



Sheboygan County  
Planning, Resources,  
Agriculture &  
Extension Committee

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University of Wisconsin,  
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An EEO/AA employer, University  
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Title IX, the Americans with  
Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section  
504 of the Rehabilitation Act  
requirements.



### AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mike Ballweg, Agriculture Agent

#### Virtual Programing Making a Difference

Due to face-to-face educational programming being cancelled in March of 2020, Extension Educators from across Wisconsin developed a new virtual platform for delivering timely agronomic topics. That platform was called **Badger Crop Connect**.

Mike Ballweg, Extension Crop and Soils Agriculture Agent - Sheboygan County, provided statewide leadership for launching this new and innovative program. The target audience for the webinars were farmers, agronomists, crop consultants, government agencies, and other agricultural professionals. The series consisted of ten bi-weekly programs and two special edition programs, in which county agriculture educators and state specialists provided updates on research projects and guidance on current crop production practices.

There was a total of 1217 enrollments which included individuals who signed up for multiple webinar meetings throughout the series. Polls were conducted at the conclusion of each webinar to evaluate the programs. Four hundred nineteen, 419 (about 34%) of the participants completed evaluation polls at the conclusion of each webinar. Survey results showed that 88% reported the information presented as very useful or somewhat useful.

A separate survey conducted at the conclusion of the webinar series in October 2020 found that 415 people to include: farmers, crop consultants, government agency personnel and other agricultural service providers had signed up for one or more of the educational webinars.

One-hundred eleven, 111 (26.7%) of the 415 surveys sent out were returned. Ninety-seven (97.27%) of the participants reported that they strongly to somewhat strongly agreed that the webinars were a valuable use of their time. Eighty-five (85.71%) of the farmers that answered the survey, reported that they implemented the knowledge they learned on their farms. A total of 478 hours of continuing education were made available to Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs). CCAs accounted for about 40% of those attending.

The Badger Crop Connect program evaluation results were also shared at the North Central Weed Science Meetings in December 2020 as a way to demonstration UW-Madison Extension's educational outreach during Covid-19. Citation: **Training Tomorrow's Extension Leaders: Introduction and Call to Action. 2020. N.J. Arneson and R. Werle. 2020 Extension Symposium. Proceedings of the North Central Weed Science Society Virtual Meeting.**



### 4-H POSTITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Sarah Tarjeson, 4-H Youth Development Educator

Sheboygan County 4-H Endowment Fund

#### What is an Endowment Fund?

Although most adults understand what an endowment fund is and how it could help a community or program, many of our young people have not had any experience with this kind of investment. Please share this Annual Report with them and help them to see how this fund supports their program into the future but also today.

An endowment is the concept upon which community funds and community foundations are based. It embodies the idea that a community—any community—can decide to take its destiny into its own hands and plan for a better future. While there is no legal definition of endowment, it is commonly understood to be a gift of cash, assets or other property donated to an institution in perpetuity. Typically, the gift is converted into cash—if it isn't cash already—and placed into an endowment fund.

In this endowed fund, the principal (that is, the amount of the original gift) is never touched, but it is invested to produce income. Community foundations and funds then use this income every year in three ways:

- A portion is used to make grants to community nonprofit organizations or to initiate community programs
- A portion is added to the principal, which causes the endowment to grow over time
- A small portion pays fees to professional managers who invest the funds and to the community foundation for its services and operations

In essence, the funds become like a savings account, which will earn interest and be available forever.

The Fund was established in 1991 to provide long-range support for the Sheboygan County 4-H Program, beyond the current operating expenses of the 4-H Leaders Association. Only the interest earned will be used to fund innovative and educational programs that support the strengthening and expanding of the 4-H program in Sheboygan County.

The 4-H Endowment Committee invites grant proposals from 4-H clubs, committees, leaders, and members. The committee is very interested in proposals that will enhance project experiences including recruiting leadership in and opportunities for hands-on county-wide learning. The Grant is only for the Sheboygan County 4-H program not individual members or clubs.

To learn more about grants awarded and the Sheboygan County 4-H Endowment Fund please see our Annual Reports on our website at <https://sheboygan.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-information/4-h-supporters/>





## Expanding Food Budgeting Classes Across 4 Counties

The FoodWise program has begun a new partnership with Forward Services to teach weekly virtual classes for their FSET (FoodShare Employment Training) and W-2 clients. In the past, FoodWise offered classes in-person at both Fond du Lac and Sheboygan County Forward Services. As a result of the pandemic, Forward Services caseworkers have held personal meetings and employment/work related classes to clients by Microsoft Teams. FoodWise is the first external partner to offer virtual classes with Forward Services thus far. For this partnership, shifting from in-person to virtual learning has been very beneficial for numerous reasons:

- clients have easier access to classes via cell phones (lack of transportation and/or child care were past issues to attending in-person classes);
- caseworkers and clients can safely attend classes without concerns about COVID-19;
- clients from afar can attend classes remotely. This means that classes that were once limited to just Fond du Lac or Sheboygan Counties (separately) are now available in the Forward Services Region 4, which includes: Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, and Green Lake; and
- FoodWise staff can partner across counties to offer these classes. Janeth Orozco, FoodWise Nutrition Educator housed in Sheboygan County, is taking the lead for these classes. Melanie Phillips and Pamela Nelson, FoodWise Nutrition

Educators in Fond du Lac County, will co-pilot classes led by Orozco.

Classes begin mid-January. Topics include food budgeting, creating a basic budget, and choosing healthy foods.



In response to COVID -19 and staff under increased stress, Jane collaborated with the Human Development & Relationships Educator in Washington County to facilitate the eight part "Taking Care of You" series virtually in October/ November 2020. One series targeted Health & Human Services (HHS) staff and the other targeted Area 15 Extension Staff. Participants learned about the impact of stress on themselves, their families & the partners they work with; and how to respond & incorporate strategies of self-care to build resiliency for better health.

The series will be offered again in the future in order to reach other community residents with the importance of the mind/body connection for better health.

A participant shared, "I learned to reframe difficult experiences. Great job! I've been using the tools since you've taught them. Really helpful lately whenever I am feeling cooped up and frustrated." The HHS Department Head said "Thanks for thinking of the HHS workers operating in this challenging time. We certainly try to focus on self care."



## CORRECTING IMPROPER ZONING GIVES LOT OWNERS MORE OPTIONS

Over the years, Kevin has played a key role in helping local communities correct inadvertent zoning errors or improper zoning designations on some properties that may have unnecessarily limited how those landowners could improve their property.

Most recently, 13 residential lots in the Town of Scott were discovered as being zoned "B-4 Planned Commercial-Recreation Business District." The B-4 district is intended for uses like campgrounds, resorts, go-kart tracks, rifle ranges, and so forth. The B-4 district does not allow single-family residences, which is what primarily exists on the 13 lots. That makes those 13 residences nonconforming, which means none of the residences can have any sort of addition or expansion.

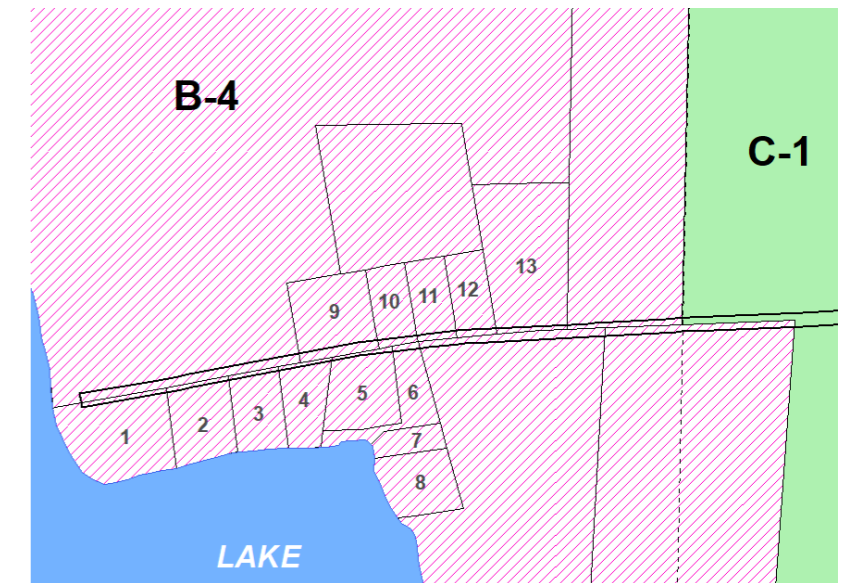
Even if they could, the side and rear yard setbacks in the B-4 district are 100 feet, which is much too large for these small lots. The owner of one of these homes would not be able to add a shed, deck, or garage, because he/she would not be able to meet the setbacks. The only option for the homeowner would be to seek a variance, which can be time-consuming, includes a fee, and is not always granted.

After determining that none of the Town's other zoning districts quite fit these lots, Kevin worked with Town officials to create a new residential zoning district called "R-5 Single-Family Residence Lake District," which featured setbacks of 10 feet or less, depending on the type of structure.

To help landowners who are improperly zoned understand the disadvantages of continuing with their current zoning versus rezoning into a more appropriate district, Kevin creates custom letters explaining the issues. He keeps the letters to one page and strives to avoid technical jargon. The most common question he received in the past was whether a zoning change would impact property taxes. As a result, he now includes the following statement at the bottom of all letters:

*Note: A zoning change alone will not result in an increase to a property's assessed value. Other factors, such as a significant change in the way a property is used, are responsible for assessment increases. (Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue - Bureau of Assessment Practices.)*

Landowners are also glad to hear that their town's usual rezoning fees are typically waived for zoning corrections that are not the fault of the current owner.



*Part of the Town of Scott zoning map*