

**Extension/Land Conservation Committee**  
**Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 10:30 A.M.**

**Room 2151**

335 E. Monroe Ave., Barron, WI

**Amended Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Acknowledgement of Public Posting Requirements
3. Public comment
4. Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – 02/03/2026
  - Edit List- February & March
  - Announcements- Land Conservation Committee Training in Hayward on June 10<sup>th</sup>
  - West Central Association Tour- Clark County June 24<sup>th</sup>.
5. 2026 SWCD Work plans- Information Only
6. 2027 State Budget- Grant Application- Information only
7. 2025 SWCD State Grant Funds Received- \$163,876.00- Information only
8. Project Updates-Discussion
9. Ground Water Plan- Discussion
10. Barron County Lakes Coalition Update, Pat Brown -Information only
- 11. Discussion Wisconsin Bill 1033.- Information only**
12. State wide NR151 Analysis- Information only
13. Staff Reports – UWEX, NRCS, FSA, and SWCD (10 minutes) information only
  - Executive Committee Report
  - Fair Board Report
14. Set date for the next meeting – May 5, 2026
15. Adjourn

**\*\*\*If you cannot make the meeting, PLEASE call the SWCD at 715-537-6315.**

(All times are estimated)

**ADA Statement for Agenda**

Any person who has a qualifying disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act and requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in an accessible format must contact the County Clerk's office at 715-537-6200 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting so that arrangements may be made to accommodate your request.

cc: Cook, Gores, Langman, Kusilek, G. Nelson, Huth, McCready, County Clerk, County Administrator, Webmaster, Public postings

## EXTENSION-LCC COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Room 2151

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Members present: Kirsten Huth, Jim Gores, Randy Cook, Fran Langman, Gary Nelson and Audrey Kusilek. Staff present: Tyler Gruetzmacher, Justin Everson, Pat Brown, Bronson Thalacker, Dave Gifford, Jeff French, Lori Baltrusis, Tawonga Zakeyu and Becky Melton, .

Others present: David Ruid- USDA Absent: Jamie McCready

Cook called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and Melton confirmed proper posting of the meeting. No public comment was received.

**Motion: (Kusilek/Gores)** to approve the agenda; carried. **Motion: (Gores/Langman)** to approve the minutes of December 2, 2025 meeting; carried.

Announcements: Gruetzmacher introduced Melton as new Administrative Assistant.

Edit list: no questions.

Item #5. David Ruid, USDA APHIS, presented wildlife damage claims information for committee review. After committee questions, **Motion: (Nelson/Gores)** to approve claims; carried.

Item #6. Brown recapped the recent meeting of the Barron County Lakes Partnership, which brought together lake associations, lake districts and the county to discuss what that partnership will entail. Brown gave an update of the Clean Boats & Clean Water Grant along with the Native Plant Sale.

Item #7, Item #10 and Item #11. Gruetzmacher, Everson and Thalacker gave a presentation of the 2025 SWCD in review and 2026 projects. Gruetzmacher reviewed cover crop, manure storage closures and DATCP SWRM funded projects. Everson gave an update on the Farmland Preservation Program, Nutrient Management Assistance and the Tree Program. Thalacker reviewed the NR 135 Program, highlighting Sand & Gravel and Industrial Sand reclamation projects that were completed. Gruetzmacher reviewed upcoming training and conferences for staff. An invitation was extended to committee members for the Red Cedar Watershed Conference, West Central Tour in Clark County and the Wisconsin Land +Water LCC Training in June.

Item #8. UWEX Baltrusis reviewed 2025 & 2026 work plans and introduced new staff, Tawonga Zakeyu, Diversified Vegetables and Emerging Crops Educator. Her role will be to educate and provide local farmers and agricultural professionals regarding new research, education materials that improve efficiency and profitability of production.

Item #9. Gifford gave an update on Staffing Allocations for Barron County.

Item # 12. Certificate of Compliance was presented for approval. **Motion: (Kusilek/Nelson)** to approved the certificates; carried.

Item #13. Staff Reports –

NRCS – Richter spoke of the benefits of the partnership with Barron County.

FSA – Huth gave update.

Executive Committee – French gave update on the Public Safety Answering Point Grant.

Fair Board – N/A.

Next meeting date: March 3, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

Future agenda items:

**Motion: (Huth/Gores)** to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 a.m.; carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Melton, Administrative Assistant Land Services

*Minutes are not official until approved by the Extension/LCC Committee at the next meeting.*

Vendor	Vendor Name	Voucher	Account Description	Date	Description	Amount
291838	Amazon Capital Services Inc	C0094655	Invasive Species Control	2/5/2026	LS-SWD INV 1MKW-17N6-L9Q6	\$ 96.44
317616	Prime Cuts Meat Market	C0094655	Venison Processing	2/5/2026	LS-SWCD Wildlife Damage /Ven Process 2025	\$ 1,200.00
201316	UW- Stout	C0094966	Conference Registration	3/5/2026	LS-SWCD Red Cedar Conf/Brown	\$ 35.00
201316	UW- Stout	C0094966	Conference Registration	3/5/2026	LS-SWCD Red Cedar Conf//Everson	\$ 35.00
201316	UW- Stout	C0094966	Conference Registration	3/5/2026	LS-SWCD Red Cedar Conf/Gruetzmacher	\$ 35.00
201316	UW- Stout	C0094966	Conference Registration	3/5/2026	LS-SWCD Red Cedar Conf/Thalacker	\$ 35.00
6025	WI Land & Water Conservation	C0095122	Conference Registration	3/19/2026	LS-SWCD-Gruetzmacher Membership	\$ 385.00
263869	Seiler Instrument & MGF CO INC	C0095119	Assigned Reserve-DATCP	3/19/2026	LS-SWCD-Training INV 72739	\$ 750.00
10383	WI Dept Of Natural Resources	C0095281	Accounts Payable	4/2/2026	LS-SWCD State NR135 Annual Fees	\$ 6,610.00
22632	Rice Lake Printery	C0095252	Education Material	4/2/2026	LS-SWCD-Poster Contest Calendars	\$ 705.00
					Total	\$ 9,886.44



## 2025 ASSEMBLY BILL 1033

February 9, 2026 - Introduced by Representative BROOKS, cosponsored by Senator FEYEN. Referred to Committee on State Affairs.

1     **AN ACT** *to renumber and amend* 30.69 (1) (b); *to amend* 30.69 (1) (a) (intro.),  
2           30.69 (3) (d) and 30.74 (1) (a); *to create* 30.01 (1ag), 30.01 (1ah), 30.01 (6r) and  
3           30.69 (3) (cm) of the statutes; **relating to:** the regulation of wakesurfing and  
4           providing a penalty.

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### ***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This bill regulates wakesurfing. The bill defines “wakesurfing” as surfing a motorboat’s wake, regardless of whether the person is being pulled by a tow rope attached to the motorboat that is producing the wake, or operating a motorboat in a manner that creates a wake that is, or is intended to be, surfed by another person.

Under current law, various regulations apply to water skiing, aquaplaning, or a similar activity, and under current law, wakesurfing likely falls under “aquaplaning” or a “similar activity.” The bill explicitly provides that aquaplaning includes wakesurfing and thereby applies the same safety regulations that apply to water skiing and aquaplaning to wakesurfing. These regulations include requiring an observer or a wide-angle mirror on the motorboat, restricting wakesurfing to between sunrise and sunset, prohibiting intoxicated wakesurfing, requiring a motorboat used for wakesurfing to stay more than 100 feet away from any occupied anchored boat, personal watercraft, or marked swimming area or public boat

**ASSEMBLY BILL 1033****SECTION 1**

landing, and prohibiting a person engaged in wakesurfing from being within 100 feet, or allowing a tow rope to be within 100 feet, of a personal watercraft.

The bill generally prohibits a person from engaging in wakesurfing unless all of the following apply:

1. The motorboat is operated farther than 200 feet from a shoreline or dock, pier, boathouse, or other structure located completely or partly on the water.

2. The motorboat is operated farther than 200 feet from any person in the water or any occupied vessel.

3. Any person surfing on or across the wake of the motorboat or being towed on a board is wearing a personal flotation device prescribed by federal regulations.

The wakesurfing restrictions under the bill and the current law restrictions that the bill explicitly applies to wakesurfing do not apply to a wakesurfing tournament, competition, exhibition, or trial that is authorized by the Department of Natural Resources or a municipality and where adequate lighting is provided.

The bill applies the same penalties to wakesurfing that apply to water skiing violations under current law.

Current law requires DNR to establish a program of comprehensive courses on boating safety and operation and to issue certificates to persons 10 years of age or older successfully completing such courses. Current law requires DNR to prescribe the course content and the form of the certificate, but the bill adds an exception that the course must include education on wakesurfing and the proper use of and operation of motorboats used in wakesurfing.

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***The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:***

1           **SECTION 1.** 30.01 (1ag) of the statutes is created to read:

2           30.01 (**1ag**) “Aquaplane” includes the board upon which a person rides while  
3 wakesurfing.

4           **SECTION 2.** 30.01 (1ah) of the statutes is created to read:

5           30.01 (**1ah**) “Aquaplaning” includes wakesurfing.

6           **SECTION 3.** 30.01 (6r) of the statutes is created to read:

7           30.01 (**6r**) “Wakesurfing” means the activity of any of the following:

8           (a) Surfing a motorboat’s wake, regardless of whether the person is being  
9 pulled by a tow rope attached to the motorboat that is producing the wake.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 1033**

1 (b) Operating a motorboat in a manner that creates a wake that is, or is  
2 intended to be, surfed by a person.

3 **SECTION 4.** 30.69 (1) (a) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 30.69 (1) (a) (intro.) Except as provided in ~~par. (b)~~ sub. (3m), no person may  
5 operate a motorboat towing a person on water skis, aquaplane, or similar device  
6 unless one of the following applies:

7 **SECTION 5.** 30.69 (1) (b) of the statutes is renumbered 30.69 (3m) and  
8 amended to read:

9 30.69 (3m) COMPETITION EXCEPTION. ~~Paragraphs~~ Subsections (1) (a), (ag),  
10 and (am) and (3) (cm) do not apply to duly authorized water ski or wakesurfing  
11 tournaments, competitions, exhibitions, or trials therefor, where adequate lighting  
12 is provided.

13 **SECTION 6.** 30.69 (3) (cm) of the statutes is created to read:

14 30.69 (3) (cm) No person may engage in wakesurfing unless all of the  
15 following apply:

16 1. The motorboat used in wakesurfing is operated farther than 200 feet from  
17 a shoreline or a dock, pier, boathouse, or other structure located completely or partly  
18 on the body of water.

19 2. The motorboat used in wakesurfing is operated farther than 200 feet from  
20 any person in the water or any occupied vessel.

21 3. The person surfing on or across the wake of the motorboat or being towed  
22 on a board is wearing a personal flotation device prescribed by federal regulations.

23 **SECTION 7.** 30.69 (3) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

24 30.69 (3) (d) Paragraphs (a) to ~~(e)~~ (cm) do not apply to pickup or drop areas

**ASSEMBLY BILL 1033****SECTION 7**

1 that are marked with regulatory markers and that are open to operators of personal  
2 watercraft and to persons and motorboats engaged in water skiing, wakesurfing, or  
3 similar activity.

4 **SECTION 8.** 30.74 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 30.74 (1) (a) The department shall establish a program of comprehensive  
6 courses on boating safety and operation. These courses shall be offered in  
7 cooperation with schools, including tribal schools, as defined in s. 115.001 (15m),  
8 private clubs and organizations, and may be offered by the department in areas  
9 where requested and where other sponsorship is unavailable. The department  
10 shall issue certificates to persons 10 years of age or older successfully completing  
11 such courses. The department shall prescribe the course content and the form of  
12 the certificate, except that the course shall include education on wakesurfing and  
13 the proper use of and operation of motorboats used in wakesurfing.

14

(END)



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
BARRON COUNTY



# QUARTERLY REPORT

## Q1

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Interested in an [newsletter](https://app.e2ma.net/app2/audience/signup/1868324/1811313.522092401/) from UW Extension? Sign up at:  
<https://app.e2ma.net/app2/audience/signup/1868324/1811313.522092401/>

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## University of Wisconsin–Madison Extension Barron County

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715-788-6240 | [barron.extension.wisc.edu](http://barron.extension.wisc.edu)



# Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**UW-Madison Extension's outreach** creates key connection points for families, farms, communities, businesses, nonprofit organizations, government, and more. We support local volunteers and leaders to take action and serve as role models in their communities, and we make sure Wisconsinites have the latest research, best practices, and educational opportunities.



**Learn more at**  
[extension.wisc.edu](http://extension.wisc.edu)





# Agriculture Position Update

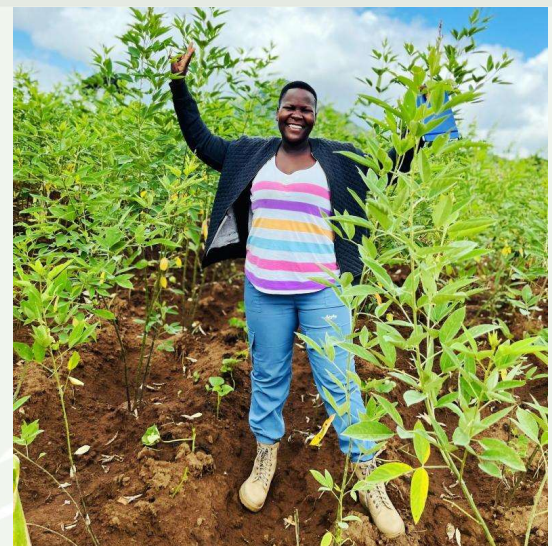
**Welcome Tawonga, the new  
Regional Agriculture Educator  
serving Barron, Burnett, Sawyer  
and Washburn Counties!**

Tawonga was born and raised in Malawi, where her early experiences in agriculture inspired a strong commitment to food security and sustainable farming systems. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Sciences from EARTH University in Costa Rica in 2021, followed by her role in Climate-Smart Agriculture program with CAMFED Malawi. She later worked as a research scholar at a Nematology lab at the University of Florida. She also has a Postgraduate Diploma in Global Food Security and Nutrition from the University of Edinburgh, and she recently earned a Master of Science degree in Horticulture and Crop Science at The Ohio State University, where her research focused on sunflower production systems, including full-season and double-crop management, nutrient management, and agronomic adaptability in Ohio.

Tawonga will work closely with specialty and emerging crop producers, and agribusiness professionals. She is excited about building trusted relationships with farmers and ensuring that research-based knowledge is accessible, inclusive, and locally relevant.



**Tawonga Zakeyu**  
Diversified Vegetables and  
Emerging Crops Educator  
[Zakeyu@wisc.edu](mailto:Zakeyu@wisc.edu)



Although she will travel between these four counties, her office will be at the Washburn County Extension office, located in Shell Lake. She will begin on January 12th.



# Agriculture

## Manure Applicator Training 101

Forty-eight farmers and custom manure applicators participated in Manure Applicator Training 101 sessions that were offered in Barron and Menomonie.

These sessions support both environmental protection and farm profitability across Wisconsin's 12-billion-gallon manure industry.

By improving application accuracy and decision-making, the program helps reduce environmental risk while supporting long-term farm profitability.



**Matt Bolen**

**Nutrient & Pest  
Management Outreach  
Specialist  
Mjbolen@wisc.edu  
715-681-1660**



Manure applicators take part in a manure application mapping activity

- Interactive mapping activities built problem-solving and decision-making skills
- 
- Scale replica equipment helped participants visualize real-world challenges and solutions
- 
- Covered key topics: storage siting, transportation, environmental setbacks, application methods, safety, spill response, and sampling



# Human Development & Relationships

This quarter, Missy continued leading parenting education programs through UW-Madison Extension, helping caregivers strengthen parent-child relationships, develop decision-making and problem-solving skills, and support children's social and emotional growth. She also collaborated with local organizations in Barron County to expand access to educational resources and strengthen community support systems.

- Partnered with local courts and recovery programs,
- Connected families to parenting, relationship, financial, and stress management education
- Contributed to healthier families and more resilient communities in Barron County and beyond



**Missy Bablick**  
**Human Development and Relationships Educator**  
[Missy.bablick@wisc.edu](mailto:Missy.bablick@wisc.edu)  
**(715) 788-6217**

## Resilient Co-Parenting

Resilient Co-Parenting is a virtual monthly series for Wisconsin parents and caregivers, offered by Extension Human Development and Relationships educators.

- Participants gain evidence-based skills in communication, conflict reduction, problem-solving, and positive parenting
- Supports children emotionally and helps parents navigate separation, divorce, or custody changes
- Fosters social connections and links families to a statewide support network
- Strengthens family resilience, improves interactions, and promotes child well-being

## Ongoing outreach:

- Financial Coaching
- Triple P -Positive Parenting Program
- Strong Couples
- Raising a Thinking Child
- Focus on Fathers
- Parents Forever

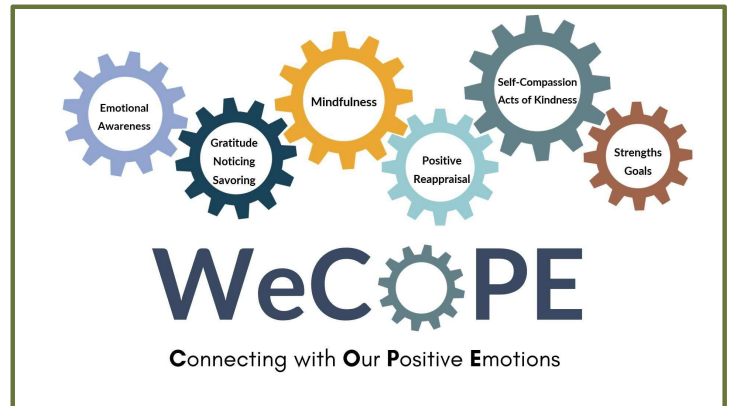


# Human Development & Relationships

## WeCOPE:

Strengthening Resilience Through Community Collaboration

In January, Missy led a WeCOPE series for incarcerated adults, teaching practical stress management, mindfulness, goal setting, and emotional regulation skills to build resilience, improve mental well-being, and support personal growth during and after incarceration.



## Triple P: Positive Parenting Program

**Triple P: Positive Parenting Program** remains a key part of our family support efforts. To meet the diverse needs of Wisconsin families, Triple P offers specialized sessions for:

- Parents of young children
- Parents of teenagers
- Parents of children dealing with anxiety

Childcare providers benefit by earning Wisconsin Registry hours to meet professional development and certification requirements. Growing partnerships with early childhood networks have also helped expand the program's reach.

These expanded offerings reflect our ongoing commitment to providing accessible, high-quality parenting resources that empower families and support healthy child development in our community.



# Barron County 4-H

## Position Update

In March, Kelly Drake, former 4-H Program Associate, began her role of Associate 4-H Program Educator.

In this new position, she will continue to support a wide range of 4-H programming, ensuring youth, families, and volunteers have the resources needed for success.

The role also includes an increased focus on developing and expanding small animal project areas, such as cats, rabbits, poultry, cavies, and dogs, building on recent collaboration with the small animal project committee.

This transition enhances capacity to deliver meaningful, hands-on learning experiences for youth across Barron County

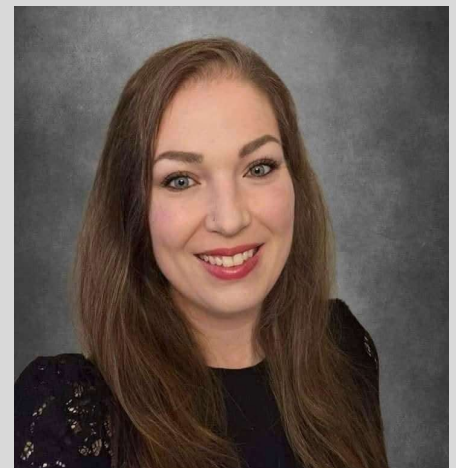


**Sara Waldron**

4-H & Positive Youth Development

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(715) 788-6219



**Kelly Drake**

Associate 4-H Program  
Educator

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(715) 788-6219



# Barron County 4-H

## 4-H Camp Counselor Training & Planning

A virtual orientation was held for 26 high school youth who were accepted as counselors. Barron and Polk County 4-H camp continues to grow, requiring a well-trained counselor team.

This training series prepares youth to:

- Handle a variety of camp situations
- Build positive relationships with campers
- Support overall camp structure and safety

Youth are selected by PYD staff based on applications, experience, and references. Counselors have strong voice and ownership in camp decisions (schedule, t-shirts, activities)

## Small Animals Project Development

Planning efforts are underway to expand and formalize the Small Animals project area, creating more structured and educational opportunities for youth participants.

- Identified need for better understanding of poultry rules and regulations
- Conducted brainstorming sessions with engaged youth and families
- Target species: poultry, cats, dogs, rabbits, and pocket pets
- Working toward establishing a formal volunteer-led project group
- Ongoing development of educational resources and programming





# Barron County 4-H

## Program Development & Committee Engagement

Ongoing collaboration with Barron County 4-H committees and advisory groups focused on strengthening program structure, supporting leadership transitions, and elevating youth voice. Efforts aim to improve organization, communication, and overall youth experience across project areas.

- Increased membership and turnover in adult leadership identified as key drivers
- Focus areas: Livestock, Horse, Dairy, and Adult Leaders
- Provided calendar templates, planning tools, and facilitation support
- Shifted from adult-led planning to stronger youth leadership involvement
- Groups gaining independence and requiring less direct educator support

## 4-H Information Hub Development

Development of a centralized online "Information Hub" to improve access to resources, event details, and project guidance for all Barron County 4-H participants.

- Serves 526 youth members and 130 volunteers
- Created project-specific resource pages (poultry, horse, leathercraft)
- Planned expansion: dairy, dog, and small animals
- Provides calendars, timelines, and best practices
- Positive feedback from families on improved access to information



## Junior Leaders Program Support

Support for the Junior Leaders program emphasized youth leadership development, community engagement, and skill-building through hands-on planning and service opportunities.

- 10 active youth leaders and 3 adult volunteers
- Organized events: tubing (42 youth), game day (15 families), skate night
- Youth leading community service and Fair Shake stand efforts
- Focus on leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, and public speaking
- Continued collaboration strengthened program structure and sustainability





## Cloverbuds Initiatives

### Virtual Cloverbud Program (K–2)

A virtual program introduced young learners to 4-H concepts through interactive, hands-on activities designed to build foundational skills and engagement.

- Total reach: 240 youth; ~90 average live session participants
- Topics included STEM (rocketry), healthy habits, and self-care
- Activities: straw rockets, mug cake, storytelling, and calm jars
- Focus on belonging, emotional wellness, and exploration
- Addressed statewide need for early youth programming

### Cloverbud Outdoor Family Event

An in-person winter event created opportunities for Cloverbuds and families to connect, explore nature, and build a sense of belonging in 4-H.

- Attendance: 14 youth, 7 parents, 3 educators, 2 teen leaders
- Partnership with Hunt Hill for outdoor science programming
- Activities included snowshoeing and winter fabric experiments
- Promoted family engagement and peer connection
- Youth reported increased sense of belonging and outdoor skills

### Multi-County Cloverbud Newsletter Program

A regional initiative delivering quarterly newsletters and activity kits to Cloverbuds, expanding access to programming and strengthening connections across five counties.

- Serves Barron, Burnett, Rusk, Sawyer, and Washburn counties
- Quarterly mailings include activities, supplies, and project exposure
- Optional participation with incentives (4-H swag drawings)
- Includes virtual, in-person, and day camp opportunities
- Builds belonging, skill development, and early 4-H engagement
- Positive evaluation feedback showing increased youth connection



# Other Office Information

During the first quarter, we welcomed our new Ag Educator, Tawonga. We also welcomed Dante, our new work/study student from UWECBC. He is gaining hands-on experience by assisting with program support, organizing materials, and helping prepare and distribute mailings.

Extension is assisting with the update of the Barron County Strategic Plan and meeting with the committee regularly.

The AI Forum in Eau Claire provided some additional opportunities for us to serve Barron County. Lori will be meeting with Jeff in early April to continue discussions.

Educators began a column in the Barron Shield entitled "Extension Cord" this year! Hope you check into it!

After starting in December, the Administrative Assistant has been actively learning the role while supporting daily operations of the Barron County Extension Office, ensuring efficient services for staff and the community.

- Organized and prepared internal reports
- Managed front office communications
- Assembled and mailed program materials for 4-H and Human Development & Relationships Educators
- Updated website and social media to maintain timely public information
- Responded to community questions on Pesticide Applicator Training and land rental rates in Barron County
- Processed weekly deposits and assisted with Point and Pay transactions



**Lori Baltrusis**  
Area Extension Director  
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**Ashley Peet**  
Administrative Assistant  
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715-788-6240



# Other Ways Extension Serves Barron County

## Community Development

UW-Madison Division of Extension offers virtual educational programs that support both Barron County residents and communities across Wisconsin.

These classes address real life challenges in areas such as financial stability, housing access, and planning for major life transitions.

Current and upcoming classes include:

### **Planning AHEAD (End-of-Life Planning Education)**

A 7-session, research-based program that helps individuals and families prepare for end-of-life decisions. Topics include advance medical and legal directives, financial and estate planning, end-of-life care choices, final wishes, and understanding grief. The program is tailored to Wisconsin laws, ensuring participants receive relevant and practical guidance.

### **Rent Smart (Housing Stability Education)**

An educational program focused on building the knowledge and skills necessary for a successful renting experience. Participants learn about tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities, navigating the rental process, building positive rental history, and developing communication skills to maintain stable housing.

### **Financial Coaching Foundations (Professional Development)**

A multi-session training designed for professionals such as social workers and case managers. The course builds skills in financial coaching, including effective communication, goal-setting, behavior change strategies, and techniques to better support clients in achieving long-term financial stability.

By providing research-based education and practical tools, Extension helps residents make informed decisions, navigate complex life transitions, and build long-term stability. At the same time, these efforts reinforce Extension's role as a trusted community resource, fostering stronger partnerships and a more resilient, well-supported county.



## Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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