

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 co-hosted an educational session attended by approximately 60 Town of Rhine individuals who had participated in a recent well water testing program coordinated by the Sheboygan County Extension Office in partnership with the Center for Watershed Science and Education lab at UW-Stevens Point. Participants heard from a groundwater specialist who explained the basics about groundwater, well construction, potential contaminants, and remediation options, which will help these well owners take steps to protect their water quality.



- As part of an Open House at the Village Hall for citizens interested in the future of the Cascade mill pond, dam, park, and Nichols Creek, Kevin created an opinion survey that 37 attendees filled out prior to leaving the event.

Question #2 presented four management Alternatives that respondents were asked to rank 1 - 4, with 1 being their most preferred Alternative. The top ranked Alternative was “Remove the dam and restore the creek. Rebuild a natural area where the mill pond is now, including a new pond that is smaller than the present mill pond. The creek will not flow into the new pond. It will flow around the new pond.”

Question #5 asked respondents to indicate the importance of 14 different issues related to the pond, dam, and/or park. The results indicate strong support for habitat restoration, a new children’s play area, and reducing the number of geese in the park.

“Thanks, Kevin for making these updates and working so hard to make all this information useful and understandable!” – Milwaukee Riverkeeper staff member



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

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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

- An in-person dairy management program for online-schooled youth and parents, where participants learned about calving and dairy calf management, biosecurity and health best management practices, dairy nutrition, and milk production. This effort is designed to engage individuals about the food produced in our state, bringing awareness to non-farm families regarding business viability, environmental sustainability, and food safety.
- A dairy production and management newsletter in collaboration with Eastern Wisconsin Dairy Herd Improvement Cooperative for farmers, managers, employees, and agribusiness professionals, where subscribers learned about herbicide resistance screening, phosphorus stratification in soil health systems, corn-alfalfa interseeding, pre-weaned calf transportation, impact of copper sulfate footbaths on manure, soil and forage copper concentrations, and hypocalcemia best management practices. This effort was designed to provide a timely and reliable source of dairy management news and updates to help farms improve farm business viability, environmental sustainability, and food safety.
- A Midwest Farm Weekly television interview for WRFV Channel 5 audience where individuals learned best management practices for calves to mitigate cold stress, thus improving productivity and animal health to improve farm business viability and food safety through animal welfare and wellbeing.

Crops

Liz Gartman, Regional Crops Educator

- A dairy production newsletter for farmers, managers, employees and agribusiness professionals that provides the reader an introduction to the Wisconsin Ag Climate outlook resource, the Wisconsin Waterhemp Herbicide resistance screening project and the opportunity to participate in the Phosphorus Stratification project. 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 Tarjesson, 4-H Youth Development Educator

- The 4-H Club Leadership Summit is provided annually to help youth and adult club leadership teams to connect, build relationships and set goals for the upcoming year. This training offered learning experiences focussed on the core values of 4-H, team building and increasing understanding of 4-H Educational Travel opportunities. I facilitated this learning through a variety of activities and reflections. 92% of participants who completed the evaluation agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "I can identify several Core Values of the 4-H Program." 97% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "I feel like I am an important part of the 4-H Program." n=38
- 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.
- 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 learning opportunity for new parents and members to orient themselves to the 4-H Program in order to successfully engage in their clubs and countywide activities.

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

- Met with community partners at Embrace, Mead Library, and Advocacy Programs of Family Service Association to build relationships, identify community needs and identify alignment with Extension's Life Span and Financial Security Program efforts.

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

- Partnership with Sheboygan County Head Start to provide nutrition education in the classrooms throughout the school year using the Color Me Healthy curriculum. The goal of these classes are to encourage healthy eating at an early age by introducing new foods and eating the colors of the rainbow.
- Providing technical assistance for the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association to develop a menu for their weekly community meal. The goal is to offer healthy, nutritious and culturally appropriate foods to Hmong community members.
- Providing technical assistance for the state FoodWise office to develop a plan and apply for a federal nutrition incentive program. The goal is to offer nutrition incentive programs at farmers markets across Wisconsin and to support local farmers markets, which helps bring fresh fruits and vegetables to families in need.
- Updating the Sheboygan County Food Drive 5 Toolkit, which is designed to provide a variety of resources and tools for local food pantries and potential food drive sponsoring organizations. The purpose is to encourage food drives that encourage food safety and nutritious foods.

Sarah Tarjeson
4-H Youth Development Educator

Tina Kohlman
Regional Dairy Educator

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Area Extension Director

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