

AG & EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MONROE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE, ROLLING HILLS COMPLEX, ROOM 220

FRIDAY, JULY 13, 2012

Meeting was called in accordance with open meeting law requirements.

Meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Mary Cook at 9:06 a.m.

Members present were: Mary Cook, Dale Greeno and David Pierce. Agents present were: Bill Halfman, Karen Joos, Will Cronin, and Amy Steies. Others present were: Jarrod Roll, Deb Jones, Western District Director and Cathy Schmit, County Administrator. Members absent were: Nodji Van Wyche, Gail Chapman and Alli Karrells.

Motion was made by Dale Greeno to accept the minutes for the past meeting as printed. Seconded by David Pierce. Motion carried. 3-0-2

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 10, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at the Extension Office, Rolling Hills Complex, Room 220.

THE DEKE SLAYTON MEMORIAL SPACE AND BIKE MUSEUM REPORT - No report was given.

LOCAL HISTORY ROOM REPORT was given by Jarrod Roll. Motion was made by David Pierce to accept the Local History Room Report and pay bills for the month. Seconded by Dale Greeno. Motion carried. 3-0-2 (report attached)

COUNTY FARM EDUCATION FUNDS

- ♦ Discussion of Other Potential Projects – No projects discussed.

EXTENSION OFFICE BUSINESS AND BILLS— The Extension educators provided education current programs/impacts. Motion made by David Pierce to accept agent program reports and office bills/credit card expenditures. Seconded by Dale Greeno. Motion carried. 3-0-2 (reports attached)

EXTENSION OF 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENT LEAVE OF ABSENCE—Motion made by Mary Cook to extend 4-H Youth Development agent leave of absence through August 31, 2012. Seconded by David Pierce. Motion carried. 3-0-2

EXTENSION OF INTERIM 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENT POSITION—Motion made by Mary Cook to extend Interim 4-H Youth Development Agent position at 80% through September 30th, 2012. Second by David Pierce. Motion carried. 3-0-2

DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL OPTIONS AND TIMELINES FOR 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENT POSITION WITH UW-EXTENSION REGIONAL DIRECTOR DEB JONES—The district director gave an update on the hiring process in Eau Claire County, and that interviews were scheduled for mid-August, the outcome would dictate what the next steps Monroe County would have to consider.

FUEL ACCOUNT REQUEST FOR UW-EXTENSION AGENTS FOR RENTAL CARS, PAID FOR OUT-OF-COUNTY TRAVEL FUNDS—Motion made by David Pierce to approve Fuel Card Account Approval Request for UW-Extension Office. Seconded by Dale Greeno. Motion carried. 3-0-2

Motion was made to adjourn by David Pierce, seconded by Dale Greeno, and approved on a 3-0-2 vote at 10:11 a.m.

Bill Halfman, Recording Secretary

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**UW
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Cooperative Extension
Monroe County

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

CNRED Agent Update, July 13, 2012

The CNRED Agent has been engaged in the following activities:

- Agent presented a synopsis of the Extension response to the growth of the sand mining industry to the Western District WACEC meeting on June 8 along with La Crosse County CNRED Agent Karl Green.
- The Agent is organizing a regional training for the WEDC's Locate in Wisconsin System, in collaboration with the Juneau County Economic Development Corporation and the 7 Rivers Alliance. The regional sessions will take place on July 19, with one in Sparta and one in Camp Douglas. 7 Rivers Alliance will provide webinar access to the Sparta session and will archive the presentation for future reference.
- Agent facilitated the first session of the Monroe County Safe Communities Coalition's strategic planning process. The second session will take place in August.
- Agent presented an overview of Monroe County economic development work to the Town of Glendale.
- Agent will plan two sessions of the 2012-2013 JMV Leadership program, "Alternative Energy and Community Development" and "Economic Development."
- Agent has been invited by Lugar de Reunion in Sparta to make a short presentation detailing Extension's work with LdR to Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the US during her upcoming visit to Sparta.
- Agent continues to work with CNRED colleagues and Extension specialists on revisions to the Economic Development Preparedness Index. A work meeting on this topic was hosted in Monroe County in June.
- Sand team work is ongoing, draft factsheets covering health and infrastructure (including electrical, road and water issues) are in progress.
- Agent is working with Juneau County counterpart to revise "Starting a Business" class in preparation for fall sessions.

Monroe County Office
Agriculture & Extension Education Committee

Report by: Karen Joos

July 2012

Program Related

- Met with Susan Schwab from the Tomah VA regarding financial management resources and possible program offerings
- Attended the monthly meeting of the Monroe County Planning Council
- Met with Couleecap staff along with Safe Communities Coalition Executive Committee regarding the Drug Free Communities Grant visit recommendations from the SAMSHA grant supervisor.
- Tested 2 pressure canner gauges for accuracy.
- Monthly meeting of the Education Subcommittee of the Monroe County Housing Coalition, focused on future goals, updating the display board, and assisted with content for presentation at the "Home for Everyone Conference" in July.
- Attended the quarterly meeting of the Monroe County Caregiver Coalition
- Co-Taught "Gracious Space: Techniques for Effective Group Leadership" Workshop for UW-Extension/UW-Colleges Office of Inclusion
- Monroe County bi-weekly OWI Court Team and Team Meetings
- Monthly HCE Bridge
- Wrote weekly Karen's Korner columns for the Sparta and Tomah newspapers

Jackson/Monroe/Vernon Leadership Program

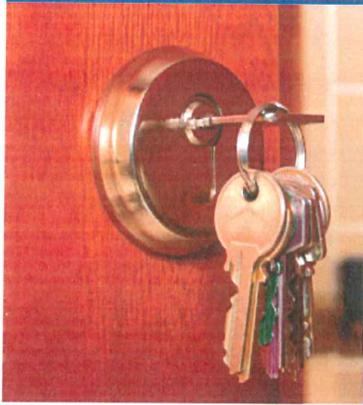
- Facilitated a Steering Committee meeting to plan seminars and dates for the 2012-2013 JMV Leadership Program. Am currently updating the brochure and application blank which will be on the UW-Extension website. July will include marketing the program and accepting applications, as well as ordering supplies for next year's class.

Other Activities

- Attended District WACEC meeting in Eau Claire
- Attended the State WACEC Conference in Green Bay with Nodji VanWychen
- Representing Dept. of Family Development Western and Northern Districts, attended the quarterly Faculty Senate Meeting
- Attended the Coulee CAP Board monthly meeting as a Planning & Evaluation Committee and Board member

Future program plans:

- OWI Court and evaluation plans
- COMPASS NOW follow-up
- Jackson-Monroe-Vernon Leadership Program marketing and recruitment
- Monroe County Fair preparations



Monroe County Wisconsin Housing Profile

Laura Brown and Andrew Bernhardt

Why housing matters

Housing is one of the central aspects of our communities and households. It is an essential sector in the U.S. economy and a primary land use in nearly every community.¹

While housing is a commodity managed by private individuals, communities rely on quality affordable housing to meet the needs of a changing workforce and aging population, and to generate the tax revenue that funds utilities and schools. Housing affects where people live, their family budgets, the types of jobs available to them, who their friends and neighbors are, how they get to work, and the education their children receive, as well as other issues related to quality of life.

Communities can plan for housing by creating incentives and policies to either discourage certain land-use patterns, such as sprawl, or encourage housing growth in areas with existing infrastructure. This profile provides an overview of demographic changes that will affect community housing needs and highlights four critical housing issues for communities and families in Wisconsin: home construction and sales, the impact of housing foreclosures, challenges to housing affordability, and vacancy rates and second-home ownership.

How Monroe County is changing

The aging baby boomer generation and immigration are probably the most significant demographic factors that will affect the Wisconsin and U.S. housing markets in coming years. The number of U.S. households with heads between the ages of 55 and 74 is projected to increase by 10.2 million from 2010 to 2020. This new generation of seniors will drive demand for assisted living facilities, other senior-friendly housing such as single-level and elevator-accessible housing, and housing that is near amenities such as medical facilities and transportation.²

While Wisconsin currently has lower immigration rates than many other states, the foreign-born population is growing. The Federation for American Immigration Reform estimates that between the census of 2000 and July 2008, Wisconsin's population increased by about 58,365 residents from net international migration (more foreign-born arriving than leaving). That is an annual average increase of about 7,995 foreign-born residents, representing more than one-fourth (25.1%) of the state's total population increase during that period.³ (Those numbers do not include the children born to immigrants after the immigrants' arrival in the United States.) The rising foreign-born population, which tends to have a high proportion of young adults, may affect the demand for temporary or rental housing and the household growth rate, especially in urban areas of the state.

According to data from the 2010 Census, the population of Monroe County has changed in several ways:

- **The overall population has increased by 9.2% since 2000;** Wisconsin's total population increased by 6%.
- **The median age of residents is 39.1 years.** The state's median age is 38.5 years, up from 36 in 2000.
- **Retirement-age residents (65 and over) account for 13.9% of the population,** compared to 13.7% of the total population in Wisconsin.
- **Foreign-born residents make up an estimated 2.2% of the population,** compared to 4.4% statewide.

Critical issues

Wisconsin's housing market slow to recover

Wisconsin's housing market has struggled in recent years. Home sales, building permits issued, and housing prices are indicators used to gauge the quality of the housing market. From 2007 to 2010, total annual home sales in Wisconsin gradually declined from 67,397 to 51,252.⁴ The number of building permits issued, a measure of the number of proposed new homes, dropped significantly from 2005 to 2009 in Wisconsin (-69.8%) and in the United States (-73.0%). While the recession appears to have depressed the average median price of new homes in the Midwest, home prices rose slightly in the United States from 2009 to 2010, likely due to the expiration of homeowner tax credit programs.

In Monroe County:

- 437 homes were sold in 2007 and 406 were sold in 2011.
- In 2007, 91 building permits were issued for one- and two-family homes, compared to 47 issued in 2010.
- The median home price decreased from \$122,733 in 2007 to \$115,273. (Updated home price and sales data by county is available from the Wisconsin Realtors Association at www.wra.org/HousingStatistics/.)

Impacts of foreclosures on communities and families

Housing foreclosures impact communities by causing declines in physical aesthetics of the community, increased vandalism and crime in the form of looting of vacant homes and misuse of abandoned properties, health and safety issues, declines in property taxes that pay for community services and infrastructure, increased stress on children and families, and increases in homelessness and displaced households.⁵ The Mortgage Bankers Association estimates that at least 7.8 million foreclosure filings were started nationwide since the recession began in 2007.⁶ In Wisconsin, foreclosures peaked in 2010 at 28,725—a 340% increase over the previous decade.

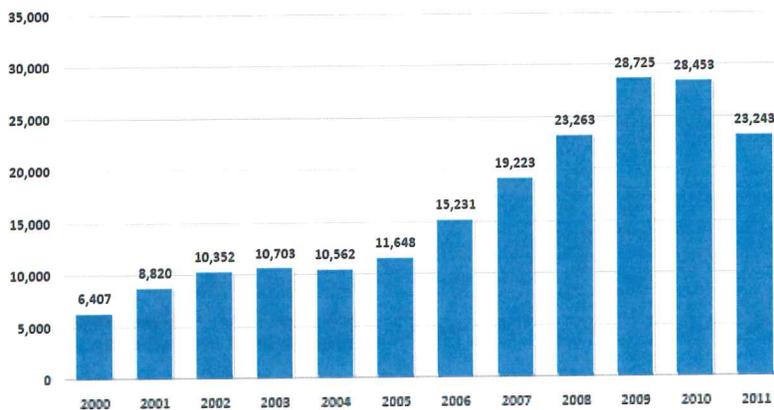
- In Monroe County, there were 120 foreclosures in 2007 and 140 foreclosures in 2011. (Updated foreclosure data for each fiscal quarter is available at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/housing/>.)

Changes in the housing market

	Midwest		U.S.	
	2005–10 (%)	2009–10 (%)	2005–10 (%)	2009–10 (%)
Sales of new single-family homes	-78.0	-16.7	-74.8	-13.9
Median price of new single-family homes	-6.8	2.2	-7.9	2.4
Overall housing starts	-72.6	0.8	-71.6	5.9

State of Wisconsin foreclosure filings 2000–2011

(Duplicate filings removed)



Since the start of the foreclosure crisis in 2007, communities and schools in Wisconsin have expressed particular concern about the impact of foreclosures on municipal income. The actual municipal cost of a foreclosure may include declines in property tax revenue caused by declining property values or abandoned homes, as well as costs for increased services, such as policing to deter crime. The actual costs vary widely by community depending on the state of the local housing market and how long the foreclosed home is vacant. Research in Chicago found that the cost of a single foreclosed home to a municipality can range from a few dollars up to as much as \$34,000. A report from the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2008 estimated that the foreclosure crisis could cause a potential loss of \$6.6 billion in tax revenues in ten states.⁷

Housing affordability challenges for homeowners and renters

Families with a significant “housing burden,” or percentage of income devoted to housing costs, are at a greater risk for poverty and homelessness.⁸ The Department of Housing and Urban Development has created a benchmark that households should pay no more than 30% of their gross household income to housing costs. According to census data from the past 5 years, Wisconsin’s renters are dedicating more of their income to housing than homeowners.⁹

In Monroe County:

- **There are 17,376 occupied housing units, of which 4,972 units, or 28.6%, are rented.** This represents an increase in the percentage of renters, from 26.3% in 2000.
- **A total of 12,404, or 71.4%, of the occupied housing units are owner-occupied.** This represents a decrease in the percentage of homeowners, from 73.7% in 2000.
- **34.3% of renters pay 30% or more of their household income for housing,** compared to 43% statewide and 46% in the United States.⁹
- **32% of homeowners with mortgages pay 30% or more of their household income for housing,** compared to 34% statewide and 37% in the United States.⁹

- **The median monthly housing cost is \$601 for renters,** compared to \$700 for all of Wisconsin and \$817 for the United States.
- **The median monthly housing cost for homeowners with a mortgage is \$1,176,** compared to \$1,413 for all of Wisconsin and \$1,486 for the United States.

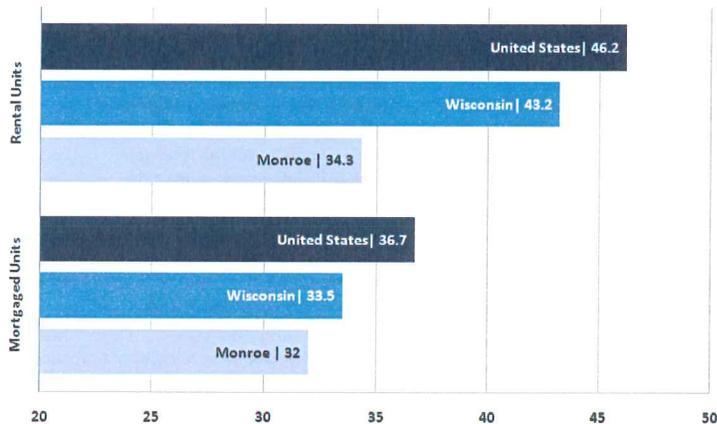
While home-ownership rates are falling nationwide, the number of renter households in the United States jumped by 692,000 annually on average from 2006 to 2010. This trend is increasing competition in the rental housing market and driving up rental prices.

These housing burdens have uneven impacts on the population in terms of race and income. Renters are generally more diverse than homeowners, and over half of all immigrant households rent. Nationwide, 36% of children live in rental households. Still, over half of all renters nationwide are over the age of 40, and the majority are white.¹⁰

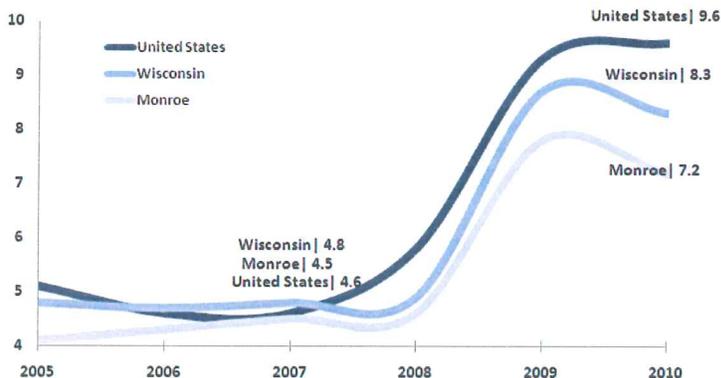
Even as homebuilding and prices seemed to improve in 2010, a number of factors continue to weigh heavily on the housing market in Wisconsin and in the nation. Research in Wisconsin counties found that for every 1% increase in unemployment, a county can expect foreclosures to increase by 7.9%.¹¹ Between 2005 and 2011, Wisconsin lost approximately 230,175 full-time jobs.

- **In 2010, Monroe County’s average unemployment rate was 7.2%,** compared to 8.3% in Wisconsin and 9.6% in the nation.¹²

Percentage of occupied units spending 30% or more of household income on housing



Annual average unemployment rate 2005–2010



Vacancy rates and second-home ownership

Vacancy rates describe the presence of both abandoned homes and second homes used occasionally or seasonally for recreation. While vacancies due to foreclosures have largely impacted urban areas of the state, vacancies due to occasional or seasonal occupancy of vacation homes can have a significant impact on rural communities. Vacation home development is increasing in the United States and in Wisconsin, particularly in rural areas and recreation areas with water resources.

- **In 2010, Monroe County's overall vacancy rate was 9.5%**, compared to Wisconsin's rate of 13% (up from 10% in 2000). Vacancy rates around the state range from 5% in La Crosse, Outagamie, and Waukesha Counties to a high of 62% in Vilas County. These vacancy rates include foreclosed and sold-but-unoccupied properties as well as vacation homes used occasionally or seasonally.
- **Occasional and seasonal uses account for 3.7% of all vacancies in Monroe County.**

In areas where the percentage of vacation homes is very high, communities may also be concerned with the implications for resource management. Demographic research indicates that people who own vacation homes are generally wealthy, older, educated, and employed in white-collar jobs. They generally come from areas that are more urban than where their vacation homes are located.

As the baby boomer generation moves into retirement, many owners of vacation homes are choosing to move permanently (or seasonally) into their vacation homes. This creates both challenges and

opportunities for rural communities. Communities may struggle to provide appropriate services for an aging population, but they may also benefit from the skills and increased spending that newcomers bring to the community. In addition, while rural communities may depend on the presence of wealthier seasonal residents for tourism income, vacation homes may drive up the price of homes or property taxes for year-round residents.¹³

For more information

To learn more about housing issues in your community, check out these resources:

- **UW-Extension Applied Population Laboratory, Housing Profiles tool:** www.getfacts.wisc.edu/profiles/profiles.aspx Contains data from the 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census.
- **U.S. Census Bureau:** www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing.html A compilation of relevant housing data and resources.
- **U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS):** www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/2009_release/ Be sure to read how this data is collected.

Notes

- ¹ Charles J. Hoch, Linda Dalton, and Frank So, eds., *The Practice of Local Government Planning*, 3rd ed. (Washington, DC: International City/County Management Association, 2000).
- ² Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, *The State of the Nation's Housing 2011* (Joint Center for Housing Studies), retrieved May 2011, www.jchs.harvard.edu/son/index.htm.
- ³ "Wisconsin Extended Immigration Data," FAIR (Federation for American Immigration Reform), accessed June 2011, www.fairus.org/site/PageNavigator/facts/state_data_WI.

- ⁴ "Wisconsin Housing Statistics," National Association of Realtors (via the Wisconsin Association of Realtors website), retrieved May 2011, www.wra.org/Resources/Property/Wisconsin_Housing_Statistics/.
- ⁵ Christine Vidma, "Seven Impacts of Foreclosures" (NeighborWorks America, August 2008), retrieved June 2011, www.nw.org/network/neighborworksprogs/foreclosure/resolutions/reports/documents/7ForeclosureImpacts.pdf.
- ⁶ Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, *The State of the Nation's Housing 2010* (Joint Center for Housing Studies), retrieved May 2011, www.jchs.harvard.edu/son/index.htm.
- ⁷ Carolina Rein, "The Spillover Effects of Foreclosures" in *Synopses of Selected Research on Housing, Mortgages, and Foreclosures* (Federal Reserve System, 2008): 87–88, retrieved June 2011, www.newyorkfed.org/regional/Synopses.pdf.
- ⁸ M. William Sermons and Peter Witte, "State of Homelessness in America" (National Alliance to End Homelessness/Homeless Research Institute, January 2011), www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/3668.
- ⁹ "2005–2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates," U.S. Census Bureau, retrieved May 2011, <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.
- ¹⁰ Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, "Renter Demographics" in *America's Rental Housing* (Joint Center for Housing Studies, 2011), accessed June 2011, www.jchs.harvard.edu/publications/rental/rh11_americas_rental_housing/AHR2011-3-Demographics.pdf.
- ¹¹ Russ Kashian and David M. Welsch, "A Regional Examination of Foreclosures in Wisconsin," *The Industrial Geographer* 7, no. 1 (2010): 33, retrieved June 2011, <http://igeographer.lib.indstate.edu/kashianv71.pdf>.
- ¹² Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Local Area Employment Statistics preliminary, not seasonally adjusted, retrieved May 2011, www.bls.gov/lau/.
- ¹³ Amanda Chraca and David W. Marcouiller, *Recreational Homes, Amenities, and Their Gateway Communities: A Review of the Planning and Public Policy Literature* (University of Wisconsin-Madison/UW-Extension, 2010), accessed June 2011, <http://urpl.wisc.edu/people/marcouiller/publications/10errechomes.pdf>.

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Authors: Laura Brown is associate professor and Andrew Bernhardt is program assistant with the UW-Extension Center for Community & Economic Development. **Reviewers:** Peggy Olive and Julie Simek-Heggebo are family living agents with Richland and Clark County UW-Extension, respectively, and Kristi Cutts is family living educator with Winnebago County UW-Extension.

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Amy Steies



The Agent planned and carried out a Saturday session of Cloverbud Day Camp where there were 16 youth campers in attendance. The theme was "Insect Inspector," so all activities revolved around that theme. There was a hands-on session taught by Mary Szepi (a naturalist with Kickapoo Valley Reserve), scavenger hunt, recreation activities, arts and crafts activities, and healthy snack making. Each camper left with educational materials to continue learning more about insects at home. Helpers with the Day Camp included Ambassadors, Junior Leaders, and family members of campers.



*Cloverbud/Explorer Day Campers and Helpers
holding their certificates of completion after the June 16th
event held at Cashton Village Park*

Agent assisted with the well-attended Family Picnic. The Leon Community Center was full with 4-H members and their families. Besides socialization and a meal, the newly-renovated playground was available for youth to play in as well as yard games for use by people of all ages. A Service Learning Grant was supplied by the Monroe County 4-H Leaders' Association to cover the cost of updating the playground. The graduating class of 2012 was honored during the meal.

The Agent assisted with the planning and implementation of the pre-fair Clothing Preview event. The judge was very impressed with the quality of entries by youth, and participants were encouraged to continue with their sewing and clothing construction lessons. Participating individuals will be featured in the Style Show held Sunday of the county fair. Two youth will be traveling to the Wisconsin State Fair to represent Monroe County in the Clothing Revue event. More would have qualified to go based on the high quality of their completed projects, but they are not yet of age to attend State Fair.

The Agent promoted Monroe County 4-H during an event held at the Ft. McCoy Child Development Center. The theme at the center was June Dairy Days, and two 4-H families took their animals and set up a petting zoo for the children of all ages at the center and the staff members. The 4-H members and their parents explained about their animals (guinea pig, rabbits, kitten, dog, chicks, rooster, goat, etc.) while the different age groups took turn petting the animals they may not have exposure to at home. Developmentally-appropriate, farm-animal-related educational materials that helped promote 4-H were sent home for the older children.

Amy Steies



The Agent attended Upham Woods Summer Camp that was held in conjunction with La Crosse County. There were nearly 30 campers as well four counselors and two adult helpers that attended from Monroe County. The Agent planned for and coordinated the Outpost portion of camp, which is a more strenuous, active part of camp available for the oldest campers from 6th-8th grades. Campers set up a tent site for the last night of sleeping. Activities hosted by an Upham Woods Naturalist included canoeing, fire-building learning session, a Night Hike, and group initiatives at Peanut Butter Mountain (low ropes course), and recreational games. All campers, counselors, and adults concluded the 2-night, 3-day camp with a ride on the Wisconsin Ducks to highlight the natural scenery and history of the Dells area. During the "Coins for Camp" campaign to raise money for renovating Upham Woods, La Crosse/Monroe County camp donated enough money to receive a brick for the firepit area with the county names engraved in them so that will be a legacy for years to come.

The Agent has been planning and teaching summer enrichment sessions at the Boys and Girls Club of Tomah. Members of the Ambassador group have been helping. The July session focused on STEM-based principles with engineering as the main emphasis of the activities the younger and older age groups participated in. The next (and last) session for summer 2012 will be held in August.

Upcoming Events

July

- 13-Junior Leader Trip to Madison; 8:00 a.m. leave time
- 17-19-Farm Tech Days, Outagamie County
- 18-Foods Revue, 6:00 p.m. Registration @ Sparta United Methodist Church
- 21-Fair Set-up @ Monroe County Fairgrounds, 9:00 a.m. Stall Set-Up
- 22-Mock Horse Show @ Monroe County Fairgrounds, 1:00 p.m.
- 23-Exhibit Hall Cleanup
- 25-29-Monroe County Fair
- 28-4-H Action Center/Demonstrations, 3:00 p.m. @ Monroe County Fairgrounds
- 29-Farmer Olympics, 10:00 a.m. @ Monroe County Fairgrounds' Beef and Dairy Barn
- 4-H Action Center/Demonstrations, 12 p.m. @ Monroe County Fairgrounds
- Clothing Preview Style Show, 2:30 p.m. @ Monroe County Fairgrounds

August

- 2-12— WI State Fair, West Allis
- 7-Jolly Joiners perform at State Fair
- 9-12-State Fair Clothing Revue Event for Monroe County (Period 4)
- 9-Star Gazers perform at State Fair
- 16-Record Book Workshop, 6-8 p.m., Immanuel United Methodist Church, Norwalk
- 14-Boys and Girls Club of Tomah, 9:30-11 a.m.
- 18-Western District Gymkhana @ Jackson County Fair Park Grounds

September

- 4-Executive Board Meeting @ Room 220 UW-Extension Office, 7:30 p.m.
- 17-Leaders' Association Meeting @ Rolling Hills Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
- 18-Regional Meeting @ Fanny Hill, Eau Claire (all day)
- 28-30-Cranfest, Warrens

*Your county
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Monroe County

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

Bill Halfman, Agriculture Agent

Agriculture Extension Update June 8, 2012 to July 12, 2012

The three corn grain foliar fungicide trials have been started in the area. They are located near Mindoro, Cashton and Wilton this year. The fungicides were applied in early June and plots will be rated in early August, early September and yield measured at harvest time. Three fungicide products are being evaluated in each plot this year.

The alfalfa fungicide plot continues, and 2nd cutting was harvested on June 15th. We will apply fungicide again to 4th cutting for the final cutting to be evaluated this year. So far results from 6 locations have shown only 50% of the time a yield increase with fungicide compared to untreated and only 33% of the time a yield increase when including fungicide with insecticide compared to insecticide alone. The quality analysis has not been completed yet.

Tractor Safety was held June 18 – 20th. This year was a trial of holding cooperative class with Monroe and La Crosse Counties. The class had 27 students, with instructors including the Ag Agents and High School Ag Teachers from both counties. Tractors for the driving practicum were provided by St. Joseph Equipment and Horizon Equipment. The feedback from the instructors was that combining labor forces appeared to work very well. The facilities also worked very well. We plan to continue this format next year with some changes to help improve the course. The tractor safety class was also featured on Channel 19 news.

The Ag Agent was on Channel 8 news to discuss the merits of the old saying “knee high by the 4th of July” regarding corn growth.

The Ag Agent was one of the presenters at a field day near Rochester Minnesota on July 10th to share the results, so far, of the fungicide research being conducted on alfalfa. The field day was organized by the Midwest Forage Association, who is one of the primary funders of this research.

A number of farm visits were done to diagnose problems related to crop production. There have also been a number of sick plants brought into the office for diagnosis, and weeds for identification.

UW Extension has responded to the dry conditions by developing a number of fact sheets and information materials to assist people with their decision making process for managing through the drought. The central location for this material is at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/drought2012/>

Upcoming Events

July 17-19 Farm Technology Days

July 21 Fair work day

July 23 Apple and Small Fruit Workshop

July 25-29 Monroe County Fair

August 1 Carcass Evaluations/ Contest

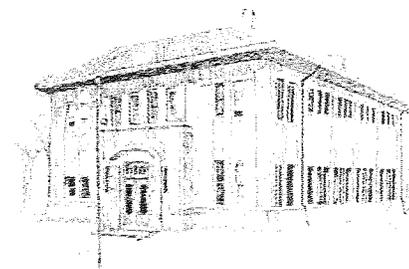
August 8 Wisconsin Cranberry Growers Summer Field Day

August 14-15- Area Agronomy Days

August 20-21 Manure Expo at USDA Dairy Forage Research Center- Prairie du Sac

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
www.MonroeCountyHistory.org
Jarrod M. Roll Director / Historian



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Cheryl Roseovius	City of Tomah

County Historian's Report, June 2012 Submitted by Jarrod Roll, Director / County Historian

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Promoted, planed, and participated in the June 30th "Civil War Experience Day" event on the Courthouse lawn
- Began sorting, rehousing, cataloging, and photographing LHR framed artifact collection
- Participated in the MCHS/LHR Cemetery Walk as an actor
- Attended Department Head meeting about 2013 budget planning
- Trained Summer Intern, plugging him into projects, such as researching and planning an update to the hallway displays
- Installed new computer and set up cranberry video in the cranberry display
- Hosted WI Federation of Museums meeting at LHR
- Sorted through a backlog of materials transferred to LHR from the Sparta Free Library
- Created a LHR News page for the MCHS newsletter
- Regular tasks: provide research assistance to the public via email, telephone, mail, and in person patrons; create agenda and minutes; process photo duplication orders; balance LHR financial books and draft monthly report; process mail and bills; check fire extinguishers; send time sheets; process new donation offerings; chat with public; confer with Alli Karrells about museum issues and activities; attend Ag/Ex meeting; attend Co. Economic Development & Tourism Committee meeting and participate in related projects

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

- Janet Hendersin: process new donations: assign accession numbers, catalog, store; assist researchers; assist with exhibit development
- Paul Kuester: work on indexing projects; work on clerical duties as assigned
- 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
- On call (Carolyn Hendersin, Dennis Burek, Mary Zischke): data entry; research assistance
- Kathy Nuttall (working from home): indexing Monroe County Rural School Annual Reports
- Helga Rogers: data entry projects; assist with clerical duties
- Katie Marx: transcribing Civil War era newspaper articles for the book
- Patrick (Youth Worker): various clerical and data entry projects
- Andrew (summer intern): various research projects, including planning the updating of the LHR hallway displays