



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

JANUARY 2023 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

- Development and planning for in-person CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operations) Update Meeting series for WPDES (WI Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permitted farms, crop and dairy managers, agriculture engineers, crop consultants, agronomists, professional and on-farm nutrient applicators, government agency personnel, and other interested individuals in collaboration with WI DNR (Department of Natural Resources). The goal of this effort is to discuss and teach individuals to protect ground and surface water and dairy farm sustainability through dairy management and feeding efficiency; manure storing and handling; and nutrient management utilizing the latest research and regulatory updates to improve farm business viability and environmental sustainability.
- A dairy forage nutrition and management meeting for dairy owners/operators, managers, employees, and agribusiness professionals where they learned about forage handling and storage management, return on investments of forage production inputs, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from dairy cows to increase farm business viability, environmental sustainability, and food safety.
- A presentation for dairy owners/operators, managers, employees, and agribusiness professionals where they learned feeding strategies to increase feed efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the cow to increase farm business viability and environmental sustainability.

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

Forward Services Corporation is an organization that provides W-2 (Wisconsin Works) and FSET (Food Share Employment Training) with a variety of career services. Employment specialists/caseworkers specialize in assisting participants with job skills training, professional development and education, interview skills, resume building, and life skills. They help address some of the barriers to employment, including language, transportation, child care, work attire, education, and more.

Wisconsin Works (W-2) is Wisconsin's primary Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, or otherwise known as TANF. W-2 provides employment preparation services, case management and cash assistance to eligible families. FoodShare Employment and Training (FSET) is a state program that helps FoodShare members build their job skills and find jobs. Some FoodShare participants are required to participate in a specific number of hours of job seeking or career building activities to be eligible for the program.

FoodWise has been partnering with Forward Services Corporation for 10+ years to provide food budgeting classes to W-2 and FSET clients. Weekly classes, called Money for Food, are offered virtually to clients in Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Sheboygan, and Manitowoc Counties. Using the Healthy Cents curriculum, Janeth Orozco (FoodWise Educator) teaches the life skills important to creating a family food budget, meal planning, and food shopping. These classes have helped countless families stretch their food dollars longer throughout the month and to spend their food dollars in healthier, more cost effective ways.

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

- A series of bi-monthly planning meetings for the Family Caregivers Coalition steering committee where we develop quarterly education, quarterly newsletters, support groups, retreats and caregiver cafes for family caregivers. The purpose of these efforts is to develop programming that supports participants in their family caregiving role in order to maintain their emotional and physical well-being, improve communication skills and improve access to 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.
- 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 7-session course that helps adults of all ages to make end-of-life financial, healthcare, and final wishes decisions in order to reduce the stress experienced by survivors and to ensure that their wishes are honored.



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 was invited to a town plan commission meeting and asked to provide guidance on six agenda items. Topics included:

- conditional uses in business districts
- irregularly shaped properties (“flag lots”)
- legality of outlots
- difference between lot frontage and lot width
- expansion options for a nonconforming structure
- possible land division options for a particular property within the town

Kevin’s handouts, illustrations, and explanations assisted the plan commission as it considered its recommendations to the town board for each agenda item.

On three recent occasions, Kevin has been asked to explain the land use issues involved with a possible solar energy facility being located directly adjacent to a village—especially the impact on land anticipated for future growth. A solar energy facility lease could potentially tie up land for 40 years and prevent village road and utility extensions.



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

- Led a meeting to support an individual volunteer through challenging interpersonal situations and group dynamics while serving in their role on a committee providing educational opportunities for youth.
- Provided ongoing communication, follow-up, and tracking for enrolled volunteers to ensure compliance with UW-Madison’s required training outcomes including understanding sexual misconduct, mandatory reporting expectations, program policies, and risk management and youth protection practices.
- Facilitated a session for students at a local alternative school where students learned how to make three styles of baked chicken wings. This opportunity was a part of an overall effort to teach students valuable life skills related to health and wellness.
- The 4th H 4-H Club, a middle school Special Interest 4-H Club, will meet four times throughout February on Saturdays (4th 11th, 18th, and 25th) from 10:00 a.m. - Noon at Plymouth High School! The first hour of each “meeting” will focus on physical health while we meet in the Plymouth High School Fitness Center and move your body and strength your muscles to achieve the goals set by each individual participant! In the second hour of the program, we will move to the Culinary Arts rooms at the school to focus on nutrition as we make healthy snacks and meals together. Join local educators, community members, older youth mentors, and your 4-H Youth Development Educator, Sarah Tarjeson, each week for fun and fitness! This club is perfect for current 4-H members AND/OR any young person in grades 7 & 8 who is interested in getting the year and their journey in wellness and health started.
- I have been supporting the 4-H American Spirit Experience by meeting regularly with a dedicated group of volunteers and staff to coordinate registration, logistical planning, risk management planning, contract coordination, and program development and evaluation. This educational experience is a special opportunity for young leaders to develop knowledge of America’s heritage, further understand their citizenship responsibilities, and practice leadership and communication skills in a safe and supportive environment. As youth travel throughout Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; New York City, New York; Plimoth, Boston, Lexington, and Concord, Massachusetts; and even Niagara Falls Canada



the program has the following objectives:

- Further develop skills in leadership and personal expression of values
- Increase awareness of self in relationship to others
- Increase knowledge and understanding of America's heritage
- Build awareness of the many steps taken to gain U.S. independence and freedom
- Share what is learned with other

Positive Youth Development

Lisa Sanderson, Positive Youth Development Educator

Positive Youth Development Educator Lisa Sanderson collaborated with UW Extension Professor Debbie Moelledorf to provide information about Raise Your Voice, mental health advocacy groups for youth, to local mental health providers including staff from United Way/PATH (Providing Access to Healing) director Brianna Heusterberg, Mental Health America youth outreach staff Keegan Rhynas. Debbie has decades of experience, is on the Extension State Youth Mental Health Team, and has successfully implemented a Raise Your Voice club in the Wausau area which has significantly impacted school culture regarding youth mental health issues. Nationally, youth mental health issues are exceeding capacity for support. Raise Your Voice is a way for youth to raise awareness of and advocate for youth mental health issues and contribute to positive school and community culture around mental health. Next steps will include a planning meeting in late January with Lisa and afore-mentioned staff, and potential continued collaboration with Debbie. Intended outcome is to find a school / school staff receptive to hosting a pilot chapter of Raise Your Voice. In other news, Lisa and Sheboygan Outreach Collective met with Generations staff in Plymouth to discuss coordinating a resource fair at that location with a tentative date set for May. Sheboygan Outreach Collective's one year anniversary (formerly Sheboygan United) is in February. Sheridan Elementary, who hosted our first resource fair, requested we return for our one-year anniversary! Several area orgs will participate in a resource fair with Spanish language support on February 16. Hmong Mutual Aid Association hosted our last fair in mid-January. Community response to this effort continues to be overwhelmingly positive.

Sarah Tarjeson
4-H Youth Development Educator

Tina Kohlman
Regional Dairy Agent

Cindy Sarkady
Area Extension Director

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Positive Youth Development Educator

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