



UW-Extension Sheboygan County October 2015

Community Growth Management Education

Sheboygan County
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Agriculture &
Extension Committee

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UW-Extension
Sheboygan County
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University of Wisconsin,
United States Department
of Agriculture, and
Wisconsin Counties
cooperating.

University of Wisconsin-
Extension provides equal
opportunities in employ-
ment and programming,
including Title IX & ADA.

Kevin Struck, Growth Management Educator

Kevin partnered with Sheboygan County's Land and Water Conservation Office and UW-Stevens Point's state-certified lab to offer a **drinking water testing program** to residents **in the Towns of Mosel and Herman** who obtain their water from a private well. (This is not a DNR program. Poor test results do not require a well to be shut down.)

For \$15 (normally \$49), well owners could participate in the "Homeowners Package," which includes tests for bacteria and nitrate-nitrogen, two of the most common health related water concerns. In addition, pH, hardness, alkalinity, conductivity, chloride, and corrosivity are also measured. Other test packages were also available, including a "Metals Package" for \$20 that tests for arsenic, lead, and nine other metals, and a "Triazine Screen" for \$27 that tests for the presence of atrazine pesticides.



Keeping a well clear of shrubs and long grass is a good practice to help limit the presence of small animals and insects that can carry bacteria.

Residents picked up a total of 113 test kits on Friday and Saturday, September 11-12 at the Mosel and Herman town halls. Kevin gave each participant instructions for sampling his or her well water and then he and Tammy Zorn returned on Monday to pick up the bottles as residents brought them in with their water samples. On Tuesday, Kevin drove the samples to the lab at UW-Stevens Point (samples must be tested for bacteria within 36 hours). On October 19, a groundwater specialist held a combined educational session for residents of both towns at the Town Hall in Haven to help residents understand their confidential test results and offer possible solutions to any problems. (A summary of results will appear in the next issue of this newsletter.)

"This is a great service," said resident Mike Marcheske. "You forget about it otherwise, and that's not good!" Several other participants expressed similar sentiments.

In addition to special once-a-year programs like the one described above, the Sheboygan County UW-Extension Office keeps test kits on hand that may be purchased by rural residents anytime during the year for the regular prices charged by the lab. In such cases, residents make their payments to the lab and are responsible for mailing their samples directly to UW-Stevens Point.



Your county
extension office

Sheboygan County
UW-Extension Staff
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Michael J. Ballweg
Agriculture Agent

Jane E. Jensen
Family Living Educator

Sarah J. Tarjeson
4-H Youth
Development Educator

Linda Lueder
4-H Youth Development
Program Coordinator

Betsy Warmus
4-H Youth Development
Assistant (25%)

Kevin Struck
Growth Management
Educator

Laura Apfelbeck
Nutrition Education
Program Coordinator
(shared with Manitowoc)

~ Vacant ~
Nutrition Education
Educator
(shared with Manitowoc)

Administrative Assistants

Ann Herzog

Tammy Zorn

UW-Extension Sheboygan County October 2015 - IMPACT REPORT

Family Living & Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP)

Jane Jensen, Family Living Educator

According to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), over 40% of school children in Sheboygan County were eligible for free and reduced lunch in 2013. This is an increase from 18% in 2000. The numbers are even higher for the Sheboygan Area School District (SASD), where the principal and social worker at Urban Middle School recently asked Jane to help train school staff to work more effectively with the increased number of families and students living in poverty. The SASD had 55% of their students eligible for free or reduced price lunch in October 2013. The district also had 269 homeless students enrolled during the 2013-14 school year.

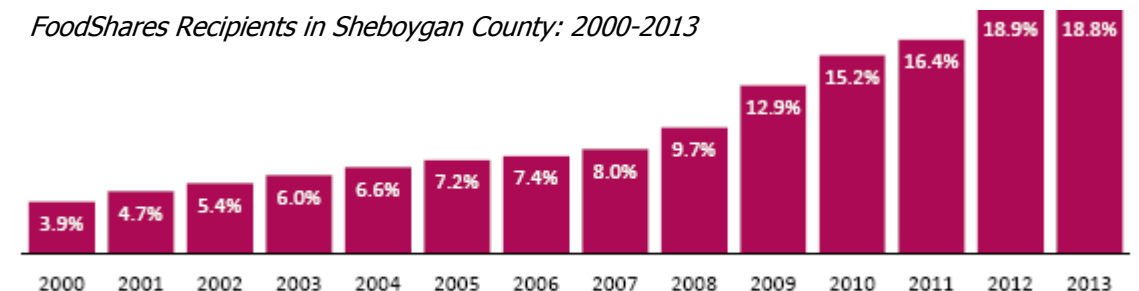
Jane co-facilitated a poverty simulation for 45 faculty and staff at Urban Middle School prior to the 2015-2016 school year. Sixteen volunteers were trained to assume the roles of agency staff for schools, social services, food pantries, employment offices, grocery stores, rent collectors, child care facilities, banks, etc. Participants were divided into "families" with a variety of circumstances. The simulation helps participants experience what it might be like for a typical low-income family trying to survive from one month to the next. The goal is to familiarize participants with the day-to-day realities faced by low-income people and to encourage them to become involved in activities to help reduce poverty. Jane has been asked to conduct a second poverty simulation for SASD administrators in December.

Laura Apfelbeck, Nutrition Education Program Coordinator

"Food Insecurity" describes the uncertainty of not knowing where the next meal will come from, or if it will come at all. Children in particular are impacted by food insecurity. In 2015, the DPI lists 6,366 children in Sheboygan County as eligible for free or reduced lunches. Thus, nearly 33% of our children may face food insecurity at supper time, on weekends, or during holidays when school meals are not available.

Due to such data, WNEP has received an increase in federal funding to hire educators to assist with nutrition programming. WNEP will work with classroom teachers to offer nutrition information to schools where more than 50% of the children qualify for free or reduced price lunches. In addition, WNEP educators will teach in conjunction with WIC, Head Start, Boys & Girls Clubs, senior meal sites, and food pantries. Educators hired in late 2015 will begin teaching in the spring of 2016.

FoodShares Recipients in Sheboygan County: 2000-2013



Sources: Wisconsin Department of Health Services FoodShare Data, Census Annual Population Estimate

UW-Extension Sheboygan County

4-H Youth Development

Sarah Tarjeson, 4-H Youth Development Educator and Linda Lueder, 4-H Youth Development Program Coordinator

Becky Schwartz was our 2015 4-H Summer Intern. We ask each intern to write up a summary of what they gained out of the internship. Here is a brief summary of what Becky had to say:

This summer, I had the opportunity to work as the Sheboygan County 4-H Intern. It was a really great experience that gave me a chance to learn new skills, and stretch my leadership and professional abilities. I originally took this position because my career goals include working in Extension as a 4-H Development Professional, and this summer gave me some insight as to what the positions entail. I learned a lot and had a blast.

To my excitement, I had the opportunity to attend **Base Camp**, which is a four-night stay at Upham Woods 4-H Camp in Wisconsin Dells. My role at camp was to provide adult chaperone support and check in with the other staff. This was my first year attending Base Camp as an adult, so it was a different challenge than what I was expecting. As a counselor, I always remembered “camp is for the campers” but as an adult, I needed to remember to step back and make sure that the counselors had the tools they needed to keep “camp for the campers.” There was also much more prep work that goes on behind the scenes from Sarah, Linda, and the other adult volunteers than I ever imagined.

Over the course of the summer, I was able to plan and implement different programs. One program, **Hooked on Books**, especially was interesting because I was able to work in conjunction with the Pigeon River Recreation Program. About 12 youth and I planned and led activities for about 25 kids surrounding four different books that we read. We were able to successfully promote reading and Sheboygan County 4-H to a new demographic of youth. This program went so well, that it was repeated later in the summer at Horizon Elementary School in Plymouth. I learned how to engage some of our younger, more energetic children so that they stayed interested and involved in our topics.

Another program that I planned and led was **Cloverbud Camp**. This was a day camp for all 4-H youth and their friends ages 5-8. I had about 18 older youth volunteer as group counselors and activity leaders. Altogether, we had 30 kids sign up to participate in camp. This was a good place for the older youth to practice their teaching, leadership, and teamwork skills. I was able to improve my own communication and planning skills. I learned how to prioritize and gained confidence in my abilities to execute large programs.

This summer, I was unsure of what to expect out of this experience. I wanted to see the “behind the scenes” look at a 4-H Youth Educator role, and I got just that. I learned that there is so much more than just planning programs for 4-H youth. It’s balancing a budget, working with state-wide committees, working with county administration, encouraging parents and volunteers, and the occasional late-night Wal-Mart run for last minute supplies. It’s the overwhelming feeling of joy and pride of knowing that this program has made an impact on hundreds (if not thousands) of lives. My experience this summer has been exceedingly positive, and my appreciation for 4-H and programs like it has deepened immensely. Even under the uncertainty that is the UW-Extension budget, I now know that my passions lie in 4-H and Youth Development, and I can confirm that working with 4-H this summer has made an impact on my life and my future. From the bottom of my heart, *thank you* to those who have supported the county and the state in this great organization. It’s definitely changed this 4-H’er for the better.

— Becky Schwartz, 2015 4-H Summer Intern

UW-Extension Sheboygan County

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Mike Ballweg, Agriculture Agent

- **Corn Silage Dry Down Days Monitor Plant Moistures for Improved Animal Performance**

Sheboygan County UW-Extension partnered with Adell Coop, Kettle Lakes Coop, New Farm Technologies, and the Sheboygan County Forage Council to hold the **2015 Corn Silage Dry Down Days**. Whole plant moistures were analyzed from 175 Sheboygan County corn fields from September 2nd to 23rd. 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 optimal harvest times. Ensiling corn silage at the correct moisture greatly improves the animal performance and profitability of Sheboygan County dairy farms.

- **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) Remote Sensing and the Use Of UAVs for Farmers**

Sheboygan County UW-Extension and the Sheboygan County Forage Council held **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) Remote Sensing & the Use of UAVs for Farmers**. The potential benefits of UAVs in agriculture are many, including being able to more efficiently identify pest, fertility, compaction, or drainage related problems in the field. The bird’s eye view provides a unique perspective for managing crops. About 70 people attended the seminar at Sunrise Acres Farm (The Mullikins) near Hingham.



Read the *Sheboygan Press* article at:

<http://www.sheboyganpress.com/story/news/local/2015/09/05/farm-drones/71779812/>

- **Tree Pruning Workshop Offered at UW-Extension Sheboygan County**

UW-Extension and DNR are hosting three **Tree Pruning Workshops**, offered in Sheboygan, Oshkosh, and Green Bay. These one-day workshops instruct parks and tree professionals how to properly prune trees, from new tree training to mature tree maintenance, to create a strong enduring tree structure, thereby improving urban tree vigor and reducing long-term maintenance costs for municipalities and others in the tree care business.

The workshop was offered on Oct 21st in Sheboygan. One hundred and twenty registered at the three locations.

- **Start Them Right...Raise Them Right Calf Management Meeting**

More and more farms are investing in newer facilities and technologies to raise calves. With new technologies come new management practices. UW-Extension offered this **regional program** September 9th to dairy farmers throughout Eastern Wisconsin who were interested in learning more about raising calves in group housing.