

**UW-Madison Division of Extension
Grant County**

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Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
GRANT COUNTY

January 20, 2026

**AGENDA
AGRICULTURE AND EXTENSION EDUCATION/FAIR COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Grant County Agriculture & Extension/Fair Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 26, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Extension Office Conference Room at the Youth & Agriculture Center, 916 E. Elm St, Lancaster, Wisconsin.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://co-grant-wi-gov.zoom.us/j/88439092401?pwd=HUagbQf5D23Fet6NtiaBvD8DwEe8lO.1>

Meeting ID: 884 3909 2401

Passcode: 537212

Dial in: 1-312-626-6799 US (Chicago)

1. Call to order
2. Statement as to Proper Notice of Meeting
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held November 17, 2025 and January 11, 12, 13 & 14, 2026
5. Business Relating to Grant County Extension or the Youth and Ag Center
 - a. Educator Updates
 - Bev Doll, Human Development and Relationships Educator
 - Charisse Orth, 4-H Program Educator
 - Jordyn Sattler/Jackie McCarville, Regional Agriculture Educators
 - b. Area Extension Director Update
 1. Area 17 Staffing Update—Welcome Casey Lobdell, Regional Livestock Educator
 2. Grant County Groundwater Project
 - c. “Protecting groundwater by investigating in Grant County”
 - Sarah Bremmer, Geoscientist, Extension Natural Resources Institute
 - d. Review Vouchers
6. Grounds and Maintenance Report & Youth and Agriculture Center
 - a. Grounds Repair
7. Grant County Fair and Fairgrounds Business
 - a. Youth & Ag Center, SUDC - Jeremy Vissers
 - b. 2026 Fair
 1. Grandstand Events
 - c. Vendor Pricing
 - d. Economic Impact Study - Grant County Fair/Wisconsin
 - e. WAF Convention January 11-14, 2026, Recap
 - f. Review all Fairgrounds Vouchers
8. Livestock Claims
9. Adjourn

AGRICULTURE AND EXTENSION EDUCATION/FAIR COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, November 17, 2025
Youth & Agriculture Center, 916 E. Elm St., Lancaster, WI 53813

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Roger Guthrie. Roll Call was taken with six committee members present: Roger Guthrie, Joe Mumm, Kathy Kopp, Pat Schroeder, Gary Northouse and Mike Timmerman. Others present were Bob Keeney, Nate Dreckman, Amy Olson, Lori Vesperman, Charisse Orth, Jackie McCarville, Bev Doll, Lynn Perkins, Blake Roberts, Shane Drinkwater, Denny Noble and Karla Witzig. Present by Zoom was Tonya White.

The meeting notice was posted at the Extension Office, Youth & Agriculture Center, Administration Building, on the Grant County website and emailed to media.

Motion by Gary Northouse, seconded by Joe Mumm, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Joe Mumm, seconded by Pat Schroeder, to approve the minutes of the meeting held October 20, 2025. Motion carried.

Educator updates were given by Bev Doll, Charisse Orth and Jackie McCarville. Blake Roberts, Rural Economic Development Specialist gave an update on her position.

Lynn Perkins gave the AED update. Preliminary Interviews were held for the Regional Livestock Educator Position. Four candidates were invited for final interviews to be held on November 21. Motion by Pat Schroeder, seconded by Kathy Kopp, to sign the contract striking #4, Exhibit A, Delegation of Financial Budget Authority for the Area Extension Director. Motion carried. The committee did an annual review of the Memorandum of Understand Between UW-Madison Division of Extension and Grant County. Motion by Pat Schroeder, seconded by Kathy Kopp to accept the Memorandum. Motion carried.

Motion by Gary Northouse, seconded by Joe Mumm, to approve the Extension vouchers. Motion carried.

Amy gave the grounds and maintenance and Youth & Agriculture Center report.

The east side of the dairy polished is complete, except for fencing. Plans for adjustments to the show ring in the Livestock Facility was shared. Discussion was held on removing the guard rail in front of the grandstand and replacing with cement blocks.

Fair and Fairgrounds Business

The Livestock Auction Committee wants to keep the swine show at its current location. Amy will check on the possibility of additional bleachers for the show.

Grandstand events for 2026 were discussed.

After conversation with fair superintendents Karla Witzig and Denny Noble, it was decided all goats will be stalled in the north end of the open dairy barn and dairy cattle will be on the south end. The livestock barn will adjust stalling of beef and sheep.

Motion by Joe Mumm, seconded by Mike Timmerman, to approve changes in grandstand admissions. Motion carried. Grandstand admission: \$20 for adults, \$5 for ages 6-10, free for 5 and under. All event tickets: \$50 in advance, \$60 after advance deadline. Pits: \$25, additional \$5 with all event ticket. Gate admission will be free.

Amy reviewed departments not up to date with premium amount allowed to be awarded and reimbursed through the state. Motion by Gary Northouse, seconded by Kathy Kopp, to increase fair premiums in eligible departments. Motion carried.

Fair office staff was discussed. Amy shared 484 vehicles brought 45,549 lbs. of electronics to the recycling event held on the fairgrounds on November 8. The Wisconsin Association of Fairs Convention will be held in the Dells January 11-14, 2026. Amy will contact Tower Sound regarding the sound system in the Livestock Facility. Beef identification starts in December and ends January 9 at 4:00 p.m.

Motion by Pat Schroeder, seconded by Gary Northouse, to approve the livestock claims approved at the November County Board Meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathy Kopp, seconded by Mike Timmerman, to approve the vouchers. Motion carried.

Motion by Gary Northouse, seconded by Joe Mumm, to adjourn. The next scheduled meeting after fair convention is January 26, 2026. Motion carried. Adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Kathy Kopp
Secretary

Lori Vesperman
Recording Secretary

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**AGRICULTURE AND EXTENSION
EDUCATION/FAIR COMMITTEE MEETING
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
January 11, 12, 13, 14, 2026
Chula Vista Resorts, Wisconsin Dells, WI**

Sunday, January 11

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Roger Guthrie, in addition to Chairperson Guthrie, were Pat Schroeder, Joe Mumm, Gary Northouse, Bob Keeney, and Amy Olson.

The meeting notice was posted at the Administration Building, UW-Extension Office, Youth & Ag Center, and media by Amy Olson.

Motion by Joe Mumm, seconded by Gary Northouse to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Contracts were signed for the 2026 Grant County Fair for the following:

- Kindschi Pedal Pull - \$813.20
- Monster Truck - \$25,900

Motion by Pat Schroeder, seconded by Joe Mumm to accepted the above contracts with rain insurance for the Monster Trucks. Motion carried.

Amy will also look into rain insurance for all other events in the grandstand for the 2026 fair.

Discussion on what to look at for entertainment in the kids tent and strolling acts in the trade show Monday and Tuesday.

Discussion on vendors and raising prices, especially for food vendors. Amy will work on presenting information to the board at the January 26 meeting.

Recess till call of chair

Monday, January 12

The fair board and I attended workshops throughout the day and the trade show booth.

- We are Family – networking session
- Economic Impact Study

The board also met with the WAF Auction Committee to discuss how the auction will run Monday and Tuesday night. The Grant County Fair Board volunteers their time to help at the auction.

Amy attended the showcase committee meeting and premium committee meeting.

Tuesday, January 13

Those present were Roger Guthrie, Gary Northouse, Joe Mumm, Bob Keeney, and Amy Olson

The fair board and I attended workshops throughout the day and the trade show booth.

- Economic Impact Study – Telling your Story
- DATCP Ag Update and networking
- Succession Planning
- Plays that Pay, Fairs.com

The board and Amy met with Badgerland Carnival to go over the 2026 fair. We are signing another two years with them. Contract will now end with them after the 2028 fair. Motion by Gary Northouse, seconded by Joe Mumm to extend the contract for two more years with Badgerland Carnival. Motion carried.

Contracts were discussed for the 2026 Grant County Fair for the following:

- Sleds for Saturday night tractor and truck pull
 - Jay Uhlenake - \$2,200
 - Lee Luvik - \$,2500

Motion by Gary Northouse, seconded by Joe Mumm to accepted the above amounts for sleds for Saturday night's pull. Amy will get a contract and sign it. Motion carried.

Discussion on sole sponsorship for the 2026 grandstand acts. Amy has three confirmed out of the five grandstand acts at \$2500 each. Amy will discuss sponsorship with Bollants for Friday or Wednesday night's event.

Discussion on kids tent entertainment. After discussing we are going to visit with Half Twisted – Half Knot in the trade show to see what availability he has for our fair.

Amy would like to have a discussion at our January 26 meeting with Fairs.com to see about website and ticketing for the fair. Shane Drinkwater, IT Director will be asked to attend this meeting as well to give insight.

Recess til call of Chair.

Wednesday, January 14

The fair board and I attended workshops and the WAF business meeting. Workshops included:

- Non-Ag Networking
- Market Sales
- Social Marketing Storytelling

We had our District meeting with discussion on the convention.

Our Spring District Meeting is April 8, 2026 at the Chula Vista Resort.

Next year's convention will be held January 10-13, 2027.

All concerns and suggestions that were discussed at the district meeting will be brought to the rest of the Wisconsin Association of Fair's Board of Directors at the next state board meeting in February.

Next meeting is Monday, January 26, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Olson, CFE
Grant County Fairgrounds & Operations Director

AGRICULTURE - Jackie McCarville, Regional Dairy Educator
- Jordyn Sattler, Regional Crops & Soils Educator



Jackie McCarville



Jordyn Sattler

The Extension Agriculture Institute is your connection to the latest University of Wisconsin-Madison research. Our five program areas; Agriculture Water Quality, Crops and Soils, Dairy and Livestock, Farm Management, and Horticulture, are here to educate and respond to the needs of the agriculture community while providing resources that promote economic and environmental sustainability in Wisconsin. We apply research to challenges facing communities and businesses.

Jackie McCarville

- A webinar for dairy farmers and ag professionals that focused at an in-depth look at high-oleic soybeans and their role in both crop production and dairy nutrition. The purpose of this webinar was to provide participants with unbiased, evidence-based research about high oleic soybeans.
- A regular column that rotates between the Livestock, Crops and Soils, and Dairy educators in the Wisconsin Amish Shopper newspaper, which reaches Amish and Mennonite families in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota. An article written about biosecurity practices was submitted by the dairy educator.
- A training for youth who are raising animals to learn more about animal welfare, marketing, biosecurity, character development, and food safety. The goal of this training is to help youth better understand the importance of raising ethical animals while promoting agriculture.

Jordyn Sattler

- An article for the agricultural community where forage producers learned how to evaluate their alfalfa stands for winterkill and shared information to take into consideration when seeding a new alfalfa field. Through this article, producers will understand thresholds at which their alfalfa may not be productive enough, evaluate their stand in a timely manner, and take appropriate precautions when choosing and seeding their next alfalfa field.
- An article for dairy producers who are interested in growing their own high oleic soybeans for use in dairy rations that details management considerations to think about throughout the growing season to ensure they are adequately prepared and will produce a quality feed component.

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT - Charisse Orth



The Extension Institute of Positive Youth Development prepares the youth of today to become the effective, empathetic adults of tomorrow. Our research-based youth enrichment programs like teens in governance build youth and adult capacity and partnerships that help both sides grow. 4-H clubs, camps and afterschool programs give young people the hands-on experiences they need to develop an understanding of themselves and the world.

- 2025 Awards Night - An awards program for 4-H members, where youth were celebrated for their project achievements in the past year. Through this program, members were encouraged to continue project learning, record keeping and gaining life skills.
- 2025 4-H Officer & Leadership Training - A training for youth and adults, where participants learned how to make a motion, other parliamentary procedure and about specific officer position duties to help club meeting run smoothly.
- 2025-26 Ambassador Team Orientation - An orientation for 4-H ambassadors, where they worked together to prepare for the upcoming year. Through this meeting, they did team building exercises, goal setting, and leadership development to set them up for a successful year.





HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & RELATIONSHIPS - Bev Doll



The Extension Institute of Human Development & Relationships provides the tools Wisconsinites need to thrive as well-rounded, capable individuals and families. We support families in caring for each other in ways that promote growth and understanding. Our programs promote aging-friendly communities, coach effective parents and help families put technology, mindfulness, and financial awareness to use.

- A co-parenting class (Parents Forever) for parents and caregivers experiencing separation, divorce or changes in the custody of their children, where they learned skills to prioritize the parent-child relationship and better communicate with their co-parent. This program is designed to increase child well-being and reduce parental conflict during family transitions.
- Twenty-one youth participated in workshop for Middle school-aged, students, teaching youth about spending plans helping youth develop critical financial literacy skills early on, enabling them to make informed decisions about money, save for future goals, and ultimately achieve greater financial stability in adulthood; it empowers them to manage their money responsibly and confidently. An interactive hands-on activity engaged the youth to reinforce the concepts presented.
- Significant preparation for a multi-county (Grant, Green, Lafayette, Dane, Richland, Crawford) six-module course Encouraging Financial Conversations for social workers, case managers, and community agency staff where they learn about financial competency skills such as goal setting, budgeting, building credit and paying off debts, strategies for saving money, and how to engage their clients in money management discussions. The goal of this effort is to build their knowledge and confidence when engaging clients in financial conversations.
- Significant preparation/development for a multi-county (Grant, Green, Lafayette, Richland) 7-session course Planning AHEAD that helps adults of all ages to make end-of-life financial, healthcare, and final wishes decisions in order to reduce the stress experienced by survivors and to ensure that their wishes are honored.
- Significant preparation for a team development workshop (Real Colors) for Orchard Manor where participants increased their ability to recognize their strengths and the strengths of others, build rapport quickly with others, understand how others process information, and modify their communication to connect with others. The workshop is intended to help teams work together more effectively.