



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

OCTOBER 2022 REPORT

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

Tina Kohlman, Regional Dairy Agent

- A popular press article written for Wisconsin State Farmer readers, where they learned how to prepare for transporting pre-weaned calves long distances. This effort is designed to show industry and university research-based best management practices to maintain and/or improve the growth, wellbeing, and welfare of a pre-weaned calf while being transported to an off-farm rearing facility.
- Planning for a bilingual dairy workers newsletter for on-farm dairy employees in collaboration with Language Access and Office of Access, Inclusion, and Compliance. The goal of this effort is provide a dairy resource to an underserved audience in order for them to gain new knowledge and best management practices to incorporate on the farm to help maintain and grow economic viability.
- Planning for bi-annual Midwest Manure Summit for farmers, managers, agronomists, engineers, nutrient management consultants, manure haulers, consultants, and other agri-business professionals. The goal of this effort is to teach individuals the latest, unbiased, university-based research on manure handling technologies, so that they can improve environmental sustainability and increase farm business viability.

Crops and Soils

Mike Ballweg, Regional Crops and Soils Agent

- A series of recent webinars (Badger Crop Connect) for farmers, agronomists and agriculture professionals, where they learned about: Tips on Making Great Corn Silage, Building Soil Health with Cover Crops, Hybrid Rye Forage Yields and Quality and lastly, Alfalfa Fall Management. The webinar series provides information and research findings allowing farmers and industry professionals to implement new practices that improve soil health, protect our natural resources and well as improve the profitability of farms across the state.
- The 2022 Corn Silage Dry Down Days were held with industry partners. Through this event, farmers, industry agronomists and nutritionists learned about how corn crop development impacts the moistures and quality of ensiled corn for silage. Ensiling at the correct moistures greatly improves animal performance and the profitability of area dairy farms. Results were shared across the region each week from late August through September, via the Ag-Regional email list reaching more than 1000 farmers and industry professionals.

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 the Aging & Disability Center and a social worker Jane co-facilitated the six-part evidence based Powerful Tools for Caregivers in July and August in-person at Extension Sheboygan County. Pre/post retrospective evaluations found that all participants who had been in their unpaid family caregiving roles from 1 year to 15 years increased skills from the series. They said they had more confidence in their caregiving ability and were more able to ask others for help. All would recommend the series to others.

They described increased abilities in self-care & stress reduction, locating resources, making difficult caregiving decisions, taking care of personal health and dealing with difficult emotions. All would use a minimum of 8 of the tools learned during the series.

This is the only Sheboygan County series that is offered annually in the evening to meet the needs of employed family caregivers. Three of the family caregivers indicated they would not have been able to attend a daytime program. They also agreed that unpaid family caregiving had made their employment more difficult and that they had to use vacation and sick leave. They also said that caregiving had caused them to arrive at work late, leave work early, miss days of work, be at work but feel unable to focus, respond to calls or emergencies during work hours, and rearrange their work schedule.

Participants said: "The facilitators were awesome!" "Thank you for recommending this!" "I would recommend this series as I know other family caregivers who are struggling."

- A monthly program for family caregivers where participants develop sustainable self-care behaviors in order to maintain their personal physical and emotional well-being through practicing self-care techniques and accessing local resources.
- A series of e-mail communications for community partners where they learn about 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 improve parenting skills, support their family caregiving role and improve their financial skills and their personal well-being.

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

- Following up on a request from a local town, Kevin led a discussion for the clerk, plan commission, and board regarding options for regulating short-term residential rentals (Airbnb, Vrbo, etc.). He explained the key points of the applicable state statute and reviewed a sample short-term rentals ordinance. This will help the town make a more informed decision on whether to regulate short-term rentals and how to go about doing so.
- Kevin provided technical assistance for a local town seeking to put regulations in place for any future wind energy systems that might be proposed in the town. He worked with town officials to draft, review, and adopt ordinance language. Property owners in the town now have at least some level of protection from any negative impacts of future wind energy systems.
- A local town applying for a broadband infrastructure grant asked Kevin for urgent assistance compiling local parcel and assessment data into a spreadsheet that could be easily incorporated into their grant application. They had asked their assessor for assistance, but the assessor was unable to format the data properly. In addition, Kevin also used GIS tools to measure the distance from the road ditch line to a residence or business for a random sample of 115 properties to determine an average “fiber lateral” distance for properties in the town. Without all of this data, the town would not have been able to complete the grant application.



Broadband fiber installation



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

Positive Youth Development Educator partnered with Mead Library Teen Center staff to give a survey regarding health and belonging concerns to teens on Early Release Wednesday at Mead Library. This survey has also been given at the Boys and Girls Club and will be shared by PYDE with diverse students at South High and residents of Sunnyside Apartment Complex (subsidized housing administered by Partners for Community Development) in October. Through discussion and writing and/or online survey with QR code, teens answered questions about health concerns and their sense of identity to assess their interest in potential programs. Participating teens received a “swag bag” of nutritious snacks, toiletries, and treats donated by Kohler Arts Center, Department of Health, Department of Workforce Development, UW Extension, and Sheboygan Food Bank.

Youth at the Library shared compassion for peers struggling with mental illness or safety as well as concerns regarding their own mental health. One teen reported that he had been ostracized when he was (formerly) homeless and wished that people would just “be kinder”. And one youth described a fasting custom his family observed at Thanksgiving to honor their Native American origins. Surveys will continue through mid-October with programming planning follow-up to follow.

In other news, Sheboygan United presented its fourth resource fair of 2022 at Mead Library. The Aging Disability Resource Center and Safe Harbor reported excellent outreach contacts during this Library event. Youth surveys were also given here by Positive Youth Development Educator with some interpreted in Spanish for participating youth. Plans are in progress to offer further fairs at two more locations in 2022.

4-H

Sarah Tarjesson, 4-H Youth Development Educator

No Report Submitted by 4-H Educator

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

Health disparities are preventable differences in the burden of disease, injury, violence or opportunities to achieve optimal health that are experienced by populations that have been historically disadvantaged by their social or economic status, geographic location, and environment.

Communities can prevent health disparities when community and faith-based organizations, employers, healthcare systems and providers, public health agencies, and policymakers work together to develop policies, programs, and systems based on a health equity framework and community needs.

FoodWise is currently coordinating funding that aims to address health inequities in Sheboygan County. This funding is through a program called Community Connects through United HealthCare. FoodWise is partnering with Sheboygan County Public Health/Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) and the Sheboygan County Food Bank to distribute the funding to address healthy nutrition, food insecurity and obesity prevention. WIC encourages healthy eating and nutrition during pregnancy and early childhood. The Sheboygan County Food Bank encourages healthy eating during community meals offered, foods distributed at their various food bank locations, and in healthy meal kits sent home to families with fresh produce from the farmers market.

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