



AGRICULTURE



If it happens on a farm or in a field, the Extension Institute of Agriculture works with you to achieve better results. Our innovative dairy management programs range from genetics to farm and business management. Extension researchers work hand-in-hand with row crop, forage and fresh produce growers to provide best practices for every aspect of the growing phase. We also advise communities on using sustainable practices to create inviting spaces free from invasive species.

Farm Management

Stephanie Plaster, Regional Farm Management Educator

- A consultation with a dairy farmer, where opportunities for funding and business planning for a new value-added enterprise were discussed. This effort was designed to help individuals make a decision about a business opportunity or new enterprise.
- A consultation with a livestock farm family, where the farm's financial position was discussed based on an analysis of the farm's financial records. This effort is designed to help individuals learn the performance capacity and feasibility of their farm as it relates to their long-term goals.

Dairy & Livestock

Tina Kohlman, Regional Dairy & Livestock Agent

- A four-part webinar series (CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operations) Update) in collaboration with WI DNR for farm owners/operators/managers, agricultural professionals, and public agencies where they learned about feeding efficiency; nutrient management; regulatory updates; and groundwater. The goal of this effort was to teach sustainability through dairy management and feeding efficiency; manure storing and handling; and nutrient management utilizing the latest research and regulatory updates.
- A presentation for Confined Animal Feeding Operations dairy owners/operators, agronomists, consultants, and agency personnel, where they learned feeding strategies to increase feed efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the dairy cow.

Crops and Soils

Mike Ballweg, Regional Crops and Soils Agent

- An educational program for farmers, industry agronomists and dairy nutritionists where they learned about the environmental benefits of utilizing grasses for dairy rations, better alfalfa winter survival when seeded with perennial grass and improved animal health when grasses are included in dairy cow diets. The goal is to help farmers grow high quality grasses, which benefit cow health, farm profits and water quality.

The Extension program held in Waldo, was developed in partnership with the Sheboygan County Forage Council, UW-Marshfield Research Station and Byron Seeds. Nearly 40 people attended from Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac and Manitowoc counties.



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

SPOTLIGHT

Every three years the health department and community partners collaboratively engage to conduct a Community Health Assessment (CHA) in Sheboygan County. The main purpose of a CHA is to complete a comprehensive collection and analysis of data to identify health issues of primary concern. From the CHA, a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is created, which outlines the priorities addressed by local health coalition groups. Miller contributed to the tri-annual CHA and CHIP. She was also asked to lead the Sheboygan Activity and Nutrition Coalition (SCAN.)

Miller plans and facilitates monthly meetings with co-leaders from two other community agencies. These meetings bring community members together to address 4 priority areas within SCAN: physical activity, breastfeeding, healthy foods, and food security. In addition, Miller attends bi-monthly Healthy Sheboygan County meetings, which include the various health coalition leaders (SCAN, mental health, substance use and abuse, etc.) At these meetings, Miller provides timely updates on SCAN to public health leadership.

As a result of COVID, the SCAN Coalition had not met for nearly 2 years. Miller has worked at bringing the group back together to start fresh on new CHIP goals and objectives. This means re-engaging returning members and recruiting new members. Meetings have not only addressed nutrition and physical activity, but are also intentionally planned to build the coalition members' capacities in the areas of health equity, leadership, group building, and collective impact. Miller uses tools, resources and activities from a variety of public health sources to build the coalition further.

Miller has received feedback from both returning and new members that have appreciated the various tools and resources brought to the meetings that focus on coalition capacity building (like health equity, leadership, etc.)

A local health coalition brings together a variety of community members to address complex issues at the local level. It provides a space in which every person is committed to a greater goal, not just the individual or organization's goal. It creates and strengthens partnerships, avoids duplication of services, and creates new opportunities.



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

SPOTLIGHT

In response to ongoing requests from local older adults in isolation the evidence-based Aging Mastery Program (AMP) was held virtually in January and February, 2022. The materials for this ten-part series were provided free to participants through a partnership grant with the National Council on Aging. The highly interactive series focused on:

- Navigating longer lives
- Healthy movement
- Sleep
- Healthy eating and hydration
- Financial fitness
- Medication management
- Advance planning (medical and financial)
- Falls prevention
- Safe and healthy relationships
- Community engagement to support mental and physical well-being

Nineteen participants for a total of 190 direct contacts were empowered to take key steps to improve well-being, add stability to their lives, and strengthen ties to their community through action planning, practicing tools, and group encouragement.



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.

Positive Youth Development

Lisa Sanderson, Positive Youth Development Educator

SPOTLIGHT

The community response to Familias Unidas has been strong. Organizations interested in participating in the next Familias Unidas, to be hosted by St. Clement's later this spring and focused on youth service organizations, already include RAYS, YMCA, and Mental Health America. Partners for Community Development continues to be a primary collaborator in this effort. The Positive Youth Development Educator is contacting all area youth organizations to invite youth and mentors to participate in leading this fair and learn more about their community in the process. In other news, the process of re-envisioning Youth Government Day has begun. The Positive Youth Development Educator is beginning discussions with area educators and others regarding new visions for this long-standing programming.

4-H

Sarah Tarjeson, 4-H Youth Development Educator

- Ongoing facilitation for the 4-H Horse and Pony Project Committee, providing them with resources and strategies to make sure they have authentic organizational structure and leadership within the project. Supported adult volunteer leadership creates and increases opportunities for youth to master new skills and knowledge.
- Ongoing planning and facilitation for the Youth Government Day. This effort is designed to increase youth participants knowledge of our county's civic organization and responsibilities and to increase the opportunity for participants to become engaged in local decision making.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2022 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 Town of Herman asked Kevin to help enhance its zoning ordinance’s performance standards, thereby enabling the Town to change several listed business types from *conditional* to *permitted* in its ordinance. This revision will streamline the development process for many future business owners, since a conditional use permit will no longer be required in many cases. Neighboring properties, however, will still be protected by the ordinance’s new performance standards.
- Kevin drafted and submitted a potential revision to a section of a village zoning ordinance related to recreational vehicles parked long-term in residential areas, which generally have not been allowed for aesthetic reasons. The new design standards would allow for more flexibility in the ordinance and may allow residents to park a recreational vehicle on their lot if they complete certain steps to limit visual impacts and maintain the aesthetic character of the neighborhood.

Sarah Tarjeson
4-H Youth Development Educator

Mike Ballweg
Area Crops and Soils Agent

Cindy Sarkady
Area Extension Director

Lisa Sanderson
Positive Youth Development Educator

Stephanie Plaster
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