

**Green County  
Agriculture and Extension Education Committee Meeting Agenda  
Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026-- 8:00 AM**

**Green County Justice Center, Multi-Purpose Rooms-Lower Level,  
2841 6<sup>th</sup> St, Monroe, WI**

<https://uwmadison.zoom.us/j/97118246333?pwd=gcdbQhIkjV45X2l4seb3SYrVwxJOiT.1>

1. Call to Order & Meeting Voucher
2. Public Comment - (time limit not to exceed three minutes per person or thirty minutes total)
3. UW Extension Educator Reports – Written Report
  - a. Ellen Andrews, 4-H Youth Development Educator
4. Approve Minutes of the February Meeting
5. Review and approval of the Green County Community Perspectives on Large-Scale Solar Development Report
6. Review and Approval of February Bills
7. Area Extension Director Informational Items
  - a. Staffing Update
8. Business Manager Informational Items
  - a. Sheriff/Jail/Justice Center Project Update
  - b. Summer Staff Update
  - c. Tractor Safety Kits
9. Any other business – *(New topics for discussion to be put on future agendas)*
10. Set Time and Date for Next Meeting -- Proposed April 8th, 2026 at 8:00 AM
11. Adjourn

*Committee Members – Erica Roth, Dawn Sass, Susan Knox, Peg Sheaffer, and Yvette Smith*



**Please Note:** Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities through sign language, interpreters or other auxiliary aids. For additional information or to request the service, contact the Green County UW-Extension Office at 608-328-9440



### **Regional Crops & Soils Educator**

**Jordyn Sattler**

### **Regional Dairy Educator**

**Jackie McCarville**

### **Regional Livestock Educator**

**Casey Lobdell**

#### **Forage Fertility and Fertilizer Economics**

Presentations for attendees of the Midwest Forage Association Symposium where participants learned about fertilizer requirements and guidance for various forage crops, fertilizer economics, and the value of nutrient credits from legumes and manure. Through this effort, producers understand the importance of various crop nutrients as they pertain to forage yield and quality. They also have the knowledge needed to maximize their fertilizer dollars, and will consider strategically managing nutrient credits to lower overall cost of production and improve profitability. (Sattler)

#### **Manure Applicator Training**

A training session for manure applicators and farmers where participants learn to apply manure safely and accurately to keep themselves safe, protect the environment, and increase farm profitability. (Sattler)

#### **Nutrient Management Classes**

A series of nutrient management courses for farmers in collaboration with Green County Land and Water Conservation to teach farmers the basics of nutrient management and how to use the SnapPlus program. The goal of this program series is to educate farmers on nutrient management plans and how to generate plans for their farms. Having a nutrient management plan allows for participation in certain programs and promotes responsible commercial fertilizer and manure application. (Sattler)

#### **Dairy Margin Coverage Update Webinar**

Planning for a Webinar for Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) led by Leonard Polzin, Farm Management Outreach Specialist. By participating in DMC, dairy farmers can help protect their operations against declines in milk prices and increases in feed costs, supporting more predictable and stable income. Eligible applicants include dairy operations in the United States that produce and commercially market milk from cows. (McCarville)

#### **Save a Calf, Save a Cow Abbotsford Location**

The February 2026, an in person Save a Calf, Save a Cow dairy workshop with Spanish interpretation provided dairy producers and workers with practical skills in calving preparation, obstetric techniques, and newborn calf care to strengthen caretaker confidence and support herd health and farm economic viability. (McCarville)

#### **Livestock Radio Spot**

A monthly radio presentation on the Lafayette news on WEKZ Radio. This broadcast is used to highlight upcoming Extension programming and reach a broader audience. This would include producers, allied industry professionals, and the general public. (Lobdell)



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### **Soil Health Presentation**

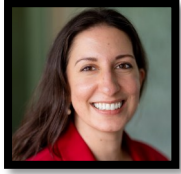
A presentation for attendees of the Premier Insurance crop insurance meeting where attendees learned about the physical, chemical, and biological aspects of soil health and how they impact crop health. By learning more about soil health, growers have a deeper appreciation for their soils and will take soil health impacts into consideration when making management decisions for their farm. Enhanced soil health will improve the sustainability of farms. (Sattler)

### **Southern Corn Rust Presentation**

A presentation for attendees of the Town & Country Insurance crop insurance meeting where participants learned about Southern Corn Rust influences during the 2025 growing season and tools available to aid in making fungicide application decisions. By understanding the conditions that promoted Southern Corn Rust in 2025 and learning how to utilize tools that forecast disease pressure and potential return on investment from fungicide applications, growers will be better equipped to make timely decisions based on third-party research and data. (Sattler)

### **Pasture Power Presentation**

An in-person meeting for vet clinic clients on pasture management practices at their annual cattle producer meeting. The presentation outlined some practices that producers could do to manage their pastures to better gain yield, quality, and sustain a better environment for their cattle. (Lobdell & McCarville)



## Community Development Educator

### Victoria Solomon

#### Green County Leaders: Leadership & Democracy

In the February session of Green County Leaders, we traveled to the Wisconsin State Capitol in Madison to learn about state and federal government. This session included:

- Introductions to both WI Senator Marklein and WI Representative Jacobson
- A tour of the capitol, which included an engaging overview of the structure of state government
- Connecting with staff with the office of Wisconsin Governor Evers to learn more about the governor position
- Learning about how policy is made, as well as attending and observing committee meetings
- Connecting with Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Crawford to learn about Wisconsin's justice system
- Learning how to effectively connect with legislative offices
- Updates from staff from U.S. Senator Baldwin, U.S. Senator Johnson, and U.S. Representative Pocan's offices
- Connecting with Attorney General Josh Kaul to learn about the position of the Attorney General
- Legislative meetings to connect with WI Representative Jacobson
- Observing the WI Senate in action.



In response to the question "What were the 2-3 most important lessons, ideas, or perspectives that you will take away from this session?" participants responded:

- "Really enjoyable day. Awesome to learn so much about state government and seeing it in action."
- "Really interesting and informative."
- "Understanding how to talk to legislators."
- "How important it is to know who represents you in all levels of government."
- "I won't do a form email when a hot topic circulates. I will make it more personal to me."
- "Today was so informative and gave me interest in getting more involved. We have real influence and power as constituents and we should feel empowered to make a difference. Your vote matters! Remembering that each individual is a person, don't make assumptions based on party lines, etc. We all need to do more of this!"
- "Be active in government. Reach out to the government. Trust the process!"
- "Your elected officials care about your perspectives and opinions and always want to hear from you. Understanding government doesn't need to be complicated or intimidating – elected officials are people, too at the end of the day!"
- "It was nice to learn how courts work in the US and Wisconsin. Better understand the role of the Supreme Court in enforcing the laws of the US Constitution."
- "Get involved – your voice does matter."
- "I found it beneficial to hear from all branches of government as a refresher and to learn more about the roles they serve. It was also interested to learn how important constituents' voices are."
- "Every voice is heard. Be kind to staffers as well as reps. They are fighting for all of us. Also, call and let your voice be heard to enact change."



### 4-H Youth Development Educator Ellen Andrews

#### 4-H Communication Contest: Growing Public Speaking Skills & Confidence

Public speaking skills are highly valuable for youth as they foster confidence, improve communication abilities, enhance critical thinking, and prepare them for academic, social, and professional success. By encouraging youth to learn to express their ideas clearly, we are making them better equipped to navigate future situations requiring effective communication and leadership qualities.

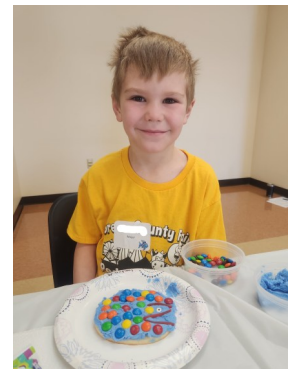
4-H Educator, Andrews, organized and hosted the annual 4-H Communication Contest, open to all 4-H members in 5-year-old kindergarten through high school. Youth can select from presenting prose or poetry, or a traditional speech or demonstration on a topic of their choice. This event provided 13 youth with the opportunity to develop and polish their public speaking skills in a supportive and encouraging environment. The audience was treated to an entertaining variety of topics and presentation formats, from youth of all ages.



#### 4-H Cloverbuds: Fun with Books

Green County 4-H is home to approximately 100 Cloverbud members in 5K-2 grades. Youth members at this age benefit from hands-on activities designed specifically for their developmental needs, but not all 16 local 4-H club have the capacity to lead their own Cloverbud activities. To help ensure our Cloverbuds have an fun, engaging 4-H experience, 4-H Educator, Ellen Andrews, works with a committee of adult and youth leaders to offer 3-5 countywide Cloverbud programs throughout the year.

This February we offered a Cloverbud Workshop built around the children's book, "The Rainbow Fish." At the event, 15 youth enjoyed hearing a children's book read aloud to them, and then doing both a food decorating and a visual art activity based on the book. Youth used a variety of fine motor and creativity skills, all while having fun making new friends from across Green County. Andrews recruited and provided 4-H volunteers and youth leaders with coaching in developing and teaching the activities. This type of supported leadership opportunity for adults and youth will hopefully help prepare them to be more engaged volunteers in their 4-H clubs and beyond.





## Human Development & Relationships Educator **Bob Wiegel**

### Financial Coaching Green County - Jan/Feb 26

A coaching program for families and individuals, where participants learn how to create financial goals and gain money management skills. The goal of this program is to enable participants to prepare for and take charge of household financial situations that occur due to changes in income or unforeseen hardships.

The three main categories of outcomes anticipated through financial coaching are that participants will:

- Learn about local resources they didn't have in the past, e.g. how to apply for FoodShare benefits
- Learn about Extension resources they didn't know of in the past, e.g. spending plan worksheets
- Learn financial management steps (process to reach goals) that they didn't know before, e.g. steps to improve their credit.

In 2025, Wisconsin residents who received our financial coaching reported many positive changes. 94% identified specific and measurable financial goals and 69.5% feel empowered to tackle financial challenges independently, suggesting that these residents can now more successfully navigate banking and other financial services. Also, 71% say that they have increased hope, confidence, or motivation since participating in financial coaching. Clients report paying off \$58,085 in debt and saving \$75,490.

### Re-Entry Ready Green County-02/26

An 8-module class that provides people reentering communities with tools and tips for managing bills, identifying & prioritizing payments for both legal system-related debt and consumer debt, creating a spending & savings plan, understanding credit scores & reports, choosing financial products and services, and building other financial competencies. Through this, participants strengthen their financial literacy to support a prosperous reentry to their community.

To help those impacted by the legal system to successfully reintegrate into Wisconsin communities and escape the cycle of recidivism Extension created two related resources: the Reentry Ready: Focus on Finances curriculum and the Reentry Ready website.

The curriculum features eight modules that cover these topics: choosing financial products and services, tracking income and benefits, paying bills, saving, budgeting and getting through the month, dealing with debt, understanding credit, protecting your money, insurance, and retirement.

The website includes resources on how to find housing, get their drivers license renewed or acquire another form of ID, find work, file taxes, open a bank account, apply for public benefits, find free or affordable medical care, and many other topics. It also features 14 county-specific resource guides (with more being added once or twice a year). The site also includes a downloadable action tracker that allows participants to plan the steps they'll take to manage their finances.

**Green County**  
**Agriculture and Extension Education Committee**  
**February 4, 2026 MINUTES**

The February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 meeting of the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order at 8:02 am by the Ag & Extension Chair, Erica Roth. The meeting voucher was circulated for signatures.

Members present were: Susan Knox, Dawn Sass, Erica Roth, and Yvette Smith. Peg Sheaffer attended virtually.

Also present—Samantha Wileman, Extension Business Manager; Lynn Perkins, Area Extension Director; Ellen Andrews, 4-H Youth Development Educator; Victoria Solomon, Community Development Educator; Bob Wiegel, Human Development & Relationships Educator; and Casey Lobdell, Regional Livestock Educator.

Public Comment – No public comments were presented.

**Green County Educator Reports--Written Report for Educators**

Questions were presented regarding the 4-H Shooting Sports Program.

**Green County Educator Introduction – Casey Lobdell, Regional Livestock Educator**

Casey Lobdell introduced himself and discussed the programs he is working on and assisting with.

**Youth in Government – Follow Up Discussion**

Victoria Solomon and Ellen Andrews gave an overview of different options for a Youth in Government program. Both Solomon and Andrews looked at the type of programming, requirements, number of participants, and pros & cons regarding different options and how the program would be sustainable over time.

A Local Government Learning program was presented as being the option to reach the most youth while also creating the best impact for the youth participating. This would potentially be a multi-day program that would occur annually, teaching youth and adults about local government. Solomon and Andrews would hope to implement this in early 2028.

**Minutes Approval**

Roth moved to approve the November 2025 Ag & Extension committee meeting minutes and Smith seconded. Motion passed.

**Bill Approval**

Knox moved to approve the January EFT payments of \$32.63 and the January presented check payments of \$1,305.41, and to include RICOH invoice once received, seconded by Smith. Motion passed.

**Area Extension Director Updates**

**Area 17 Staffing Update** – Perkins introduced Casey Lobdell to the committee. Lobdell started the Regional Livestock position in January 2026.

**New Extension/AED Map** – Perkins updated the committee on the new Extension AED map. The new map was distributed to all in attendance.

## **Business Manager Updates**

**Department Head Updates** – Wileman discussed the hiring of the new County Administrator position and timeline. Wileman also discussed the updates to the Justice Center through the Sheriff & Jail project. Wileman will discuss this more at the next meeting.

**Annual Report Presentation** – Wileman notified the committee that Jackie McCarville, Regional Dairy Educator, and Bob Wiegel, Human Development & Relationships Educator, will be the two presenting at the February County Board meeting.

**Closed Session**—Sass read the Statement of Reason for Closed Session—Staff Evaluations per Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(c)—Considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. Roth moved to go to closed session, Smith second. Motion passed unanimously. The committee entered closed session at 8:50am.

**Open Session** – Knox moved to reconvene in open session immediately following the closed session, Sass seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The committee returned to open session at 9:05 am. No action was taken on items discussed in closed session.

## **Other Business –**

No other business was presented.

Next meeting: Wednesday—March 4th, 2026 at 8:00am.

Motion by Roth, second by Knox to adjourn at 9:07 am. Motion passed.

*Minutes submitted by Smith/Wileman.*

# Green County Community Perspectives on Large-Scale Solar Development

Renewable Energy Siting & Engagement for Tomorrow (RESET)

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## Engaging Wisconsin Communities in Renewable Energy

MARCH 2026

To view the full report, visit:

<https://economicdevelopment.extension.wisc.edu/green-county-report/>

