

July/Aug 2006

Calendar:

July 25

CPAG Meeting

July 28-30

State 4-H Dog Show

August 9

Retrofit Parlor Tour
10:00 a.m.-12 noon
Tom & Kelli Weigel
Farm, Platteville, WI

August 20-27

Grant County Fair

August 30

Poverty Simulation
8:00 a.m.
Potosi School Staff



Grant County Forms CPAG

Grant County joined the ranks of more than 20 counties across Wisconsin when it held its first Community Partner Advisory Group (CPAG) meeting on May 9. Sixteen people from throughout Grant County attended the inaugural meeting of the group which was brought together to provide additional input to UWEX staff on programming, identify potential partners and to help strengthen existing relationships.

“The first meeting focused engaging participants in the purpose

and need for a CPAG”, said Dave Wachter, Department Head and Dairy and Livestock Agent. “The group embraced the need for the CPAG and then began to discuss how to make the most of the opportunity.”

The Grant County CPAG will meet again on July 25. The meeting will focus on programming highlights in Dairy and Livestock and Nutrition Education as well as a continued exploration of the function of the CPAG.

Community Leadership Alliance Students Graduate

The Southwest Wisconsin Tri-County Community Leadership Alliance has completed the 2006 leadership class. Graduation was held at Folk Lore Village in Iowa County, on Wednesday, June 28. This year’s class had 30 participants. “This was the 7th class to graduate; over 200 people have participated in this leadership program over the past 7 years. Some of the alumni have gone on to write grants, serve on boards, and one of this years students is

spearheading the creation of the Dickeyville Library,” said Paul Thares, Community Resource Development Educator.

This years class members learned how to use asset mapping, conflict resolution, listening and communication skills. They also participated in a poverty simulation and debriefing about poverty within the three county’s (Iowa, Lafayette and Grant).

Whirlwind June Benefits Youth

The Grant County Extension Office was a buzz with learning events and activities for youth in June. UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development staff provided educational guidance for about 70 youth and adults involved in 4-H camp and 30 youth and adults on the tri-county 4-H trip through the American west. UW-Extension collaborated on a multi-county leadership camp for 67 area youth and collaborated with several agencies and to support 300 youth and volunteers at the annual Rural Safety Day.

Grant County 4-H members excelled at Area Animal Science Days in Darlington as the Senior Livestock and Dairy judging

teams took first place and the Junior Livestock and Dairy judging teams took first and third respectively. Youth also participated in educational seminars for the cat, dog, dairy, livestock, horse, sheep, shooting sports, rabbits, poultry and clothing projects.

June was also the month to prepare for state fair. Contests were held in livestock, dairy and clothing to select youth and projects that will represent Grant County at the Wisconsin State Fair. Over 100 youth will represent Grant County at the state fair in livestock, dairy, clothing, music and at the activity center.

Poverty Simulation Planned for Potosi School Staff

Under the leadership of the Nutrition Education Program staff, the Potosi School District Staff will be taking part in a Poverty Simulation during their staff inservice on August 30. The simulation experience is designed to help participants begin to understand what it might be like to live in a typical low-income family trying to survive from month to month. The object is to sensitize participants to the realities faced by low-income people. The staff will be divided into different “families,” all struggling to meet the needs of their family members. The challenge for families is to provide for basic necessities and shelter during the course of four 15-minute “weeks”. They need to

feed their families, pay their bills, and keep their kids in school. While some participants may meet their basic needs, others will find it difficult. Some find themselves homeless and helpless at the end of the month. Participants truly get a feel for what it would be like to “walk in the shoes” of a low-income family.

Teaming with UW-Extension as “staffers” will be personnel from other county agencies including the Center on Aging, CESA, Even Start, and the Hunger Council. More information on Poverty Simulations can be found at: www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/food/povertysim/index.cfm

Dairy Industry Benefits from Task Force

Dave Wachter and Ted Bay represent UW-Extension on The Regional Dairy Modernization Task Force of Southwest Wisconsin. The Task Force sponsors an annual winter summit, farm tours, and workshops that look at new developments in dairy management. These events have brought dairy farmers and industry representatives together to learn from each other and to discuss potential business developments that can support the dairy industry in Southwest Wisconsin. Jerry Wehrle, Lancaster Mayor, has cited the first Task Force dairy summit held in 2004 as the starting point of the effort to bring a goat cheese processing plant to Lancaster.

Dave and Ted team with a diverse range of industry and public organizations supporting efforts of the Task Force. This diversity brings access to a wide range of people that support this cooperative effort by contributing their knowledge of dairy management and technology. The farm tours and workshops are held on a monthly schedule under the banner 'Pathways To Success' where participants can learn more about adoption of dairy technology. County support of Extension brings access to UW-Extension Specialists who also contribute to the educational programs of the Task Force. The Task Force is well underway on program planning for 2007.

Strengthening Families Program for Parents and Youth 10-14

Seven Grant County families attended a series of sessions in the Strengthening Families Program for parents and youth 10-14. The evidence-based program was a collaborative effort between UW Extension's Family Living Agent Bev Doll, and the Drug-Free Coalition's Program Director Kathy Marty.

Parents discussed what youth this age are like, making rules and consequences, how to solve problems with youth, and ways to show love and support. Parents learned the value of noticing what their youth do right, and using consequences that are respectful and reasonable. They identified four basic needs belonging, enjoyment, power, and independence that youth will try to meet however they can. In the final session parents identified ways they can help protect their youth against drug and alcohol abuse and how to help keep them involved in school. One parent shared, "It was wonderful to see that I am not the only parent struggling with my youth, and will focus on listening to my child's feeling and concerns before judging."

Youth learned skills to handle frustration, resist peer pressure, and get along with others. The youth talked about goals for the future and how to take small steps to reach their goals. The youth practiced what they could say or do to keep them out of trouble and still keep their friends. Another aspect of the program was to help youth learn to appreciate their parents or caregivers; seeing things from their point of view. "This program has been fun and has helped me understand my mom," stated one youth. The youth found out what their parents/caregivers wanted to be when they were young, and that youth are not the only ones with rules. Parents and caregivers have rules and responsibilities, too.

The overall theme of the program "Love & Limits" was consistent with the findings of the Southwest Youth Survey (SWYS) conducted by 15 school districts in the Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) District 3 as reported by UW-Extension. See <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/grant/tap/SWYS2005.html>.

Grant County to Host State 4-H Dog Show

Grant County 4-H will host nearly 300 dog project members from across the state, July 28-30 at the fairgrounds in Lancaster. “This is the first time Grant County has hosted the Wisconsin 4-H Dog Show”, says Tom Schmitz, Grant County Youth Development Educator. “It is a big effort on the part of our leaders and youth and great opportunity to showcase Grant County.”

The event will feature 5 show rings, 22 teams competing in quiz bowls, artwork, K-9 Unit Demonstrations, Dog Grooming Demonstrations, the ever popular dog agility and fun activities for the youth. A schedule is available at <http://grant.uwex.edu>.

July 25 CPAG Meeting

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Grant County Youth & Ag Center,
Lancaster

Agenda

- ▶ Dairy & Livestock Program Report
- ▶ Nutrition Program Report
- ▶ Feedback on Program Priorities and Newsletter
- ▶ Structure of CPAG
- ▶ Next Meeting Date and Agenda



Grant County Extension Office
Youth & Agriculture Center
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