



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 Dairy-Forage Day Meeting in collaboration with local Forage Council and Midwest Forage Association for dairy farmers, herd managers, crop managers, agronomists, nutritionists, and other agriculture service providers, where participants learned about dairy markets and policy; optimizing cover crops strategies to optimize forage, soil, and water quality goals; forage quality from field to the feed bunk; and impact of copper sulfate footbath use on WI soil, manure, and forage copper concentrations to improve farm business viability, environmental sustainability, and animal welfare.
- A presentation for dairy farmers, herd managers, crop managers, agronomists, nutritionists, and other allied ag professionals, where they learned the impact of copper sulfate footbaths on WI manure, soil, and forage copper concentrations to improve business viability, economic sustainability, and food safety through animal welfare.
- A webinar for dairy owner/operators, herds managers and employees, and agribusiness professionals where they learned how to rethink employee training and onboarding and interactively train employees to move cattle to improve farm business viability, environmental sustainability, and food safety while maintaining animal welfare and wellbeing.

Crops

Liz Gartman, Regional Crops Educator

- A program for Sheboygan county land owners and agriculture producers where attendees learned about the agronomic lessons from the dry summer of 2023 and what soil management practices may help improve crop resiliency in extreme weather year. The goal of this activity is to improve awareness of the benefits of soil health practices and methods for implementing them.
- A dairy production newsletter for farmers, managers, employees and agribusiness professionals that provides the reader an introduction to upcoming UW Madison Division of Extension Programming including the Regional Ag Day and Dairy Heifer Grazing listening sessions. This newsletter provides timely updates on Extension recommendations, events and industry news.
- Planning for a Regional Ag Day program for farmers, agronomists, nutritionists and other agriculture professionals in collaboration with the Cedar Creek Farmers in Washington county. The goal is to provide timely livestock, dairy and crop production and marketing updates to producers so they can make informed animal and crop management decisions in 2024.



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

- Development and implementation of a process to award \$8,000 in grants to 4-H groups who are providing innovative educational opportunities to the youth of Sheboygan County.
- An in-person training for 4-H Club Organizational Leaders to increase their knowledge of available resources, working with varied learning styles of youth and increasing their ability to support youth in partnership with adults.
In a post-experience evaluation, participants were asked to rate if they can identify several Core Values of the 4-H Program; 3 were undecided and 35 said “Yes”.
“I had fun! It was nice to talk to someone about sunshine!”
“I loved it! I learned that we should have a notebook, binder, etc for secretary”
“Thank you for providing info about trips (would like more about awards too!) Very helpful and informative.”
“Thank you for the calendar of opportunities”
- An in-person training for 4-H Youth Club Officers to increase knowledge of their officer position and leadership skills to be applied to their club leadership experience throughout the year.
- 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.

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 the Grant Elementary afterschool program to provide nutrition education classes to the Kindergarten through 2nd grade groups and the 3rd through 5th grade groups using the Read for Health curriculum. The goal of the classes is to introduce healthy foods and to encourage trying new foods through taste tests.
- 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.
- 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.

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 Money Smart Wisconsin meeting for financial institutions and community agencies convened to plan financial activities and events for the 2024 financial awareness campaign. The goal is to improve the financial capability of community members.



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

- In an effort to reach a broader audience for input regarding the future of the Cascade mill pond, dam, park, and Nichols Creek, the Village asked Kevin to create a two-page fact sheet and an online opinion survey as a follow-up to a paper survey that had been filled out by 37 attendees at a recent Open House. An invitation to the online survey, along with a fact sheet describing three alternatives, was mailed to about 300 addresses within the Village. A total of 54 respondents took the survey, and the results clearly confirmed the findings of the previous survey. The Village Board drew heavily on the survey results during a lengthy discussion at its December meeting and ultimately voted in favor of a feasibility study for the top-ranked alternative.
- The Plymouth Review (circ. 5,984) published in its December 1, 2023 edition an article Kevin wrote summarizing the results of the recent well water testing program he had conducted in the Town of Rhine. In addition to sharing the results, the article encouraged rural well owners to periodically test their water. Contact information was included for the state certified lab at UW-Stevens Point where UW-Extension funds a groundwater specialist position. Kevin has used this lab for all 15 of the testing programs he has conducted since 2011.

Sarah Tarjeson
4-H Youth Development Educator

Tina Kohlman
Regional Dairy Educator

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Community Development Educator

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Cassi Worster
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