



Sheboygan County
University of Wisconsin-Extension
5 University Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53081
920-459-5900
920-459-5901 (fax)

February 28, 2017

Dear Members of the Sheboygan County Board and the County Administrator,

The UW-Extension Sheboygan County staff is pleased to share this annual report of programs and impact covering the period from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

Your University of Wisconsin-Extension Office is the local source of information for the University of Wisconsin system. The professional staff are University educators (faculty and academic staff) jointly employed by Sheboygan County, the State of Wisconsin, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Each staff member possesses specific subject matter knowledge and training. The goal of the staff is to continue providing quality educational programs and information to the people of Sheboygan County, to help them gain the understanding, capabilities, and skills necessary for solving agriculture, family, and community concerns. Our interdepartmental collaboration and the development of our relationship with key partners on the campus of UW-Sheboygan have proven to be assets to the residents of Sheboygan County.

In Sheboygan County, the Planning, Resources, Agriculture and Extension Committee is responsible for the overall direction and policy oversight of Extension programming, as specified in Wisconsin Statute 59.56. The committee is comprised of Keith Abler, Chair; Fran Damp, Vice-Chairman; Libby Ogea, Secretary; Jim Baumgart, Supervisor; and Steven Bauer, Supervisor. Our staff sincerely appreciated the committee's advice, guidance, and support during the past year and looks forward to working with the County Board of Supervisors in meeting the future educational needs of the people of Sheboygan County!

Sincerely,

Linda Robson
Co-Department Head
4-H Youth Development Coordinator
UW Extension Sheboygan County

UW-Extension Sheboygan County 2016 Annual Report

MISSION STATEMENT & SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Sheboygan County
UW-Extension Staff
920.459.5900

Michael J. Ballweg
Crops & Soils Agent

Jane E. Jensen
Family Living Educator

Sarah J. Tarjeson
4-H Youth
Development Educator

Linda Robson
4-H Youth Development
Program Coordinator

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

Kevin Struck
Growth Management
Educator

Laura Apfelbeck
County Coordinator
FoodWise

Janeth Orozco
Nutrition Educator
FoodWise (80%)

Kao Vang
Nutrition Educator
FoodWise

Support Staff
Ann Herzog
Nancy Brown
Tammy Zorn

The Purpose to which we commit...We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.



FoodWise Educators reaching out in schools to teach healthy eating to the youth in the community

UW-Extension Sheboygan County works with individuals of all ages, local organizations, families, and businesses. We teach at farms, schools, and public meetings. Funded by the county, state, and federal governments, we empower area residents to make better, more informed decisions and become more self-sufficient in their lives. We serve area residents knowing they will learn and give back to the community.

indirect contacts were made through social networking, media, newsletters, list servers, and mailings.

Thank you for your support, which has allowed us to accomplish the 2016 impacts detailed in this report. We look forward to another year of working together.

UW-Extension adds value to the community through a variety of programs and collaborations that improve relationships, build community, use resources wisely, and foster young leaders. In 2016, nearly 9,500 local residents were directly impacted by UW-Extension programs throughout Sheboygan County, and approximately 250,000



Reaching out to diverse communities through the educational programs of UW-Extension.



Strengthening Families 10-14 Program Alliance in Sheboygan County builds key family skills.



UW-Extension Sheboygan County programs help support 8,662 jobs and \$3.1 billion in agricultural related economic activity in the county.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED IN 2016

Educational Approaches Addressing Community Needs

Four towns were required to recertify their farmland preservation zoning ordinance by December 31, 2016 or their agricultural landowners would lose eligibility for tax credits that had totaled approximately \$200,000 in the past. Over a two-year period, Kevin guided these towns through the entire process, from gaining landowner feedback to revising the zoning text and map to adopting and implementing the new ordinance. He also developed custom educational materials to help the plan commissions, boards, and clerks understand the workings of their revised ordinance and map, and continues to provide follow-up advice as questions arise.

Other educational programs for local officials and citizens were provided as needed, and information requests were filled throughout the year. Topics included groundwater and private wells, land use, zoning, park planning, and farmland preservation.

Improving Soil Health & Water Quality

The march towards improving soil health and improving water quality continues by conducting on-farm research and by fostering relationship with existing partners and by building new alliances. New partnerships in the past year have included the: Milwaukee River Watershed Ag Sector Committee, UW-Extension Environmental Resources Center, and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD). There is an ongoing need to implement cropping systems that protect our natural resources. For the past five years, Sheboygan County Crops & Soils Agricultural Agent Mike Ballweg has provided leadership for initiating and conducting cover crops research in Sheboygan County. Three research projects have been implemented to help identify cropping systems best suited for Eastern Wisconsin. Research partners include: UW-Madison - Soil Science Department, Nutrient & Pest Management Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service Planning and Conservation Department, and The Nature Conservancy. Approximately 225 people attended the programs in 2016 to learn about cover crops and other best management practices. A research study was continued in 2016 to evaluate the effectiveness of how Gypsum may reduce the solubility of phosphorus moving off cropland both as surface water and water being discharged from tile lines. The two-year study will be wrapping up in 2017.



Sheboygan County Cover Crop Research Plot - Plymouth

2016 Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Short Course

This UW-Extension short course is designed to provide relevant and timely information that allows green industry professionals to improve the quality and profitability of their horticultural businesses.

Sheboygan County sales of greenhouse, nursery, Christmas trees, fruits, vegetables, and floriculture products total \$6.3 million annually. Landscape and grounds maintenance businesses create additional full-time jobs and many seasonal jobs.

Nearly 130 people registered for the Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Short Course in 2016. Over 99% of short course attendees rated the class as either excellent or good.

Sheboygan County Master Gardener Volunteers Build Community

UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) are trained individuals who support UW-Extension Educators by helping people in the community better understand horticulture and their environment. During 2016, 90 MGVs provided nearly 4,500 hours of horticultural expertise to Sheboygan County residents. Since 2000, Sheboygan County Master Gardener volunteers have provided 64,251 volunteer hours at a value of over \$1,204,572. The goal of the MGV program is to train enthusiastic volunteers who provide information and guidance on a wide variety of horticultural topics to the general public. An extensive offering of educational programs developed by MGVs in 2016 reached over 300 county residents. You will find Sheboygan County MGVs helping out at the: Old Plank Road Trail, Generations, Marsh Park Tower, Kohler Andre State Park, Meals on Wheels Gardens, UW-Sheboygan Campus, Plymouth Art Center, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, and Sharon Richardson Community Hospice to name a few.



Master Gardener Volunteers help with landscaping at UW-Extension & UW-Sheboygan

Developing Youth and Adult Leaders

Over 650 volunteers and consumers were reached with training and resources regarding literacy skills, food preservation, food safety, and parenting skills. 225 children and their parents in Head Start classrooms were impacted by these volunteers on a monthly basis. Over 1,650 volunteer service hours at an estimated value of \$28,050 were contributed to families and communities in 2016. An evidence-based multi-session parenting/youth program was provided that has been proven to reduce future costs in drug treatment, lost future earnings, and time in the juvenile justice system.



4-H provides opportunities for youth to learn from caring adults.

The Youth Development Program Coordinator, Linda Robson, provided primary leadership and support for 33 4-H Community Clubs throughout Sheboygan County. The 4-H Community Club Program enrolled 914 members, grades K-13, and approximately 324 adult leaders. Members participated in citizenship, leadership, service, teamwork, and decision making through their participation in club meetings and activities. Approximately 27,000 volunteer service hours were contributed to youth and communities in Sheboygan County in 2016 for an estimated value of over \$636,120.

Providing Education to Protected Audiences

This past year, FoodWise Educator Laura Apfelbeck was able to partner with the Sheboygan Area School District and Nourish Farms to use a PEP grant funding to move from voluntary participation in nutrition education in K-12 classrooms to a systematic district-organized series of nutrition classes required in every classroom, beginning with Kindergarten. They piloted the program with Grant Elementary in the Fall of 2016, and in spring of 2017 will continue with Sheridan, Longfellow, and Jefferson Elementary Schools. All of these schools have 50% or more families receiving free or reduced lunch prices.

Building on Community Strengths

Family Living Educator Jane Jensen provided adult and family multi-session caregiver education that increased family caregivers' ability to manage caregiving responsibilities, delay placement of their care recipients in expensive long-term care, lessen costly hospital stays, and balance employment with caregiving. The Family Caregivers Coalition in Sheboygan County, co-chaired by Jane, provided monthly educational programs, access to local resources, and quarterly newsletters to almost 1,500 local family caregivers and the agencies that serve them. Jane also shared the results of a number of focus groups she conducted with family caregivers to identify ways in which the coalition can meet the needs of family caregivers in the next 3-5 years.

Supporting Healthy Families

The evidence-based, 7 part Strengthening Families Program for Parents and Youth 10-14 was facilitated for the 6th and 7th times in Sheboygan and Plymouth to provide outreach. The family skill building program saves nearly \$10 for every \$1 invested in the program in future costs for drug treatment, lost earnings, and time in the juvenile justice system. Jane provided leadership for the program. Trained facilitators instructed the youth and adults separately for the first hour and joined together for the family session. More series are planned for 2017.

A farmer's market survey was conducted to assess the ability of food insecure households throughout the county to access the fresh fruits and vegetables at the farmer's market. Jane Jensen utilized the university research base to pilot a survey instrument that was used to survey limited income users of the farmer's market. The results are being used by a variety of family serving organizations, including the food pantries.

Developing STEM Skills for Tomorrows Workforce

Sarah Tarjeson, 4-H Youth Development Educator, worked with Spaceport Sheboygan staff and 4-H Program volunteers to provide monthly opportunities for youth to learn about rocketry and launch rockets. These projects were conducted throughout the year and included an opportunity to view the movie Apollo 13 and discuss the real life mission.

In addition, Sheboygan County 4-H STEM Camp was held July 25-29, 2016 for 23 youth participants in grades 5 through 8. The program was a collaboration of Sheboygan Spaceport staff and volunteers. Students participated in a variety of highly engaging experiences each of the 5 days of the program including areas related to rocketry, robotics, aviation and space flight. In addition to the project based learning, the students learning around problem solving, decision making and applying science and technology to the expression of ideas was measured. In a retrospective evaluation the number of students who agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that they can explain their decisions increased from 56% of students before the program to 78% of students after the program. In addition the number of students who acknowledged that they like experimenting and testing ideas increased from 83% of students before the program to 100% of students after the program. Some of the comments of students included that "there were problems that required interesting solutions and new ways of thinking" and "I was around people who liked my ideas." In addition, parents comments about what they liked best about 4-H STEM camp included "I like that there is a lot of hands on activity and the tie-in with space exploration" and "opportunity to explore interests and to gather with others who share interests."



Sheboygan County
Planning, Resources,
Agriculture &
Extension Committee

Keith Abler
Chairperson

Fran Damp
Vice-Chairperson

Libby Ogea
Secretary

James Baumgart
Steven Bauer
Stan Lammers
Members



Use your phone, iPad, or tablet camera to scan the code above to find UWEX on the web! (Barcode Reader or Google Goggle apps may be needed.)

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

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

BUDGET

The UW-Extension Sheboygan County 2016 approved budget was \$490,313, with actual expenses of \$466,202. The 2017 levy amount is \$428,631. The total approved budget for 2017 is \$459,416. Our budget more closely reflects our expenses and revenue than in past years due to the accountability in management built in regarding the office checking account. The 2016 budget goals were accomplished primarily by responsible operations, pursuit of matching funds, and sustainable program revenue and support from community, county, and state stakeholders.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES AHEAD

Many UW-Extension programs leverage substantial local, state, and federal dollars to improve the quality of life for residents in Sheboygan County. The state's 2015-2017 biennial budget reduced University of Wisconsin System funding by \$250 million. Cooperative Extension's portion of the cut is \$3.6 million per year—8.3 percent of its ongoing state funding. State funding cuts prompted the *nEXT Generation Cooperative Extension* initiative, but it isn't simply about reducing budgets. It's a chance to modernize Cooperative Extension and ultimately make it stronger. Sheboygan County UW-Extension staff will continue to work with the Planning, Resources, Agriculture and Extension County Board Committee as we learn about the changes being implemented.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2017

The primary goal of UW-Extension for 2016 is to continue providing quality educational programs and useful, research-based information to the people of Sheboygan County to help them gain the understanding, capabilities, and skills necessary for solving farm, home, family, business, and community issues and problems.

UW-Extension Sheboygan County has identified the following shared goals:

- Identify populations of protected audiences throughout Sheboygan County, as well as the needs that are unique to these communities.
- Provide technical assistance to help the Town of Lyndon recertify its farmland preservation zoning ordinance in 2017 to ensure approximately \$12,000 in annual income tax credits for local farmers will not be lost.
- Provide technical assistance to Wilson, Herman, and Adell as each works on and adopts the required 10-year update to its comprehensive plan. With price quotes from consultants as high as \$40,000 per plan update, these communities will save substantial money partnering with UW-Extension.
- Provide groundwater and private well education through 1) year-round availability of homeowner testing kits at our UW-Extension Office, and 2) a local well water testing event to be held in cooperation with Sheboygan County Planning and Conservation, and the certified lab at UW-Stevens Point.
- By the end of FY17, FoodWise will build relationships with two or more community partners in Sheboygan County to identify at least one way we can work together to better meet the needs of underserved audiences.
- Build relationships through coalition participation with Sheboygan County Activity and Nutrition (SCAN) Coalition, Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization (SCIO), and other groups to identify potential partnerships, unmet needs, issues, and audiences.