



SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE

Mike Ballweg, Agriculture Agent



With half of Sheboygan County's 40,000 alfalfa acres harvested one week earlier, as a result of this UW-Extension alfalfa quality educational program, Sheboygan County dairy farmers are able to generate an additional \$5 million in annual dairy farm profits.

HIGHLIGHT

Monitoring the quality of alfalfa growth and development is important each year and 2021 was no exception. The yearly weather variations result in optimal harvest dates ranging anywhere from May 18th to June 10th depending on the annual growing conditions. Alfalfa quality may be reduced by 3-5 points per day in Relative Forage Quality (RFQ) as the plant matures. If alfalfa quality is not tracked, farmers may miss the window of opportunity for harvesting high quality forages. That results in higher costs for purchased feed inputs and lower milk yields thus reducing farmers' net profits.

The forage quality difference in 2021 between harvesting at the optimal harvest date and one week later into approximately \$280/acre of increased milk yields. If half of Sheboygan County's 40,000 alfalfa acres were harvested one week earlier as a result of this UW-Extension alfalfa quality educational program, an additional \$5 million of annual milk sales would be generated for Sheboygan County dairy farmers.

The forage quality information developed by Extension Sheboygan County is shared with about 550 subscribers to the Tri-County email list (Sheboygan, Washington, Ozaukee counties) and mailed directly to Sheboygan County's 115 dairy farmers.

- One on one consultations with farmers and homeowners, where clients learned about the importance of crop profitability, thoughtful pesticide usage, and environmental stewardship. Through the consultations, farmers and homeowners reduce the impact of pesticides on the environment and save money when managing their crops.
- A field day was held for farmers, industry agronomists and agency personnel where they learned about using cover crops, planting green, and N fertilization to improve soil health, water quality and farm profits. This program was developed in collaboration with USDA Demo Farms and County Land Conservations in order to improve water quality and soil health.
- A presentation for farmers and agricultural professionals where they learned practices on harvesting and preserving corn silage and high moisture corn. This effort was designed to provide current research and crop production practices to implement on farm or to advise their clients.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS



*The Extension Institute of **Human Development & Relationships** provides the tools Wisconsinites need to thrive as well-rounded, capable individuals and families. We support families in caring for each other in ways that promote growth and understanding. Our programs promote aging-friendly communities, coach effective parents and help families put technology, mindfulness and financial awareness to use.*

Jane Jensen, Human Development & Relationship Educator

HIGHLIGHT

The HDR Educator approached the Washington County Extension HDR Educator to collaborate in facilitating the pilot program Planning AHEAD in May and June of 2021 as part of a statewide effort. Planning AHEAD is a series of virtual sessions for adults where they learned about end-of-life decision making tasks including health care wishes, financial responsibilities, legal requirements and documentation distribution of personal property, end-of-life care options, and dealing with grief. The goal of this effort is to help participants proactively learn how to manage the tasks and decisions associated with end-of-life, so they don't feel overwhelmed and so that burdens on loved ones are reduced.

For the pilot, participants included the general public as well as partner community agency staff who work with clients in this area. The Sheboygan County ADRC Caregiver Coordinator attended the series and supported the program by promoting the series to their clientele. Over 10 attendees participated with over 70 direct contacts throughout the 7-week series. Each attendee received a workbook with recordkeeping worksheets, tools and resource to reinforce the session content. Because of this program series, participants stated: "I like the comprehensive list of what needs to be taken care of." and "I'm sharing highlights with my siblings as we care for our father." Series attendees had the opportunity to participate in focus groups to provide feedback for any modifications needed to the program curriculum.

- A Community Health Improvement Plan for community service agencies which will guide their future actions. The purpose of this larger effort is to improve the health of residents.
- A series of e-mail communications for community partners where we provide information related to parenting, relationships, family caregiving, finances and well-being so that they can share the latest resources with their clients. The purpose of this effort is to provide county residents with resources to improve parenting skills, support their family caregiving role and access tools to improve their financial skills and their personal well-being.
- A seven session weekly series where unpaid family caregivers learn to manage stress, improve communication skills, increase their ability to make difficult decisions and locate resources while providing care for a loved one with a chronic illness.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

AUGUST 2021 REPORT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Community Development provides educational programming to assist leaders, communities, and organizations realize their full potential. We work with communities to build the vitality that enhances their quality of life and enriches the lives of their residents. We educate in leadership development, organizational development, food systems, community economic development, local government education and much more. In short, the Community Development Institute plants and cultivates the seeds for thriving communities and organizations.

Kevin Struck, Community Development Educator

- The Community Development Educator provided public hearing, resolution, and ordinance templates, draft maps, and guidance to the Town of Herman as it went through the process of revising the future land use map within its Comprehensive Plan to allow for a business/research park expansion of Lakeland University. During the public hearing, he used map displays to explain the proposed change and answered questions from the public and Planning & Zoning Commission members.
- After noticing that a checklist created by the Village of Glenbeulah to guide its approval process for accessory buildings on residential lots included a requirement for a certified survey map (CSM), the Community Development Educator contacted a village official and described the difference between a CSM and a “plat of survey” and explained why the latter would be sufficient in this circumstance. Changing the checklist will save each homeowner applicant several hundred dollars in survey costs.
- The Community Development Educator worked with the Random Lake Plan Commission to draft a new zoning district to properly allow for multi-building condominium developments. This new district was very soon after adopted and used by the Village to approve a new 13-building condo development. During the public hearing, he used architectural drawings to explain the differences between condo developments and subdivisions, and answered questions from the public and Plan Commission members.

FOOD SECURITY, HEALTHY EATING, AND HEALTHY LIVING



FoodWise advances healthy eating habits, active lifestyles and healthy community environments for families with limited incomes through nutrition education at the individual, community and systems levels. FoodWise reaches individuals and families through local community partners by providing nutrition classes in-person and virtually, indirect education (newsletters, etc.), and social media/marketing. FoodWise is an obesity prevention program that addresses policy, system and environmental changes through local and state public health efforts.

FoodWise is federally funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

Amanda Miller, FoodWise Coordinator

- Attended a workshop series to learn the national Around the Table curriculum. The purpose of the training is to learn skills to teach nutrition classes with trauma and resiliency resources in mind.
- Shared a series of emails for the Food Providers Group to support local food pantries during COVID-19. This communication is designed to support coordination between local agencies and organizations in service of those impacted by this emergency situation.
- Helped plan a series of meetings with local public health departments to implement their Community Health Improvement Plan. This effort was designed to improve community adoption of health and nutrition practices.
- Developed a monthly series of newsletters for older adults to learn about health and nutrition during COVID. These newsletters help share valuable information while sites have visitor restrictions.
- Hosted weekly virtual classes for Forward Services clients (W2 and FSET FoodShare Employment and Training.) The classes offer food budgeting skills to help spend FoodShare dollars.
- Shared a series of communications (emails, newsletter articles, and Facebook posts) to recognize National Farmers Market Week. The goal is to promote use of local farmers markets and fresh, local produce.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Positive Youth Development prepares the youth of today to become the effective, empathetic adults of tomorrow. Our research-based youth enrichment programs like teens in governance build youth and adult capacity and partnerships that help both sides grow. 4-H clubs, camps and after-school programs give young people the hands-on experiences they need to develop an understanding of themselves and the world.

Sarah Tarjesson, 4-H Youth Development Educator

- A meeting of Mosel Farm and Home 4-H Club where members, volunteers, and parents learned about leadership opportunities and volunteer development. This effort is designed to transition club leadership and strengthen the volunteer capacity within this club.
- A training for Sheboygan Youth First Impressions Neighborhood Exchange where participants gained knowledge about the program, community capitals, critical thinking, and providing feedback. This effort is designed to engage youth and adults in community development planning.
- A training for adults who are interested in becoming 4-H volunteers, where adults learned what Extension is, how volunteers contribute to Extension programs, volunteer roles and responsibilities, what makes a quality youth development program, and what resources are available to 4-H volunteers. This effort is intended to prepare all future 4-H volunteers.

Lisa Golda, Positive Youth Development Educator

- New Positive Youth Development Educator, Lisa Golda, started the end of July and has scheduled meetings with community partners who are engaged with youth programming. Some of the partners she has met with is the Hmong Community Center, Boys and Girls Club and partners for community development.

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