

**Green County
Agriculture and Extension Education Committee
March 3, 2021, MINUTES**

The March 3, 2021, meeting of the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order at 12:32 PM by Extension Green County Ag and Extension Chair, Erica Roth.

Members present were: Erica Roth, Sue Nelson, Oscar Olson, and Dawn Sass. Also present—Jayne Butts, Extension Green County Office Manager; Paul Ohlrogge(z), Extension Area Director, Ellen Andrews, 4-H Youth Development Educator; Jackie McCarville(z), Agriculture Educator; and Lana Heins(z) Activity Assistant. (Note: (z) members/attendees were present via Zoom). Art Carter, Donna Peterson, Nutrition Coordinator, Victoria Solomon, Community Resource Development Educator; Hannah McMunn, Health and Well-Being Educator; and Maria Schmid were not able to attend.

**Green County Educator Reports—
Written Report for Educators**

Roth asked if anyone had any questions regarding the written reports provided by the educators. No questions were presented.

Ellen Andrews—4-H Youth Development Educator

Andrews noted she was happy to report 500+ youth have re-enrolled in 4-H. New research is showing 4-H is thriving right now and this positively affects young people.

- Green County is part of a “4-H Thriving Model” study and is one of six counties in Wisconsin able to participate in this study.
 - The 4-H Thriving Model was derived from a study by Oregon State and consists of Youth Thriving (Social, Emotional, & Cognitive Learning) skills which result in Developmental Outcomes for Positive Youth Development, resulting in Long-Term Outcomes for Success, Happiness, & Wellbeing.
 - The 4-H Thriving Model creates a Program Quality Score based on Youth Sparks (interesting programs), Youth Belonging (safe & welcoming), Caring Adults, Challenging Growth (How youth view new possibilities to push them to reach higher and hold them accountable), and Youth-Adult Partnerships.
 - On an “experience scoring guide” with scores ranking from Very Low Quality to Very High Quality, Green County had a Program Quality Score of High Quality, 2nd best in program scoring.
 - Pre- & Mid COVID—Youth are still reporting Green County as a HIGH Overall Program Quality. Given the number of variables and opportunities presented with COVID, this is very exciting for our youth and adults!
 - Green County (Ellen) was awarded a State Award for this research and it has now been submitted for Regional and National Recognition. Ellen will be presenting at two National Conferences regarding this research also.

Minutes Approval—Olson moved to approve the minutes from the February 2021 meeting and Sass seconded. Motion passed.

Bill Approval --The committee reviewed the UW-Extension office bills for February 2021. Nelson moved to approve the February EFT payments totaling \$101.90 and the February check payments totaling \$378.52. Second by Sass to approve the vouchers for payment. Motion carried.

Paul Ohlrogge, Area Extension Director/Jayne Butts, Office Manager, Extension Green County:

State Budget Meetings—Ohlrogge discussed meeting with Dean Karl Martin and Assistant Dean Matt Hanson regarding state budget information. Extension feels they are positioned well and job postings have even started to be posted, with more sharing positions across multiple counties.

Furlough Days—Ohlrogge discussed educators furlough days will be used through July 1 and then will be done.

COVID-19 Updates—Ohlrogge discussed educators spending more time in the office. April/May is expected to have less restrictions announced, for the number of people at a meeting for both inside/outside locations, however still practicing social distancing, masks, and pods of people. More and more vaccines are happening creating more flexibility for meetings.

Form Creation—Ohlrogge commended Butts for creating a form for McMunn to use as a multi-county expense form. It was presented to Lafayette County as an expense tool and was well received. McMunn has begun implementing the form already.

Retirement—Ohlrogge noted after 26 years with Extension, he will be retiring as of May 31.

Annual Report Presentation to County Board- Butts noted Extension Green County will be presenting to the County Board for the Tuesday, March 9 meeting. Connection information will be shared with presenters after it is released by the County Clerk.

Other Business:

Chair Roth asked for **any other business**, and Olson asked about Tractor Safety. Andrews explained in the past a partnership had been done with FFA Advisors, however, FFA Advisors were no longer willing to coordinate with that project, therefore it would not be offered in Green County. Blackhawk Tech is working on a program at this time, however, it is not known if that will be available yet this year.

Olson also questioned **Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) Certifications**. McCarville reported license certifications had been extended to December 2021. Next year we will have approximately 200 certifications that can be renewed.

Discussion was made about **Green County Fair Volunteers**. At this time, there may be a need to influx many Fair Volunteers and suggestions were made to incorporate in high-school seniors who are required to have community service. Andrews will pass this on to the Green County Fair Board.

April 7, at 12:30 pm was set for the next meeting.

Motion by Sass, second by Olson to adjourn at 1:10 pm. Motion carried.