



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

JUNE 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

- An in-person meeting for agriculture financial professionals, service providers, and agency personnel, where they learned on-farm extension agriculture research impacts, business development and entrepreneurship, cropping budgets, grain markets and risk management opportunities, fitness for transport of pre-weaned calves and market cows, and dairy industry outlook and indicators to assist clientele in improving farm business viability, environmental sustainability, and food safety.
- A dairy production and management newsletter for farmers, managers, employees, and agribusiness professionals where they learned estimating custom rates for field work and footbath management to improve farm business vitality, environmental sustainability, and food safety.
- A presentation for farmers and agri-business professionals, where they learned the importance of fitness for transport of pre-weaned calves and market cows, and best management practices to reduce stress and improve animal welfare and husbandry on these animals during transport. This effort is designed to improve business vitality and food safety.
- An on-farm demonstration and presentation for elementary-aged youth in collaboration with the Sheboygan County Farm Bureau's Classroom on the farm, where youth learned how automated (robotic) milking systems work, how many gallons and pounds of milk are produced in a day, and why animal welfare and animal husbandry is important to the farmer to help improve farm business vitality and food safety.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

JUNE 2023 REPORT

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

- New partnership with Sheboygan County Birth to Three, an early intervention special education program that helps children under the age of 3 with delays and disabilities, to offer virtual classes for parents. The purpose of these classes will be to offer parents tips and resources on feeding picky eaters.
- Planning the UW-Madison 175th anniversary celebration visit in Sheboygan County, which will include English and Spanish farmers market tours and a community resource fair at the farmers market, called Sheboygan Collective Outreach. The purpose of this visit is to highlight the programs and services that the local Extension office provides.
- Facilitated a meeting with United Healthcare, Sheboygan farmers market, and Sheboygan County WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program to plan and implement the Small Steps program. The purpose of the Small Steps is to address chronic health conditions, food insecurity, and food access through the distribution of fruit and vegetable prescription vouchers.
- New partnership with Partners for Community Development (P4CD), a local organization that provides affordable housing and weatherization programs, to offer FoodWise classes at their newly built community center. The purpose of these classes will be to highlight the importance of food budgeting and healthy eating to P4CD's residents.
- Providing expertise and consultation on the most recent community health assessment and community health improvement process, including conducting key informant interviews and developing the needs assessment. The purpose of this project is to help the local health department identify the most pressing health needs in Sheboygan County.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

JUNE 2023 REPORT

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

- A lesson for 4-H members where participants learned how to prepare, deliver and compete with a 4-H Demonstration to increase public speaking and other communication skills. Eight young people participated in this 4-H Demonstration Workshop in Sheboygan County. 100% of participants indicated that they strongly agree they, “Feel more prepared to present a demonstration;” “know how to organize their demonstration;” “know how to create good visual aids;” and “know how to control their fears before and during speaking.
- A volunteer Dog Project Board Meeting where leaders planned for the upcoming training and class sessions; reviewed veterinary paperwork and discussed potential safety issues to provide a physically and emotionally safe learning environment for youth members throughout the summer.
- Lessons for 4-H Youth Camp Staff where participants learned about the roles and responsibilities of camp staff, identified the impact of various ages and stages of development on camper behavior, and learned about physical and emotional safety risks in the camp environment to support their abilities to serve as youth staff at 4-H Base Camp.



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

Positive Youth Development

Lisa Sanderson, Positive Youth Development Educator

Youth Government Day is a joint effort with American Legion Volunteers, Sheboygan County, and Extension. Including youth voice in civic processes and providing opportunity structures with diverse representation has multiple potential positive youth development benefits, such as increased civic engagement and mentoring. All 21 participating students reported a greater understanding of County government as a result of this program. Eighteen reported an increased ability to engage in civic decision making. All 21 stated “more likely to vote in local elections when they were of age”. Twenty youth reported that they had had opportunities to share input with County staff; all reported one or more things they learned about County government that directly impacted their lives. Six youth asked for a twice-annual event. Teachers reported that their students were excited about the event afterwards and said they’d be back. Students were from South and Plymouth High schools and included members of social action groups We Rise (diverse student concerns), Peers4Peers substance abuse awareness, Gay Straight Student Alliance, and Model UN.

Participating students experienced a high degree of quality adult interaction (1:1 student-adult ratio) as well as opportunities to provide input, engage in experiential learning, and to experience representation and a sense of belonging. At a time when youth report anxiety and a sense of helplessness regarding social, environmental, and health issues impacting their lives, this event provided a sense of agency and representation through connection to civic structure. Creating ongoing opportunities for youth to participate in governance is the next step.





Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

JUNE 2023 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

- A town planner asked for Kevin's help in understanding the land use issues related to a proposed commercial development in a residential neighborhood of the town. The discussion enabled the town planner to provide guidance to the town's plan commission as it made a recommendation to the town board, which the board ultimately followed.
- A town clerk requested Kevin's assistance in understanding the zoning issues related to "spot" zoning proposed for a rural area of the town. The discussion enabled her to provide guidance to the town's plan commission as it made a recommendation to the town board, which the board ultimately followed.
- Kevin conducted research to see the impact on residential development of requiring a 20-acre minimum lot size to build a house versus a 35-acre minimum in prime agricultural areas (A-1 zoning or equivalent). The research focused on development in Sheboygan County towns since 2017, since this was about the time that most towns were being certified for farmland preservation and determining their lot sizes. Somewhat surprisingly, slightly fewer houses were built on average in the A-1 districts with a 20-acre minimum than in the A-1 districts with a 35-acre minimum:
20-acre minimum: 0.397 houses per 1,000 acres
35-acre minimum: 0.413 houses per 1,000 acres
This research has been shared with a town engaged in land use map revisions and will likely be shared with others as well.

Sarah Tarjeson
4-H Youth Development Educator

Tina Kohlman
Regional Dairy Educator

Jayna Hintz
Area Extension Director

Lisa Sanderson
Positive Youth Development Educator

Liz Gartman
Regional Crops Educator

Tammy Zorn
Support Staff

Kevin Struck
Community Development Educator

Amanda Miller
FoodWise Coordinator

Emily Jensen
Support Staff

Janeth Orozco
FoodWise Educator

Cassi Worster
Area Marketing Specialist