



Monthly Report December 2020

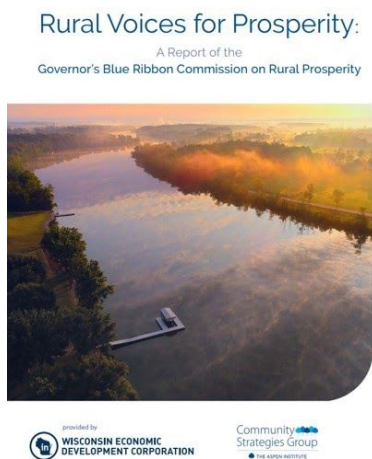
RURAL VOICES FOR PROSPERITY REPORT

On Jan. 22, 2020, Governor Tony Evers announced the creation of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Rural Prosperity. The Commission has gathered public input on current and future challenges in rural Wisconsin and submitted a plan to the Governor on how to invigorate rural communities and businesses.

This report reflects the entirety of these conversations between the Commission and rural stakeholders providing recommendations from the commissioners; these are big picture steps that the commissioners involved believe are critical to advancing rural prosperity in Wisconsin.

UW-Extension rises to the top of many lists as a recommendation and an essential contributor to advancing rural Wisconsin prosperity.

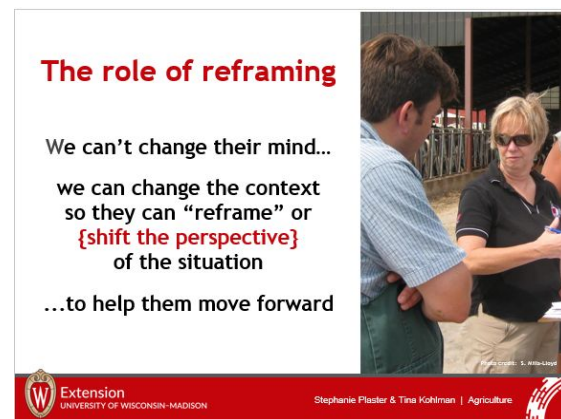
Please find the entire report at this link: [Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Rural Prosperity Report](#)



AGRICULTURE Stephanie Plaster

The final Eastern WI Farm Management Update was held on December 10. This session was focused on **2020 Tough Talk: Difficult Conversations, COVID-19, and Taxes**. Stephanie developed and presented "Making the Connection: Reframing Conversations for Success" with a colleague during the session. One hundred and twenty-three people logged on to the webinar. The sessions were recorded and closed captioned so they could be released publicly. The videos have been viewed 56 times.

As a result of attending this meeting, participants (n=58) felt they are more comfortable responding to a difficult conversation (+4.0 based on a 5 pt Likert scale where 1 = strongly disagree and 5 = strongly agree), they have a better understanding of how the basic recommendations for COVID-19 may be difficult in a farm setting and how to address these challenges (+4.2), and they are better prepared to make final year-end financial decisions that may impact my/my clients' tax burden (+4.2). One hundred percent of participants agreed this was a good use of their time. After the meeting, a participant messaged me and commented "going through those scenarios was very helpful in understanding the concepts".





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4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Jayna Hintz

4-H educators from Fond du Lac, Ozaukee and Washington County created the training “**4-H Meetings Reimagined: Using Zoom to Lead a Fun and Engaging 4-H Meeting.**” This training was facilitated by Extension educators, youth leaders, and a 4-H adult volunteer. 70 participants attended the first training

The training introduced volunteers to the features of Zoom and other forms of technology that youth and adult leaders could incorporate into a Zoom. Resources ranged from using zoom specific, such as break-out rooms, launching polls, the whiteboard and keeping zoom secure to using learning platforms such as Kahoot, Mentimeter, Google Slides/Docs, and Flippity. Most importantly, examples were provided on using technology to engage youth of all ages.

At the end of the training participants were asked to share what they will use from the meeting and the chat box filled up with responses! A few of our favorite responses were

- “Thank you for putting this on, I learned a lot and will be using the skills at our club meetings!”
- “I liked everything, learned a lot, and am hoping to plan a meeting in January.”
- “I am excited about the future of 4-H meetings. There are so many fun and cool things that we can do in the virtual world.”

In the formal evaluation, 88% of survey respondents marked that they either agreed or strongly agreed that the training increased their understanding of how to use zoom and that they learned new ideas that they can use with their club or group. The training will be offered a second time on January 28, 2021.

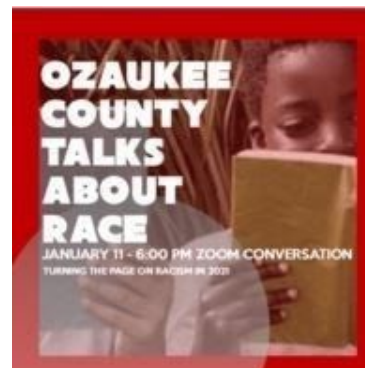
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Karina Ward

Bridge the Divide, Ozaukee County, and Extension Ozaukee County are excited to announce a partnership with our local libraries with the goal of turning the page on long-standing issues on race and social justice in our communities. **Ozaukee County Talks About Race** aims to continue the community conversation about the impact of race in our relationships and interactions today, while deepening the understanding of how our shared past history has shaped the communities where we live. The discussions initiated will open lines of communication among our friends and neighbors.

Each library is hosting a book discussion during January or February. Books being discussed include *The Color of Law*, *Stamped from the Beginning*, *So You Want to Talk About Race*, and *How to Be an Antiracist*. More information on the book discussions can be found on the [program's website](#).

The first of three county-wide virtual conversations will be held Monday, January 11, 2021 from 6:00-7:30 pm. These sessions compliment the community book discussions hosted by each library. During the first session, we will lay the groundwork for the community book discussions, including an introduction to each book, and spend time in small group discussion.



For more information about Extension– Ozaukee County, please visit our website at <https://ozaukee.extension.wisc.edu/> or call 262.284.8288.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 1, 2021

- Holiday, Office closed

January 7, 2021

- [4-H Adult VIP Training](#), 6:30 pm., Zoom

January 8, 2021

- [Navigating Your Farm Business through 2021](#): 11 am, Online

January 11, 2021

- [Heart of the Farm: Tax Preparation Issues](#): 10 am, Online
- [Ozaukee County Talks About Race](#), 6 pm, Zoom

January 12,14,19,21,26,28, 2021

- [Rent Smart Training](#), 1 pm, Zoom

January 12,26, 2021

- [4-H Harbinger Published](#)

January 14 & 27, 2021

- [4-H Conversation Corner](#), 7 pm., Zoom

January 15, 2021

- [Are you in it for the long haul? Cash flow during a Crisis.](#): 11 am, Online

January 19, 2021

- [4-H Adult VIP Training](#), 6:00 pm., Zoom

January 21, 2021

- 4-H Leaders Association Board Meeting, 6 pm. Zoom
- 4-H Leaders Association Meeting, 7:30 pm., Zoom

January 22, 2021

- [Farm-gate Economic Outlook Forum](#): 11 am, Online

January 28, 2021

- [4-H Meeting Reimagined: Round 2](#), 6:30 pm., Zoom

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Extension colleagues from Ozaukee, Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, and Washington Counties (Area 15) celebrated the holidays together with a virtual party earlier in December!

During the gathering, colleagues shared an item representing their personal giving style. Some example items include canned goods, cash, personal care items, and toys! Colleagues also had the opportunity to share with one another where they like to "Give Back" during the holiday season.

Thank you to everyone in our communities for helping others, however you are able. We are stronger together.

We wish you and yours a very Happy Holiday season!



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