



Minutes - April 8, 2026

Call to Order: Chair Bostwick called the hybrid Agriculture & Extension Education Committee to order at 7:15 pm.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Bostwick, Towns, Ringhand, Schneider and Whitledge.

Committee Members Absent: none

Staff Members Present: Chrissy Wen, Brad Meier, Sara Ennocenti, Brent Sutherland

Others Present: Megge Casique, Project Coordinator, Milton Youth Coalition

Adopt Agenda: Supervisor Towns moved approval of the April 8, 2026 agenda, seconded by Supervisor Ringhand. ADOPTED

Approval of Minutes:

March 11, 2026 Ag & Extension Committee Minutes: Supervisor Schneider moved approval of the March 11, 2026 Ag and Extension minutes, seconded by Supervisor Ringhand. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None.

Division of Extension::

Review March Payments: March payments were reviewed.

Program Report: Sara Ennocenti, Health & Well-Being Educator: Sara Ennocenti and Megge Casique presented their work with the Milton Youth Coalition, highlighting their efforts in mental health awareness and suicide prevention among youth, including their collaboration with UW-Madison Human Ecology department and several local health-focused coalitions and organizations. They discussed their efforts to address youth mental health at the Beloit Turner Mental Health Fair that reached around 400 students, encouraging conversations, sharing available resources and their training in QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) suicide prevention. The discussion also covered the use of the National Mental Health Hotline in Wisconsin - 988, noting that Wisconsin ranks second in the nation for 988 usage among teens, though suicide rates for youth are in the middle compared to other states. Also noted was the relatively high saturation of awareness in Rock County and the large numbers of usage with the Credible Minds program. Megge also pointed out that the 988 service is anonymous and does not pinpoint caller location, noting Milton High School student badges highlight the 988 service on the back of every badge. They discussed the importance of addressing mental

health stigma among students and the progress being made in breaking down these barriers.

Monthly Impact Report: Chrissy introduced the monthly impact report, pointing out the various Extension Staff educational activities and programming with community collaborators throughout the county. Chrissy also explained that, due to the existing relationships and EFNEP programs that were already in place, the FoodWise group, and our community partners, have adjusted well to the SNAP-Ed funding cuts.

Review Budget to Actual Report: Chrissy Wen introduced the Budget to Actual Report, adding that the budget is on track for 2026.

Fairgrounds::

Review of March Payment: March payments were reviewed.

Approval of March Contracts: Brent Sutherland talked about a medical emergency incident and some property damage that happened during the Beef Producers event. Brent said that although there were signs identifying the fire lane, vehicles were parked in the fire lane which blocked emergency units from accessing the scene directly. Brent added that due to a number of vehicles driving on and parking on the fairgrounds grass areas, there was damage to the fairgrounds' property. Brent shared that part of the typical fairground fee waiver meant that there was no security deposit collected. In this case, the Beef Producers said they will pay the security deposit fee to cover the property damage that happened during their event. Brent explained that the policy changes he's proposing will remind renters of the fire lane and will charge all renters for the security deposit, which will be returned to the renter, if there aren't any damage claims against it. Brent said that the proposed rental policy changes would be on the next agenda for discussion.

Supervisor Schneider moved approval of the March Contracts, seconded by Supervisor Ringhand.
APPROVED

Review of Yearly Contract Totals: Yearly contract totals were reviewed. Brent noted the lower rental numbers in 2026, but expects more renters as more groups learn about the air conditioning that has been added to the Craig Center. Conversation included reviewing how air conditioning use will affect the annual electricity bill and that the committee should revisit the rental fees being charged once they've had a chance to see how much it's impacted the overall electricity costs.

2026 Friend of the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association Award: Brent talked about the presentation of the 2026 Friend of the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association Award, and that he'd talked with the association about having the Ag and Extension Education Committee chair receive the award. Supervisor Bostwick said that he'd be willing to accept the award on behalf of the committee.

Fair Board Report: This item was not discussed.

Comments from the Committee: Supervisor Rich Bostwick acknowledged that this meeting would

be the last meeting for some in this group and thanked the committee members for their participation, insight and efforts. Adding that he really likes this committee and thinks the group does a good job of discussing things and getting things done in an efficient manner. Supervisor Janis Ringhand said thank you to the committee as well, adding that she really likes Extension, thinks Extension is such an important part of our educational process in Wisconsin and has enjoyed being part of the committee.

Set Next Meeting Date : The committee agreed that the next meeting will be May 13, 2026 at 7:15 pm at the UW Extension office.

Adjournment: Supervisor Riinghand moved to adjourn at 8:00 pm, seconded by Supervisor Whitledge. ADOPTED by acclamation.

Name of person who took the Minutes: Brad Meier

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