



Extension Snapshot

<https://columbia.extension.wisc.edu>

Columbia County Extension is following the guidance of the CDC, WDH, the Governor, & the UW-Madison Campus. Our priority is the health of ourselves, our coworkers, our neighbors, and everyone in our communities. We are telecommuting and limiting events to virtual or no-contact in our efforts to protect those around us.

2020 - My how the Covid Challenges & Changes just keep coming!

Columbia County Corn Growers December Meeting

This has been an annual event to bring grain farmers together to celebrate the harvest, share information and plan for the coming year. 2020 will be no different, except that it will not be in person. Columbia County Extension will be hosting these meeting via Zoom. Instead of gathering for one morning in December and enjoying lunch together at Club 60, we will host three morning sessions on December 8, 9, and 10 from 8:00 am to 9:00 am. Tuesday's gathering will provide agency updates from NRCS, FSA, Land and Water Conservation, and Extension. Wednesday will be a grain marketing session with Kasey Baker from United Cooperative. Thursday will wrap up the meetings with a discussion from Carrie Laboski, UW Soil Scientist, on "Liming and Variable Rate Fertility Considerations". Farmers can join for all three days or pick and choose sessions from the comfort of their homes or farm offices.

2021 Pesticide Applicator Training

Again, the rules, they keep a changing!! WDATCP has now decided that all Private Applicator Certifications that were due to expire after January 31, 2020 to be extended until December 31, 2021. Therefore, there will be no in person trainings scheduled for this fall or spring. Only farmers who need initial certification will need to either study on-line or self-study. They then have the choice to take an on-line test which will provide them with temporary certification until December 31, 2021, or they can choose to take an in-person test at the Columbia County Extension Office to obtain a five-year certification. Materials and manuals are available in the Columbia County Extension office.

ARC/PLC, Dairy Margin Coverage, Nutrient Management Planning

George will continue to work with farmers on an individual basis, via phone calls, emails, or one-on-one zoom calls to assist them with decision making for 2021 and beyond. George continues to work with Sam Peterson and Kelly Maginnis in Land and Water Conservation along with Sarah Millard in Extension to organize and provide Nutrient Management Training for Columbia County Farmers.

Columbia County MIS has been very instrumental and helpful in making sure that we have the computer resources to work remotely and access all our computer files and data. Working off an internet hotspot is a little slower than working in the office, but can be done quite well.

DID YOU KNOW.....?

COLUMBIA COUNTY EXTENSION'S FOODWISE COORDINATOR & EDUCATOR PROVIDE NUTRITION EDUCATION FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY RESIDENTS IN ALL AGE GROUPS –CURRENTLY VIRTUALLY.

Q: How are Columbia Co business communities dealing with COVID-19?

A: Columbia County Economic Development Response, Recovery & Resilience Team

CCEDR3T

CCEDR3T Mission Statement: To investigate and recommend immediate, short term, and potentially time-limited solutions for businesses, business sectors, and organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to facilitate economic recovery in Columbia County.

| CCEDR3T Members | Affiliation | Meeting Dates (every 2 wks) | Session Focus & Key Presenter | Community Sector Check-in's |
|---|---|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Cheryl Fahrner ccedc6161@gmail.com | CCEDC Executive Director  | 5/21/20 & 5/28/20 | Creation of CCEDR3T — CCEDR3T purpose, vision statement; business immediate & long-term COVID-19 impacts; focus areas; supporting a virtual learning environment; team members facilitated by Kathleen Haas | |
| Kathleen Haas kathleen.haas@wisc.edu | Col. Co. UW-Madison Extension  | 6/4/20 | WI COVID19 Public Health Overview with WI DHS | Banks |
| Marianne Hanson pacc@portagewi.com | Portage Area Chamber of Commerce  | 6/18/20 | Broadband and Distance Learning with Shawn Belling, Madison College | Manufacturing |
| Kathy Johnson kathy.johnson@co.columbia.wi.us | CC Emergency Management  | 7/2/20 | WI Travel Destination Marketing Survey Results Wave 2 Report by MadREP | Restaurants |
| Lyn Koenig poynettechamber@gmail.com | Poynette Chamber of Commerce  | 7/16/20 | COVID-19 and the State of Business in WI with Errin Welty, WI Econ. Development Corp. (WEDC) | B&B, Hotels & Motels |
| Susan Lorenz susan.lorenz@co.columbia.wi.us | CC Health & Human Services  | 7/30/20 | COVID-19 Effect on Wisconsin's Non-profit Sector with Bryce Lord, UW-Milwaukee Helen Bader Institute for Nonprofits | non-profits |
| Krisi McMorris info@lodilakewisconsin.org | Lodi/Lake WI Chamber of Commerce  | 8/13/20 | Impacts of COVID-19 on Tourism in Columbia Co & WI with Andrew Nussbaum, WI Tourism | gas stations & campgrounds |
| JD Milburn columbuswchamber@gmail.com | Columbus Chamber of Commerce  | 8/27/20 | Columbia Co. COVID-19 Stats & Update with Susan Lorenz, CC H&HS | Auto/Mechanic Shops; Religious Organization |
| Terry Milfred terrymilfred@gmail.com | Rio Area Community Club  | 9/10/20 | Columbia Co. Labor Day with Chambers | Home Service Repairs— Plumbers & Electricians |
| Tim Raymond traymond@cambria-frieslandschools.org | Cambria-Friesland School Distr.  | 9/24/20 | How COVID-19 is impacting School Districts with Tim Raymond, Cambria Friesland School District | Caregivers |
| Romy Snyder romy@wisdells.com | Wisconsin Dells Visitor & Convention Bureau  | 10/8/20 | How is COVID-19 impacting childcare With Jody Bartnick, 4-C | Landscapers, Farmers, Greenhouses |
| Steve Sobiek steven.sobiek@portagewi.gov | City of Portage  | 10/22/20 | How has COVID-19 impacted agriculture industry with Lexie Meyer, FSA | Farmers Markets & Local Food Businesses |
| | | 11/5/20 | Winter Tourism Destinations I with Rob Walz, Cascade Mountain Owner | Restaurants & Theaters |
| | | 11/19/20 | Winter Tourism II with WI Dells w/ Romy Snyder, WI Dells Convention Bureau | Real Estate, Insurance, Financial Advisors/Investments |

2021 CCEDR3T will focus on

Columbia County "Housing":

- ◆ Cambria area, Poynette and Lodi express the huge need for more affordable housing as more individuals are leaving Madison for rural communities. Especially those young families wanting smaller schools for their children and those wishing to purchase a home in a smaller more affordable rural community.
- ◆ Focus on boomers down-sizing and looking for suitable housing options.



**FOOD
WISE**
Healthy choices, healthy lives.

UW-MADISON EXTENSION

The new fiscal year is underway for FoodWise. This year looks very different compared to our previous years of teaching. All of the teaching that FoodWise is offering is being done virtually. FoodWise is working diligently with partners to ensure that the programming being provided is meeting the partner's needs. This is being done by offering different delivery options especially to our elementary school partners. Schools are being provided with 3 choices to choose from for nutrition lesson delivery. They can have lessons created via Google slides in which students work through the lessons at their own pace independently, recorded lessons where FoodWise staff provide videos for partners to use in their classrooms and/or live virtual lessons via Zoom or Google Meet where the educator will join the class virtually and teach lessons live. Many of Columbia County's partners have opted to wait until the new year to receive content. FoodWise is currently working to put together the specific content for each classroom so when the time comes, it can be delivered effectively and efficiently to partners.

Included is a picture of a Bitmoji classroom. This type of delivery is one that kids would do independently. There are several clickable items around the "classroom" (the kids have to hunt around and find them). Each "classroom" includes a physical activity component, recorded video of a FoodWise staff briefly explaining the topic and several activities to support the topic content at hand- from puzzles to books to games. These classrooms will be used at several schools in the new year.



Success!

Columbia County "Virtual" Youth Tractor and Machinery Safety Course

The "virtual" Extension course was a new undertaking for Columbia County Extension staff this fall, but the need was real as youth in Columbia County, ages 12-15, wanted to secure their required Wisconsin and Federal certificates for operating tractors and machinery on their family's or employer's farms, as well as public roadways between those farms.

Pat Wagner, 4-H Positive Youth Development Educator, and George Koepp, Agriculture Educator, embraced the task and collaborated to conduct a "virtual" course which took 26 youth through the prescribed certification program for Wisconsin Safe Operation of Tractors and Machinery. Youth who completed the course have fulfilled all requirements to receive their certificates and are now better prepared for the work they will complete on farms in central Wisconsin.

The course normally brings the students together for 24 hours of training and testing, but the pandemic didn't allow this to happen and the 24 hours still needed to be completed. The 2020 course was designed and included 8 hours of "virtual" classroom via Zoom as well as 8 hours of independent study and 4 hours of flex (a mix of recommended videos, workbook, and worksheets/handouts). Students were then required to record hours of work completed. The course also included a requirement of 2 hours of practice tractor driving and each student was required to complete a 1 hour written test and a 1 hour driving test (in-person and physically distanced).

Koepp and Wagner instructed three of the virtual courses and then reached out to a team of educators to accomplish the rest of the virtual program. The teaching team members included agriculture instructors from Portage High School and Middle School as well as Montello High School. Also recruited were local police and EMT staff from both the City of Portage and Aspirus Divine Savior as well as the Marquette County 4-H Youth Development Educator. Finally, both a Wisconsin DNR Warden and a UW Madison Agriculture Safety Specialist were invited to be guest-lecturers and they shared ATV information as well as the requirements of traveling on public roadways respectively. In an effort to keep everyone safe during the driving requirement, tests were completed on several family farms and at a local implement dealership.

COLUMBIA COUNTY EXTENSION

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