

Website: <http://grant.uwex.edu>**Jan-Mar 2007****Calendar:****January 19**

4-H Spaghetti Supper  
St. Peter Lutheran  
Church, Fennimore  
5:00-8:00 p.m.

**January 20**

Babysitting Workshop  
Youth & Ag Center  
8:00-2:30 p.m.

**January 23**

CPAG Meeting  
Youth & Ag Center  
7:00 p.m.

**January 23**

Southwest Corn  
Conference, Belmont  
Convention Center

**January 31**

Vita Plus Corporation  
Calf & Heifer Raising  
Workshop

**February 10**

4-H Family Project Day  
Youth & Ag Center  
9:00-12:00 noon

**March 11**

4-H Solo & Duet Contest  
Youth & Ag Center  
1:00 p.m.

**The Next Step -- January 23, 7:00 p.m.**

We hope that everyone will be able to join us for the CPAG meeting on January 23. This will be the last of the agent reports and following that, we want to have an in depth discussion of where we go from here. As has been indicated in the past, the Extension staff views your group as an extremely valuable asset. We each certainly have our own view of what Grant County needs to continue to grow and prosper. However, we need the broader perspective that you can bring.

We will soon be entering a new program planning cycle in Extension. One of the tasks that we hope you will accept is to act as a focus group and help us prioritize the needs of the county. Additionally, we would ask you to help us as we design our educational programs to meet those needs. Over the next four years, you can be our reality check as to how well we are meeting the goals that we set and continue to help us identify and prioritize needs and develop programs to meet them.

**Agenda**

- ▶ Community Resource Development Report
- ▶ Youth Development Report
- ▶ Moving Forward
  - ▶ As a Committee
  - ▶ With Program Planning

**SWYS Report Completed**

Tom Schmitz, UW-Extension Youth Development Educator and Bev Doll, UW-Extension Family Living Agent put the finishing touches on their 165-page color report on the findings from the Southwest Wisconsin Youth Survey (SWYS). Schmitz and Doll have been working with colleagues in Crawford, Lafayette and Richland Counties to finalize the report and share it with the 15 schools that participated in the survey. Links to SWYS results can be found on the Grant County UW-Extension web site.

## Crops & Farm Management Update

Programs scheduled for the first quarter of this year will help farmers meet certification requirements, evaluate production practices, and understand how to begin retirement planning.

Collaboration with Southwest Vo-Tech, UW-Platteville, and agricultural agencies and industry benefit many of these programs. Approximately 120 farmers will complete pesticide applicator training and certification. Twenty six farms will complete nutrient management planning. One hundred custom manure applicators

and employees will complete Level 1 safety and regulation certification. Programs will address corn and soybean production and marketing, farm transfer, retirement and estate planning, and farm financial performance. Specialized meetings are addressing soybean aphid management, organic farming, western bean cutworm management, and computerized nutrient management planning. These programs help farmers address management issues as they strive to improve farm profitability.

## Family Living Highlights

The second of two Strengthening Families Programs in 2006 was completed December 12 with seven families (9 adults and 8 youth) attending and completing the program. When youth were asked what they learned or would tell others about the program one youth responded that “I learned steps to handling peer pressure situations calmly, and I would tell others

that you can learn how to stay safe and how to put yourself in your parents shoes.” A parent responded that “it opened my eyes as to how I was parenting and helped me identify how I want to be. For example listening and talking without yelling and lecturing.” Planning a Strengthening Families Program in the Cuba City area is in the works for this Spring.

## WNEP Evaluating Teaching

One of the goals for the WI Nutrition Education Program is to evaluate the effectiveness of their teaching to various low-income audiences. Ione Meoska is presenting a lesson on whole grains to parents at Health Department health checks. After chatting with Ione, participants are asked, “After what you have learned today, are you more likely to try to eat whole grains?” Cindy Busch,

after in-school lessons, is working with a survey designed to get parent’s feedback on changes in their children’s behaviors related to fruits and vegetables. Results from both of these projects will be included in state-wide evaluation project reports. Recent state-wide reports can be found at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wnep/evaluate/rptngtools/accomplish.cfm>.

# **Boscobel Area Health Care Colors Facilitation**

In early May of 2006 James Schneider, the Community Relations Coordinator for Boscobel Area Health Care (BAHC), contacted Paul Thares, Community Resource Development Educator, UW-Extension Grant County, looking for assistance with training for employees. James was aware that this educator had received his training as a Colors Facilitator through the National Curriculum and Training Institute, Inc. (NCTI). Thares then collaborated with Tom Schmitz, Youth Development Educator from Grant County, to put together a quality training program and facilitation team for this project. This educator teamed with Paul Ohlrogge, Community Resource Development Educator, Iowa County UW-Extension, Kerie Wedige and Rick Morgan, of the University of Wisconsin, Platteville, Office of Continuing Education, to facilitate the "Color" sessions

The decision was made to hold eight sessions from September through October. The sessions would be spread geographically over Grant and Crawford Counties, with each session lasting about four hours. The sessions were held at

different times to make it more convenient for Boscobel Area Health Care employees to attend. This training was mandatory for all regularly scheduled employees (224), and maximum class size was limited to 35 people. Two hundred and seven (207) or 92% of the 224 regularly scheduled employees attended this training.

The purpose of the "Colors Session" was to train the entire staff about their own and others temperament, and build a better understanding of team work. Based on how employees answered the evaluation, the results below show that participants understood what was being taught.

- 79% of the employees stated that they would try to interact differently with people they know and 81% of the participants responded that they gained insight to why people respond to them the way they do.
- 92% of the employees rated the overall presentation a 6 out of a possible high of 7.
- 91% stated that their overall evaluation of the facilitators was 6 1/2 out of a possible high of 7.

## **4-H Celebrates Success**

The 4-H Community celebrated the success of its 23 clubs and 605 members at the 2006 Grant County 4-H Awards Night. Thirteen 4-H clubs and countless 4-H members received recognition for their work. Volunteer Leaders in the Grant

County 4-H Program were honored at the annual 4-H leaders banquet. At the banquet, the Grant County 4-H Leaders announced the formation of a Grant County 4-H Endowment Fund. The goal is to raise \$10,000 by the summer of 2007.

## **Dairy Summit IV is a Success**

The fourth Dairy Summit was held December 7, 2006, at Southwest Technical College in Fennimore with 150 people in attendance. This popular program, along with the Pathways to Success series, is sponsored by the Regional Dairy Modernization Task Force. The task force is a partnership between U.W. Extension, Southwest Tech., U.W. Platteville, representatives from a range of dairy industry groups and representatives from Iowa and Illinois Extension.

The main focus of the task force is providing education and information to dairy producers to assist them in making decisions about modernizing their operations. Over the past three years, over 1,150 people have attended one or more of the programs sponsored by this group. Both Ted Bay and Dave Wachter are very active in the task force.



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