

Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2008

Chairman Herb Cornell called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Present were: Cornell, McClelland, Larson, Easterday, Rehbein, Traastad and Pulvermacher.

The public meeting notice/agenda was sent to the Vernon County Broadcaster on November 21, 2008 and to the County Clerk's, Personnel and Computer departments on November 24, 2008.

McClelland moved, Larson seconded, to approve the minutes as sent. Motion carried.

The next monthly meeting will be January 12, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. The February meeting will be on February 9, 2009

There were no visitors in attendance at the meeting.

Cornell read the November office expenses. McClelland moved, Larson seconded, to approve the Teen Court expenses of \$600. Motion carried. Easterday moved, McClelland seconded, to approve the office operation expenses of \$1974.26. Motion carried.

Rehbein reported on November activities: Participated in a web based professional development training on the changing fertilizer prices. UW-Extension Soils Specialists reviewed the status of prices and changes in application rates for the 2009 crop year. Attended the area pest management update meeting in Sparta. The results from selected research trials that are conducted by the UW researchers are shared. Met with the Meat Animal Sale Committee to review the 2008 sale. The committee is still trying to convince the state leadership of Badgerland Financial to allow the local office to continue clerking the sale. Conducted four more nutrient applicator training classes in Viroqua and Chaseburg. The class was walked through a simple example of a nutrient credit and adjustment to the fertilizer recommendation. Participated in the LCD interview for hiring a person to work with nutrient management training. Attended the land use element monthly meeting. A letter was received from the north central office of the SARE Grant program indicating that Wisconsin did not receive the \$50,000 grant to train Extension educators and agents on viticulture. Other grants will be looked at.

Pulvermacher reported on November activities: Colleen spoke about the North Central Regional Volunteer Forum held in Columbus, Ohio. There were about 350 people in attendance with only 5 educators from Wisconsin teaching. Colleen and Cheryl Rebhahn, Federation board member, taught a session on designing a Super Saturday for other county educators and volunteers from the Midwest. Colleen said she received lots of positive feedback and even a suggestion that this could have been a 2 hour workshop. Colleen will be following up with 16 other educators from the midwest as they implement Super Saturdays in their county 4-H programs. As always, Colleen was pleased to represent Vernon County. Colleen reported that this conference cost was \$800 and she received applied for and received funding from both the UW-Extension southern

district and Wisconsin Association of 4-H Youth Development Professionals for this professional development opportunity, leaving a cost to the county of just \$174. A dozen youth attended the southern district sponsored youth leadership day at Wisconsin Dells. Dave Russell, dad of one the youth attending, chaperoned the event and said it went very well. The 4-H Federation budget committee has been diligently working on the budget. Colleen expressed appreciation to Bill Marohl who contributes so much to the budgeting process, audits the books and provides valuable suggestions to streamline the bookkeeping system for the treasurer. Sue Ackman is the current treasurer and does an excellent job keeping track of all the details. Colleen attended the district meeting in November, carpooling with Crawford County, so no mileage was charged to Vernon County. Teen Court Advisory Board made a decision to bring in more adult volunteers and recently submitted a news release to help get the word out. The Advisory Board was hoping for a response of 2-3 people, so we were shocked when we received inquiries from 11 people. An afternoon meeting of education and orientation to the Teen Court program is scheduled for tomorrow, weather pending. Several youth were interviewed recently as a follow up to their applications for 4-H awards and/or trips. This is a new educational experience for many of our youth. Comments from the Recognition Committee indicate that the youth overall were well prepared and presented themselves well. Colleen has spent considerable time working on tenure documentation and is also working on a submitting a paper for publication in the department of youth development on the Leader Retreat that she does as part of volunteer development in the 4-H program. The Recognition Banquet is being held on Sunday, January 11th at 1:00 p.m. at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Westby. All Ag and Ext Education members are warmly welcomed as our guests. You will be receiving invitations soon. Colleen plans to introduce all Ag and Ext Committee members at the banquet. Colleen enjoyed a couple of vacation days around the Thanksgiving holiday. Colleen is thankful to be part of the UW-Extension team in Vernon County.

Traastad reported on November activities: The first All-School Committee for 2009 Reality Daze event met at Western Technical College, Viroqua campus. Spent time pulling the agenda and handouts together for this meeting. Cashton High School seniors will join the event this year. Next phase is to look for the 80 or so volunteers needed and work on media/volunteer information folders.

During November, provided basic financial counseling for two individuals.

Gave a presentation on canning meat to the North Springville Home and Community organization at Sandy Brudos' home.

Attended county department head meeting and Family Living District Faculty meeting in Madison.

Looking at department office operations budget for end of the year needs and to see where the balance is.

Took some vacation time for family and holidays.

McClelland moved, Easterday seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried.