



Sheboygan County
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Agriculture &
Extension Committee

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

Kevin Struck, Community Development Educator

Kevin has continued to receive questions on a wide variety of local issues. Here is a recent question from a local village president, some interesting background information, and the answer to the question.



Q: Who would I talk to about what we can fill an abandoned cistern with?

Background:

Cisterns are small underground reservoirs for holding liquids, usually water. Their origin goes back thousands of years when they were constructed of stone or similar material and the water stored within

them was typically used for irrigation, cooking, washing, etc. In the early history of the U.S. it was common for communities of all sizes to install a system of underground cisterns to provide a source of water for fire protection.

Cisterns in the Midwest were often built using bricks and filled with rainwater from gutters/downspouts directed at them from nearby homes. When the system of cisterns was replaced in the mid-1900s by municipal water systems with hydrants, the cisterns were either filled in or abandoned. Today, an old cistern will occasionally be rediscovered when communities do street or utility work, or other excavation. There may then be questions about what should be done with it. Are there regulations that apply?

The abandonment of wells, for example, is regulated in Wisconsin. They must be properly filled and sealed when they are removed from service, and this must be done by a licensed driller or pump installer using materials and methods as prescribed in section NR 812.26, Wisconsin Administrative Code. Cisterns, however, are fundamentally different from wells in that they do not intersect aquifers, and therefore do not create a direct pathway from contaminants on the land surface to the groundwater we drink.

Answer:

After doing some research, Kevin found a specialist within the WDNR who was able to provide some guidance. The specialist said that "NR 812 does not regulate cisterns, so as long as the cistern isn't being filled in with something that can be construed as a contaminated substance, (which would be a different DNR program's authority), I don't believe you need any approval from the DNR...Certainly not our program." Consequently, filling a cistern with uncontaminated materials such as sand, gravel, or busted concrete would be acceptable.

Sidenote 1: Cisterns are still used today to provide water for firefighting in remote areas. Today's versions are often made of plastic, concrete, or similar material and may even include filters that allow them to be used as emergency sources of drinking water.

Sidenote 2: San Francisco still maintains a system of about 200 cisterns as a backup for fighting fires following an earthquake that ruptures municipal water lines.

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AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mike Ballweg, Agriculture Agent

Dry Down Days Monitor Plant Moistures for Improved Animal Performance

Extension Sheboygan County partnered with Adell Coop, Country Visions Coop, Dinamica Generale, and the Sheboygan County Forage Council to hold the **2020 Corn Silage Dry Down Days**. Thus far, more than 100 Sheboygan County corn fields have been



analyzed for whole plant moistures. Because of varied planting dates, hybrid differences, and the impact of Lake Michigan on local growing conditions, the corn silage dry down days are valuable to dairy farmers for identifying proper harvest times. Dairy farmers and industry professionals learn about whole plant dry down rates and that harvesting and ensiling corn silage at the correct moisture greatly improves animal performance and profitability of Sheboygan County Dairy Farms.

Taking time to be safe: Out of an abundance of caution for everyone's health and safety, Adell & County Visions Cooperatives put in place safety protocols for this year's corn silage dry down educational service, to require social distancing of 6 or more feet, groups no more than 10 people and face masks if social distancing was not possible or if indoors.

Sheboygan County Master Gardener Association



Advised the Sheboygan County Master Gardener Association board of directors regarding updates to their association by-laws to align more closely with organizational changes since transitioning to UW-Madison Division of Extension. A virtual annual business meeting is planned for September 24th.

The Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program educates, empowers, and supports volunteers, interested in horticulture and the environment, to use university research-based information to extend the Wisconsin Idea, making a positive difference in lives and communities.



FOODWISE

Amanda Miller & Janeth Orozco, FoodWise

The local FoodWise team has assumed leadership roles to help support new colleagues from across the state.

The UW-Madison Division of Extension Mentoring Program serves as a staff development method for all new staff. It is to provide a network of support and guidance to all new staff. A peer mentor contributes to the successful onboarding of new colleagues.

The program areas are selective in whom they choose to be a mentor. A mentor should:

- have similar job and/or programmatic responsibilities;
- is geographically proximate;
- is able to meet frequently with the new employee;
- possesses a great deal of organizational and program knowledge;
- is willing to share information and can successfully initiate and maintain a relationship;
- possesses emotional intelligence and awareness

The mentee not only benefits from the program. This is a leadership opportunity for many mentors. And, new colleagues often enter their Extension roles with a great deal of past experience and knowledge that helps a long-time Extension Educator learn new things. It also builds a network of support that may last much longer than the program is designed. It can last an entire career for both the mentor and mentee.

Janeth Orozco, Nutrition Educator, has been asked to be a mentor for a new bilingual Nutrition Educator. Amanda Miller, Nutrition Coordinator, has served as mentor for two fellow Coordinators for quite a few years.



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIP

Jane Jensen, Human Development and Relationship Educator

Along with a statewide team of Extension Lifespan specialists and county based educators Jane is developing a seven module curriculum focused on preplanning for the loss of a loved one. Modules include: 1. Course Introduction-Getting Ready 2. Personal Finance Basics 3. End of Life Financial Planning 4. Advance Directives 5. End of Life Decisions 6. Choices in End of Life Care 7. Dealing with Grief. Modules include power point presentations, handouts, case studies and hands on activities. The curriculum is designed to provide community residents with tools and resources to support early planning for the end of life.



4-H POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Sarah Tarjeson, 4-H Youth Development Educator



Sheboygan County Youth to Celebrate National 4-H Week: October 4-10

Sheboygan, WI (September 16, 2020) – Every year, National 4-H Week sees millions of youth, parents, volunteers and alumni come together to celebrate the many positive youth development opportunities offered by 4-H. The theme for this year's National 4-H Week, Opportunity4All, is a campaign that was created by National 4-H Council to rally support for Cooperative Extension's 4-H program and identify solutions to eliminate the opportunity gap that affects 55 million kids across America.

With so many children struggling to reach their full potential, 4-H believes that young people, in partnership with adults, can play a key role in creating a more promising and equitable future for youth, families and communities across the country. In 4-H, we believe every child should have an equal opportunity to succeed. We believe every child should have the skills they need to make a difference in the world.

Sheboygan County 4-H will observe National 4-H Week this year by highlighting some of the inspirational 4-H youth in our community who are working tirelessly to support each other and their communities.

"We believe youth perspectives are so important and a solution to eliminating the opportunity gap, because young people come with new ideas and new ways of seeing the world," explains Jennifer Sirangelo, President and CEO of National 4-H Council. By encouraging diverse voices and innovative actions, 4-H believes that solutions can be found to address the educational, economic and health issues that have created the opportunity gap.

Sheboygan County youth are invited to join the Wisconsin 4-H Zoom on Tuesday, October 6 at 7 p.m. to reflect on our 2019-2020 4-H Year and look ahead to 2020-2021!! WI 4-H Staff will be launching the 4-H Movement Campaign, sharing our WI 4-H Project Tip Sheets and more.

"Youth from our Sheboygan County 4-H Program have persevered in a way that we have not seen for a long time. While communities struggle to provide basic needs of youth and families, members in our program have served food, provided healthy activities and connected with older generations during this challenging time," said Sarah Tarjeson, Sheboygan County 4-H Youth Development Educator. "In lieu of our 4-H Open House this year we are celebrating 4-H and Opportunity4All through community-wide displays, virtual office hours, videos and more. It is our hope that we will reach all young people who are looking for a place to belong in our community."

In Sheboygan County, more than 800 4-H youth and 250 volunteers from the community are involved in 4-H. From blacksmithing to robotics, kindergarten through high school, rural to urban, there is indeed Opportunity4All.

To learn more about how you can get involved, visit <http://www.4-h.org/> or <https://sheboygan.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/> locally.