



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 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 Educator

- A fresh cow management and wellbeing factsheet for dairy owners/operators, managers, employees, and agribusiness professionals where they learned what is ketosis and the risks, symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and impact associated with the metabolic disorder to improve farm business viability and food safety through animal welfare and wellbeing.
- A live radio interview for the agriculture and general radio audiences, where listeners learned five on-farm safety focus areas in conjunction with National Farm Safety and Health Week. This effort is designed to bring awareness of farm equipment and rural roadway safety, farmer health and wellness, confined spaces, and mental health best management practices to improve farm business viability and food safety.

Crops

Liz Gartman, Regional Crops Educator

- A dairy production newsletter for farmers, managers, employees and agribusiness professionals that provides the reader direction on utilizing the Extension sponsored Farmer to Farmer listing to source or sell feed and included a discussion related to harvesting corn silage at the appropriate moisture and processing score to ensure proper fermentation and maximize feed value. This newsletter provides timely updates on Extension recommendations and industry news.

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 South High School to provide Spanish language nutrition education classes to Hispanic.org, which is an afterschool club for Hispanic/LatinX students. The goal of the classes is to use culturally relevant food to teach high school students basic kitchen skills.
- New partnership with the Production Farm, an organization that provides mental and behavioral services to individuals and families in Sheboygan County. The purpose of FoodWise nutrition education classes for Production Farm clients is to integrate healthy foods and physical activity into their daily lives and to improve their overall health.
- New partnership with the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association (HMAA) to support their newly developed community meal site by both providing resources on how HMAA volunteers can serve healthier meals and by providing nutrition education classes to meal site recipients. The goal is to address food insecurity among the Hmong community in Sheboygan County.
- Organizing a focus group for customers using EBT (FoodShare) at the Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization farmers market, in which nearly 40 customers signed up as interested in participating in a community conversation. The goal is to collect feedback on customers' understanding and use of farmers market incentive programs, which help address food insecurity in Sheboygan County.
- Partnered with Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization (SCIO) to conduct surveys for EBT (FoodShare) customers at the farmers market, which collected 41 surveys in English and Spanish. The goal is to collect feedback on customers' understanding and use of farmers market incentive programs, which help address food insecurity in Sheboygan County.

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 asked by a landowner and a town plan commissioner to provide technical assistance for a complex proposal involving a conditional use permit, multiple land divisions, and multiple rezonings for a property in farmland preservation and within a nearby city's extraterritorial platting jurisdiction. After looking at the property from many different perspectives, learning about the applicable regulations, and gaining an understanding of the approval process, the landowner and commissioner left the meeting feeling more confident that the proposed changes to the property will proceed correctly and in a timely manner.
- During a discussion at a town meeting regarding a business owner's conditional use permit (CUP) renewal, Kevin explained the standards that must now be followed when CUP applications come before the plan commission and board for consideration. 2017 Wisconsin Act 67 included key changes that some municipalities have not yet incorporated into their zoning ordinance. Following the meeting, Kevin provided language to the town clerk that can be added to the town's CUP application to remind town officials of the process they must follow when setting forth conditions and approving or denying a CUP application.

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.

Alicia Utke-Becher, Human Development & Relationship Educator

- A one-hour session for the Sheboygan County Home and Community Education group, where participants learned about social isolation and loneliness, and how to mitigate the negative impacts through volunteerism. The goal of this program is to decrease social isolation by increasing awareness of volunteer opportunities in Sheboygan County.
- Met with community partners at Fresh Meals on Wheels, Sharon S. Richardson Community Hospice, Growing Generations, Family Resource Center of Sheboygan County and Sheboygan County Employee Wellness Committee, to build relationships, identify community needs and identify alignment with Extension's Life Span and Financial Security Program efforts.



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

- Support and Leadership for the Sheboygan County 4-H Leaders Association, where I facilitated discussion and provided information on developing a budget, leading an effective Board election, and advising in the process of updating group bylaws.
- A lesson for alternative high school students where students learned strategies to create and display fashion design concepts in order to identify a potential area of interest. (Sarah Tarjeson)
- Advised volunteer leadership group where volunteers discussed educational opportunities for youth in Sheboygan County to develop life skills and citizenship.
- Distributed a monthly newsletter starting in January throughout the year geared for New or 1st Year 4-H Families to introduce various components of the 4-H Youth Development Program, develop a sense of belonging to our organization and build confidence in parents and members as they participate in club and project opportunities.
- A community outreach program including membership and the general public where members host games and activities, collect food pantry donations and invite the general public to participate in a fall festival at 4-H Camp Riversite. The goal of this effort was to engage youth in educational activities while creating a sense of belonging for community members and promoting our 4-H program.

Sarah Tarjeson <i>4-H Youth Development Educator</i>	Tina Kohlman <i>Regional Dairy Educator</i>	Jayna Hintz <i>Area Extension Director</i>
Kevin Struck <i>Community Development Educator</i>	Liz Gartman <i>Regional Crops Educator</i>	Tammy Zorn <i>Support Staff</i>
Alicia Utke-Becher <i>Human Development & Relationships Educator</i>	Amanda Miller <i>FoodWise Coordinator</i>	Emily Jensen <i>Support Staff</i>
	Janeth Orozco <i>FoodWise Educator</i>	Cassi Worster <i>Area Marketing Specialist</i>