

Crawford County Ag/Extension Committee Meeting

Crawford County Administration Building
Room 215, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821

Thursday, August 7, 2025

Mary Kuhn, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:45am.

Members Present: Mary Kuhn, Wayne Jerrett, Craig Anderson, Owen DuCharme, and Sarah Nelson. Others present: Amanda Griswold & Sara Tedeschi.

Verify posting of Agenda by Mary Kuhn.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve July minutes by Jerrett, second by DuCharme. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

University of Wisconsin Extension Items:

- Educators/Coordinators Reports:

New Hire! Jenni Severson started this week. Part-time with flexible scheduling. HDRI to support Amanda mainly, also covering Nicole's time off.

Amanda Griswold, Human Development & Relationship Educator

- Newsletter highlighting HDRI offerings to Crawford Co residents. Back to school focus. Some classes are available both locally & statewide with Zoom options and in person options depending on program.
- Applied for & received Baldwin Grant – Improving access for continuing education for early childhood educators. 3 yrs.
- Soldiers Grove partnership w/Christine (FoodWise) “Money As You Grow Program” wrapped up, good turnout
- Supporting co-parenting families: Separations do not have requirements for parents to go through required parenting classes as would be for divorcing couples. These courses can be taken by anyone, not just court-ordered.
- Brainspotting – new program being used at North Crawford School.

Sara Tedeschi, Community Development Educator

- Driftless Area Art Festival, helping with the catering. Trying to keep it going as so many volunteers are retiring from their roles.
- Will have ed table at fair
- Agritourism: 6 course module, working on finalizing dates for training outreach for Crawford Co producers (& nearby?)
 - Hoping to put out a mailing to help spread the word along with various social media.
- Community development to support producers in our region who are working on agritourism. Group has agreed to be using a recurrent monthly meeting & divide out tasks in working groups. Long term vision & support in place is a goal.
- Inventors & Entrepreneurs Group – getting a better title
 - “Small Business Workshop Series”

Minutes submitted by Sarah Nelson

- Has been small groups (4 people) but very engaged and eager for information, very serious & good diversity of attendees.
- Were able to get a lot of individualized time & resources pointed out to them. Hoping more will start coming as their enthusiasm is shared. All 4 of them expressed strong community ties of wanting to do something for their communities & fill needs while having a business
- Upcoming topics:
 - Sept – Custom Grazing with Joseph Childs
 - Dec – Shared use Kitchens
- In future, consider having something on an annual basis as a big promotional event
- Starting work on a Baldwin Grant in partnership with UW Madison contact
 - Farmer focus groups, asset mapping, producer needs assessment
 - Things that would be hard to do on own
 - Tie to Farmers Markets & getting local food to local folks
 - How to make more successful by getting more food to the markets?
 - A Farmer led model for enhancing regional food systems & farmer well-being
- Waiting on 2 other grants: Farm to School focus and Farm to Market focus
 - Hoping to hear in Oct
- New report for state on labor & workforce, gives specifics for Crawford County
- Discussed some other contacts & groups that might help publicize flyers & help attendance to groups.

Public Comments: None

Date of next meeting: September 4, 2025 at 10:00am or immediately following Fair Committee Meeting

Payment of Bills: Motion by DuCharme to approve payment of bills/vouchers as presented, second by Jerrett. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Correspondence: None.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Jerrett, second by Anderson. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned 11:48am.