

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 Dairy Forage Day program for forage growers, dairy producers and ag consultants where participants learned about the benefits of feeding high oleic soybeans to lactating cows, agronomic management recommendations to mitigate mycotoxin challenges, the status of grain markets for 2025 and a regional dairy educator introduction and update to improve the feed and forage management for their dairy operations to improve milk production and farm profitability.

- 100% of attendees rated the program quality as good to excellent, with the greatest improvement in awareness for the Grain Marketing Update (52.9%).
- All topic areas were rated with a “somewhat increased awareness” to “a great deal increased awareness.”
- As a result of attending the Dairy Forage Day- when asked about one thing they learned that they would consider implementing in the future, attendees primarily indicated they would consider adding high oleic soybeans into their rations and are interested in learning more about marketing their grain to improve margins.
- All program topics presented were included on the list when asked what topics/resources were most valuable to you, with an emphasis on the high oleic soybeans and market update.

A series of in-person and virtual crops and soils update meetings for crop and forage growers, consultants, agronomists, students and agency staff where participants were provided relevant research updates from Extension specialists regarding soil and water management, forage and grain production, pest management considerations and economics of crop production. Through this program, attendees can make more informed decisions related to these topics to improve productivity and economic viability for their farms and their client’s farms.

- The Badger Crop Update planning team identified 3 key sites to host in-person events and planned one virtual event to accommodate those who could not travel to the in-person options.
- The group reached out to Extension specialists to determine what key agenda items were necessary and scheduled a format that allowed attendees to learn from the specialists but also engage with them to get their specific questions answered.
- The agenda included a series of short talks grouped into topic areas, with a follow up “question and answer” time that allowed a deeper dive into each specific topic to ensure we met the needs of those attending the updates.
- 83 participants attended one of the three in-person events, 117 participants attended the virtual program.



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AGRICULTURE *(continued)*

Dairy

Manuel Peña, Regional Dairy Educator

A series of in person and virtual meetings with UW Madison - Extension colleagues, producer led conservation groups, USDA and Farm Service Agency partners, agriculture industry contacts and crop producers where we discussed opportunities for partnerships, ag community needs and programming gaps, to be able to develop an accurate needs assessment, that will lead to accurate programming that benefit all the different parties of the dairy industry in the region.

In order to know and understand the challenges the dairy industry is facing in this region. I am elaborating an informal needs assessment of the regional dairy community in order to plan programming that will provide support to them. A series of in person and virtual meetings with UW Madison - Extension colleagues, producer led conservation groups, USDA and Farm Service Agency partners, agriculture industry contacts and crop producers where we discussed opportunities for partnerships, ag community needs and programming gaps. As a new regional dairy educator in Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Dodge, and Fond du Lac counties, it is necessary to determine the needs of the agricultural community related to dairy programming. To best understand the needs of the dairy farmers, and different stakeholders in the dairy industry in the region, the dairy educator is meeting with these potential partners to determine gaps in programming and specific educational strategies necessary to properly serve them. As of November 27, 2024, the educator has met with the Clean Farm Families watershed group board, financial officers from Compeer Financial, Nutritionists from the Vita Plus nutritional company, and the Forage Council groups, while also making connections with other UW Madison-Extension educators and academics, producers, workforce and support personnel. The educator is asking questions (for both, English and Spanish speakers involved in the industry) and recording the responses to generate a needs assessment which will provide guidance into future programming plans. Further, the educator has provided support to local dairy farmers as needed by leveraging UW- Madison Extension professionals. This outreach will continue over the future but stronger for the next month to develop relationships with potential partners to establish an Extension presence in the dairy programming area of the region.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Community Development provides educational programming to assist leaders, communities, and organizations realize their fullest 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.

Barbara Alvarez, Community Development Educator

- Planning for a survey for members of a local business district where participants provide feedback about their membership, needs, and organizational opportunities. The goal is to build a stronger business network in the downtown. I was approached by a team member of the local business district to discuss how to develop and distribute a survey to their members. I provided education to the team member about how to develop a quality survey and discussed different survey options and questions. With their feedback, I developed the survey in Qualtrics and shared the link with them to distribute to their members.
- Planning for a community survey to be distributed to low-income families. The goal is to learn more about what their needs are and how the organization can respond through programming, research, and education. I was approached by the Executive Director of a non-profit organization to assist their Community Needs Assessment process. In this meeting, we discussed how to gather information, survey creation, and distribution. I met with the group, helped them clarify their questions, provided education about best survey practices, and discussed ways to market the survey. Still in process.
- Planning for a virtual networking series for nonprofit leaders in collaboration with nonprofits in Sheboygan, Door, Brown, and Kewaunee counties. The goal is to educate nonprofit leaders about skills and resources so that they can grow their organizations and connect with their communities.
- Planning for and developing educational programs and opportunities for non-profits, small businesses, and community organizations in Sheboygan County. The goal of this effort is to introduce myself to different area stakeholders, learn about their needs, and determine what programs and resources will be most helpful for organizational and leadership development in the county.
- Planning for and developing educational programs and opportunities for local governments in Sheboygan County. The goal of this effort is to introduce myself to different area stakeholders, learn about their needs, and determine what programs and resources will be most helpful for local government education in the county.

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

- Supporting the development of a free indoor walking guide for Sheboygan County. The purpose of this guide is to promote physical activity during the winter months.
- Supporting the local farmers market in year-end reporting for the state GUS NIP (Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program) project. The goal is to offer nutrition incentive programs at farmers markets across Wisconsin, which helps bring fresh fruits and vegetables to families in need.
- Developed placemats for clients at the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) restaurant style senior meal sites in Sheboygan County. These monthly placemats include healthy messages and nutrition resources for older-aged adults.
- 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.



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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.*

Truong Tran, Human Development & Relationship Educator

Met with Sheboygan Senior Community, Aging and Disability Resource Center, Sharon Richardson Hospice, Compassus, Lakeshore Community Action Program, Better Life Chiropractic, Lighthouse Recovery Community Center, and the Hmong Mutual Association Alliance to build relationships, identify community needs, and identify alignment with Extension's LifeSpan 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 Feider, 4-H Program Educator

No Report Submitted.

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