

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.

Crops

Liz Gartman, Regional Crops Educator

- A twilight meeting where local forage producers and agriculture professionals learned about opportunities to engage in alfalfa management field trials, keys to managing alfalfa stands for persistence and building consistency in forage programs using crop diversity to improve their ability to harvest high quality forage to support milk production on their farms, improve crop system resilience and improve overall farm profitability. Total Reach: 40 attendees
- An interview with the Wisconsin State Farmer to discuss the local crop growing situation in Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, Ozaukee and Washington counties as crop producers navigate challenges with excessive rainfall across the area. The goal of this outreach is to provide a look into the management decisions that producers face as growing conditions continue to challenge our normal practices, and the issues they need to watch out for as the growing season progresses.
- An Introduction to Crop Scouting presentation for Extension Crops educators across the state. The goal is to provide regional and statewide educators the resources they need to effectively scout for weeds, insects and diseases in crop fields; properly stage and monitor crop quality and health and utilize appropriate tools and sampling methods to diagnose crop growth issues. This professional development will lead to a more effective crops team that can better support crop growers across the state.



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

UW Extension-Sheboygan County office welcomed Sarah Feider as the new part-time 4-H Program Educator. Sarah brings to the position two decades of experience in education, working as a classroom teacher, technology coach and a data and instructional coach. Sarah developed and delivered professional development for teachers and support staff, provided training for district and state initiatives, supported and modeled teaching techniques for teachers and students integrating technology in the classroom. Sarah holds a master's degree in Adult and Continuing Education Leadership and a degree in Education, both from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Sarah is a 4-H volunteer in Sheboygan County and an active member of the Sheboygan County Community member



Katrina Pionek, 4-H Program Educator, Manitowoc County

A base camp opportunity for youth grades 3-7 to attend and youth grades 8-12 to lead. The goal is to provide leadership opportunities for high school aged youth and exploratory opportunity for young members as they learn new skills that relate to archery, team building, swimming and canoeing in hope that they will discover a new spark and share new skills when returning to their county. Total Reach: 50 campers (3-7 grade) and 27 counselors (8-12 grade) participated in 4-H camp. By providing a camp experience, hopefully youth gain more of an appreciation for nature and disconnecting from technology.

Manitowoc and Sheboygan Counties in the past have done 4-H Camp separately. This past year the two counties decided to join forces for one camp. This is due to number of campers but also an opportunity for young people to meet youth from another county. Providing a camp opportunity with other counties allows youth to build connections across Wisconsin experience hands on activities they many not experience in everyday life. Educators roles include; session planning, training and orienting session leads, orienting volunteers, chaperones and campers. Educators ensure that camp is a safe and welcoming program for every participant regardless on their camping experience. Providing a camp experience allow improved communication skills, decision making, hand eye coordination skills and allows youth to explore a new area of interest. With providing a camp experience, hopefully youth gain more of an appreciation for nature and disconnecting from technology.

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

- Providing technical support for future plans of the community health assessment and community health improvement plan. The goal is to improve the steps and partnerships for the next time the community goes through this process.
- Leadership of the Sheboygan County Activity and Nutrition coalition, which meets monthly with community health leaders. The purpose of this group is to meet the identified goals and objectives of the 2024 community health improvement plan.
- Providing technical assistance (such as free pressure canner testing), education, and resources to community members about food preservation safety. This service aims to prevent food borne illness through improper home canning practices.

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