

**Green County
Agriculture and Extension Education Committee
March 2, 2022 MINUTES**

The March 2, 2022, meeting of the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order at 12:30 PM by Extension Green County Ag and Extension Chair, Erica Roth.

Members present were: Sue Nelson, Oscar Olson, Dawn Sass, Erica Roth, and Art Carter. Also present—Jayne Butts, Extension Green County Office Manager, Lynn Perkins, Area Extension Director, Jackie McCarville, Agriculture Educator, Ellen Andrews, 4-H Youth Development Educator, Bridget Mouchon, Health & Well Being Educator, Jessa Engelken, FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator, and Lana Heins(z), Extension Activity Assistant. (Note: (z) members/attendees were present via Zoom).

Green County Educator Reports—

Written Report for Educators

Roth asked if there were any comments for written reports and no questions were asked.

Roth asked about updates for Bridget Mouchon, the new Health & Well-Being Educator. Bridget noted things are moving forward.

Jackie McCarville, Agriculture Educator

McCarville reported:

- In follow up to last year's UW-River Falls project engaging Agriculture students for the Management Assessment, not enough students signed up and therefore, the project didn't materialize.
- The Dairy & Well Being Conference was switched to virtual (due to weather) on Monday, before the conference on Tuesday. Most speakers able to do presentations from virtual mode. Educators have been busy transcribing presentations, however, since the conference was not free, they will not be made available to everyone free of charge. Currently, they will be emailed to those who registered.
 - McCarville presented a slide from one of the speakers showing feed represents the largest cost to dairy farms (51%)
 - Also noted farmable land is decreasing—currently 175 acres per hour of ag land is lost to development, which equals 3 acres per minute.
 - Dairy cows that are finished as milking cows are no longer referred to as “cull cows”. They are currently referred to as “market cows”.
- Carter questioned feed substitutes/alternatives, like cotton seed, due to the high costs farmers are seeing. McCarville noted many are turning to cotton seed, however they (farmers) need to keep in mind the protein effect, as milk is paying a higher premium on protein vs butterfat. McCarville also noted hay is selling very cheap at hay sales.

Minutes Approval –Carter moved, Olson seconded to approve the February meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Bill Approval --The committee reviewed the UW-Extension office bills for February 2022. Nelson moved to approve the February EFT payments totaling \$117.02 and the February check payments totaling \$3,901.56. Sass second. Motion passed.

Discussion and Possible Action on Out of State Travel for Ellen Andrews (per County Code 1-9-8, A9

Ellen Andrews requested permission to be out of state on April 25th-28th for a recognition conference in Tulsa Oklahoma, per County Code 1-9-8, A9. No expense will be incurred by the County to attend. Olson moved to approve attending the conference, Sass second. Motion passed. Butts will follow up to have this entered on the next Personnel and Labor agenda for approval.

Area Extension Director Updates

FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator Position - Perkins introduced Jessa Engelken as the new FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator. Engelken advised she has a degree in Public Health, is a Registered Dietician, and grew up in Iowa. She is excited to be learning about FoodWise as well as UW-Extension.

Regional Agriculture Educators-Perkins gave an update on the Regional Agriculture Educator position, noting the educators will be meeting soon to plan, set guidelines, benchmarks, etc. for the regional model. She anticipates there will be a needs assessment done for services expected in the Counties and hopes this would start by April 1st. Therefore, a report should be available to present to the Ag & Extension Committee at that time. Carter questioned money recently awarded to Extension via Governor Evers and Perkins noted specialists were hired in different areas, such as a Cranberries, Crops, Dairy, etc.

Office Manager Updates

Green County Extension Annual Report - Butts discussed the Annual Report and noted it would be presented at the March County Board meeting. Educators Andrews and McCarville will be presenting at the meeting.

Other Business Topics

Butts noted there may be reason for concern regarding the Clean Sweep Program and grant money. Because the landfill will not have employees with the proper certifications and Haz Mat training, they may not be able to offer the program this year. A financial grant has already been secured for this year and if we are not able to fulfill that obligation, the money may not be received. In addition, McCarville noted the 2023 grant request will be due by the end of May. Carter suggested filing the paperwork as normal and hoping for the best. This item will be added to the April Ag & Extension agenda for follow up.

Carter and Sass spoke regarding ARPA. Suggestions were made to contact Southwest Regional Planning Commission. Butts noted Solomon may already be looking into this.

Perkins noted she is working with Barry Hottmann, Iowa County about a program for new County Board members to explain what Extension does.

The next meeting will be April 6, 2022, at 12:30pm.

Motion by Carter, second by Sass to adjourn at 1:45 pm. Motion carried.