**UW-Extension Education Committee Feb 14 – March 3, 2017 Trisha Wagner Agriculture Agent**

**Fresh Market growers educational meeting series 2/27 & 3/3**

Fresh market produce farmers and marketers of farm products attended a meeting series for which focused on a number of topics for beginning market growers, specifically for farmers markets and road-side stand marketers of fruit, vegetables and other farm products. Topics included tips for product display and presentation, best practices for creating and retaining a customer base, pricing considerations, post-harvest handling recommendations and more.  Speakers included expert market vendors from across the state who shared what they have learned from years of direct marketing produce through farmers markets and road-side stands (13, 13).

**Dairy farm employee education meeting series – calf management 2/16**

In 2016, I began an educational meeting series specifically for dairy farm employees in the region. This meeting reinforced the importance of cleaning protocols for calf health, and processing the newborn calf.  Participants learned how adenosine triphosphate (ATP) meters can be used to evaluate effectiveness of calf equipment cleaning. Measuring ATP is a common method food processors, and health care industries are using to measure the effectiveness of their cleaning procedures. An ATP meter measures organic material present on surfaces which otherwise appear to be clean to the naked eye.   The Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory has adapted ATP usage to on-farm calf sanitation audits, in order to identify areas where cleanliness can be improved. The program was offered in English and Spanish (15).

**Ho-Chunk Nation diabetes education meeting 2/16**

The HCN effort to increase education about healthy eating and lifestyles invited a presentation on growing herbs in containers, and cooking preparation. The presentation given was one I created with input from Master Gardener Volunteers. (15)

**Sustainability in Livestock Production 2/21**

This program was created by a 4-H project volunteer leader who obtained a grant through our Agricultural Grants workshop held in 2015. I was asked to open the program for participating youth in the Livestock Project, with a presentation on the concept of sustainability and its applications in agriculture (15).

* 1. **Wisconsin Farm Succession and Estate Planning meeting series (February) 2/23**

This meeting of a series on farm succession topics focused on long term care and planning for future needs. Participants learned about long term care options and how to evaluate long term care insurance. Steve Shapiro, a Medigap Insurance Counselor for the State of Wisconsin Medigap Helpline, lead the webinar and topics included: What are the costs of long term care and who pays for long term care; Medicare vs long term care insurance; long term care insurance consumer protections and purchase scenarios; long term care insurance costs and benefits / alternative resources.

**Add’n programs/projects:**

* Small animal project and Livestock project meetings – Coop program 2/14, 2/18
* WWIS radio –Coop program recording collaboration 2/20
* JC Pesticide Applicator Training program 2/21
* WPR interview for story on farm succession 2/22

**Farm visits/consults:**

**Add’n meetings/program participation:**

-JC small animal project workshop 2/14

- JC farmers market mtg 2/15, 22

-JC livestock workshop 2/18

-JC dairy promotion cmt 2/22

-JC Farmers market 2/22

-JC Dairy Promotion mtg 2/22

* Seahafer, EAB 2/20
* Sterry, HRM, OSHA 2/20
* Kirwan, WNPR, succession 2/22
* Olson, dairy 2/23
* Menes, 2/23, 27
* Engler, blueberry 2/23
* Moldenhauer, soils/NM 2/23
* Kling, dairy 2/23
* Olson, dairy pricing 2/24
* Odeen, facilities 2/24
* Kittleson, hort. 2/24, 28
* Stubrud, dairy facilities 2/27
* Odeen, dairy facilities 2/28
* Banner, ag plastic 2/28
* JC Chronicle, labor 3/2
* Laufenberg, ag plastics 3/2