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## Waupaca County Volunteer Awards

*Continued from front page*

In addition, the local Waupaca County 4-H Leader Banquet was held in early November. Over 50 adults were recognized for their contributions to Waupaca County 4-H. Years of service range from new volunteers with 1 year as a leader to 54 years. Some specific award winners included Kari Riley, who received the 2019 Waupaca County Distinguished Service Award. She was honored with a citation from the state legislature for her 26 years as 4-H volunteer with the Casey Lake 4-H Club. Melissa Fischer, of the Tri-County 4-H Club, received the Waupaca County Salute to Excellence Volunteer Award. Ted Bigalke, a volunteer leader in Sandy Knoll 4-H, was selected as the Waupaca County Volunteer of the Year.

Kari Riley, pictured with Representative Petersen



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# Extension Impact: Education Makes a Difference

## Waupaca County 4-H Volunteer is Recognized as Statewide Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer

By Penny Tank, UW-Madison Extension 4-H Program Coordinator for Waupaca County

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sara Knoespel was honored at a statewide banquet during the Wisconsin 4-H Volunteer Fall Forum, as the Wisconsin Salute to Excellence: Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer of the Year. Sara, from New London, has been a registered Waupaca County 4-H leader for 20 years. Her husband is also a 4-H leader and their 2 children are active members in the program.

Sara grew up in the 4-H program taking numerous projects, being a youth leader, attending camp as a camper and counselor, being an officer of her club and participating in many other leadership experiences.

Sara is currently the general leader of the Sandy Knoll 4-H Club, which consists of about 60 members and 40 leaders. Sandy Knoll is a very active club with numerous community service events and club outings. At the county level, Sara is also an advisor for the 4-H Ambassador program, helps plan Cloverbud/Exploring Day Camp, teaches at Officer Training, chaperones at summer camp, and other areas. More recently, Sara also became a member of the Waupaca County Fair Board.



Sara Knoespel, Wisconsin  
Volunteer of the Year

In the application submitted, it said "Her love of the 4-H program as a whole is admirable....Her friendly and positive attitude have encouraged 4-H members to strive to be the best that they can be....Sara deserves this award because of the countless youth and families she has positively impacted over the years. She has willingly gone the extra mile, demonstrated tremendous patience, and has invested countless hours not only into Sandy Knoll 4-H Club, but into the families of Waupaca County 4-H and the community as well." Congratulations Sara!!

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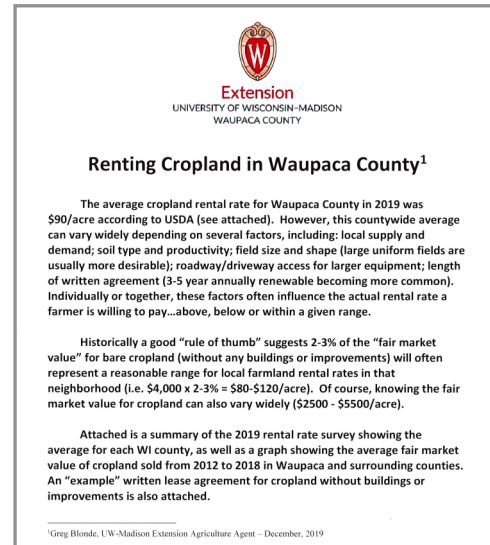


# Waupaca County Cropland Rental Factsheet

*By Greg Blonde, UW-Madison Extension Agriculture Agent for Waupaca County*

Each year when the growing season and the calendar turn over another year, the question comes up “what’s fair rent for cropland anyway?” While it may seem like a simple question, it’s really a \$6 million dollar question, because that’s approximately how much Waupaca County farmers pay each year to rent other landowners property, including more than one-third of all cropland in the county. So it really is a big deal for local farmers who pay good money to access land that serves as the foundation of their business, especially when they can’t afford to own it or the landowner doesn’t want to sell. But the questions is also just as important for landowners who depend on those payments to pay property taxes and keep living in their home.

So, Blonde recently put together a multi-page fact sheet titled “Renting Cropland in Waupaca County”. The fact sheet includes a brief narrative on the various factors affecting cropland rental rates like soil type and drainage; field size, shape and accessibility; is it verbal or written? A USDA cropland rental report is also included with the fact sheet (\$90/acre average in Sept 2019), as well as annual sale price for farmland in Waupaca and surrounding counties. The fact sheet also highlights that cropland rental rates historically range from 2-3% of fair market value, so with cropland sales averaging almost \$4,000/acre, the range in average rental rates will likely be in that \$80-\$120/acre. Keep in mind this would be the average range in local cropland rental rates with just as many agreements above or below this number, but often a good starting point for negotiation. An example two-page rental contract is also included to encourage landowners and renters to document their agreement.



## Increasing Access to Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

*By Christi Gabrilska UW–Madison Extension FoodWise Coordinator for Calumet, Outagamie, Winnebago & Waupaca Counties*

Access and affordability to fresh fruits and vegetables is a barrier FoodWise participants often share with nutrition educators. As co-chair of the Living the Waupaca Way coalition, Christi Gabrilksa engaged in a long-term project to enhance the Waupaca Farmers Market and accept EBT. A small cohort of Living the Waupaca way members participated in a yearlong Healthy WI Leadership Institute (HWLI) Community Teams program where “Enhancing the Waupaca Farmers Market” was selected as the team project. As a result of this project, a Buy Local Buy Wisconsin grant was applied for by Living the Waupaca Way and received to support a farm market manager. A paid position the market had never offered. In March of 2019 a Farm Market Manager was hired and on boarded. This paid farm market manager position has legitimized the Waupaca Farmers Market, connected farmers, created a space for voices to be heard, and nearly doubled the farm market size. As of June 29th, 2019 the Waupaca Farmers Market officially began accepting EBT, increasing the access and affordability of fresh, local produce to limited resource families and individuals in the Waupaca area. \$240 was brought into the market from SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and an additional \$1685 was processed with the credit card reader. An effort five plus years in the making.



## Free “Parent Connect and Learn Series” Gives Parents Knowledge and Tools

*By Sandy Liang, UW-Madison Human Development & Relationships Extension Educator for Waupaca County*

From last October to this January, free parenting workshops were held in New London. The monthly offering, the “Parent Connect and Learn Series”, is designed for parents of young children who experience temper tantrums, impatience or interrupting and not listening. Each month featured a topic related to parenting:

- *Let's talk About Discipline (October)*: understanding why children behave the way they do and the different types of discipline.
- *The I Can Problem Solve Method (November)*: helping young children use thinking skills to respond versus react impulsively.
- *Emotions and Feelings (December)*: understanding children's emotions, because when children feel better, they behave better.
- *Alternatives and Consequences (January)*: exploring ways to help children connect actions with consequences to make better choices.



Each session consists of evidence-based parenting techniques, group discussion and take-home activities. Participants' responses have included increase in knowledge of parenting methods, awareness and plans to modify their current parenting behavior.

The series is based on the *Raising a Thinking Child* curriculum, which has demonstrated effectiveness in strengthening children's interpersonal skills, improved parenting skills, and parent-child communication. Strong families are building blocks to a thriving community, and the Human Development and Relationships program area continues to provide various opportunities to support parents and positive child development.

## Wide Range of Topics Discussed By Waupaca County Citizens

*By Jessica Beckendorf, UW-Madison Extension Community Development Educator for Waupaca County*



Since July 31 of last year, the Waupaca County (now called "Central Wisconsin) Local Voices Network has held six conversations with a total of 37 participants. The word cloud illustrates the topics that have been discussed, with the most frequently discussed topics appearing in larger font. If you have any questions about the Local Voices Network, or would like to be part of the conversations, contact Jessica Beckendorf at [jessica.beckendorf@wisc.edu](mailto:jessica.beckendorf@wisc.edu)