

**Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee**  
Regular Monthly Meeting – August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Mo. County Ag Service Center – 820 Industrial Dr., Sparta, WI

Committee Members present: N. VanWychen, J. Schroeder, D. Pierce, M. Halverson, D. Hall,  
Also Present: B. Micheel, C. Ziegler, C. Mulder, J. Roll, M. Komiskey, C. Walroth, M. Modjeski, J. Goede, E. Eggert,  
B. Halfman, and J. Kuehnhold, public

The meeting notice was posted in compliance with the open meeting law.

**Call to Order:** Chairman VanWychen called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

**Public Comment Period:** There was no public comment.

**Approve Minutes from the July 12th NR & Extension Meeting:** The committee reviewed the minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by D. Pierce, seconded by M. Halverson *Motion carried, 5-0-1.*

**Deke Slayton/Bike Museum:** No Report

**Local History Room/Wegner Grotto:** J. Roll reviewed July expenditures and report with the committee (attached). J. Roll discussed summer activities and the impact of tourism. Question concerning investing dollars raised, J. Roll stated yes. A flyer for the upcoming "Art Outdoors" at the Wegner Grotto County Park was handed out.

1. **Review/Approve new MCLHR Logo** – J. Roll handed out the new logo and discussion followed.  
*J. Schroeder motion to approve, second by M. Halverson. Motion carried 5-0-1*
2. **Discuss/Approve the purchase of microfilm scanner reader(s)** J. Roll stated no action will be taken at this time, plan to repair the two existing scanner reader(s) for approximately \$1,000.

**Golden Sands RC & D Presentation:** J. Kuehnhold introduced himself and his job description with Golden Sands. Kuehnhold emphasized Monroe County is a member and would like representation at Golden Sands meetings along with providing more services to Monroe County. Discussed membership dues since Monroe County hasn't been a paying member. Kuehnhold reviewed various projects on going & or pursuing: Grazing Mgt., EAB education, grant writing, organic transition, DMAP/Forestry plans and Wild Parsnip mapping. Discussion followed with some interest in becoming an active member. Micheel noted we have some funds committed to Golden Sands for 2016 but not at the new membership level.

**Land Conservation Department:**

1. **Review July Expenditures:** Report attached.
2. **Review 2017 Submitted Budget:** Discussion on new line items in proposed budget (Tree sale & Conservation promotion) spreadsheet attached.
3. **Approve Resolution – 2017 Conservation Aids Program.** B. Micheel explained the program and would like to target Beaver Creek next year in the city of Sparta for habitat work in conjunction with on-going phosphorous trading. With the LCD matching the DNR funds this would provide \$5,000 towards the project. *J. Schroeder motion to approve, second by D. Pierce. Motion Carried 5-0-1*
4. **County Conservationist Report:** B. Micheel presented the departmental report to the committee (attached). Discussion on manure management and Lake Tomah were highlighted in the report.
5. **Soil & Water Conservationist Report:** C. Mulder discussed her activities over the last month and participation at the Monroe County Fair. (Report Attached along with B. Richardson's)

6. **Approve Cost Share Agreements:** C. Mulder brought one agreement to the committee for Jim Gehring waterway repair project in Adrian Township - total cost \$962.50. *J. Schroeder motion to approve, second by D. Pierce. Motion carried 5-0-1*

**NRCS Report:** M. Komiskey reviewed EQIP and CSP program activity for 2016. 18 EQIP contracts totaling \$147,000 committed this year, while CSP has 11 contracts for a total of \$33,247. 17 CRP contracts are in development from the signup held earlier this year. Discussed CRP, Geology training along with the on-going Wetland Reserve Project.

**DNR Reports:**

1. **Warden:** M. Modjeski discussed training a new warden.
2. **Private Lands:** C. Walroth updated the committee on the G. Kann Tree Farm nomination for National recognition; Oak Mgt. planning meeting; tree farm field day in Trempealeau County; CRP checks and trainings. Question pertaining to Oak Wilt in the County by supervisor J. Schroeder, management discussion followed.

**Forestry & Parks:**

1. **Forestry & Park Updates** C. Ziegler presented his department report (attached) and answered questions from the committee.
2. **Approve Resolution: 2017 County forest annual work plan** The 2017 County Forest Annual Work Plan and Resolution were presented to the committee. A motion was made by D. Pierce, second by J. Schroeder to approve the County Forest Work Plan. Motion passed 5-0-1.
3. **Review Forestry & Parks Expenditures** C. Ziegler reviewed the monthly expenditures.

The FSA representative D. Hall left meeting after his obligation was completed.

**Extension Office Business:**

1. **County Farm Education Funds – Discussion of potential projects.-** no discussion
2. **Review of Expenditures**
3. **Review of 2017 Submitted Budget**
4. **4H & Youth Development Report (Goede)**
5. **Family Living Report (Eggert)**
6. **Agriculture Report (Halfman)-** agent reports attached

Motion made by D. Pierce to accept Agent reports and review of expenditures, seconded by M. Halverson. Motion carried 4-0-1.

The next meeting will be held September 9th (NOTE: Date change to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 8:30 a.m.) at the Monroe County Ag Services Center in Sparta.

**Motion to adjourn:** was made at 11:30 a.m. by J. Schroder, seconded by M. Halverson. Motion carried, 4-0-1.

*Recorder: Dept. Heads*

# MONROE COUNTY LOCAL HISTORY ROOM MUSEUM & LIBRARY

200 West Main Street  
Sparta, Wisconsin 54656-2141  
608-269-8680 Fax: 608-269-8921  
Email: [MCLHR@centurytel.net](mailto:MCLHR@centurytel.net)  
[www.MonroeCountyHistory.org](http://www.MonroeCountyHistory.org)  
Jarrod M. Roll Director / Historian



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Habelman, Chr.	New Lyme Twp.
ok	Sparta Twp.
Rick Kast	Sparta City
Jim Kuhn	Portland Twp.
John Lasko	Sparta City
Cheryl Roscovius	To mah City

## County Historian's Report, July 2016

Submitted by Jarrod Roll, Director / County Historian

### Highlighted Projects and Activities

- Conducted an interview with *Monroe County Herald* about the Doll House display and with the *Country Today* newspaper promoting the Wegner Grotto County Park
- Provided educational programming to Sparta summer school students: "1880's Kid" and "Monroe County in the Civil War"
- Continued planning and promoting "Art Outdoors" event at Grotto
- Presented a program about the Local History Room's genealogical resources to the Vernon County Genealogical Club.
- Attended Wisconsin Federation of Museums meeting in Madison
- Created presentation for and attended the Association of Midwest Museums convention in Minneapolis
- Began developing and designing the new permanent exhibit: choosing images, artifacts; designing interactive elements; held initial meeting with Pica Grove to discuss scope of project
- Attended Monroe County Finance meeting and Monroe County Board meeting to request amending the county resolution regarding the investment of LHR's endowment
- Wrote a press release promoting the Local History Room's presentation at the Association of Midwest Museums conference.
- Processed recently donated items, assigning object numbers, photographing the items, cataloging them in Past Perfect
- Provided three pages of content for the MCHS newsletter
- Created a new educational program called "The Pioneer Olympics"
- Regular tasks: provide research assistance to the public (via email, telephone, mail, and in person patrons); provide customer service to museum visitors; assign storage locations, catalog, and photograph artifacts removed from displays and those recently donated; balance LHR financial books and draft monthly report; check fire extinguishers; process new donation offerings; confer with Alli Karrells about museum issues and activities; attend monthly meetings (Ag/Ex Committee, Co. Economic Development & Tourism Committee, Dept Heads, MCHS)

### In addition to the projects listed above, I supervise the following volunteer and support staff:

- Agnes Jenkins: indexing newspapers
- Dennis Burek: photo scanning projects; data entry projects; assist with clerical duties
- Barb Reedich: research Water St. businesses for book/walking tour; answer research requests
- Hannah Scholze (Museum Services Associate )
- John Lasko: represents and promotes LHR at public events
- Jane Schmidt: indexing newspapers
- Jim Ebert: indexing newspapers
- Sandy Waltermann: creating a master index of Monroe County graduates
- Barb McGreevy: rehousing county court records; other duties as assigned

# Art Outdoors

At the

Wegner Grotto County Park

*(The "Glass Church") Just 15 minutes north of Sparta*

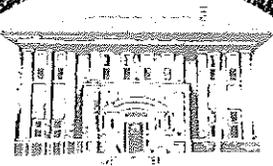
- \*Free Family Fun!
- \*Paint a Postcard!
- \*Make a Mosaic!
- \*Play with Clay!

**All Ages and Skill  
Levels Welcome!**



**Saturday, Aug. 27th**

Come anytime from 9am-3pm



**MONROE COUNTY  
LOCAL HISTORY ROOM  
MUSEUM**

## August 16, 2016 LCD – Staff Reports

### **Bob Micheel – County Conservationist**

#### **Sparta Phosphorous Trading Project:**

- Farmers Valley Creek (Fisherman's Park) and the La Crosse River completed (Northern Engraving). Oak Brook TU assisted with LUNKERS on Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> along with contributing funds

#### **Lake Tomah Committee:**

- LCD planning to re-evaluate Tomah Watershed participants.

#### **Fort McCoy – Adaptive Management Project**

- Meeting/talking with potential agricultural trade partners in the Tarr Creek watershed. Currently developing funding options

#### **Oak Management Workshop Planning Committee:**

- Workshop scheduled for October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Cashton High School and Jim Moede tree farm near Portland.
- Handouts

#### **DNR - NOD/NOI Application – August 15<sup>th</sup> Deadline**

- Merv Vaassan beef operation submitted application for roofed barnyard on the headwaters of the Baraboo River near Kendall.

#### **Manure Storage Permits:**

- Richard Guy/Phil Mlsna

#### **LCD Business:**

- LCD Administrative Assistant Position – Connie Holzl
- LCD Budget Submitted
- Staff participated in Geology tour in Monroe & La Crosse County.
- Local work group (NRCS) meeting
- County Conservationist meeting in WI Rapids

#### **Meeting Schedule:**

- Tri-Creek Land Use Committee meeting - August 24<sup>th</sup>
- Oak Mgt. Committee meeting – August 31st 1-3pm
- Discovery Farms Equipment and Cover Crop Field Day – Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>
- Natural Resource & Extension Committee Meeting – Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>

## August 16, 2016 Committee Meeting Notes

### Christina Mulder

- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**
  - On Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> I presented and promoted CREP at the CRP Required Management Meeting hosted by NRCS in Sparta. Approximately 35 landowners were present at the meeting.
  - Greg Schauf signed a CREP Perpetual Easement which will buffer West Beaver Creek in the Sparta Township.
- **Farmland Preservation Program**
  - Currently working on creating conservation plans for interested participants.
- **Designs & Construction for Conservation Practices**
  - Designing a stream crossing and watering access for Jarred Carlisle along Silver Creek in the Angelo Township.
  - Design for 3 grassed waterway repairs for Ivan Witt has been completed.
  - Designing a Brush Creek stream restoration for Chester Borntreger in the Jefferson Township.
- **Monroe County Fair**
  - Held a booth at the Monroe County fair Wednesday, July 27 – Sunday, July 31.
- **Youth Conservation Camp**
  - Scholarship money has been delivered to five of the Youth Conservation Camp Scholarship recipients. One of the six total scholarship recipients did not attend the camp so they have not received the scholarship gift.

### Bryce Richardson

- **Construction for Conservation Practices**
  - Completed Waste Storage Structures for Brian Henze and Jack Herricks
  - Completed Streambank Riprap (325') and Concrete Crossing for Gary Leis.
  - Completed Grade Stabilization Structure for Gabe Leis.
  - Completed Access Road for Stephen Brohmer.

## August 16, 2016 Committee Meeting Notes

- Completed Grassed Waterway repair for Steve Vlasak.
  
- **Nonmetallic Mining**
  - Received a Reclamation Plan for the Kauffman Quarry operated by Kendall Trucking and Excavating LLC. This plan needs some revisions before it can be presented to this committee. I will meet with the operator to discuss required changes. Plan may be presented to this committee in September if changes are made by that time. Operator is not allowed to operate the Kaufmann Quarry until all permits have been issued. We will be monitoring the site to determine mining is still occurring.

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION AIDS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Monroe County desires to participate in county fish and game projects pursuant to provision of s. 23.09 (12) of the Wisconsin Statutes,

WHEREAS, financial aid is required to carry out the program;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Monroe County has budgeted a sum sufficient to complete the project or acquisition and

HEREBY AUTHORIZES the Monroe County Conservationist, Land Conservation Department to act on behalf of Monroe County to:

Sign and submit an application to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any financial aid that may be available;

Submit reimbursement claims to DNR along with necessary supporting documentation within one (1) year of project completion date;

Take necessary action to undertake, direct, and complete the approved project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Monroe County will comply with state or federal rules for the programs and will obtain from the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources approval in writing before any change is made in the use of the project site.

Dated the 24<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016.

OFFERED BY THE NATURAL  
RESOURCE & EXTENSION  
COMMITTEE

**PURPOSE:** To meet requirements of State Statutes 23.09 (12) requiring county board approval for participation in County Conservation Aid funding.

Fiscal Note: Monroe County is eligible for \$2,500 in matching grant funds in 2017. These funds are budgeted for in Land Conservation accounts.

*Wendy Van Wyck*  
*Paul A. Puccio*  
*James L. Schroeder*  
*Donald Hall*  
*Mark Blum*

Natural Resource & Extension Committee vote: 5-0-1

## Forestry & Parks Report (August) – Ziegler

### Forestry:

- Participated in NRCS Geology Tour
- Angelo Wayside: Trees generally healthy; 2-3 ash= crown die-back, 1 lightning, Neighbor: 2 dead elm.
- Timber Sale setup & Administration
- Active timber sale: sale 144 New Lyme
- Oak management workshop planning
- Fort McCoy Training lease and Snowmobile Trail Permit
- Sprayed garlic mustard- ski hill

### Parks:

- 2017 Budget submittal
- Equipment repairs

# MONROE COUNTY FOREST ANNUAL WORK PLAN - 2017

## REFERENCES:

1. Annual Planning Meeting (once per year with minutes)
2. Fifteen Year Comprehensive Plan (2006-2020)

## INTRODUCTION:

This work plan is intended to give a general overview of the accomplishment goals for 2017, not be a blueprint of what will or will not be done. Issues such as funding, weather, harvesting activity and workload will ultimately impact what will be accomplished. Due to unforeseen circumstances it maybe expedient and prudent to perform more of one activity at the expense of another, with the understanding that at another time the situation may be reversed.

## TIMBER SALE ADMINISTRATION:

As of August 8, 2016 there are seven inactive timber sales on the county forest. Normal administrative procedures for timber sales include:

- Advertising the sale and negotiating the contract.
- Meeting with the purchaser before the job is started to go over the sale requirements.
- Routinely inspecting the sale once the harvest has started to confirm contract compliance.
- Collecting load tickets and tracking the volume and type of wood being harvested.
- Making sure landing and road repair is done properly following the harvest.
- Balancing the sale ledger and completing the cutting report at sale close out.

## TIMBER SALE PLANNING AND ESTABLISHMENT:

The goals for timber sale establishment and sale in 2017 are:

- Approximately 350 acres of timber will be sold.
- Three hundred acres will be even-aged harvests with reserve trees and reserve pockets of trees.
- Forty one acres will be pine thinning.

Normal sale establishment procedures include;

- Consulting the compartment reconnaissance to determine harvest needs for the year.
- Inspecting the scheduled stands to determine if a harvest is appropriate.
- Marking the timber to be sold in a manner appropriate for the type of sale.
- Preparing a sale prospectus and completing the cutting notice.

## FOREST RECONNAISSANCE:

- The goal for compartment reconnaissance in 2017 is 354 acres.
- Reconnaissance of completed timber sales will be done as they are closed out.

## TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT:

- Some buckthorn removal may be performed on timber sale areas via hand removal and herbicides.
- Prescribed burning may be used on a harvested timber sale to control buckthorn and prepare the site for oak and jack pine regeneration.
- Spotted knapweed treatments may occur in grassy openings and along county forest roads.
- Stump sprouts may be thinned mechanically to increase the vigor of the residual stems.

## REFORESTATION:

Natural regeneration is anticipated on the mature sites that will be harvested. Site preparation and planting work will be completed on 30 acres to aid in regenerating trees.

## FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:

The normal activities associated with the Karner blue butterfly program and the maintenance of wildlife openings will continue during 2017.

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION APPROVING MONROE COUNTY FOREST  
ANNUAL WORK PLAN - 2017

WHEREAS, it is required that the Monroe County Board of Supervisors approve the Monroe County Forest Annual Work Plan (see attached); and

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Natural Resources and Extension Committee has reviewed and approved this attached plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Monroe County Board of Supervisors that they do hereby approve the attached Annual Work Plan for the calendar year of 2017 for the Monroe County Forest.

Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016.

OFFERED BY THE NATURAL RESOURCES and EXTENSION COMMITTEE:

Nedji Vardoluchien  
David A. Weber  
James L. Schroeder  
J. Donald Hall  
Mark Weber

Committee Vote: 5-0-1  
Finance Vote:

Statement of purpose: To approve this Annual Forest Work Plan for the calendar year of 2017; which will allow Monroe County to apply for the County Forest Administrators Grant.

Fiscal Note: Revenue from the County Forest Administrators Grant from the WDNR will be approximately \$43,000.00.

Drafted by Chad Ziegler, Forest & Parks Administrator

Reviewed and Approved as to Form by Corporation Counsel, \_\_\_\_\_  
Andy Kaftan

## Joshua L. Goede



### Fair

The Monroe County Fair is finished for the year. The events went very well. The exhibit building saw an increase in traffic. The weather was beautiful.

### National Night Out

On Tuesday August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Agent and Summer Assistant presented at National Night Out in Tomah's Winnebago Park. This year's booth focused on tobacco and marijuana education. Along with the booth, we asked questions for a chance at a Plink-o chip for prizes. The evening was well attended and a great way to strengthen a developing partnership with Monroe County Safe Communities Coalition.

### Summer Camp

2016 Summer Camp was successful beyond what was expected. There were 50 youth attending base camp and the offsite Out Post experiences. The youth counselors were outstanding and understood their role as leaders. Many youth were begging for 5 days at camp next year so they must have had a good time.

### Be the Most Award

The Agent was awarded the Be the Most Award on Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. The Agent was recognized for the efforts of the 4-H Jr. Leader in NOW and in Cashton. The youth taught tobacco prevention lessons in the after school setting at both school this past spring.

### Clover Camp

This event is the final summer program for 2016. It is for our kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. It will focus on water and fun. This will be the final program that Brittany is in charge.

### Jr. Leader Road Trip

The Jr. Leaders will be using the profit from their Ice Cream stand to fund an educational trip to Superior. They will be staying at UW Superior for two nights. We will have time at the maritime Museum as well as tour the harbors and take a cruise. The 13 confirmed youth are looking forward to a great time.

### Advanced Space Academy

The Agent is in full swing planning for the 2017 Advanced Space Academy. The plan is to take 30 Wisconsin 4-Hers in 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade to Huntsville, AL. We will travel the last week of January 2017. Applications are open until September 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Continuing Programs

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jr. Leaders<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Road Trip August 19-21</li></ul></li><li>• Youth Protection Program<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Have trained 3 more volunteers</li><li>○ New Program will start Sept. 1.</li></ul></li></ul> | <p>COMING SOON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Record Books and awards season</li><li>• Club Charters and reviews</li><li>• 2016 state reporting</li></ul> |
|--|--|

### Upcoming Events

Aug 19-21, 2016

**Jr. Leader Road Trip**

**Where: Superior, WI**

Sat Aug 20, 2016

**8am Clover Camp**

**Where: Ft. McCoy's Pine View Campground**



Monroe County UW-Extension  
14345 County Highway B, Room 1  
Sparta, WI 54656-0309

Phone: 608-269-8722  
Fax: 608-366-1809  
Dial 711 for Wisconsin Relay  
<http://monroe.uwex.edu/>

Erin Eggert  
Family Living Agent

## Family Living Update July 12, 2016 to August 16

- Stronger Together
  - Working with another Family Living Agent to plan for an instructor training in late August. I have also been working on developing an evaluation for the individuals with the state evaluation specialist. We're hoping to pilot this program in 4 counties across the state in October or so. Again, it's a partner physical activity program designed for "able-bodied" individuals. It can be kids, teens, or adults. Right now we're defining "able-bodied" as being able to walk at a moderate pace for at least 30 mins.
- Webinars
  - It has been the month of webinars! I have attended a lot on community physical activity and making the community more bikeable or walkable.
  - School wellness/ quality school nutrition
- Food Pantry Project
  - We finished doing client surveys and summer assessments. We received almost 200 surveys from clients. The Monroe County Health Department's intern is going through and disseminating the data from there. From the broad overview of things people are requesting more fresh fruits and vegetables, and more meat products like hamburger. We will be holding a meeting this fall with food pantries to share what we learned from the surveys with them. We then have fall and winter pantry assessments left before we utilize all the information we collected to apply for the Wisconsin Partnership grant. Hopefully we will get funding from that to help pantries make some changes- whether that be purchasing refrigerators or other equipment to make them able to have certain food items, or hiring a nutrition educator to teach patrons recipes and cooking tips.
- Community Coalition Training

- I attended a 3 day training in Madison about community/coalition coaching. It was basically how to work with a community or coalition and how to coach them. It was a really interesting training and I learned some great things on how better to work with those types of groups.
- Safe & Healthy Food Pantries Project-State Level
  - Still working on developing a training for other counties which I will assist in leading in August.
- Healthy Fair Food Project
  - This project was going to be a collaboration between 4H and myself to look at fair food and what people were consuming (average calories/day at the fair and how many calories over their recommended amount). I was hoping to really include some of the 4H kids by having them apply to be a "Volunteer Research Assistant" and then have 30 or so kids volunteer to rotate through asking fair patrons to take the survey. After the fair, I was hoping to have the kids help with looking at the data and then deciding if we should think about putting in healthier items or if people were fine with the choices they had at the fair (based on survey responses). If they wanted healthier items I was planning on including the 4H kids to determine which healthier items were feasible and what we would need to get healthier items into the food stand. If we needed to purchase any equipment I was planning on having the kids assist in writing a grant to purchase the equipment. And then having kids again next year do a repeat survey to see if calories consumed changed between the two years. *Unfortunately* we couldn't get any 4H kids interested in the project. We had 4 people volunteer to ask fair patrons to take the survey and none of them showed up. Luckily, we did have one 4H mom who helped and went around for a day asking people to take the survey- thank goodness for her! I also did my best in going around and asking people to take the survey but I also had to be in the exhibit hall for most of the evenings when people were eating. I was really hoping to get a minimum of 100 surveys. We got 80. So I am disappointed in some parts of the project but after all of that I am surprised that we got as many surveys as we did. I have an intern starting on September 1<sup>st</sup> and she will be working on data dissemination. Statistically speaking, you have to have a certain number of surveys to consider it an accurate representation of all fair-goers at the Monroe County Fair. I still have to calculate this number out, but I don't think we got enough for that. Which means we'll be able to use the data to get an idea, but we can't use the data in anything else (research papers or anything like that).
- National Night Out- Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>

- I had a booth on Physical Activity for Kids. I had a board with reasons why PA is important and what it can do for you and then a spinner wheel with some basic questions about PA. If kids got the question right they won a mechanical pencil. I had 147 kids come to the booth. All of them enjoyed the activity.
- StrongWomen
  - The summer session is going well. Two other instructors are teaching it and I took the summer off to focus on the other things I am doing.
  - New instructors were trained on August 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - In the process of planning for the Fall session and classes now.

### **Continuing Events**

- Newspaper articles to Tomah and Sparta newspapers
- Continuing to post and promote the facebook site and Pinterest site

### **Upcoming Events**

- Continuing with Food Pantry Assessments
- StrongerTogether Training August 22
- Safe & Healthy Food Pantry Project Training August 23-24
- Food Forum Workshop on Nutrition Across the Lifespan (webinar) Sept 13-14
- Southwest Regional Meeting September 15
- Falls Prevention Day September 22<sup>nd</sup>.



Monroe County Extension Office  
14345 County Hwy. B, Room 1  
Sparta, WI 54656  
608-269-8722  
608-269-8767 (FAX)  
800-947-3529 (TTY)

Bill Halfman, Agriculture Agent

### **Agriculture Extension Update July 12, 2016 through August 16, 2016**

Work continued on the field plot trials with that have Cashton High School students serving as co-investigators. The seed maggot trial data collection is now complete, and we included cucumber beetle counts on the squash portion due to the fact that some of the treatments have residual control long enough to control cucumber beetles for part of the season. The corn nitrogen trial is progressing along nicely. We collected NDVI data again with the UAV (drone) on August 9<sup>th</sup>. The pollinator project is not going well due to the frequent rains interfering with pollinator collecting. We revised the protocol to see if that helps.

The Ag Agent attended a field day at the Southeast MN Regional Extension Center at Rochester MN on July 15<sup>th</sup> to see the herbicide research and demonstration projects being conducted by the Ag Agents counterparts in southeastern Minnesota. The field day has some excellent demonstrations and interesting projects going on, that the Ag Agent would like to be able to replicate here to show farmers.

The Ag Agent was part of a group of four Extension Agents and Specialists who developed a Cattle Transportation Safety Display that they had at Farm Technology Days. The display and materials developed will be used at additional field days and workshops. One of the livestock trailer dealers at the show like the materials so much that they asked for 150 copies that they were going to include with new trailer sales at their dealership. A spin off from this project is that these 4 Extension people are in the process of working on a education session for emergency responders dealing with cattle tentatively to be held on October 3.

The Ag Agent was involved in many pre-fair preparations, the fair itself and post fair wrap up tasks primarily around the junior livestock exhibits. Those are mostly completed at this time.

The Ag Agent attended the Wisconsin Cranberry Growers Summer Field Day near Black River Falls on August 10.

The Ag Agent worked with numerous farms to identify problems with crops. Some of these included bacterial infections on zucchini showing up shortly after harvest, and a seed maggot like problem in red beets. A visit with a sweet corn grower produced evidence that we may have both strains of European Corn Borer in the area, the more common 2 generation strain, and the single generation strain. We will put out special traps for them next year to determine if that is the case.

Calls and office visits this past month were on a number of topics, hay price, land rent, and problems with an assortment of plants were the most common.

### **Upcoming Events- more to be added as they get finalized**

August 25- Farm Leasing Webinar- Barney Center- Sparta

September- end of month- Beef Cow-calf Workshop

Sept 22- Farm Transfer Webinar

October 3 tentative Bovine Emergency Response Training for Emergency responders- Volk Field

November 11- Pest Mgt Update