

The mission of the University of Wisconsin-Extension - Cooperative Extension

Helping the people of Wisconsin apply University research, knowledge and resources to meet their educational needs wherever they live and work.

University of Wisconsin – Extension represents a unique three way partnership of the federal, state and county government to provide local citizens access to the Land Grant University System. Partners include the United States Department of Agriculture, The University of Wisconsin and Jefferson County.

Extension staff apply research-based information and processes, a variety of educational delivery methods and local collaborations to strengthen the lives of Jefferson County citizens. Our work in agriculture, community development, family living and youth development is based on local community needs, experiences and assets.

Extension educators are University faculty and staff, and their classroom is the County. They provide practical information through satellite videos, seminars, workshops, newsletters, radio, television, newspapers, bulletins, field tours, on-site visits, personal conferences, telephone and Extension affiliated groups such as 4-H. Program support is provided by University specialists and other partners.

KEN BOLTON

Dairy and Livestock Agent



Dairy and Livestock Programs

Ken provides educational leadership to Jefferson County residents in the areas of livestock economics, production and management. Specific areas of focus are:

- Farm Visits
- Cowscope Newsletter & News Releases
- Farm Management Information & On-Farm Team Facilitation
- Production & Financial Management Trouble Shooting

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Educational offerings in business management have moved towards dairy price risk management and one-on-one work with farm families to develop business plans and to address production and financial goals and challenges. Extensive work was completed with farm families on detailed financial analysis to provide guidance on addressing production challenges and to make progress toward family financial goals.

PRODUCTION ECONOMICS

Related to work in the business management area is the goal to better integrate the concepts of financial and production decision making into the comprehensive concept of business management. As a result, the agent often approaches requests for either financial or production assistance as joint concepts and preferably through the formation of On-Farm Management teams which includes the service professionals active on each farm. Through this effort, the team completes a comprehensive business evaluation, a consensus is reached on recommendations to be offered based on the managers stated goals, an action list is presented, then follow up and support is provided by all team members.

Management teams actively addressed farm challenges through the On-Farm Management Team approach. These teams met from one to seven times to assess farm management and offer action plans to address family goals.



Results include improved cash flows, reduced calf death loss, improved dairy cow reproduction efficiency, an accomplished goal to ship milk with less than 200,000 somatic cell count (SCC), continued three years of progress in reducing 60 positive staph aureus mastitis infected cows to 14, realized increased annual income of \$21,952 from SCC reduction, realized increased annual income of \$7,248 from SCC reduction, maintained a farm's ability to market their milk by reducing SCC, reduced annual equity loss by \$90,000, herd owner positioned his herd to control mastitis and increase income and, identified a significant cash flow deficiency and declining net worth.

MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS

Weekly news releases are distributed to 17 local and statewide media outlets, each Friday a 6:15 a.m. live radio program is produced via telephone and the monthly "Cowscope" newsletter is written and distributed to 475 businesses. These efforts resulted in the utilization of the agent's work in regional and national publications including the Wisconsin Agriculturalist, Dairy Today, Midwest Dairy Business, as well as each of three statewide agricultural weekly newspapers. Topics addressed included "Understanding Your Milk Check Receipt", "Winter Metabolic Challenges For Dairy Cows", "Negative PPDs" and an article detailing design options for low-cost milking parlors. The "New Milking Facility Startup" compact disk, that I co-authored, was distributed through the UW-Center For Dairy Profitability and Hoard's Dairyman.



PRESENTATIONS

Formal teachings were developed and delivered on a variety of topics including Milk Price Risk Management, Using Your Farm Financial Analysis, two invited teachings on campus and a workshop at the regional meeting of the National Mastitis Council. One class of the Tractor Safety Certification course was taught and the compact disk titled "New Milking Center Start-up" was distributed. Formal teaching evaluations document that 100% of milk plant field representatives participating in a short course class indicated that the "New Milking Center Start-up" CD is of value to them and that they will use it with their clientele. Participants in the NMC Regional Meeting workshop on new milking facility startup answered 98% of post-teaching learner evaluation questions correctly.

APPLIED RESEARCH

Field research data was contributed to projects to develop new milking parlor layout options and to a beef forage quality trial. Projects in progress this year include a teat foamer sanitation evaluation, economics of grazing vs. conventional feeding, the development of testing standards for forage analysis and a literature review that will result in a paper clarifying what farm liability insurance covers and what it does not.

OTHER PROGRAMS

The agent continues to assist producers in improving their understanding of how to better their animal's environment while minimizing agriculture's impact on water quality. Topics addressed include the sighting and design of new facilities, the modernization of existing facilities, manure management options, ventilation systems and specific cow comfort issues.



One class of the youth tractor safety certification program is taught. The agent meets regularly with the Pork Producer, Guernsey Breeders, Ag Fund and Animal Agriculture Alliance organizations. The Farm Forum Night Class series offered discussions on "Animal & Premise ID/Cool Requirements", "Nutrient Management; Requirements, Plans, Cost Sharing, Pay Back", "Government Dollars For Agriculture", and "Hot Topics For 2004 Crops".

KATIE DEBRUIN

4-H Youth Program Assistant

2004 has been a year of transition in the 4-H Youth Development program. Sue Pleskac received a promotion and Jill Tingey replaced her in June as the Youth Development Agent. In the interim, the 4-H Program Assistant took over leadership of the 4-H Youth Development program for Jefferson County. Katie works in partnership with Jill primarily in the area of 4-H Youth Development.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The primary focus of 4-H is to develop life-skills with a strong emphasis on leadership development. In 2004, youth and adults were trained in many areas of Leadership.

- Three camp trainings were held to train youth as camp counselors. Using the Cornell University camp manual, youth were taught how children develop through generosity, belonging, mastery and independence. This Circle of Courage model assisted both new and returning counselors as they prepared for the 3 day camp.
- The Junior Leaders – youth in grades 7-13 – continue to develop leadership skills as they plan and carry out different events. This group of youth leaders has made contacts, planned, and staffed numerous fund raisers to raise funds for a leadership trip and community service opportunities. In addition, the group planned the annual Cloverbud Day Camp and served as judges for the Cloverbuds at the Jefferson County Fair. The group meets for business meetings monthly in addition to any extra activities that are planned.
- Adult Leaders receive training at many different levels, beginning with a Youth Protection orientation when they enroll as 4-H leaders. In the past year, over 35 new adults in Jefferson County attended this training where they are versed in safe environments for children, experiential learning and 4-H programs in general. Adult leaders were also trained one on one, at county wide trainings and within their 4-H Community Clubs.
- Committee development is key to the success of the Jefferson County 4-H programs. One of the key committees that excelled in their growth and development in 2004 was the State Fair committee. This group approved a State Fair contract, behavior guidelines and streamlined the State Fair entry process. A tangible result to the work of this committee, with the guidance of the 4-H Youth Program Assistant, was an extremely positive experience for the 107 Jefferson County Youth that exhibited at the Wisconsin State Fair this past summer.



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Youth are an integral component of all of the project committees listed above as well as on other committees not mentioned. They serve in officer positions, chair sub committees and plan entire events. Through the support of the Jefferson County Board and the Extension Education committee, youth in Jefferson County will continue to develop leadership skills as well as other life-skills through their involvement in 4-H.

Current and former 4-H members serve in leadership roles not only in 4-H but also in their communities. The Jefferson County 4-H Board of Directors has a goal of increasing 4-H membership in the next 2 years, thus increasing potential leaders in our communities in the years to come.



4-H PROJECT GROWTH

To belong to 4-H is in itself a proven opportunity for youth development. As youth work with any project in 4-H they grow in life-skills that they can and will use throughout their life. Among the skills that are developed as youth become involved with a project are: responsibility, management skills, record keeping and public speaking. Highlights of Jefferson County project work this past year are:

- The Meat Animal Project Committee was awarded the Wisconsin Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals Communicator award for their Team Educational piece. This was given in recognition for the Meat Animal Project Record book that was developed two years ago.
- The MAP committee also developed new ideas for Livestock Camp in 2004, including a trip to the Arlington Research Station and the UW- Madison Meats lab.
- The ideas and programs developed by the Jefferson County Meat Animal Project Committee continue to be models for other counties in Wisconsin. The 4-H Youth Program Assistant has assisted 3 Wisconsin counties and one Illinois county with the development of their meat animal educational program and sale.
- The Jefferson County Shooting sports youth were recognized at the district and state level for their excellence in this project area.
- Jefferson County is the home of the 2004 Wisconsin Champion Livestock quiz bowl teams in the Mixed and Junior Divisions. 15 youth from the beef, sheep and swine projects met for a total of 20 hours to learn all areas of animal science in these species. In addition to the state contest, the teams also won 1st at 2 Area Animal Science Days.
- The Jefferson County Junior Dairy judging team won top honors at Area Animal Science days. Three youth placed in the top ten, including the top individual out of 125 youth.
- The Jefferson County Horse project continues to grow and be recognized around the State. We were well represented at the State 4-H Horse Expo in riding classes, Hippology, judging and all areas of the Expo.
- The Jefferson County Small Animal Sale committee has developed an extremely successful sale held during the Jefferson County Fair.



STEVE GRABOW

Community Development Agent



Community, Natural Resources and Economic Development

The Community, Natural Resources and Economic Development educational area offers programs committed to strengthening the ability of citizens, community leaders and local officials to identify and resolve critical community needs and issues. The annual report highlights and is organized around five broad areas in which Community Resource Development Educators provide their educational programming.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

A significant level of educational support was provided within Jefferson County's communities interested in pursuing revitalization and improvement efforts.

- Provided continuing educational support to the new Jefferson County Economic Development Consortium with assistance in the design of the business retention survey, research for an updated County Economic Profile and targeted educational resources and programs.
- In conjunction with the U.W. Extension Center for Community Economic Development, facilitated a market analysis and downtown vision which was approved by the Waterloo City Council; subsequently, the Downtown Master Plan, based on the U.W. Extension-led research and visioning process, was also approved.
- Facilitated a "Priority Setting and Focusing Workshop" for the City of Watertown Riverfront Plan.
- Presented a program to community leaders and citizens in Watertown entitled, "An Introduction to Placemaking and Making Places Special" to address downtown vitality and community revitalization.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT EDUCATION

- ◆ Extension educators arrange for the monthly programs of the five-county Intercounty Coordinating Committee (ICC). Topics included public health, criminal justice, economic development, growth management, and basics of local governance.
- ◆ Facilitated and presented "Basics of County Structure and Governance" to new and continuing Jefferson County Board Supervisors as part of County Board orientation; the program used resource materials from the U.W. Extension Local Government Center.
- ◆ Arranged and participated in a training entitled "Zoning Board of Adjustments/Board of Appeals Workshop" sponsored by the Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Department and led by U.W. Extension's Center for Land Use Education.
- ◆ Provided liaison support for the U.W. Extension Local Government Center's programs to town, village, city and county officials on topics such as parliamentary procedure, open government, government finance, new public official training and land use.



SMART GROWTH AND ITS IMPLICATIONS: PLANNING

The University of Wisconsin-Extension faculty and staff provide policy education to help officials, at both the County and local community level, better understand and apply principles of comprehensive planning (referred to as Smart Growth in State legislation).

- Continue to serve as an educational advisor to the Parks Committee and Parks Director on planning, design and land acquisition considerations.
- Designed a facilitated visioning and planning workshops for the Jefferson County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan process nearing completion.
- Delivered statewide and regional educational programs on comprehensive planning and community visioning including:
 - *Envisioning the Unique Elements for the Small Community: Governor's Downtown Conference*
 - *Jefferson County's Comprehensive Plan, Process Strategies and Impacts: APA Conference*
 - *Jefferson County's Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Plan: Sustaining Sauk County*
- Provided educational support to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Land Legacy Initiative in Jefferson County.
- Provided educational support to the County Farm Task Force.



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Provide knowledge and skills to assist decision-making about the environment and natural resources.

- * Collaborated with the UW-Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center in the development of a Jefferson County Solid Waste and Recycling Plan for Jefferson County Facilities; this report was developed in conjunction with the Solid Waste Committee and County facilities staff.
- * Arranged and participated in a workshop on "Green Building" sponsored by the Jefferson County Economic Development Consortium.
- * Continue to provide educational assistance to the Rock River Coalition including planning for a fall bike ride to feature Jefferson County parks as well as water and recreational resources.

LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ❑ Presented a session to emerging leaders for Fort Atkinson's Project Lead program.
- ❑ Designed and facilitated a strategic planning and community focusing initiative with the Fort Atkinson Chamber of Commerce.
- ❑ Based on the applied scholarship opportunities provided in Jefferson County, was promoted to full Professor in U.W. Extension's Department of Community Resource Development.

The faculty and staff of the University of Wisconsin-Extension are pleased to share the impacts of our programming with the Jefferson County Board, our local State legislators, our local officials and the citizens of Jefferson County.

KATHLEEN EISENMANN

Family Living Agent



Investing in family living education today saves money tomorrow. Strong families serve as the backbone for strong communities. Prevention helps the county save money. Extension's family living program promotes family strengths and helps communities become positive environments for family life. We respond to local community needs with research and education in partnerships that support Jefferson County families and their communities. Community-based education provides direct teaching, equips staff from our public and private partners and informs decision-makers. When local institutions, agencies, and groups are better informed and work more closely together to coordinate services and programs, share resources and expertise, they are not only more cost efficient but more effective. Jefferson County's Family Living Program leads initiatives important to local communities that can best be served by research-driven, community-based education.

Every four years, UW-Extension assesses local programming priorities by seeking input from key stakeholders in the local county and analyzing future programming trends across the state and nation. In 2003, the UW-Extension Jefferson County office engaged in the most recent program planning process and identified the following four strategic issues facing Jefferson County families and communities over the next several years: *Strengthening Community-based Prevention and Intervention Efforts; Building Capacity of Community-based and Nonprofit Organizations; Building Organizational Capacity & Leadership Skills within the Latino Population; and Enhancing Family Economic Security Across the Life Span.*

Selected 2004 program highlights addressing those priority issue areas include:

PARENTING NEWSLETTER PROJECT

Parent education programs that begin in pregnancy or soon after can help reduce child abuse and neglect. Jefferson County UW-Extension's Family Living Program in partnership with the seven Kiwanis Clubs of Jefferson County, Watertown Memorial Hospital, Fort Health Care, and the South Central Conference of St. Vincent de Paul distribute both of these instructional newsletters to new parents. More than 1700 Jefferson County families received one or both of these newsletters written by UW-Extension in 2004. In 2004, the partners on this project completed an 18-month evaluation study of the impact of the "*Parenting the Second and Third Year*" newsletter on Jefferson County parents of toddlers. The evaluation documented the newsletter was rated very useful by nearly as many parents as was advice from physicians or nurses, and more often than advice from one's relatives or other written material. Over half (58%) of parents responding to the survey changed their parenting practices as a result of the newsletter in six key child development areas.



FAMILY POLICY

Local public policymakers and practitioners, elected officials and community leaders want to be objectively educated on family policy issues in order to make better-informed decisions. Local Family Impact Seminars are a program model developed by UW-Extension designed to provide state of the art, objective and unbiased research on these family policy issues of local

importance. The seminars, led by a local planning team, are designed to address local issues and have been evaluated as very useful to policymakers and practitioners.

The Family Living Agent and UW-Extension provide primary support for the project. 187 local policymakers/practitioners attended the ninth annual Jefferson County Family Impact Seminar entitled “*Supporting and Strengthening Families in Poverty*” and held in March 2004. That seminar was evaluated by participants as very educational, objective and useful to them in their roles.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

The Wraparound Project - Intervention programs that are community-based and child/family centered may be more effective than other types of programs. Jefferson County Department of Human Services is piloting such a program locally and requested the evaluation expertise of UW-Extension in 2004 to design and implement a qualitative analysis of this program’s impact on the children and families served. This agent responded by partnering with an UW-Extension Evaluation Specialist and the local project committee to design an evaluation for implementation in 2005.

COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

Building Nonprofit Capacity

- planning and designing training opportunities like the “NonProfit Leadership and Management” and “Outcome Measurement & Logic Model Training” in collaboration with United Way of Jefferson and North Walworth Counties beginning in September of 2004. These seminars provide free professional development to local nonprofit leaders and directors of agencies that serve Jefferson County families to assist those agencies in becoming more effective and efficient in their program delivery.
- providing research-based strategic planning services to three local non-profits agencies in 2004, like the Jefferson County Literacy Council, as it designs a three year plan to develop a vision for the future in order to better meet the needs of a changing community.

5-County Wisconsin Latino Needs Assessment Project - Conducting applied research and presenting the findings in collaboration with local community groups, other University institutions, nonprofit agencies and school districts to assist community leaders in better understanding the socioeconomic conditions of their children, youth and families is a cornerstone of the Extension mission. The *5-County Wisconsin Latino Needs Assessment Project*, a research partnership between UW-Whitewater and five UW-Extension offices including Jefferson County, was completed in June 2004 and disseminated through the development of a four-part news release series, PowerPoint presentations and other educational materials developed by this agent. These research findings help to inform decision-makers and assist them in developing more effective policies and programs to serve the Latino community in Jefferson County.

Poverty Simulation/Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop – Additional information on poverty and public policy related to poverty was requested from attendees at the March 2004 Family Impact Seminar. As a response to that local need, a subcommittee of the Family Impact Seminar Advisory Committee chaired by this agent planned a day-long additional training for policymakers and practitioners for October 15, 2004. The poverty simulation takes participants through the life of a low income individual or family for a month. The afternoon workshop builds on information presented at the Family Impact Seminar.

MATT HANSON

Crops & Soils Agent



The Crops & Soils Agent provides educational programs that focus on:

- Crop Production Management & Profitability
- Nutrient Management
- Integrated Pest Management
- Farm Safety
- Horticulture

Approximately 2500 Jefferson County citizens have direct contact with Matt relating to the educational program areas listed above on an annual basis. In addition to direct contacts that include meetings, telephone calls, email requests and face-to-face contacts at the office or on farms, Matt also develops weekly newspaper articles and radio programs as well as a bimonthly Agronomy and Farm Business Newsletter that reaches over 1100 agricultural producers in both Jefferson and Waukesha Counties. These methods provide a means to reach out even more broadly and provide timely, research-based information.

This year, rather than focus on a few select success stories, this report will provide a broader overview of the diversity of the programs that Matt is involved with on an annual basis.

CROP PRODUCTION

- Coordinated the 2nd Annual Pest Patrol – Crop Scouting workgroup. Jefferson and Waukesha County producers visited 11 different farms during the growing season and learned how to accurately identify pests, evaluate the economic threshold of the pests and determine strategies for control, if needed.
- Facilitated a soybean rust informational meeting for producers. Specialists from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois spoke about the potential fungal threat and its impact on soybean production in the Midwest.
- Provided assistance to farmers with making replant decisions after the near-record spring flooding that occurred.
- Provided information on emergency forage options to help farmers make informed decisions on how to produce high quality alternative forages following a crop loss.



NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

- Provided Nutrient Management (NM) training to farmers. Producers learned how to develop a NM plan that meets the current state requirements for their specific farm.
- Developed and taught a new advanced NM training program that allows producers that participated in the NM program four years ago to recertify and continue to develop their own NM plan.
- Weighed and calibrated manure spreaders to help producers accurately determine the application rate of manure applied to their fields.
- Provided information to producers regarding nitrogen sidedress recommendations to adjust for the loss of early applied nitrogen (N) that occurred because of the spring flooding.



ON-FARM RESEARCH

- Continued the on-farm nitrogen sidedress application rate studies. Results from the studies reveal increased profitability and decreased N loss by sidedressing N versus fall or early spring applications.
- Established an alfalfa research and trial plot. The site will evaluate the effectiveness of leafhopper resistant alfalfa. Several new alfalfa varieties are also included for producers to view.
- Coordinated the Western Corn Rootworm Variant trapping network for Northern Rock and Southern Jefferson and Waukesha Counties. The program helps corn growers determine whether corn rootworm insecticide is needed to protect their corn.



FARM SAFETY



- Coordinated the Tractor and Machinery Safety program for youth ages 12 to 16. The program is taught with assistance from Ken Bolton and several high school agricultural instructors. Twenty-nine youth attended this year.
- Taught a machinery and grain safety station at the St. Coletta Farm Tour attended by 688 fourth grade Jefferson County students.
- Coordinated the 7th annual Jefferson County Safety Day Camp attended by 115 youth and approximately 20 adults. Youth spent time at 11 safety stations, with each station focusing on a different topic. TREK bicycle donated helmets and had staff properly fit each individual.

HORTICULTURE

- Coordinated the 2004 Master Gardener program. Fifty participants successfully completed the 12 week educational program this year.
- Supported the Master Gardeners with developing an educational display and program focusing on butterfly gardens at the Jefferson County Fair.
- Established a strong working relationship with Countryside Home and established a butterfly garden as a beautification project. Master Gardeners are helping Countryside Home with weeding flower gardens, establishing new annual and perennial gardens and other grounds maintenance projects.
- Answered approximately 400 phone calls specifically related to horticultural questions from Jefferson County citizens.
- Assisted with the development of a formalized Master Gardener association in Jefferson County. This group will likely assist with some of the coordinating activities of the Master Gardener program.
- This year's Master Gardeners will provide over 2500 hours of volunteer service to our local communities.

JILL TINGEY

Youth Development Agent



Teen counselors and campers enjoy evening activities at 4-H camp.

Young people develop life skills that prepare them to become caring, competent and productive citizens through UW- Extension Youth Development Programs. Through projects, activities, and community service, youth gain leadership, decision making, self responsibility, problem solving, teamwork, goal setting, communication, conflict management, and career skills. Opportunities and supports for positive youth development are created and fostered through partnerships with adults and communities.

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

One of the goals of the new youth development agent was to experience the activities available to youth and volunteers in Jefferson County. Since arriving in June, the youth development agent had the opportunity to:

- observe young people leading other youth at 4-H camp
- train junior leaders to conduct interview judging with Cloverbud members (youth ages 5 – 8 years old)
- facilitate the Jefferson County 4-H Leaders' Association's scholarship selection process
- experience the Jefferson County Fair
- support junior leaders in running a successful 4-H Cloverbud Day Camp
- attend Safety Day Camp
- conduct focus group discussions with the Juvenile Mentoring Program adult mentors
- participate in Brain Gain/Brain Drain workshop
- work with youth and adult leaders by attending club meetings, Leaders' Association and Board meetings, Meat Animal Project meetings, planning sessions for the county fair, state fair, special emphasis banquet, and other committees
- meet community leaders through the Delinquency Prevention Council, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Abuse Partnership Council, and other youth and community-serving agencies



ASSETS AND STRENGTHS

Jefferson County has a variety of assets and strengths that promote positive youth development and encourage healthy behaviors among young people and adults. Some components of Jefferson County's assets are:

- dedicated adults who teach and lead youth
- that community values our young people and has systems in place to support their growth and development
- youth representation on 4-H Leaders' Association committees
- young people planning, organizing, leading events such as Cloverbud Day Camp and 4-H camp



- youth plan to volunteer as adult 4-H leaders after graduating from the program
- strong 4-H community club program
- access to county and state 4-H program information on the web
- mentoring programs for young people
- community members, schools, police, non-profit agencies, and other groups work together to address the needs of youth and their families



OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD MORE ASSETS

Challenges and gaps in youth development programming indicated in needs assessments, UW- Extension Program Plan, and experiences and observations in the county have shaped some of the areas that the Youth Development Agent will address. Some of the opportunities in Jefferson County to foster healthy development in youth are:

Include more youth in programs

- recruit more young people into 4-H and other youth development programs
- involve Latino youth in 4-H, school and community activities
- offer activities that increase understanding of culture and value diversity
- explore need for after-school programming and partner with other youth-serving agencies to increase the quality and quantity for school-age youth

Involve youth in community decision making

- strengthen youth adult partnerships to address issues youth face
- implement youth engagement/youth in governance models to increase citizen participation
- work with youth to conduct alcohol and other drug prevention activities to promote healthy behaviors

Strengthen 4-H club leadership

- guide youth to accept responsibility for their 4-H projects while encouraging adults to assume a coaching/advising role rather than doing the youth's project
- provide more training to new leaders on communicating with parents, members, and other leaders, resolving conflicts, working with club officers
- incorporate constructive conflict management and bullying prevention education into existing programs
- promote ethical actions to lay the groundwork for making effective decisions

Support community-based prevention efforts

- provide support and training for community agencies on positive youth development principles
- assist organizations in evaluating programs to better meet the needs of young people



SUZANNE WADE

Rock River Basin Educator

Suzanne's focus is on natural resource education and developing effective watershed partnerships. She works primarily through the efforts of Rock River Coalition (RRC) Issue Teams. The Rock River Basin is the area of land that drains to the Rock River. It covers 3,700 square miles and includes all or part of Jefferson, Dodge, Rock, Dane, Columbia, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Washington, Waukesha and Walworth counties.



ROCK RIVER BASIN PARTNERSHIP TEAM HIGHLIGHTS



Land Use: The Rock River Coalition Rural Development Issue Team hosted two issue forums. As a result, the Odyssey of Nature educational event for rural non-agriculture landowners was held in June 2004. I developed and delivered two of the programs at the event. Other new areas of interest to this team are promoting low impact development and assessing the feasibility of biodiesel. The team's work, especially the Rural Development Guidelines Manual received a 2004 Top Rural Development Initiative Award from Wisconsin Rural Partners, Inc.

Natural Shorelines: Eight native plant shoreline restorations were designed for public parks in Dodge, Rock, Walworth and Dane counties funded by a DNR River Protection Grant. This brings the RRC native plant shoreline restorations to 20 over three years. A Rain Garden and Natural Shoreline Tour, held in August 2004, was a joint effort by UWEX, RRC and Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department.

Storm Water: Efforts here included the development of a construction site erosion control workshop, two rain garden workshops, a rain garden and natural shoreline tour and a rain garden education kit. Over 160 people participated in the tours and workshops. The kit is being used statewide and includes case studies, presentations, signs, and workshop materials. A demonstration rain garden was completed at the UW-Extension Jefferson County Office; and a display about the establishment of the rain garden has been completed. An educational sign will be installed this winter. A Madison Area Storm Water survey of homeowner knowledge and behavior was completed. Results are being used to develop spring 2005 TV and radio messages.



Wetlands: Reaching the goal of prioritizing wetlands for restoration has taken a step forward as we develop volunteer monitoring protocols for the Zeloski farm wetland restorations in Jefferson County. I have also begun to work with the Sand County Foundation and Discovery Farms on using wetlands and other management techniques to reduce nitrate discharge from farm tiles.

Water Quality: The Rock River Basin Citizen Monitoring program has 140 citizens taking water

quality measurements of wadable streams from April through November. Volunteers measure dissolved oxygen, temperature, flow, habitat and water clarity. They also collect and identify stream animals to determine a biotic index of water quality. Three training workshops were held as well as an annual 'Confluence: a Gathering of Rock River Basin Monitors' where advanced training was provided. The RRC is piloting a new certification program for monitors to insure quality of data. In 2003, I was honored with the first Wisconsin Stream Monitoring Pioneer Award.



Monitors at spring Training at Waterloo



OTHER WORKSHOPS, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Groundwater Festival: The Rock River Coalition is a Groundwater Guardian, working to establish awareness of groundwater issues and assisting communities in developing local Groundwater Guardian chapters. As such, I helped develop the urban curriculum for the Groundwater Festival attended by 600 5th and 6th graders. As part of the festival, the students planted a 700 square foot rain garden on the Waukesha County Expo Center grounds.

Wisconsin Runoff Performance Standards: I am on a statewide multi-agency committee to develop educational materials and workshops regarding the new agricultural and urban (storm water) performance standards.

Send Your Legislator Down the River: The fourth annual "SYLDTR" was held on May 16, 2004. Present were State Representative Steve Nass, State Senator Scott Fitzgerald, and Jefferson County Supervisors Kathleen Groskopf and Greg David. Dan Small was the keynote speaker. Next year's SYLDTR will be Monday June 13 and will be filmed for Outdoor Wisconsin.

Canoe EdVentures: I initiated this new educational program with Rutabaga Paddle Sports Store.

Publications: I edited, authored and laid out three Rock River Coalition newsletters and assisted in the development of the RRC Annual report. I also wrote two citizen monitoring newsletters, developed numerous flyers, event notices, and media releases.



Changing Landscapes II: Anticipating the Effects of Local Decisions Workshop: Participants at this workshop reviewed a number of computer programs that assessed the impact of land use decisions. Follow-up workshops for citizens and professionals based on the best programs will be held in 2005.

Environmental Grants Workshop: Fifty people attended this workshop focused on applying for DNR River, Lakes and Runoff Management grants.

Columbia County Woodland Owners Workshop: I helped to organize this workshop attended by more than 100 people.

Key Presentations: Wisconsin Association of Lakes state conference plenary panel regarding citizen monitoring; Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals national conference regarding Rock River Basin efforts; Southeast Wisconsin Lakes Workshop on developing lake education programs; UW-Extension Department of Community Resource Development Symposium on the Southern District Strategic Plan.