

# Getting Results from State and Federal Officials through Strong County Relationships *One Wisconsin Model*

Michael Krejci

Walworth County Agriculture and Extension Committee

Christine Wen

Department Head, UW-Extension Walworth County



# Who's Here Today?

1890 Region?



# Who's Here Today?

Western  
Region?



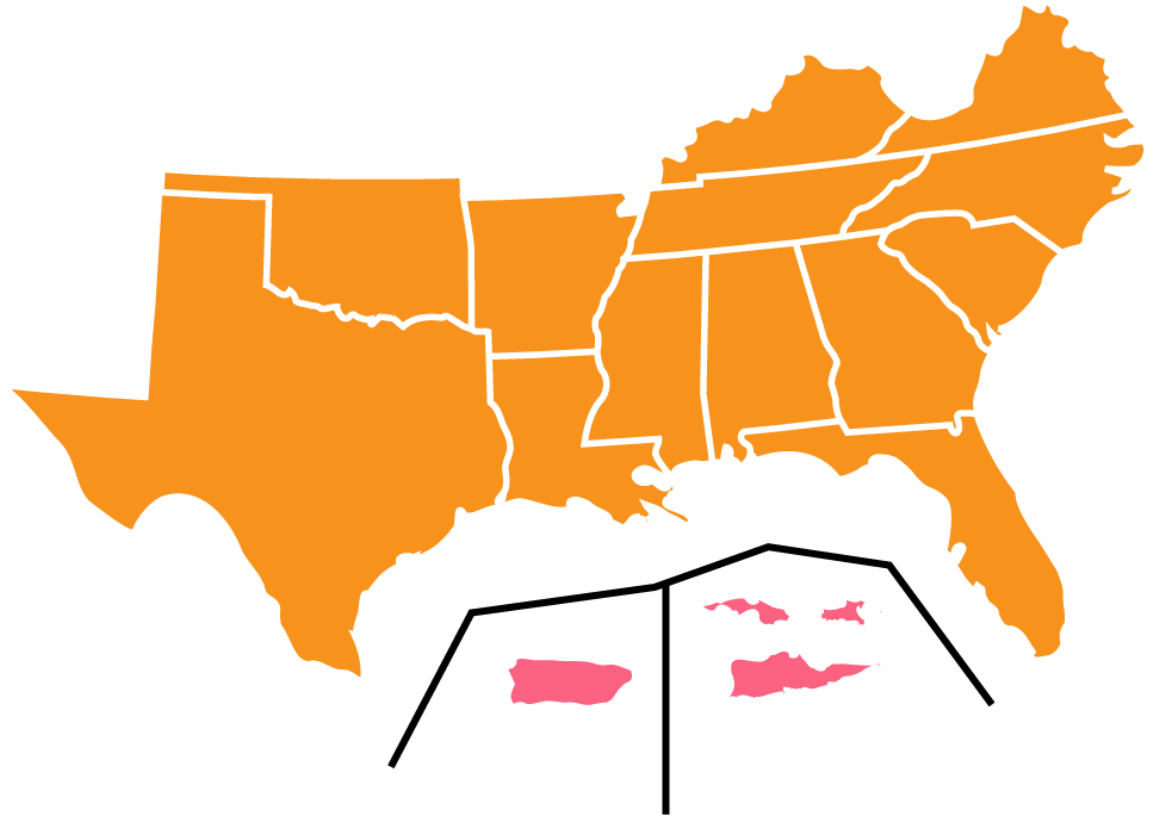
# Who's Here Today?

North  
Central  
Region?



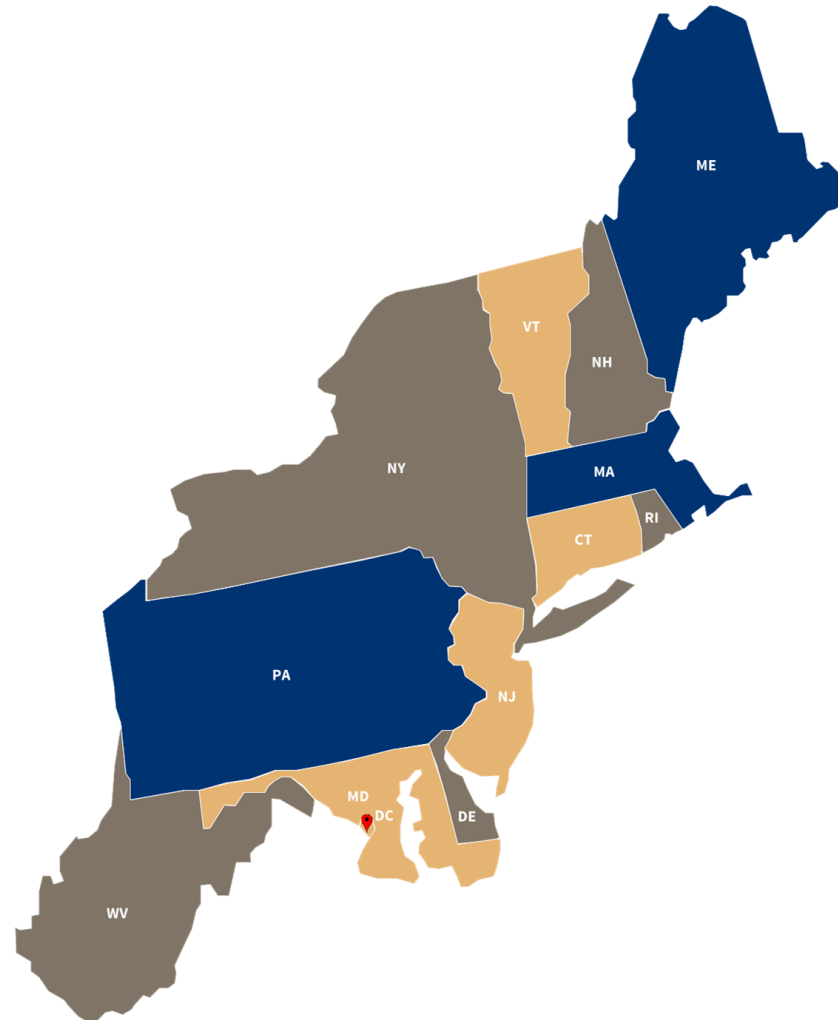
# Who's Here Today?

**Southern  
Region?**

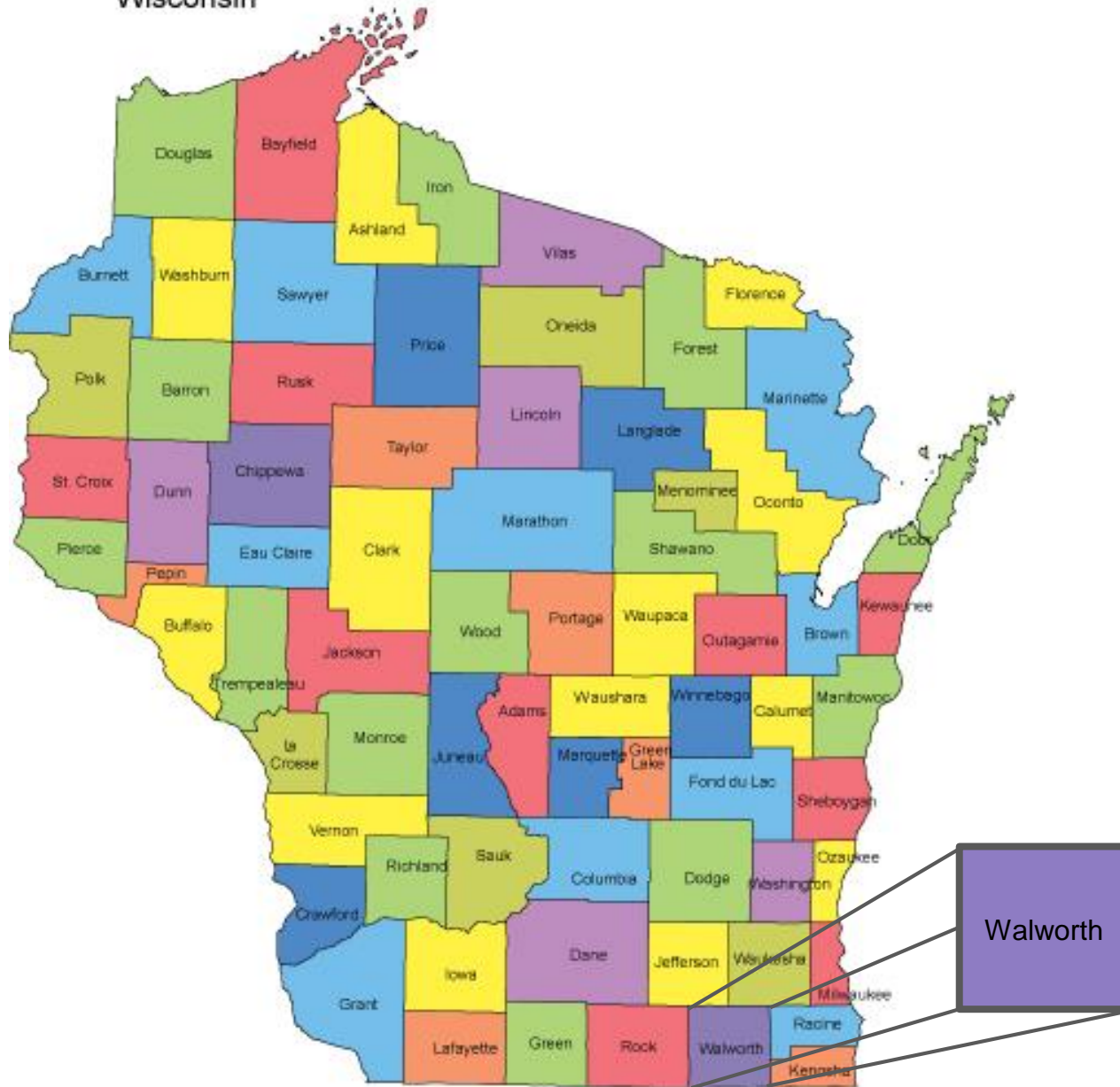


# Who's Here Today?

Northeast  
Region?



# Wisconsin



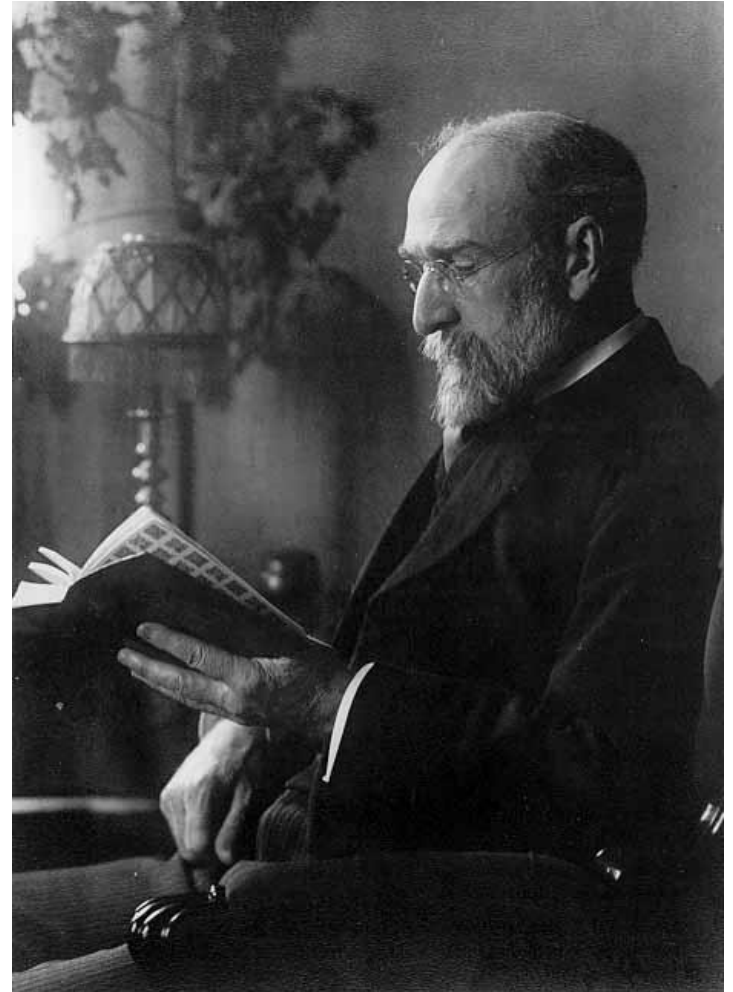
Walworth

# THE WISCONSIN IDEA

*I shall never be content until the beneficent influence of the University reaches every family of the state. This is my ideal of a state university.*

Charles Van Hise

Address before the Press  
Association, February, 1905





# **A Little Bit of History . . .**

Arlen Leholm comes to Wisconsin from Michigan  
as the Dean of Cooperative Extension in  
September, 2003

Michigan Success takes root in Wisconsin

# . . . and a Little Bit More

**November, 2003** – Task Force on New Strategies for Enhancing Relationships with Local Governments formed

**March, 2004** – Walworth County Agriculture & Extension Education Committee (AEE) approves concept to be a pilot County

**June, 2004** – Guidelines for establishing CPAGs published by UW-Extension

**July, 2004** – Workshop held for Extension professionals

**September, 2004** – Walworth County Ordinance enacted

**November, 2004** – Orientation held for CPAG Committee members

# A Good Beginning . . .

## The Community Partner Advisory Group (CPAG) in Walworth County, WI

16 Members – Recruited by Extension

(4 from each quadrant of the county)

Appointment approved by the County

Board

Initially met bi-monthly

Open Meeting Notification

# . . . but Stumbles Ensued

## **Limitations slowly became evident:**

Lack of Quorum

Lack of Clarity in Relationship to County Board

UW-Extension Staff Changeover

Heavy demand on Extension staff

Lack of a Cause to Champion

# The Transition

Limited size of County Board

2001 -- from 35 to 25

2007 -- from 25 to 11

State Statute (59.56) prescribes institution of an  
Agriculture and Extension Education Committee

Proposal by the County Administrator

# Walworth County's Agriculture & Extension Education Committee

3 County Board members

1 Administrator from a County School District  
(statutory member)

1 FSA representative (quasi-statutory member)

3 Appointed Citizen Members

2 Alternate Citizen Members

# Key elements of citizen involvement in Committee work

Bimonthly Meetings; all members are voting members

Responsibilities shared by interest

Any member can be involved in hiring interviews

Signers of contracts with the UW-Extension State Office

Receive reports on Extension Activities

Provide direction to Extension Professionals through  
Committee process

Through votes and resolutions, advocate on behalf  
Extension with the County

Advocate on behalf of Extension with State and Federal  
representatives

# Advocacy for Federal funding by citizen members & the County Board

Interaction with Speaker Ryan at local events  
(County Fair, Town Hall meetings, Local Office)

Contacts with U.S. Senators

Attendance at PILD

Resolution by County Board initiated by AEE Committee







# **Addressing the crisis in State funding as a Committee and as a County Board**

Annual Legislative Advocacy Day sponsored by  
Extension and Wisconsin Counties Association

Letters to Editors

Individual visits/calls to legislators

Push for concerted action by County Board

# Concerted actions on the State level by the County Committee

\$3.6 million cut to Cooperative Extension out of \$250 million  
UW System cut in 2015-2017 state budget

Pro-active AEE Committee invites Chancellor to meet (1st  
meeting in which she shares action plan for 19 workgroups  
to plan for nEXT Generation Project)

Involvement in the nEXT Generation Project

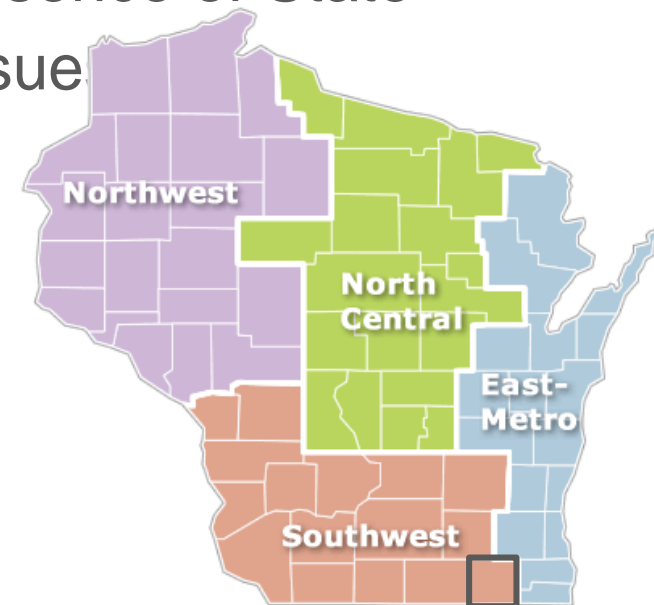
Workgroups established by UW-Extension

County Administrator -- *County and tribal organization  
structure planning work group.*

# Strengthening the County bonds to support the work of Extension

County continues to budget for two FTE educator positions over and above its matching funding for two 60/40 positions

Committee not shy about requesting presence of State Extension personnel to respond to issue  
Interactive process yields support with citizens and elected officials jointly supporting Extension.





# Thank you!

# Questions and Comments

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