



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

JULY 2022 REPORT

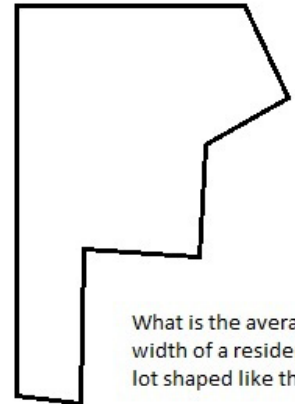
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



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

- Kevin conducted research and compiled reports on behalf of the towns of Lima, Holland, Scott, and Mosel to determine the effectiveness of an innovative farmland preservation zoning strategy he had helped them develop in 2016. The Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) had approved the customized strategy five years ago contingent on its satisfactory performance. Since the research indicated the customized strategy had met expectations, DATCP extended each town's certifications for farmland preservation for another five years, which will enable farmers in these towns to continue to receive an annual tax credit for their preservation efforts.
- Two towns contacted Kevin for assistance on ways to improve provisions in their zoning ordinances for determining the average width of proposed land divisions that create irregularly shaped lots. This will make it easier for each town to administer the minimum lot width requirements in their ordinance and for landowners to understand how they need to configure future land divisions.



What is the average width of a residential lot shaped like this?



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.

4-H

Sarah Tarjeson, 4-H Youth Development Educator

- Sheboygan County 4-H Base Camp took place July 10-13th at Upham Woods in Wisconsin Dells. We had 36 campers, 14 youth staff, and 8 adult staff. The camp ran smoothly and although we had young staff, they were mature, prepared, and had a great time with the younger youth. 4-H Camp is a place where this program and its leaders intentionally develop a sense of belonging, independence, mastery of skills, and teach kids generosity.
- Cloverbud Day Camp took place on Monday, July 25th. 10 youth leaders and 16 K-2nd grade members gathered to learn about “Creepy Crawlies” or Arthropods. Through nature lessons, crafts, songs, and recreation, these young members learned about the value of these typically small creatures. Bug collections are often a popular project exhibited at the Sheboygan County Fair.
- Plans for the Sheboygan County Fair are ramping up. The Sheboygan County Fair, although not the main event of the Sheboygan County 4-H Program is a premier opportunity for 4-H’ers to showcase what they have learned all year long. Animal and non-animal projects are exhibited and tools for learning responsibility and sportsmanship. In addition, the Sheboygan County Fair allows our program to host its most significant fundraiser by serving affordable delicious food and shakes to the public. The 4-H Fair Foodstand also teaches valuable work skills to youth who may be entering service fields within a few short years. We are still actively building our Celebrity Server Schedule. To serve call 920-459-5915.



Positive Youth Development

Lisa Sanderson, Positive Youth Development Educator

Expansion of PYDE’s community partnership Sheboygan United continues to lead to new opportunities for Extension outreach and youth programming. Sheboygan United will invite staff from the Aging Disability Resource Center to join our leadership team so that we can be mindful of access issues and resource gaps for disabled and senior individuals as we plan resource events. The HMAA requested a focus on elder resources in our upcoming resource fair at the Hmong Summer Festival. Mead Library Direct met with PYDE to discuss hosting a Sheboygan United resource event. In the course of that meeting, common priorities emerged regarding providing teen programming for an established school year audience on early dismissal Wednesdays, potential partnership with Library youth staff and PYDE to provide / co-create that programming, and availability of the library’s Teen Center for youth outreach.



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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.

Dairy & Livestock

Tina Kohlman, Regional Dairy Agent

- A bi-weekly radio interview for farmers, agricultural industry persons, youth livestock, and youth dairy where they learned about extension agriculture related resources, information, and timely webinars to help them to be connected and supported, and make better informed decisions regarding their farm business operations or youth large animal project.
- A dairy production and management newsletter for farmers, managers, employees, and agribusiness professionals, where subscribers learned about managing heat in pre-weaned calves and overstocking affects on cow performance. This effort was designed to provide a timely and reliable source of dairy management news and updates.
- A factsheet for dairy farmers, managers, employees, and agribusiness professionals where they learned about heifer hoof health. This effort is designed to teach individuals how to find, treat, and monitor digital dermatitis in heifers as a way to reduce the incidence of digital dermatitis and lameness in the milk herd in order to maintain and/or increase economic viability.

Crops and Soils

Mike Ballweg, Regional Crops and Soils Agent

An on-farm project to monitor the quality of alfalfa growth and development, in planning for first crop harvest, which makes up 30 - 40% of the total production for the year. Because there are yearly weather variations impacting plant growth, results from this study help farmers in deciding the optional time to harvest alfalfa for high quality dairy forage. Harvesting at the optimal time helps farmers avoid higher costs of purchased livestock feed, increases their milk yields and improves the profitability of dairy farms.

The alfalfa quality project included: Washington, Ozaukee, Fond du Lac and Sheboygan Counties within the region. Based on the most recent ag census information there are approximately 135,000 acres of alfalfa grown in the region which support the region's nearly 400 dairy herds. If only half of the region's alfalfa acres were harvested one week earlier because of this Extension alfalfa quality educational program, an additional \$7.3 million of annual milk sales would be generated for dairy farmers within the region. An economic impact breakdown by county shows: (Sheboygan 2.19 million), (Ozaukee 0.73 million), Washington 1.38 million) and Fond du Lac 2.99 million). Bi-weekly (twice a week) emails were sent to 1000 farmers and ag-industry professionals across the region (Regional Ag Email list) throughout the month of May.

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

Along with other Extension Educators, Jane co-facilitated a second Planning AHEAD series for residents in May/June, 2022. Planning AHEAD is a series of seven sessions for adults 18 & older where they learn about end-of-life decision making tasks including health care wishes, financial responsibilities, legal requirements and documentation, estate planning, distribution of personal property, end-of-life care options, and understanding grief.

Thirteen attendees participated with 91 contacts. The series was presented in a dual format with the majority of participants joining virtually. Jane is a co-author of the curriculum and accompanying materials. Each attendee received the step-by-step workbook with resources to reinforce the content. Because of this series, 100% of the participants stated they learned enough to move forward with planning. One hundred percent strongly agreed or agreed that they have greater knowledge of advance medical and legal directives, choices in end-of-life care, and handling financial changes. Almost 80% strongly agreed they have greater knowledge of estate planning. One hundred percent of the respondents said that they felt more confident in having conversations with loved ones related to end-of-life wishes and knowing where to find reliable resources for more information on end-of-life planning. A majority of respondents indicated that in the next three months they will update their end-of-life planning forms, encourage someone else to do end-of-life planning, make end-of-life wishes known and make a will or a trust. Comments included: informative, enlightening, worthwhile, comprehensive, necessary, thought provoking, relevant, eye opening, organized, comprehensive, needed and engaging.

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

- A series of fruit and vegetable publications for farmers market customers. These publications promote buying fresh produce and help customers better understand how to select, prepare, and store specific produce items.
- Distribution of e-newsletter for Sheboygan County residents to learn about food preservation and food safety. The goal is to help home canners use current food safety practices and to decrease the incidence of foodborne illnesses.
- Planning community conversations in partnership with UW-Madison Population Health Institute, which will be held in Fond du Lac County with Black/African American community members and in Sheboygan County with Hmong community members. The goal of these community conversations is to learn the needs of community members regarding health, nutrition, physical activity and food security.

Sarah Tarjeson
4-H Youth Development Educator

Mike Ballweg
Regional Crops and Soils Agent

Cindy Sarkady
Area Extension Director

Lisa Sanderson
Positive Youth Development Educator

Tina Kohlman
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