

Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee *Monthly Meeting Minutes – July 13, 2009*

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

The public meeting notice/agenda was sent to the Vernon County Broadcaster and Personnel office on July 1, 2009, and the County Clerk's office on July 2, 2009.

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

The next meeting dates will be August 3, 2009 and September 14, 2009.

There were no visitors in attendance.

McClelland moved, Easterday seconded, to approve the Teen Court expenses of \$623.09. Motion carried. Larson moved, McClelland seconded, to approve the monthly office expenses of \$3,026.24. Motion carried.

Traastad reported she will be giving a 6-month office budget update to Finance Committee on July 16, 2009. She also reported that the Chancellor's visit was great and all involved seemed to enjoy it. Gave a reminder that the WACEC Summer meeting will be held in Columbia County on August 25, 2009.

Traastad also reported that faculty and WNEP staff have officially been told they need to take the furlough of 8 days each year for the next two years. This will reduce agent salaries by 3%. Chancellor Wilson, after getting advice from UW-Extension and the 2-year UW-Colleges has set dates for four of the days. They will be November 27, 2009; January 4, 2010; March 22, 2010, and May 24, 2010. The remaining four days can be taken as staff determines the best time for themselves.

Pulvermacher reported on June activities: June started out with dairy princess promotion, organization, contest and dairy breakfast coronation on a very chilly morning. Teen Court was very busy in June with 6 cases. A scholarship reception was held for the three 4-H scholarship recipients: Ethan Stilwell, Carrie Jo Leum and Jaclyn Peterson. I participated on the 4-H team for relay for life, taught volunteer orientation for Chrissy Wendorf, a newly certified 4-H adult volunteer, Katie Rhodes and I taught a session at State Youth Conference in Madison called *Putting Your Best Foot Forward*. Also presenting with us was Kaitlyn Lepke and Katie Wendorf. The conference coordinator sent me the following e-mail message: *I must share back with you that I heard MANY good comments about your seminar. One group of girls I was speaking with in the meal line said they thought EVERY girl should have taken the seminar. High praise indeed!*

Area Animal Science days held in Waupaca and LaCrosse had Vernon county participation in the dairy and horse projects. Julie Larson organized this opportunity for dairy and Kelly Boardman organized the group for the horse project. I worked with state fair staff on issues related to our dairy group going. An extra bed was granted to our county. Tim, assisted by Cindy in my absence (I was at camp), checked in state fair dairy entries. The check-in process streamlines the state fair entry process.

Summer camp at Upham Woods had Vernon County 50 youth attending, three camp counselors, four chaperones and one nurse, all from Vernon County. Overall things went well but we had an

incident of a sleepwalking child. Everything turned out well and important lessons were learned about how to handle this situation in the future.

Tractor Safety had 33 youth involved. Many thanks go out to Tim and Cindy for their help with Tractor Safety, along with all of the Ag teachers and guest speakers who make the class a great learning experience for our youth. The Clothing Revue had 27 participants. Selected state fair delegates were Ali Brey, Hillsboro and two Viroqua youth, Katie Wendorf and Patricia Fanta. Katie Rhodes did an exceptional job of organizing the Clothing Revue. The Chancellor's visit went very well. I organized the Teen Court presentation for that day.

Lenzendorf reported on June activities: On June 25th, Sonya was at the New Hope Food Pantry, located near Red Mound. Had samples of a Rice and Chicken Salad to show some ways to use the frozen chicken they were receiving. Handouts were also distributed about beans, fruits and vegetable and chicken. At the same time we also were distributing Senior Farmers Market Vouchers. Sonya was unable to attend the Chancellor's visit in Vernon County due to this event, but did meet up with the Chancellor in Crawford County that afternoon.

At the end of June Sonya provided the nutrition education component for the Senior Farmers Market Program offered through the Aging Department. The locations of distribution were New Hope Food Pantry, Bethel Buttik in Westby, and WTC in Viroqua. The Aging Department will continue to distribute these vouchers at senior meal sites and residential facilities. To qualify a person must be over 60 years old and fall under a specific income guideline.

There was a webinar offered in Dodgeville to discuss the new WIC packages and ways WNEP can help WIC and the participants to learn and adjust to the new packages. Some of the changes include checks for fruits and vegetables, money for whole grains, eliminate checks for cheese and only skim and 1% milk for those over 2 years old.

Rhodes reported on June activities:

Rehbein reported on June activities: The dairy breakfast went very well this year considering a late start in the planning. The breakfast was held at the Peters Farm of rural Coon Valley on Saturday June 6th. Over 2200 attended. Eric Ostrem served as breakfast chair. Attendance was excellent considering the weather which was cool and breezy. The more meaningful rain did not start until 10 or so. Met face-to-face with the members of the Badger State Winery Cooperative to review the coop's bylaws. The members also met via teleconference with Joel Dahlgren a nationally well know cooperative lawyer out of Minneapolis to go over the bylaws. The cooperative has to be functioning by July 1. Conducted a "living with emerald ash borer" meeting via distance education to learn about tree choices for future plantings. The suggestion is to start to diversify plantings now even before the ash are dead and gone. Had an educational booth on EAB at Cabela's in Prairie du Chien over Father's Day weekend on both Saturday and Sunday. People do come from a long ways to shop at the store. Many questions were answered about firewood movement and movement of the EAB. Met with the meat animal sale committee to plan for the 2009 sale. The clerk will be Badgerland Financial but with a few changes. More help will be supplied by volunteers from the committee, the carcass evaluation program will be held one week later to allow for more time for the buyers to pay their bills and if a buyer still has not paid their bill by the time checks are given out, the exhibitor's check will be held until the buyer pays. The commission check will not be cashed until all bills are paid. Assisted with the state WACEC tour to an Amish greenhouse producer, the Amish auction market and a grape grower just outside of Newry. Met with the youth delegation and leaders that will be showing dairy cattle at this year's state fair. Entry forms, health forms, permission forms and lodging forms were turned in and then reviewed by Extension Office staff before being sent into the state fair office. Assisted Colleen with the planning and conducting of the youth tractor and equipment safety certification course held June 22, 23, 24. Skid steer safety was again taught

especially with the accidental death of Buck Walleser. The dairy breakfast wrap up meeting was held in the park down at Chaseburg. Many of the committee reports were turned in for next year's planning. The Vernon and Crawford County Extension Offices hosted the Chancellor of UW-Extension and Colleges on June 25. The chancellor started out in Vernon County with a visit to the office and then the judge to learn about teen court. Following the judge visit, everyone went out to Vernon Vineyards to experience a demonstration on the strong women program and to learn about grapes and wine making.

Traastad reported on June activities: Worked with June Dairy Breakfast event and Dairy Princess contest on the Peters Farm. Ended the teaching of Powerful Tools class with a participant get-together. Participation certificates were given out to six class members. Worked with one individual on financial counseling. Worked with the Vernon County Home and Community Organization in planning for next year's program. Co-taught a workshop at the state conference for Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committees in La Crosse. Worked on county comprehensive plan with Planning Commission and the Housing Coalition. Housing issues and needs were identified by the coalition. Working with Doug Avoles on writing the Housing Chapter. Attended the "Financial Success" Family Living program area in-service in Stevens Point. Worked with 4-H clothing revue, co-planned and contacted clientele for Chancellor Wilson's and Dick Pederson's visit to Vernon County. Attended Caregiver Coalition planning meeting.

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