

Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee
Regular Monthly Meeting – March 13, 2018
Monroe County Ag Service Center – 820 Industrial Dr., Sparta, WI

Committee Members present: N. VanWychen, D. Pierce, J. Schroeder, M. Cook, and D. Powell

Absent: M. Halverson

Also Present: C. Ziegler (Forestry), B. Micheel (LC), C. Mulder (LC), B. Richardson (LC), M. Komiskey (NRCS), J. Roll (Hist), A. Karrels (Deke Slayton Museum), E. Eggert (UW-EXT), B. Halfman (UW-EXT), C. Saxe (UW-EXT Area Dir.), Ron Luethe (Town of Ridgeville Supervisor), M. Bauer (MFL), P. Peterson (Wildlife Specialist), A. Molling (Fahrner Asphalt Sealers), K. Schmitz (Scott Construction), and M. Drake (Drakes Farm)

The meeting notice was posted in compliance with the open meeting law.

Call to Order: Chair VanWychen called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Public Comment Period: None

Approve Minutes from the February 15th NR & Extension Meeting: The committee reviewed the minutes. *A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by M. Cook, seconded by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 5-0-1.*

Deke Slayton/Bike Museum: A. Karrels gave a report on her activities including developing the STEM program with the local history room. Karrels mentioned the upcoming Space Camp in August. The registration was released on March 1st, with a maximum of 16 to attend. Karrels announced the Milwaukee Sentinel will be featuring the Museum in a weekend article. Karrels discussed the developing of the entrance area space. There has been some repair work and a new carpet to be installed beginning of May. Sparta Chamber of Commerce working with them to put together a packet to be sent to bus tours to encourage tours to the area. *D. Pierce made a motion to approve Karrels report as presented, second by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 5-0-1.*

Local History Room/Wegner Grotto: J. Roll reviewed February expenditures and presented report to the committee (attached). Roll gave an update on the “Monroe County A-Z” exhibit. Roll reported partnering with Ft. McCoy archaeologists in creating and installing the Ft. McCoy archaeology exhibit in February. Roll stated the History-Live presentation that was promoted and hosted had a great turnout of 68 in attendance. Roll mentioned the continued water problem at the Grotto and waiting for a response from DOT. *Motion made by D. Pierce to accept report as presented, second by J.Schoeder. Motion carried 5-0-1.*

Wildlife Damage Program: Phil Peterson brought an appeal to the committee. Mark Drake appealed the denial letter he received, regarding the deer damage claim in the amount of \$1,784.95. Drake discussed the issues he had in harvesting the deer in order to satisfy the program requirements. Phil Peterson spoke to the committee which led to further discussion. *Motion was made by J. Schroeder to approve the claim for \$1,784.95, seconded by D. Pierce. Motion carried 5-0-1.*

Land Conservation Department:

1. **Tri-Creek –Norwalk Rod & Gun Club:** B. Micheel reported the recorded lease from the Norwalk Rod & Gun Club, needs to be terminated, in order for the Norwalk Sportsman Club to proceed. *Motion was made by D. Pierce to terminate the recorded lease of the Norwalk Rod & Gun Club, second by J. Schroeder. Motion carried 5-0-1.*
2. **County Farm- Land Use Plan:** B. Micheel informed the members, that a new committee was formed to develop a land use plan for the county farm. Looking at 20-30 years vision. Micheel to keep committee informed on a monthly basis.
3. **Turkey Donation Program:** Phil Peterson gave a presentation on the Turkey Donation Program. Some discussion followed. *Motion was made by J.Schoeder to approve implementing the Turkey Donation Program in Monroe County, second by D. Pierce. Motion carried 5-0-1.*
4. **Conservation Camp Scholarships:** *J. Schroeder made a motion to approve funding half the cost for the conservation Camp Scholarships. Motion carried 5-0-1.*
5. **County Conservationist Report:** B. Micheel presented department report to the committee (attached). Micheel reported 56 tree orders totaling \$4,400. Micheel gave a phosphorous trading update to the committee. Micheel handed out a Cover Crop Field Days Flyer for April and Golden Sands business meeting for Thursday March 22nd.

6. **Review February Expenditures:** B. Micheel reviewed expenditures. (report attached).
7. **Soil & Water Conservationist Reports:** C. Mulder gave a brief overview of the Land & Water Plan Survey results. Mulder mentioned streambank inventory on P- Trading program targeted areas, such as Moore Creek and its tributaries to Village of Norwalk. B. Richardson reported he is designing remaining projects for 2018. Richardson announced he is prepping for West Salem soils presentation for 200 4th graders. Richardson also mentioned, a possible new industrial sand mine in Lincoln Twp. (reports attached).

NRCS Report: M. Komiskey reported NRCS is working on the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative (MRBI) - Kickapoo EQIP sign-up. The deadline for applications is May 18, 2018 and is our final opportunity for this special funding. Komiskey mentioned Conservation Stewardship is on-going, and contracts that are 5-years old, are being offered a chance to re-enroll. Komiskey announced that Farm bill compliance letters will be going out soon, the random tract numbers have been released (21 random in Monroe County plus several more that were turned in through the whistleblower option)

DNR Reports:

1. **Private Lands:** None
2. **Warden:** None
3. **MFL:** M. Bauer gave a brief update on changes in the organization. Bauer reported sending out cutting notices and averaging 5 to 6 site visits a week.

The FSA representative D. Powell left meeting after her obligation was completed.

Forestry & Parks:

1. **McMullen Park Seal Coat/Slurry Seal Bids:** Ziegler discussed the bids he received for the McMullen Park Road Maintenance Project. Discussion followed regarding the types of chip seal, slurry seal, and micro-surfacing. Ziegler passed around the different size chips used. *Motion was made by J. Schroeder to accept Scott Construction bid for \$35,893.00 using the ¼" chip seal, second by M. Cook. Motion carried 4-0-1.*
2. **Forestry & Park Updates:** C. Ziegler presented his department report (attached). Ziegler reported speaking with Stan Brownell (Conservation Congress) about a CWD researcher that will be presenting in La Crosse on March 14. He will be attending the presentation to bring information back to the committee and facilitating the CDAC.
3. **Park Water Heater:** Ziegler discussed quotes for replacing park water heater. Ziegler will perform further research.
4. **Repurpose of Park funds & Park Budget Adjustment:** No adjustment at this time
5. **Gerrard Realty Corp property for Sale:** Further discussion regarding the property for sale. Ziegler will speak with Jim Bialecki about moving forward with an offer.
6. **Timber Sale Extension 145:** Discussion regarding options for the timber sale extension 145. Motion was made by J. Schroeder for a 12 month extension and 10% increase, second by D. Pierce. Motion carried 4-0-1
7. **Review Forestry & Parks Expenditures:** C. Ziegler reviewed the February monthly expenditures.

County Farm Education Funds: None

Extension Office Business:

1. **4H & Youth Development Report** (Goede) – report attached.
2. **Family Living Report** (Eggert) –report attached.
3. **Agriculture Report** (Halfman) – report attached.
4. **Review of February Expenditures** - (Saxe) Saxe handed out a document – (MOU) Memorandum of Understanding- looking for input for next fall.

Motion made by D. Pierce to accept Agent reports and review of expenditures, seconded by M. Cook. Motion carried 4-0-1.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. at the Monroe County Ag Services Center in Sparta.

Motion to adjourn: was made at 10:40 a.m. by J. Schroeder, second by D. Pierce. Motion carried, 4-0-1.

Recorder: Connie Holz



*Bringing history to life
since 1976.*

LHR Director / County Historian's Report, February 2018

Submitted by Jarrod Roll

Highlighted Projects and Activities by Jarrod and Team

- Continued creating “Monroe County A-Z” exhibit, focusing on generating content: researching and writing text, designing exhibit elements, locating and transferring images; tweaking interactives; had planning meeting with Pica Grove
- Processed donations to the 2017 Annual Fund, including tracking donation amounts, issuing thank you letters and donation receipts
- Co-created and installed Ft. McCoy archaeology exhibit, partnering with Ft. McCoy archaeologists
- Provided educational programming to students both in the classroom and at the Local History Room
- Generated year-end reports and statistics; presented said report to the County Board
- Promoted and hosted History-Live presentation (press release, electronic newsletter, Facebook, create and post flyers, etc.) – second largest number in attendance!
- Attended Monroe County Finance Committee, Monroe County Administration Committee, and Monroe County Board (to be present for the handling of LHR matters)
- Investigated and experimented with remote video feeds to solve seating issue at LHR public programs
- Promoted MCHS Transportation Grant Program to county teachers
- Began organizing biennial LHR volunteer appreciation luncheon
- Hosted four bus tour groups at the History Room
- Processed donations to LHR including assigning object ids, cataloging, and storing.
- Attended the Monroe County Economic Development Conference; represented the Local History Room and assisted with the conference; created and presented interactive game “How well do you know Monroe County?”
- Regular tasks: provided research assistance to the public (via email, telephone, mail, and in person patrons); provided customer service to museum visitors; assigned storage locations, cataloged, and photographed artifacts removed from displays and those recently donated; balanced LHR financial books and draft monthly report; paid bills through the county finance system; processed new donation offerings; conferred with Alli Karrels about museum issues and activities; attended Ag/Extension meeting.

In addition to the projects listed above, I supervise the following volunteer and support staff:

- Agnes Jenkins: indexing newspapers
- Dennis Burek: photo scanning projects; artifact cataloging; assist with clerical duties
- Barb Reedich: researching Monroe County in WWI; answer research requests; assist with exhibits
- Hannah Scholze (Museum Services Associate): runs Facebook; teaches students; assists with research, exhibits, marketing, and most projects listed above, etc.
- John Lasko: represents and promotes LHR at public events and in the region
- Jane Schmidt: indexing newspapers
- Jim Ebert: indexing newspapers
- Sandy Waltermann: creating a master index of Monroe County graduates
- Adam Balz: indexing cemetery records; writing County School histories; writing disaster articles
- Marilyn Beall: indexing the special Federal Census Schedules
- Barb Reisinger: indexing eighth grade graduation records
- Sara Oostick: cataloging LHR artifacts currently on display in Past Perfect

200 West Main Street Sparta, Wisconsin 54656-2141
608-269-8680 • Fax: 608-269-8921

Email: MCLHR@centurytel.net • www.MonroeCountyHistory.org • www.Facebook.com/mclhr

March 13, 2018 - Staff Report

Bob Micheel- County Conservationist

LCD Business:

- Tree Sales – 56 orders = \$4,400
- Stewardship Awards Committee: Plan to hold a tour of the award winner's farms/properties this summer, late June or early July. Nominations open for the Conservationist, Conservation Farmer and Tree Farm Awards.
- Land & Water Plan Update – 34 people attended the Citizen and Technical Advisory Committee meeting held on March 7th. Presentations in the morning followed with dialog concerning Monroe County water quality issues. Survey results (Handout).
- Phosphorous Trading Update – Sparta has reached 1,500 lbs. in trading and looking at more work on Beaver Creek and the La Crosse River in 2018. The Village of Norwalk is planning on P-trading for 170 lbs. Planned conservation practices include: stream bank stabilization and grade stabilization structures. Tomah will continue work on the Dave Linehan farm which includes: completing the stream bank project, seeding the CREP buffer, and updating the barnyard filterstrip this spring.

Meeting Schedule:

- March 14-16th – Wisconsin Land & Water Conference
- March 20th – County Deer Advisory Council meeting, County Farm - Planning meeting
- March 21st – Tech Update, Discovery Farms (Jersey Valley) Meeting
- March 26th – Wisconsin Rural Water Association Presentation – La Crosse
- March 28th – Invasive Plants Training – County & Town Patrolmen
- March 29th – Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group
- April 5th – DATCP Update, Cataract Sportsmen's Club presentation
- April 6th – WLWCA Technical Update
- April 7th – Cover Crop Workshop (Scott Peterson Farm), TU – Workshop Presentation
- April 10th – Natural Resource & Extension Committee

March 13, 2018 -- Soil & Water Conservationist's Report

Christina Mulder

- **Activities**
 - Streambank inventory on program targeted areas such as Moore Creek and its tributaries in Ridgeville and Sheldon. Also on other streams flowing into the Village of Norwalk.
 - Preparing for updating the Land & Water Resource Management Plan
- **Meetings Attended**
 - Land & Water Resource Management Plan meeting with citizen input

Bryce Richardson

- **Activities**
 - Designing remaining projects for 2018.
 - Prepping for West Salem soils presentation for 200 4th graders.
- **Nonmetallic Mining**
 - 1 Inquiry by a landowner and consultant for a possible new industrial sand mine in Lincoln Twp.

Forestry & Parks Report (March) – Ziegler

Forestry:

- Timber Sale Administration
 - 143
 - 145
 - Close out 139
- Timber sale set up & pre-work
 - 2018 Bid Packet Preparation and cutting notices
- Recon updates
 - Post sale updates
 - Past due stands
- Land & Water Resource Management Plan Meeting

Parks:

- 1 ton dump truck purchase
- Brian Margan-discussed topics for annual safety meeting
- Dept Head Meeting –
 - pay scale adjustments
 - financial policy
 - active shooter training
- Tour Haldeman Building

Snowmobile:

- Entry and groomer approvals in SNARS

2018 McMullen Park Road Maintenance Project

Bidder	Lump Sum Bid			
	1/4" chip seal	3/8" chip seal	slurry seal	micro-surfacing
Struck & Irwin Paving, Inc.	no bid	no bid	\$31,720.96	\$33,951.34
Scott Construction, Inc.	\$35,893.00	\$39,152.00	no bid	no bid
Fahrner Asphalt Sealers, LLC	\$41,737.50	\$41,737.50	no bid	\$41,737.50

Youth & Family Educator Update February 15 to March 13, 2018

- CHIP-Nutrition workgroup
 - The Sparta Schools Backpack Program is going very well. We packed our first weeks' backpacks last Thursday and they were sent home on Friday. We provided backpacks full of food along with a recipe to go with the food items for 34 families.
 - We're working with Hunger Task Force in La Crosse which is providing us with most of the food items at no cost, Monroe County which has provided us the room to store items, State Farm Insurance which donated 50 drawstring backpacks to us.
 - I applied for a small grant through MAYO clinic last week to help us with some start up fees (paying for bins to carry backpacks, cleaning supplies, gloves, and hairnets for when we need to re-pack bulk items, and some other things).
 - Photo Share
- Taking Care of You Training
 - I have two programs planned for this evidence-based stress reduction class. One is in Sparta at the library on Wednesday evenings for 4 weeks. The other is in Tomah at La Grange Town Hall on Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings for two weeks (still 4 sessions). I've been doing a lot of prep work for this program and reading books about happiness and happiness & health.
 - I've been advertising this class with the StrongBodies participants, having my participants hang up flyers, promoted over facebook (over 2,300 views), and just submitted an article about stress to the newspaper last week. Hopefully we'll get some good numbers for this program. So far we have 11 people signed up (as of 3/8)
- StrongBodies
 - Things are continuing to go well with this program. I'm in the beginning stages of planning for the next session which will start at the end of April. I'm planning

on cutting back my teaching time to just one class (versus the two I'm currently teaching).

- S.T.E.P.S. Challenge
 - Instead of teaching another Walk with Ease program which I was doing last year, I decided to try a walking challenge this year. I'm in the process of designing it and advertising is just starting. It will be a team challenge. Teams consist of 2-6 people. The teams will walk from Monroe County, WI to Monroe County, NY and back (1,638 miles total). Participants will track their miles with an activity tracker (pedometer, fitbit, apple watch, etc) and record their steps at the end of each week. They'll also receive an educational email at the beginning of each week with some basic information about physical activity and/or walking.
 - The first team to walk there and back wins. All teams that complete the challenge win a prize. And I'm thinking the individual that walks the most steps will also win something. Charge is \$10 per team. The challenge will run for 10-weeks starting on April 1st. The nice thing about this is it's not a class- it's all on their own- while still providing them motivation to be active.
- COMPASS Meeting
 - I attended the COMPASS meeting. The COMPASS is a needs assessment survey completed across Monroe County (and other counties in the region). At the meeting we went through the results of the COMPASS survey and then the group of stakeholders determined the priority areas to be targeted through the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). These areas will be shared and then we'll have a CHIP meeting this coming summer to expand on that.

Continuing Events

- Continuing to post and promote the facebook site and Pinterest site

Upcoming Events

- Child Development Day at NOW 4/10
- All colleague cooperative extension meeting 4/30-5/1
- National Health Outreach Conference (presenting at) 5/2-5/4











VIRTUAL TEAM WALKING CHALLENGE



Challenge

Simple Tracked Exercise Promotes Success

WIN
PRIZES

-  Get together a team!
-  Register with UW Extension
-  WALK! Walk with your team, with friends or family, or on your own.
-  Track your steps with a wearable device (fitbit, apple watch, pedometer, or other)
-  Submit your steps weekly
-  The first team to walk **1,638 MILES** from Monroe County, WI to Monroe County, NY and BACK **WINS!**
-  Program Runs April 1st through June 8th (10 weeks)
-  Cost is \$10.00 per team (2-6 people on a team)
-  For more information call UW Extension at 269-8722 or visit us online at: <https://monroe.uwex.edu/> or <https://www.facebook.com/MonroeCountyFamilyLiving>
-  Go to <https://goo.gl/forms/1V0GZJc3hUiyCez93> register.

StrongBodies

Strength Training Class



Tomah

Recreation Park- 1625 Butts Ave

- Tues/Thurs 8:00AM
 - Mon/Wed 3:00PM
- 8-weeks for \$20.00**

Sparta

The Barney Center- 1000 E Montgomery St

- Mon/Thurs 8:00AM*ADV
 - Tues/Fri 10:00AM
- 10-weeks for \$25.00**

Scholarships are available

Classes starts the week of April 23rd

*Advanced classes are open to repeat participants who are ready to increase their training. Talk to Erin if you have questions.

Benefits of Strength Training

Reduced risk for chronic diseases:

- ◆ Diabetes
- ◆ High Blood Pressure
- ◆ Heart Disease
- ◆ Osteoporosis
- ◆ Arthritis
- ◆ Some Cancers

Increased:

- ◆ Strength
- ◆ Muscle mass
- ◆ Bone density
- ◆ Ability to do Activities of Daily Living

Registration begins March 26th. Please call the UW-Extension office to register.

UW Extension- Monroe County Office, 14345 County Hwy B, Rm 1, Sparta, WI 54656

(608) 269-8722

Registration is first come, first serve. Classes fill up quickly.

Thanks to our sponsors!



An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

taking care of you

FREE
CLASS

body. mind. spirit.

Taking Care of You is a research-based 4-week program that offers practical strategies and experiences to help people deal with the stress in their lives. Managing life's challenges in healthy ways allows participants to take better care of themselves and their overall health. Each week explore topics through small group discussion, self-reflection and activities. Participants will consider ways to:

- ◆ Become more aware of the mind-body connection and how to use this awareness for better health
- ◆ Develop habits that can lead to a healthier person: body * mind * spirit
- ◆ Respond versus react to the stress in life
- ◆ Discover opportunities in life's challenges
- ◆ Find ways to bring more joy into life
- ◆ Simplify life
- ◆ Live more in the moment



Upcoming Programs

This is a four part series.

SPARTA

When: Wednesdays, April 4,
11, 18, 25th

Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm

Where: Sparta Library

TOMAH

When:

4/19 (1-3pm), 4/20 (9-11am)

4/26 (1-3pm), 4/27 (9-11am)

Where: La Grange Town Hall
(22731 Flint Ave., Tomah, WI)

Thanks to the Tomah host: Monroe
County Home & Community Education

Taught by Extension Educator Erin Eggert. To register, please call the UW Extension office at 608-269-8722. Space is limited.

Learn how to better manage stress & become more mindful!



Joshua L. Goede

Space Camp Counselors

The Agent, state staff, and Barron County Educator met with the Space Camp Counselors on February 19 to plan the "All Delegate Conference Call" through WisLine. The Counselors and adult staff led the "All Delegate Conference Call" on February 22. The counselors did a great job getting the information out to the delegates that were dialed into the call. The Agent will also accompany the state delegation to Huntsville, AL, April 26-30.

Shooting Sports

The team of Shooting Sports Volunteers is wrapping up our season. It has been rough with three snow days. We did extend the season but only for Air Rifle as the equipment we borrow for archery will be packed away at the end of March. There are still plans to shoot as much as we can fit in the last three weeks. The numbers have been good, 26 youth are coming each night. 12 have been shooting Archery only.

LaCrosse County Educator

The Agent has had several phone calls helping the new LaCrosse County Educator. The conversations have mostly related to planning our 2019 Summer camps together. We also discussed the Festival of Arts and how our two counties do the events. It has been great communicating about the future and ways we can work together.

Festival of Arts

The Monroe County 4-H Festival of Arts was Saturday, March 3 in Sparta. We have over 20 performers on the stage and more than 100 arts and crafts to be judged.

Sparta Schools

The Agent has been to the Sparta Schools twice during February.

On the 6th he worked at the Reality Store, a simulation meant to show the students the real-world finances for one month in the real world depending on the career they chose. The Agent played the role of Credit Card Collector. It was nice to see that the kids did not pay for a lot with their lines of credit.

Then on the 28th the Agent participated in Mock Interviews with members of the senior class. The Agent interviewed 9 youth. Some were more prepared than others. This activity has gotten the agent to thinking if there are ways to work this kind of a thing into the program we offer.

Fort McCoy

The Agent has met with the volunteer who is working to create a 4-H Club on South Post to meet the needs of the Military Families. She has come up with a plan to roll the club out in Ft. McCoy media as well as the community organization. We are hoping to have meetings ready to go in early June which is the largest influx of new families onto base.

The Agent has also been working on Ft. each Wednesday starting the 21nd of February. He is leading a discovery science and engineering program working with gravity, force, and motion. He will continue through the end of March.

Continuing Programs

- **Jr. Leaders**
 - Jr. Leaders will meet in Tomah for pizza and Bowling on March 24.
- **Volunteers in Preparation**
 - There were four adults trained as 4-H volunteers on Sat. Feb. 10.
 - The classes scheduled on February 19 and March 5 were canceled due to weather. They will be rescheduled after Easter.
- **COMING SOON**
 - April 14 – Fur, Fin, & Feather at Sparta's Barney Center



Monroe County Extension Office
14345 County Hwy. B, Room 1
Sparta, WI 54656
608-269-8722
608-269-8767 (FAX)
800-947-3529 (TTY)

Bill Halfman, Agriculture Agent

Agriculture Extension Highlights Update February 15, 2018 to March 13, 2018

The crop management update for farmers workshop was held on February 15th. There were 12 participants at the workshop this year. Attendance was down quite a bit from what the usual crowd is for this workshop. Topics included local updates, crop disease management considerations for 2018, Grain price outlook and marketing considerations, corn crop management and weed management and herbicide resistance management. All but one of the participants indicated they have attended UW Extension workshops in the past, and all of them who have indicated that they have implemented changes based on what they have learned at the workshops.

The last two Private Pesticide Applicator trainings were held on Feb 20 and 21. There will likely be a number of self study tests done for licenses this spring.

The Ag Agent has been working with some of the bedding plant and flower growers to check and adjust water pH and fertilizer programs. Farm visits over the past month have also included helping evaluate management practices on beef operations regarding feeding and housing, and dairy farms to look at financial analysis and farm and estate transition.

UW Extension and DATCP have been conducting Food Safety & Modernization Act trainings for vegetable growers in the area.

The 9th Annual Hops Growers Winter Conference was held on February 24th at the Lazy Monk Brewery in Eau Claire. There were 80 participants at the workshop. Several were from this area. Topics included drying and post harvest handling of the cones, fertilizer management research trials update, hops disease updates, and round robin sessions on pest management plan development for the 2018 season.

The Hops Working Group is working on securing funding to continue the fertilizer management projects for 2018, and also working with two researchers in the Bio-systems Engineering Department to secure funding to conduct research on drying and post harvest systems sized for Wisconsin growers.

The UW Cattle Feeders Series was held at 7 locations around the state the week of February 26th. There were approximately 240 participants at the workshops. The Sparta location had 55 participants. Topics included Corn Starch Properties and Processing Influence on Cattle Performance, Cattle Market Outlooks, An Overview of the Decision Tools at the UW Beef Site, and An Introduction to Cattle Transportation Quality Assurance.

The Ag Agent is working with Dr. Laboski and a number of County Agents to plan Nitrogen Trials and secure funding for the 2018 crop season.

The Ag Agent helped the Monroe County DHIA with their Annual Meeting and Recognition Dinner.

The Ag Agent is part of the working group working with the Land Conservation Department for updating the Land & Water Resource Management plan.

The Driftless Region Beef Conference work group is going to hold a day long silage conference in Dubuque, IA on June 21. A number of topics will be covered on managing silage quality and economics of silage production.

The Ag Agent is working with a small group of counter parts to develop and staff the livestock related educational displays in the UW Extension Education Station at Farm Technology Days in Wood County in July.

There have been several inquiries on industrial hemp production.

Upcoming Events- more to be added as they get finalized

March- Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop- La Crosse County
March 20- Crops and Soils Program In-service- Wi Dells.
April 7 Cover Crop Demonstration Day- Cashton area
April 28- Shooting Sports Volunteer Training- Eau Claire
June 2- Monroe County Dairy Breakfast
June 18-20 Tractor Safety- Sparta
June 21- Silage Conference- Dubuque
July 10-12 Farm Technology Days- Wood County
July 25 to 29 Monroe County Fair
Aug 1 Carcass Evaluation