Kewaunee County Annual Report 2015

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Welcome to the University of Wisconsin-Extension Kewaunee County

**OUR MISSION:**
Our office is dedicated to providing a link to the research-based information of the University of Wisconsin through high quality programs which meet the educational needs of Kewaunee County residents.

**UNIVERSITY FACULTY:**
Aerica Bjurstrom, Agricultural Agent, Co-Dpartment Head
Jill Jorgensen, 4-H Youth Development Agent, Co-Dpartment Head
Renee Koenig, Family Living Educator
Claire Thompson, Community Development Educator

**SUPPORT STAFF:**
Louise Wolfe
Jan Tess

**WI NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM:** (Door & Kewaunee)
Jennifer Spude, WNEP Coordinator
Imelda Delchambre, Nutrition Educator

The Kewaunee County UW-Extension staff respectfully submits its 2015 Annual Report to the Chairman of the County Board, Robert W eidner, and the County Board of Supervisors, on Sept. 20, 2016.
UW-Extension Priorities

- Facilitating the development of positive youth and family oriented activities.

- Supporting efficient agriculture production practices so that farmers remain competitive in the continuously changing farm environment.

- Strengthening families through parenting, literacy, and nutrition education.

- Providing support for businesses and organizations to establish and improve.
In 2015, more than 850 children and adults were reached with educational programs that promote health and wellness. Programs such as the following helped individuals and families eat well, stay active and make well-informed decisions about healthy behaviors:

- Strong Bones Exercise Classes
- Family Meals and Healthy Eating Programs
- Cancer Prevention Workshops
- Mental Health Workshops
- Rural Safety Day
- Community Gardening
- Food Safety and Food Preservation Education
- Health Insurance and Healthcare Literacy

Family-strengthening programs help families raise caring and committed members of society, and care for those who cannot always care for themselves, both young and old. Examples of programs include:

- Supporting Children When Parenting Apart: classes for divorcing and separated parents teach strategies that keep children out of the middle of parental conflict and reduce the negative impacts on children. In 2015, 49 parents of 59 children attended the classes.
- Raising A Thinking Child: classes teach parents and grandparents the skills to improve children’s critical thinking and problem solving in 8 weekly sessions.
- Parenting newsletters are distributed to over 170 households when children are infants and toddlers. Electronic newsletters were delivered to 375 parents of school age children through the public schools.
- The Home Alone program helps parents prepare their children to follow family guidelines and be safe during self-care. The curriculum is also available as an online class that is accessible to families anytime.
- Parent Circles provide parent leadership opportunities, engaging them in peer-to-peer learning about the protective factors that build strong family relationships and prevent child abuse. As a result, more than 40 new partnerships were formed among parents and community leaders.

Partnerships with community organizations help to extend education and resources to families. Collaborative efforts include:

- Preventing Child Abuse Committee
- Back to School Supplies Program
- Food Pantry Outreach
- Aging and Disability Services and Caregiver Resources
- Financial Education and Employment Support Programs
- Public Library Partnership to promote early literacy
- Literacy Partners, Inc. to provide education to Latino families
- Public and Parochial School Partnership

Families are Wisconsin’s future. Families strengthen communities and contribute to the economy. They are consumers and taxpayers. Families care for children and their elderly. UW-Extension provides education promoting these family strengths and helps communities become positive environments for family life. Programs respond to community needs with research-based education and partnerships that support families and communities.
“4-H has greatly helped me with my self-confidence. Before 4-H, I’d always been very shy. Once I started it, my leaders and friends encouraged me to come out of my comfort zone. I soon became confident in my own opinions and who I was as a person.” Recent 4-H Program Graduate

I learned “you have a voice in no matter what and whoever you want to talk to.” Youth Legislative Days Delegate

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4-H Youth Development

State Wide Work Teams are based on a statewide needs assessment to meet the ongoing programming needs through scholarly tools, training and education. I am currently serving on two work teams focusing on volunteer development and youth in agriculture. These two teams have strong connections to the needs of the Kewaunee County 4-H program and utilize my professional strengths.

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The Value of Volunteer Time

$330,977.14 worth of services that Certified Kewaunee County 4-H Leaders donated to county youth.

(The Independent Sector estimated in 2015 that the value of volunteer service nationally was on average $23.56 an hour. The average adult 4-H volunteer spends approximately 7.9 hours a month working with the 4-H program.)

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4-H Youth Development

Wisconsin 4-H Mission: UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development integrates research, education, and community based partnerships, enabling youth to learn and practice skills to be productive citizens.

**u 4-H COMMUNITY CLUBS:** Thirteen countywide 4-H clubs provide year-round activities, such as community service projects, learning activities, project training, social activities, and fundraisers for 522 members. In addition, 148 registered adult volunteers support the 4-H program as general leaders, project leaders, or key leaders. According to the Department of Public Instruction (2015) there are 3900 youth in the Kewaunee County Public and Private School Districts. Therefore, approximately 13% (approximately 1 in 7) youth of all eligible Kewaunee County youth are involved in the 4-H program. Throughout the year, I provided education on club, committee, district, and state level with youth and adults on topics related to leadership development, building capacity with adult volunteers, inclusion and belonging, officer training, club re-organization, communication, planning and organizing, and conflict resolution. Furthermore, I spend great deal of time working with the 4-H Teen Association. One of the notable trends in Wisconsin 4-H is the declining number of older youth that remain involved in the program. We have worked to build a teen group focused on leadership development, life skills, and youth voice, inclusive environments, and youth/adult partnerships.

**u KEWAUNEE/DOOR LEGISLATIVE DAYS – YOUTH DELEGATION:** Twelve youth (triple the first year’s participation), two adult chaperones, and I had the opportunity represent Kewaunee as the youth delegation during the 2015 Door/Kewaunee Legislative Day. Prior to the event, I provided two training sessions with information, tools, tips, and public speaking practice that would be pertinent to meeting with legislators. During Legislative Day groups of teens partnered with adult community members from county agencies, businesses, and the county board. This provides the teens a unique opportunity to network and collaborate with these adults. In turn, the adults were able to gain a greater perspective from youth in the community. At Legislative Day, teens are able to see the democratic process in action and have the opportunity to use their voice to make a difference. On the evaluation, 100% (n=12) stated that they strongly agreed or agreed that they learned something new about an issue facing Kewaunee and Door Counties. One youth member noted that after participating in legislative day, “I learned how to speak about an important topic and hit the main points.”

**u VOLUNTEER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:** WI 4-H Youth Development requires ongoing development of both volunteers and youth development professionals. Two of the curriculums I worked on this year include:

The Heart of Leadership: I worked with state specialists from Wisconsin and Minnesota to create the annual leader training for volunteers that we facilitated online in Kewaunee County, throughout the state, and Midwest. The training focuses on different types of leadership roles and opportunities for young people, the elements to develop supportive youth/adult partnerships with young people, and creating strategies for volunteers to intentionally encourage leadership in young people.

Achieving the Extension Mission through Volunteers: I was a member of the team consisting of state program specialists and county based educators from throughout the Midwest that wrote a new online curriculum and training on volunteerism. The team collaborated, designed, and implemented an online curriculum that is available to Extension programs throughout the United States.

**u COMMUNITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND PREVENTION:**

STAR (Students Talking about Respect) 2015 marks the 3rd year for the STAR program that focuses on treating others with respect and educating girls about the concepts of relational aggression and leadership. This collaborative effort with local school districts, Kewaunee County Human Services, and the Violence Intervention Project to consists of a 5 week program with all 6th grade girls in a school district.

Super STAR Seminar: In response to the pre/post STAR evaluations, we created the Super STAR Seminar at one school district. It provides an opportunity to work with the girls in the fall of their 7th grade year and reiterate some of the topics that we worked on in the STAR program.

Teens Making a Difference (TMAD) Kewaunee High School: I serve as one of the advisors for the group along with professionals from Human Services, Juvenile Justice, and the Violence Intervention Project. High school students plan fun, safe, and low cost experiences for middle school students. In turn, the high school students are learning life skills and participating in positive choices.

**Families and Communities Encouraging Success (FACES):** The community coalition’s purpose is to assess and implement educational programs that will help youth and communities make positive decisions. I provide the group with youth development focused tools and resources as well as encouraging youth input for the group. In addition, I have helped the group with social media resources and evaluation/assessment tools.
Aerica Bjurstrom, M.E.
Agriculture Agent
Kewaunee County

“The changes UW-Extension recommended made a world of difference on our dairy. Our calves are so much healthier now and we look forward to seeing the payoff when they become cows.”
-Kewaunee County Dairy Farmer

“UW-Extension’s Managing Dairy Employees Effectively program was exactly what I was looking for to learn more about communicating with my employees. No one else offered a program like this, and I really appreciated that it was offered in Spanish so my dairy managers could attend with me.”
-Kewaunee County Dairy Farmer

Farm Team Meetings
Farm team meetings continue to be a staple in dairy and livestock agriculture programming in Kewaunee and Door Counties. Currently there are eight farm teams being facilitated by UW-Extension. Farm teams work on a variety of topics, depending on what their needs are. In 2015, I facilitated teams that focused on improving milk production, herd health, cow comfort, feed quality, hoof health, reproduction, milk quality, and facility renovation. In addition, I facilitated specialist visits to farms from UW-Madison and the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine.

Agricultural Education

Kewaunee County’s economy is heavily dependent on agriculture, primarily the dairy industry. Kewaunee County’s 43,500 cows produced over one billion pounds of milk for the first time ever in 2012 and have continued that trend since. Agriculture generates over $424 million in economic activity annually and provides jobs for 21% of the eligible workforce. UW-Extension educational programs provide information to help maintain farm profitability with good business and dairy herd management skills. This positively impacts farm families, as well as the agriculture community as a whole.

◆ MANAGING DAIRY EMPLOYEES EFFECTIVELY: As farms get bigger, farmers have the need to improve people management skills. A program was developed in Kewaunee County in 2015 to address the needs of “middle managers” on farms who were recently promoted to a managerial role. The program focused on soft skills such as managing conflict, understanding personalities, communication, and time management. The program was new material offered in both English and Spanish, giving farm owners and managers the opportunity to attend together. The program was hosted by Kewaunee and Fond du Lac Counties with 49 attendees between the two sites. Twenty-four attendees had English as their primary language and 25 spoke Spanish. Eighteen of the attendees were female. Evaluations showed 100% of attendees learned critical skills they would take back to the farm to become a better manager. The program was also awarded with Epsilon Sigma Phi’s Distinguished Team Award, and Diversity and Multi-Cultural Award.

◆ FORAGE PROGRAMMING: High quality forage is a key component to farm profitability. I provide forage education through several different programs. Two on-going programs I hold each year are Alfalfa Scissor Cutting and Corn Silage Dry Down. Scissor Cutting takes place at the end of May as the first crop is nearing harvest. I sample fields representing different microclimates and soil types. Sample sites represent the majority of alfalfa growing areas in Kewaunee and Door Counties. In the fall, I hold Corn Silage Dry Down, which is an event where local farmers can submit corn plant samples for moisture evaluation. Corn silage is an important ingredient in a cow’s diet and correct timing of harvest will have a positive impact on a cow’s production. Over 180 samples from over 100 farms were submitted and tested in 2015, a record year for submitted samples in one day for the Kewaunee Dry Down event. Both Corn Dry Down and Scissor Cut results are emailed to over 250 recipients and broadcast on three radio stations. Another program I participate in is the Alfalfa Forage Persistency Project, which follows the life of an alfalfa field from its first year of production through its last year. I collect samples, cut and harvest information, and weights. Samples are evaluated and tracked at the Arlington Research Station and kept in a database with farms all over Wisconsin. The project provides value for the host farm, but also contributes data to a statewide project that is shared with thousands of farmers in Wisconsin annually. I also held a corn and soybean field day in 2015 featuring state specialists from UW-Madison. Over 50 people attended the meeting and continuing education credits were offered for crop consultants.

◆ 2017 FARM TECHNOLOGY DAYS: Since being named the host county in 2014, Kewaunee County Farm Technology Days made excellent progress in 2015. UW-Extension has a major function of the show’s organization, and 2015 brought increased responsibilities for me as the Executive Secretary. I serve as the main communication link between the state office and our county committees. I keep track of volunteer applications, work with committees to organize and function, and do all the local administration work for the show. The Kewaunee County show has 18 committees to accomplish all the tasks that need to be done before the event. Kewaunee County is anticipating 40,000—60,000 visitors to the show. Kewaunee County Farm Technology Days will be held July 11-13, 2017.
Our Membership…
The Kewaunee County Garden Club is made up of 50 members from around Kewaunee County. Members come from all walks of life (and have varying horticultural interests). Currently, there are over 20 certified Master Gardeners in Kewaunee County.

Visit the Kewaunee County Garden Club website at www.kcgardenclub.org to keep current on the latest happenings with the Master Gardeners and Garden Club. The site features updates on local club activities, provides educational information and features a discussion forum.

Our Mission:
To encourage, support and promote horticulture to the residents of Kewaunee County through quality educational programs.

Master Gardeners

The Master Gardeners and Kewaunee County Garden Club are made up of horticulture enthusiasts in Kewaunee County. In particular, the Master Gardeners are an educational wing of UW-Extension and are trained volunteers that help communities better understand horticulture and their environment.

Master Gardener Training
Master Gardeners receive 36 hours of horticulture training. In exchange for the training, they donate volunteer hours (equivalent to the number of training hours received) back to the community. Master Gardener and Garden Club volunteers donated 774 hours of service to Kewaunee County, the equivalent of nearly $17,400 based on estimates by the Independent Sector in Washington, D.C.

SUPPORT SERVICES are volunteer hours dedicated to service projects in Kewaunee County. Projects in 2015 included Dana Farm Landscaping, Annual Perennial Plant Sale, invasive species control at Blahnik Park, community garden planning and service, beautification projects in Kewaunee, Luxemburg, Algoma and Casco, and Farm Technology Days planning. In addition, the Kewaunee County Master Gardeners and Garden Club offer $1,500 in scholarships each year to youth and adults pursuing advanced education in horticulture. The group also monetarily supported the Kewaunee, Algoma, and Luxemburg Community Gardens.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION includes hours dedicated to teaching adults and community groups. Activities included presentations to various community organizations, workshops at the public library and local nursing homes, an educational display at Ag Heritage Days, garden walks and educational programs during the year. In addition, Master Gardeners answered nearly 100 horticulture questions from the UW-Extension Office during the growing season.

2015 Master Gardener Volunteer Hours

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>Support Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Continuing Education</td>
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<td>Community Education</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Education</td>
<td>16</td>
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</tbody>
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Horticulture questions answered dealt with a number of topics including: trees, insects, vegetables, lawn care, flowers and fruit trees.
2015 Legislative Days Garners Support for Kewaunee County Initiatives

2015 Door/Kewaunee Legislative Days event received an A+ grade for its advocacy efforts to restore the Kewaunee Harbor Seawall. The Kewaunee seawall repair project received $4.2 Million and was fully funded in the 2015-17 state budget. The expectation is that this project will provide a kick start to downtown revitalization for the City of Kewaunee and the entire county.

First District Representative Joel Kitchens commented: “I heard several reports from my colleagues in the capital how impressed both legislators and state agencies were in the presentation of the materials and the agenda, saying our delegates are some of the most effective that come down to Madison from any community in the state.”

The Door/Kewaunee Legislative Day Steering Committee conducted a survey of all delegates, sponsors, organizers and leaders to rate the effectiveness of the 2015 program, and conducted a formal review and evaluation of program impacts three months after the actual program. 71% of the delegates rated the process to develop the agendas as either Excellent or Very Good - 87% of the delegates rated the written educational materials on the issues and agendas to be Excellent or Very Good - 73% of the delegates reported the content of the training sessions as either Excellent or Very Good - 82% of the delegates responded that they felt they were well prepared to participate in the legislative visits.

The mission of the Community Development Educator is to strengthen people’s ability to identify and solve community problems through education, citizen participation, group process, and unbiased information ~ allowing residents to make informed decisions, resulting in stronger communities.

Improving Organizational Effectiveness

Through research, education, facilitation and planning efforts, Thompson helps community groups and collaborations develop their capacity to handle change and make an impact.

- **Kewaunee County Public Health Community Health Improvement Plan.** Community survey research and group facilitation to develop this mandatory plan for the County.
- **2015 Door Kewaunee Legislative Days.** Research on issue identification and trained delegates in preparation for this bi-annual advocacy event.
- **Living Lakes Heritage/Farm Market Kitchen.** Planning, education and facilitation to ensure staff transition and evaluate organizational strategic initiatives to enhance revenue generation.
- **Youth Swim and Summer Programs.** Conducted needs assessment and provided facilitation to enhance youth water safety and other summer programming for students in Algoma.

Advancing the Local Economy

By supporting community initiatives and providing one-on-one education and coaching, Thompson works to help businesses and the local economy grow.

- **First Impressions Program.** Provided facilitation, research and educational support to the community of Algoma to participate in a First Impressions exchange with the City of Oconto which resulted in community improvement recommendations to advance tourism efforts.
- **Business Planning Education.** Provided one-on-one business planning education and coaching to twelve entrepreneurs, four of which were interested in starting food related businesses.
- **Kewaunee County Buy Local Initiative.** Facilitation and support to the committee to organize Taste of the County event.

Developing Direct Market Agricultural & Food Business Opportunities

With focused support and expertise, Thompson worked to support agriculture and food business entrepreneurs in growing their direct-market business and connecting them to regional and statewide networks that promote the sector and Kewaunee County.

- **Direct Marketing Your Meat Products Workshop.** Planning, promotion and teaching on direct marketing of meat products.
- **Wisconsin DATCP Food Business Seminar Series.** Planning, promotion and support for the workshop series to ensure Kewaunee County growers were aware of and participated in the opportunity.
- **Farm Technology Days Food Committee.** Facilitated committee formation and volunteer recruitment for this committee, continue to serve in a supportive capacity.
- **Hops and Brewing.** Wrote and received a SARE grant and facilitated development of a hops workshop and micro-brew offering at the Algoma Farm Market Kitchen.
- **Sustainable, Local and Organic (SLO) Farmers’ Cooperative.** Provided business and strategic planning, education, organizational development and grant writing assistance to successfully compete for a Farm to Hospital grant.