerns. In addition, pH, hardness, alkalinity, conductivity, chloride, and corrosivity were measured.



Other test packages were also available, including a "Metals Package" that tested for arsenic, lead, and nine other metals (\$30), and a "Triazine Screen" that tested for atrazine pesticides (\$33).

Test results will be mailed to each participant by early May. Those well owners with samples that test positive for coliform bacteria, however, will be notified as soon as possible, and a follow-up test for E.coli will be conducted by the lab.

On May 18 at 6:30 p.m., a groundwater specialist from the UW-Stevens Point lab will hold a one-hour educational session via Zoom to explain the overall results for the Town. He will also help residents understand their test results and offer possible solutions to any problems.

Since 2007, the Extension Office in Sheboygan County has tested 1,311 wells within the county through voluntary town events like this one. As a result of that testing, coliform bacteria has been found in 206 wells; 43 wells had nitrate at levels above the health standard; 53 wells contained arsenic at unsafe levels; and 40 water samples showed at least some lead present.

Based on several comments from participants, the discounted prices (made possible by a Sheboygan County subsidy), was a factor in their decision to test

their water in this program.

Please contact Kevin at kevin.struck@wisc.edu if you would like to be emailed a link to the Zoom session.

Consultants and Farmers Find Focus on Forage Series High Quality and Applicable

Mike Ballweg and Extension Colleagues from across Wisconsin developed and implemented a series of webinars called Focus on Forage. This series addressed forage production practices that improve dairy's economic vitality while enhancing environmental stewardship.

Forage crops are the backbone of Wisconsin's \$45.6 billion dairy industry, representing 16.4% of Wisconsin's total, and generating 154,000 jobs. The Sheboygan County Forage Council provided financial support for this educational program. Survey results are below.

