

Project Title: Crops and Soils Initiative in Outagamie County

Project Contacts and Collaborators:

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Outagamie County Extension Education Committee
Jim McDaniels, Extension Education Committee Chair

Situation Statement:

A full time Crops, Soils and Horticulture position is included in the Outagamie County 2003 budget. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we need to seek funding to continue to offer the level of services we have provided to county clientele seeking funding to secure a 39% position. Since August, 2002, The 39% position has been totally paid by Outagamie County funding.

The staff member that was out on extended medical leave has returned on a part-time basis and the position requires 40% of the funding be paid toward that agent's salary from the county budget.

While we don't know when the person will be able to return to the position full time, the county has determined there is a need for provision of crops and soils programming. The Dairy and Livestock Agent has worked tirelessly to insure a seamless delivery of agricultural program needs. Horticulture and community garden work is being covered by other staff members.

With the approval of this proposal we would have the position covered at a minimum of a 64% level until June 30, 2003.

Project Goals and Expected Outcomes: (a specific position description is available).

The crops and soils educator develops educational programs that provides information and creates awareness of University of Wisconsin and other research findings in plant sciences, agricultural economics, horticulture and natural resources. The educator provides leadership and instruction by working with adults and youth to assist them in understanding and learning information to effectively meet their individual and collective needs. Program goals are accomplished through appropriate uses of individual instruction, group teaching, media, and as well as serving as an educational advisor to program-related groups and organizations.

This educator works with a variety of Agri-business professionals, Forage Council, Land Conservation Agronomist, area staff from Fox Valley Technical College as well as other Agriculture Agents in the Northeast District.

Project timeline:

January 21, 2003- June 30, 2003

Evaluation Plan:

Work accomplished specifically in the areas of forage council, forage quality and nutrient management.

Continued county support of the Crops, Soils and Horticulture position as we prepare for the 2004 budget process.

Detailed Budget:

Salary for 133 contract with Fred Pumper employed at 39% time:

929.50 per month X 5 months = \$4,647.50

County Budget will cover travel and other expenses involved in the position.