

March 2007**Calendar:****March 14**

Dairy Modernization
UW-Platteville Pioneer
Farm
5:00-8:00 p.m.

March 22

Discovery Farms Bus
Tour - Starts at UW-
Platteville Pioneer Farm

April 24

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

March 14 CPAG Meeting

The next CPAG meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 14, at 7:00 p.m. at the Grant County Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster.

Agenda

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

Crops & Farm Management

January and February farm education programs included pesticide applicator training with over ninety participants, nutrient management planning with fourteen farms, the Southwest Area Corn Conference with over eighty attending, a farm business management workshop with approximately twenty-seven participants, statewide training and level 1 certification for custom manure applicators with 100 completing training and certification (18 from Grant County), a series of meetings on beginning organic farming with over forty attending, a farm transfer workshop with seven farms, and a Western Bean Cutworm workshop with ten participants. Programs will begin to focus on crop pest management as we approach the planting season.

4-H Family Project Day Draws 300

More than 300 youth and adults attended the fourth annual 4-H Family Project Day, held February 10. The event featured almost 20 hands-on projects for youth to participate in. Each youth had the chance to take at least three fair projects home with them. A special presentation introducing the clowning projects and a meal concluded the event. According to Tom Schmitz, Youth Development Educator, the goals of 4-H Family Project Day are to bring clubs together to share ideas and meet each other, and to give youth an opportunity to complete a series of fair projects and to increase 4-H membership.



Wyalusing Boat Landing and Public Recreation Area Sand Sedimentation Problems

The Grant County Parks Commission owns and maintains a public use boat landing located on the Mississippi River in Wyalusing Township. This land was deeded to the County in 1965 with the condition that it be used as a boat launch site and if the county permitted the launch site to lie idle for more than one year the land shall revert to the original land owners or their heirs or assignees. This boat ramp plays an important role in the local economy in that it provides the only public access to the river within several miles for commercial fishing, sport fishing, and pleasure boating. In June of 2005 Paul was contacted by Wyalusing Township Assessor Terry Page and Montfort Business owner Jarett Mills. These two concerned citizens explained that the boat launch in the county park is inoperable because of sand sedimentation problems.

Thares recommended that Terry and Jarett approach the County Parks Commission with their concern of the inoperable boat launch. The Park Commission gave their approval for agent Thares to work with Terry and Jarett to find what is causing the problem and how to best resolve the issue. Thares then met with Pat Sheehan, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to discuss the problem and look for funding. During this time frame, Paul contacted Sue Curtis with the University of Wisconsin Platteville to request having the universities' engineering students work on this as a class project. Thares met with UWP engineering students Sarah Sprotte, Ryan Bonell and UWP Engineering Professors Max Anderson and Robert Schmitt to discuss designing a new boat launch. Thares also made contact with a water hydrologist from the engineering firm of Mead and Hunt Inc.

In May of 2006, UWP engineer students presented their boat launch design study to the Grant County Parks Commission. In August of 2006, Mead and Hunt Inc., water hydrologists conducted a field reconnaissance of the existing boat ramps and surrounding area of the Mississippi River. In November of 2006 Mead and Hunt Inc., submitted their summary of findings and recommendations for the boat landings. Their report noted that a prior beach (1990's) in wing dam No.5 just up stream from the launch sites has expanded to 260 feet wide with a maximum scour depth of 33 feet. At present, substantial current races thru this breach of the wing dam, resulting in a 33 foot deep scour hole immediately down stream of the breach. This process is probably the cause for the sand sedimentation problem. Currently, the Parks Commission is looking at modifying one ramp to adapt to existing water hydraulics and have set aside \$16,000 toward the project. The cost for this alternative is estimated to be \$100,000 to \$150,000.

Contact has been made with the following agencies as part of the project, St. Paul District US Army Corps of Engineers, Russell Snyder and Paul Machajewski; US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tim Yager, McGregor, Iowa; and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Pat Short and Jean Unmuth.

Over the course of two years, Thares has submitted and been approved for DNR County Conservation Aids Grant in the amount of \$12,312 for use towards this project.

Characteristics of the Low Income Residents in Grant County:

WNEP is a UW-Extension nutrition education program that helps limited resource families and individuals choose healthful diets, purchase and prepare healthful food and handle it safely, and become more food secure by spending their food dollars wisely. Each year, work is done to identify the low-income population in Grant County. There is a higher percentage of people aged 65 and older (15%) living in Grant County than in Wisconsin as a whole and a lower percentage under 18. It is a rural county with a population density of 43 people per square mile and experienced a low (0.7%) growth rate in the last decade. In 2002, Grant County had a poverty rate of 11.2%, higher than the 8.7% state average. The child poverty rate is 12.6%, also higher than the Wisconsin rate of 10.8%. Sixty percent of the women in the county are working; 23% of the mothers with school age children are working. Census data shows the cities with the highest number of poor individuals are Boscobel and

Platteville. About one-half (49%) of the county's food stamp eligible population is actually enrolled in the program, just over 2,500 individuals. Participation in the free and reduced school lunch program, among eligibles, is 76%. Using the statewide food insecurity rate of 9%, Grant County has about 1660 households that have uncertain or limited access to food. Nearly one quarter of the households in Grant County have annual incomes lower than \$20,000, with the per Capital Income being \$16,764, well below the national average of \$21,857. 18% of the families headed by a single mother are below the poverty level; 26.5% of the families headed by a single mother and having children under 18 years are below the poverty level; and 36.4% of the families headed by a single mother and having children under 5 years are below the poverty level. Poor households are more likely than others to struggle to meet their basic needs. WNEP's goal is to help these families live healthier lives.

Sexual Harassment Report Released

A report on dealing with Sexual Harassment in schools has been made available to area schools. When compared to previous surveys, data from the 2005 Southwest Wisconsin Youth Survey (SWYS) showed an increase in the number of students experiencing sexual harassment by adult at school. Tom Schmitz, Youth Development Educator, worked with

Extension colleagues, Faculty and students from UW-Platteville and area schools to further explore the reasons for the increase. The four month effort found the increase in reporting was related to dress code violations, comments about students' sexuality and an erosion of the boundaries between students and staff. The complete report is available at the Extension Office.

A Real Life Experience!

An all day “Southwest Wisconsin Interactive Financial Literacy Event” will be held Wednesday, March 28, 2007 at the Governor Dodge Convention Center in Platteville, WI; involving high school students from the following 10 school districts: Belmont, Cuba City, Fennimore, Iowa-Grant, Lancaster, Mineral Point, Platteville, Potosi, Shullsburg, and Southwestern. Business education teachers in partnership with CESA #3, and UW-Extension Family Living Agent, Bev Doll have collaboratively planned for the past year in preparation for this interactive, hands on financial literacy event.

This interactive event is designed for students to demonstrate the importance of sound money management skills; provide an opportunity for students to connect with community business representatives in an authentic situation; gives students a chance to test their budgeting skills using actual prices for products and services in a safe environment; provides insight into career selection and how that career selection will play a part in a student’s financial future; test their ability as a consumer in our economy, and make classroom learning



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