

# TEACH. LEARN. LEAD. SERVE.

## EXTENSION SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

# 2021 IMPACT REPORT

## FEBRUARY



Sheboygan County  
Planning, Resources,  
Agriculture &  
Extension Committee

### Board Members

Keith Abler  
Paul Gruber  
Henry Nelson  
Mike Ogea  
Rebecca Clarke

### Citizen Member

Stanley Lammers



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

An EEO/AA employer, University  
of Wisconsin-Madison Division of  
Extension provides equal  
opportunities in employment and  
programming, including Title VI,  
Title IX, the Americans with  
Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section  
504 of the Rehabilitation Act  
requirements.



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION**  
Kevin Struck, Community Development Educator

### FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROPERTY TAX CREDITS

The snapshot of a recent newspaper article below captures one example of the integral role Kevin has played in assisting local towns over the last few years as they have updated their land use plans and Farmland Preservation zoning. In each case, the goal has been to strike a good balance between growth and preservation.

THE SOUNDER, Random Lake, WI, Feb. 11, 2021 — Page 3

## Town of Scott Postpones Zoning Change

The Town of Scott Board had a light agenda on Feb. 8, and business was concluded in less than 90 minutes.

Irene Gnacinski was reappointed to the Lakeview Community Library Board. She will continue to serve with Town of Scott representatives Sharon Selander-Abel and Kathy Mueller.

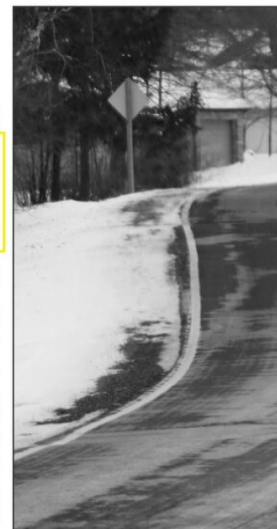
• The board approved a rezoning and certified survey map for Mark and Elizabeth Atkinson, W8651 County Rd. SS in Section 8. Lot 1 (15.25 acres) will stay at A-5, and lot 2 (5 acres) changes from A-5 to A-2.

• The rezoning and certified

survey map for Erik Bennett, W8957 Tower Dr. in Section 18, was postponed until the board can get more information from UW-Extension growth management education Kevin Struck, who assisted the Town of Scott with its land use plan.

Bennett asked to divide his parcel into two parts. Lot 1 (5.43 acres) would be rezoned from A-1 to A-2, while Lot 2 (31.92 acres) would be rezoned from A-1 to APR.

"We're here to look at the future," said Town Chairman Randy Narbatovics. "I don't know if we are making a non-conforming lot. You only have to give up a little more land to make it a 35-acre lot. We've got to make sure we're following the ordinance and not setting a precedent."



**COMMUNITY FIRST**

This is the time of year when town clerks are required to submit annual reports to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) summarizing the amount of acreage that was rezoned out of Farmland Preservation in the preceding year in their town. Kevin has helped some of the newer clerks understand this process.

Farmland Preservation zoning is different in each town, and certification of local ordinances by the state followed a one to two-year process where Kevin worked with each town's plan commission and board, with input from area farmers. As an incentive, participants in the Farmland Preservation Program can earn tax credits of \$7.50 per acre. However, farmers receive no tax credit if their town does not have a certified zoning ordinance. With Kevin's substantial assistance, 9 towns were able to be certified. (Two other towns hired consultants to assist with certification.) Below is a summary of the total impact the program had in 2018 on participating landowners in Sheboygan County.

Number of Claims in 2018	Total Amount of Credits	Land Enrolled
280	\$361,900	49,725 acres

As a result, over \$300,000 is claimed by Sheboygan County landowners every year as a direct result of Kevin's work with local towns. (The rate of town participation ranked 14th out of 72 counties.)

**Extension  
Sheboygan County  
Staff**

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Michael J. Ballweg  
Agriculture Educator

Jane E. Jensen  
Human Development  
and Relationships  
Educator

Sarah J. Tarjeson  
4-H Youth  
Development Educator

Melodye McKay  
Positive Youth Development  
Associate Educator

Kevin Struck  
Community Development  
Educator

Amanda Miller  
FoodWise Coordinator  
(shared with Fond du Lac)

Janeth Orozco  
FoodWise Nutrition  
Educator

**Administrative  
Assistants**

Tammy Zorn  
Nancy Brown

**Marketing Specialist**  
Cassi Worster

**Area Extension  
Director**  
Cindy Sarkady



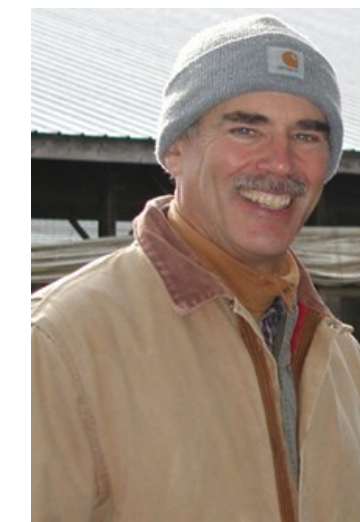
**AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
Mike Ballweg, Agriculture Agent

### Alternative Forages When Alfalfa Fails

Eastern Wisconsin dairy farmers have experienced severe alfalfa winter losses the past several years. As a result, dairy and livestock farmers are looking for alternative forages to grow when traditional forage crops fail.

In response, Extension, The Sheboygan County Forage Council, other Local Forage Councils from across Wisconsin and the Midwest Forage Association, teamed up to hold this year's annual program virtually providing information on alternative forages.

Virtual delivery is allowing Extension to utilize expertise for other areas of the country for a reduced cost.




**Alternative Forages When Alfalfa Fails**  
Tom Kilcer – Advanced Ag Systems

Tom Kilcer is Certified Crop Advisor, Certified Pesticide Applicator, Cornell Cooperative Extension multi-county Field Crop and Soils Educator and most recently a private consultant from New York State.

As a private consultant, Kilcer has been conducting cutting edge research on forages and plant nutrition. A national recognized expert in forage management, Kilcer discussed season long options for forage production after alfalfa winterkill, including the use of grasses, grass/clover mixes, and cereals. He also discussed the use and management of BMR sorghum to fill forage niches, including the latest research on male sterile varieties.

A total of 137 people from across Wisconsin attended the webinar. Eighty Four percent (84%) of attendees indicated that they strongly agreed or agreed that they would be able to use information presented during this webinar.

An additional 83% of the attendees indicated that they strongly agreed or agreed that using alternative forages in cropping systems can provide opportunities to implement more conservation practices on the landscape.



## 4-H POSTITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Sarah Tarjeson, 4-H Youth Development Educator

The Sheboygan County 4-H Program hosted a Project Leader Training in preparation for 4-H Project Day and the 4-H year ahead. Special instructors Laura Huber, 4-H Youth Development Educator, and Amber Rehberg, WI State 4-H Specialist joined Sheboygan County leaders to teach them how to lead and teach virtually. There was a special focus on engaging youth, keeping participants safe, and the benefits of virtual meeting spaces. For those who were unable to participate live a recording of this training is saved at: [https://youtu.be/HF6cr\\_e3pEQ](https://youtu.be/HF6cr_e3pEQ). In addition, there are several resources that were shared and are available at [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1efruWUpdgi3q\\_7laeD\\_VMW8sZ6GO2Vsv?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1efruWUpdgi3q_7laeD_VMW8sZ6GO2Vsv?usp=sharing). In addition to these resources, a few highlights of the training included:

- Ask people to rename, using their first name only for privacy
- Connect people with the possibility of what they love about 4-H and do those things virtually: connect with caring adults, learn something new, be with friends etc.
- Cascading – a tool where all type in a response and hit enter at the same time so that everyone gets a chance to think and respond
- Flippity.net is a great resource for games that can be adapted with content
- Space bar unmutes on Zoom!!! What?!?!?!?
- FUN = Functional Understanding Not Necessary
- Zoom features as a host: Share Screen, Admit Guests, Reactions, Voting
- Teaching Virtual Tip Sheet with lots of great ideas
- Have another adult on to help mitigate risk. They can monitor the chatbox, offer camera angles, watch for reactions of participants, manage technology
- Use your phone as a second camera; Extension also has additional cameras
- Prepare young people for what they need to have at home. What activities need adult supervision?
- Gain an understanding of what kind of connectivity tools are being used: Chromebook, laptops, phones, tablets etc.
- Build movement into meetings
- Resources for Virtual Icebreakers are available.

In addition to local Virtual Learning Opportunities one of the most valuable benefits of this CRAZY time in our 4-H world is the sharing of programming across the state. You can teach, lead, learn and serve! Check-out the ongoing work of the Wisconsin 4-H Virtual Community at <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/virtual-learning-community/>. Here, you will find project meetings, tours, and relevant workshops for you, your 4-H'er, your leaders, and more! Don't miss out – GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING EVERYWHERE!



## FOODWISE

Amanda Miller & Janeth Orozco, FoodWise

### Using Social Media and Websites for Public Health Messaging

People are increasingly getting their information from the internet and social media, such as Facebook. This includes information related to all aspects of life, including health and nutrition. Over the past decade, people have reached for their laptops or smart phones, as opposed to a textbook, to ask a question about their health. Relying on social media to learn and stay connected has only been heightened during the pandemic.

It is particularly important that social media and internet users have access to the most current evidence and research-based information. During the pandemic, nutrition education classes were not able to be offered at schools and agencies throughout the community. Yet, it was more important than ever to promote good nutrition and physical activity to boost health and well-being.

The Fond du Lac/Sheboygan FoodWise Program prioritized sharing reliable and quality information via social media and websites. For example:

- Began a Facebook series called "Tasty Tuesdays". The weekly series focuses on highlighting a specific cooking/food prep skill, along with a recipe. These have been popular, especially among those cooking at home more than ever before.
- Developed an interactive food resource hub to address hunger in Fond du Lac County during COVID-19. Much of these resources were shared regularly with the Sheboygan Area Food Bank to promote their local work in Sheboygan County.
- Implemented social media campaigns on: heart health, influenza vaccination, healthy snacking during football season, understanding




## HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIP

Jane Jensen, Human Development and Relationship Educator

Along with a team of Human Development & Relationships Educators working in the Life Span area Jane co-developed and co-facilitated a six part virtual series focused on lessening isolation and increasing social connections. The series was facilitated in February/March 2021. The sessions focused on: cultivating optimism to help us meet challenges with a positive mindset even in challenging times; considering your values and emotions (and your partner's) in setting and reaching financial goals; learning about yourself and others in order to connect with others during these challenging times; rediscovering the keys to happiness that will inspire you to find joy and build resiliency in your everyday living; some people never retire-think about the next phase of life as a retirement with new opportunities and purpose; and successful aging includes a healthy lifestyle, a positive attitude, valuing friendships, and so much more.

There was an average of almost one hundred participants per session. Over 80% indicated that they will use at least one skill or tool learned during the session. Over three quarters said attending this session made me feel more connected to other people. Almost three quarters strongly agreed that attending the session provided me with the skills or knowledge to be more connected to others. A participant commented, "Thanks you so much for providing this virtual opportunity to connect and learn with others as I have been so isolated during this pandemic."