

TEACH. LEARN. LEAD. SERVE.

EXTENSION SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

2020 IMPACT REPORT

NOVEMBER



Sheboygan County
Planning, Resources,
Agriculture &
Extension Committee

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

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Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section
504 of the Rehabilitation Act
requirements.



4-H POSTITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Sarah Tarjeson, 4-H Youth Development Educator

Sheboygan County 4-H has received funding to provide youth in our community with at-home learning opportunities for their winter break. We will be providing **4-H Project in a Boxes to Change Academy of the Sheboygan Area School District**

Three different project boxes are being offered, each featuring one of our 4-H project areas. Each box will include materials, instructions, and reflection questions for youth and families to “learn by doing” at home. The activities will give youth and families who are unaware of 4-H an opportunity to experience it.

Our boxes are on the topics of science, wellness, and art. The science box promotes youth to explore aerospace and basic engineering principles. Our wellness box encourages mindfulness, exercise and healthy eating. Finally, our art box will introduce youth and families to monotype printmaking. We can't wait to see what the youth in our community create with their **4-H Project Boxes!**



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FOODWISE

Amanda Miller & Janeth Orozco, FoodWise

Influenza causes many hospitalizations and deaths in the U.S. each year. The flu vaccine is strongly recommended for everyone older than 6 months. Despite this recommendation, flu vaccination rates are typically low nationwide and also in Wisconsin (<50% on average).

Ensuring that everyone in Wisconsin gets a flu vaccination (also called flu shot, or flu immunization) this year is more important than ever. The state Extension office is partnering with Wisconsin Department of Health Services to share this important messages and resources about the importance of getting a vaccine this year.

Amanda Miller and Janeth Orozco are helping share this valuable information by including it in classes and programs, distributing print materials (fact sheets and flyers), providing information to local coalitions and committees, and distributing press releases. Cassi Worster, marketing specialist, is helping the team share information on social media, including Facebook and websites. All information has been adapted from resources by the Wisconsin Immunization Program.

These efforts help local public health departments further reach community members that may be generally underserved. For more information, visit:

Wisconsin Department of Health Services -
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/influenza/prevention.htm>

Families Fighting Flu -
<https://www.familiesfightingflu.org/flu-resources-forcommunities/>



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIP

Jane Jensen, Human Development and Relationship Educator

Along with a small group of Human Development & Relationships Educators working in the Life Span area Jane helped to develop a series of infographics and video posts for social media. Life Span Connect: Wise Wednesdays are posted weekly every Wednesday on the UW-Madison Division of Extension Human Development Relationships Institute FaceBook page.

Past topics included: Tips for Caregiver Communication Skills, Advance Directives, Family Caregiving Resources from UW-Madison School of Nursing, First Steps for New Caregivers, Characteristics of Positive Aging, Importance of Strength Training, and Engaging Your Brain.

Find these topics and others on the Human Development Relationships Institute Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HDRInstitute>

Testing Census Data Accuracy for Small Geographies

Due to the increasing need for up-to-date data in a fast-paced world, the U.S. Census Bureau created the American Community Survey (ACS) in the early 2000s to replace the "long form" Census survey. Like the long form once did, the ACS gathers information about housing, education, income, occupations, and much more from a sample of the U.S. population. However, the ACS is a rolling survey, conducted on a continual, monthly basis. This enables data to be published every year, rather than every 10 years.

It is important to note that the last census to use the long form survey, the 2000 Census, had a sample size of 1 in 6 households, while the 2010 and 2020 censuses, which relied on the ACS, used samples that were only about 1 in 11 households.

It is no surprise, therefore, that the Census Bureau's ACS guidebooks recommend "extreme caution" when using any estimate where the *margin of error* is 10% or more of the estimate. Unfortunately, in small geographies like villages, towns, census tracts, and census blocks this is frequently the case. It is concerning, therefore, that some educators and professionals don't include the margin of error in their presentations, plans, and reports. Even when they do, such numbers may be unheeded by most audiences, who are not familiar with the significance of error estimates.

ACS data looks just like the long form data we used to rely on, but "significantly smaller sample sizes yield less precise measures of common variables than Census 2000 sample data," reports an ESRI white paper. To test this in the field, Kevin recently compared several 2017 5-year ACS datasets for three small villages in Sheboygan County (Adell, Cascade, and Waldo) with "real world" data from the Sheboygan County Geographic Information System. In each case, the ACS data varied substantially from the County GIS data. Below is one example.

Total Housing Units, 2017

Village	American Communi-ty Survey	Margin of Er-ror	Sheboygan County Geographic Info System
Adell	237	+/- 32	215
Cascade	304	+/- 38	285
Waldo	244	+/- 36	212

Source: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates, DP05, for the years 2013-2017

Since all of the margin of errors in this table are 10% or more of the ACS estimates, by the Census Bureau's own guideline the ACS housing unit data for all three villages falls into the "extreme caution" category. In the case of Cascade, for instance, the ACS is saying the total housing units could be as high as 342 or as low as 266. The actual estimate of 304 would indicate that the village grew by a robust 12% since 2000 when it had 272 units. In reality the village only grew by a modest 5%.

Local officials, as well as businesses and land developers, benefit from learning about their communities, and accurate data helps them plan for the future. Although "short form" census data for items like population, age, and gender, which are still based on responses from all U.S. households, are still considered to be reasonably accurate, it appears that other datasets previously collected via the long form but now derived from ACS sampling are often unreliable for villages, towns, census tracts, and census blocks.

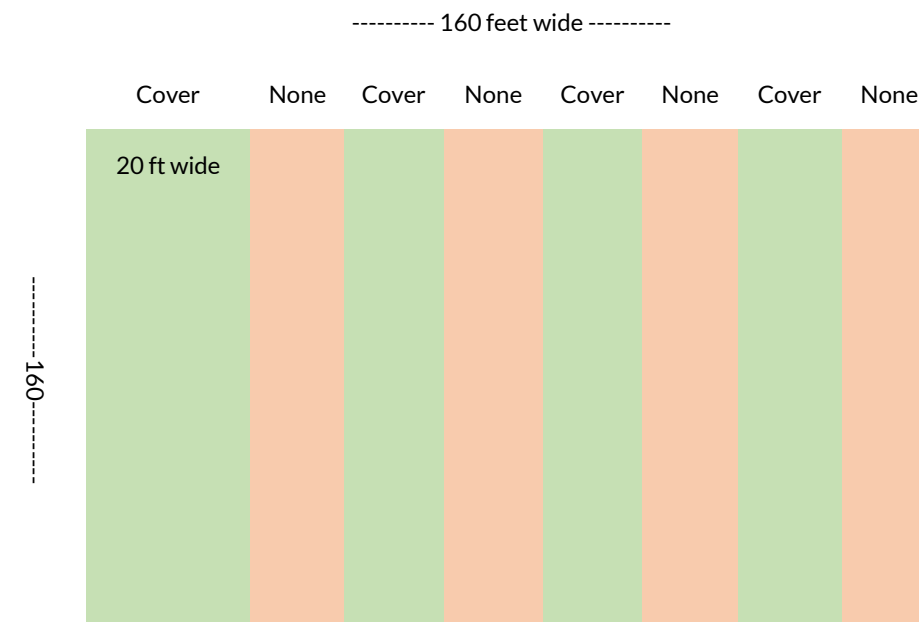
On-Farm Cover Crop Research Addresses Crop Production & Soil Health

Mike Ballweg, in cooperation with Dr. Matt Ruark, UW-Madison Soil Science Department, and Steve Hoffman, InDepth Agronomy, has recently engaged in a new on-farm cover crop research study. The objective of the study is to better understand how cover crop management influences crop yields, nutrient management, soil health and water quality. This three-year study focuses on understanding the short-term management needs of utilizing cover crops in our traditional row crop systems. Results will be shared with farmers, agronomists and crop consultants to help growers make individual management decisions that both protect the environment and improve crop profitability.

This cover crop of cereal rye, planted after corn silage harvest, will provide soil health benefits and protection against soil erosion.



Experimental design and measurements



There will be two cover crop treatments (with and without) established in fall 2020 and eight N rates applied within each cover crop strip in 2021 (to corn). Cover crop biomass will be sampled in the fall before snow cover and in the spring before termination, as well as soil sample at those times. N will be applied as Agrotain® coated urea soon after planting. In-season soil samples will be collected in two of the N rates for each treatment. There will be a cover crop decomposition study using litter bags placed on the soil surface. In two of the reps, water sensors will be installed as well.

This work is funded by both the Wisconsin Fertilizer Research Council and the USDA-National Institute for Food and Agriculture's Sustainable Agricultural Systems program. All data will be provided to the farmer.