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EXTENSION SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

2020 IMPACT REPORT
JULY

Extension
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SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

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FOODWISE
Amanda Miller & Janeth Orozco, FoodWIse

Due to the challenges of holding in-person classes this summer, FoodWIse will instead start offering a bi-weekly newsletter to the senior populations in Sheboygan County. This is an effective way to get them most relevant and current nutrition information, while also prioritizing their health and safety.

The 'Stay Home, Stay Healthy' newsletters will be one page (front and back) with highlights on nutrition, food safety, food budgeting, and a recipe. Newsletters will either be posted on the sites community bulletins or delivered to them personally.

The first newsletter features: eating red, white and blue foods (nutrition), COVID and food (food safety), shopping during COVID (food budgeting), and mini berry pies.

FoodWIse partners with 8 senior meal sites throughout Sheboygan County to offer nutrition education.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIP
Jane Jensen, Human Development and Relationship Educator

In response to COVID 19 Jane collaborated with the Sheboygan County Aging & Disability Center (ADRC) and Sharon S. Richardson Community Hospice (SSRCH) to co-facilitate a new virtual evidence-based version of Powerful Tools for Caregivers during the months of August and September in order to provide tools, education and resources for socially isolated family caregivers. This six part series is offered under the auspices of the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging and is being offered in a virtual format for the first time in Sheboygan County so that participants can be safer at home. The new curriculum will be offered entirely in the evening to meet the needs of employed family caregivers. For more information and to receive registration information please contact Jane at: jane.jensen@wisc.edu

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4-H POSTITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
Sarah Tarjeson, 4-H Youth Development Educator and

Sarah Tarjeson, Sheboygan County 4-H Youth Development Educator and professor of UW-Madison, Division of Extension has been meeting weekly with Melodye McCay, Sheboygan County Extension Associate and Kevin Palmer, Manitowoc County 4-H Youth Development Educator and UW-Madison Professor to plan and implement a research project. The focus of this project is to collect and analyze data and document the successes and challenges educators throughout Sheboygan and Manitowoc Counties experiences while teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic.
The three impacts or goals we are trying to achieve include:

1) to identify the best practices of teaching remotely during a pandemic
2) to inform key decision-makers regarding needs and strategies or teaching remotely during a pandemic and
3) to better understand the impact of socio-emotional health of students on education during the COVID-19 changes.

At this time a draft of the survey is complete and has been sent out to the Project Team, which includes educators and administrators from both Manitowoc and Sheboygan Counties. Feedback was solicited and the survey revised several times. Some examples of questions included in the survey include:

- What were the social-emotional issues that you saw?
- What did educators experience as far as being equipped to manage during this time
- What are some district policies and guidelines that help inhibit you from engaging students
- How did your students' engagement change over the course of this time? From previous engagement?

The projected launch of the official survey is July 20-31, 2020. With support from UW-Madison, Division of Extension Evaluation Specialist Josset Gauley, we hope to complete our analysis and offer an initial report to schools by August 15th. This has been a quickly progressing project but has also been rewarding to be a part of.

Kevin Palmer, 4-H Youth Development Educator

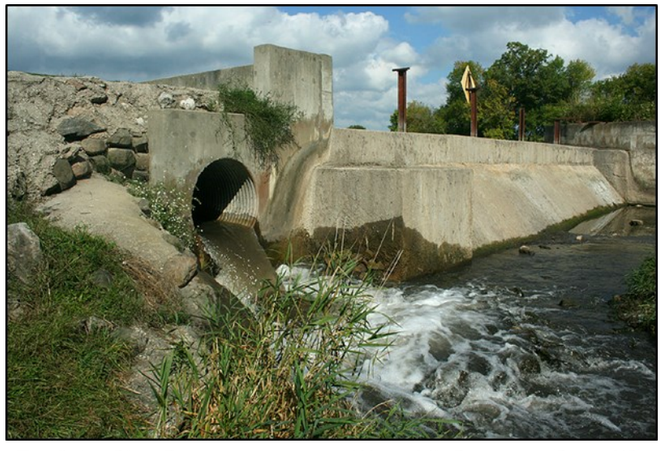
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

Kevin Struck, Community Development Educator

THE FUTURE OF THE WALDO POND AND DAM

At the request of the Waldo Pond Improvement Association, Inc., Kevin has begun updating the **pond management plan** he drafted in 2016. The Waldo Mill Pond is classified as an impoundment, which is an artificially created lake or reservoir usually characterized by stream inflow and always by a stream outlet. In this case the inflow comes from the north and west via the Onion River and Waldo Creek; the outflow is the Onion River flowing southeast.

Because the inflow of an impoundment is slowed by a dam, many of the sediments, which may include fine soil particles, nutrients like phosphorus, and contaminants that have entered upstream from the impoundment and have been carried along by the relatively rapid stream flow, settle to the bottom when the stream enters the impoundment. This leads to 1) an ever more shallow impoundment due to premature filling in of the bottom with sediment, 2) high levels of nutrients that often promote excess plant growth, and 3) a concentration of contaminants that may be harmful to fish and wildlife.



The Onion River Dam that creates the Waldo Mill Pond. (Photo KS)

The presence of a dam on a river or stream also creates markedly different upstream and downstream water temperatures and fish habitats. A 2018 fish survey, for example, found brown trout in the cooler waters of the river upstream from the dam but none downstream in the warmer waters.

The dam itself is old, having been built in 1856, with parts having been repaired or replaced several times since then. A 2014 report by a consultant recommended adding an auxiliary spillway to lessen the risk of a dam failure, and the estimated annual maintenance cost to keep the dam in satisfactory condition is $3,000.

Despite all of these issues, the Village of Waldo's community plan identifies the 36-acre pond as an asset worthy of protection, and the Waldo Pond Improvement Association has the preservation of the pond as part of its mission statement. Both have invested time and money toward these goals. Their support of the dam and pond is at least partly based on the results of a 2007 local citizen opinion survey that showed a clear majority of respondents favored the continued presence of the dam and pond.

Nevertheless, it has been 13 years since the survey, and the challenges facing the dam and pond have only increased. Consequently, the Pond Association would like Kevin to do **a new survey** to see if residents are still in favor of keeping the dam and pond in spite of the increasing challenges and costs. Those results will be a key part of the information the Village Board considers as it makes future decisions regarding the preservation or removal of the dam and the fate of the pond.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mike Ballweg, Agriculture Agent

2020 Sheboygan County Alfalfa Quality Monitoring and Scissors Clip Project

Farmers grow approximately 1.25 million acres of alfalfa and mixed hay annually to feed Wisconsin's 1.26 million dairy cows. Sheboygan County's share of that total is 40,000 acres of alfalfa and mixed hay and about 26,000 cows. Maximizing quality and quantity of alfalfa is essential for profitable dairy farming. First crop alfalfa represents approximately 40% of the total alfalfa yield for the year. It is the most digestible NDFD (Neutral Detergent Fiber Digestibility) crop due to its development during the cooler months as opposed to second, third, and fourth crop. Mismanaged first crop harvest is a lost opportunity to feed high quality forage and misaligns second, third, and fourth crops for the remainder of the growing season.

Monitoring the quality of alfalfa grow and development is important due to the yearly weather variations. The yearly weather variations result in optimal harvest dates ranging anywhere from May 18th to June 10th depending on the annual growing conditions. Alfalfa quality may be reduced by 3-5 points per day in Relative Forage Quality (RFQ) as the plant matures. Temperature extremes combined with stressed plants may result in losses as high as 10 -15 RFQ points in as little as two or three days. If alfalfa quality is not tracked, farmers may miss the window of opportunity for harvesting high quality forages. That results in higher costs for purchased feed inputs and lower milk yields thus reducing farmers' net profits.

The forage quality difference in 2020 between harvesting May 29th (optimal harvest date) and June 5th translated into approximately $280/acre of increased milk yields. If half of Sheboygan County's 40,000 alfalfa acres were harvested one week earlier as a result of this UW-Extension alfalfa quality educational program, an additional $5 million of annual milk sales would be generated for Sheboygan County dairy farmers.

The forage quality information developed by Extension Sheboygan County is shared with about 550 subscribers to the Tri-County email list (Sheboygan, Washington, Ozaukee counties), mailed directly to Sheboygan County's 115 dairy farmers and is useful to crop consultants and animal nutritionists as they consult with their clients.