

Agriculture

Planning for a Dairy Forage Day program in collaboration with the Fond du Lac County Forage Council for dairy producers, forage growers, nutritionists and ag professionals. The goal is to provide guidance when feeding high oleic soybeans, better manage cropping practices to limit feed hygiene and mycotoxin challenges and understand the 2025 landscape regarding grain pricing and marketing to help producers make more informed decisions that improve the profitability of their farm.

A Soil Health Field Day for farmers and agronomists in and around the Fisher Creek Watershed to better understand the steps to take to improve soil health on land they own or manage.



Planning a session at the Wisconsin Water and Soil Health (WWASH) conference in collaboration with other Extension educators. The goal of the session is to provide insight into opportunities to include diverse cover crop species into dairy forage programs with the end result being additional cover crop acres incorporated into livestock production systems, resulting in improved soil health.

The WWASH Conference focuses on sharing on-farm research to support the use of diverse soil health practices on Wisconsin farms. A challenge in dairy systems is the need for high quality forages that support milk production, and the perception that common cover crops cannot provide that high quality forage. As a response to that need, conference organizers reach out to me to plan a session that can alleviate some of these producer concerns.

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. The goal of this activity is to generate an informal needs assessment of the regional dairy community in order to plan programming that will provide support to them.

Community Development

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. (Barbara Alvarez)

Planning for and developing educational programs and opportunities for nonprofits, 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. (Barbara Alvarez)

Conducting needs assessments with local governments. Reached out to all 28 municipalities in Sheboygan County with the goal of connecting and sharing an introduction, contact information, and resources for local government education available through UW-Extension, including EMS Model Agreements and Tax Explanation Bills. Held five one-on-one conversations with municipalities and attended a Wisconsin Towns Association meeting. Connected a Sheboygan County Board Supervisor with a UW Extension leading legal expert on solar ordinances, provided information about Farmland Preservation, Shoreland Zoning, and municipal clerk resources.

Hosted a 1.5 hour workshop about inclusion in the workplace for 13 employees at a local nonprofit organization. The Executive Director of the nonprofit requested staff training during their in-service meeting and I connected with the leader to develop a workshop tailored to their organizational and leadership development needs.

Human Development and Relationships

Met with Home and Community Education Club (HCE) and Sheboygan Co. Public Health, to build relationships, identify community needs, and identify alignment with Life Span Efforts.



Health and Well-Being

Teaching a 4-part nutrition education class series for early child care students in Sheboygan County. The goal of these classes is to encourage children to try new foods and eat healthy foods at a young age.

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.

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 support for the planning of a Community Activity Challenge project. The overall goal of this project is to encourage community members to participate in physical activity and other community events for a chance to win prizes.

Positive Youth Development

4-H Clubs and community members from the local area came out in October for a free *Enchanted Forest* opportunity. There were bouncy houses provided by local businesses, and eleven clubs either presented a skit or provided games and fun for youth. Based on the high attendance, we are considering combining the open house and Enchanted Forest events 2025. More than 400 pounds of food was donated for the Sheboygan Food Pantry during the event.

Local businesses in attendance:

- Oostburg Fire Department
- Oostburg Library
- Tom Lentz
- Sheboygan Humane Society

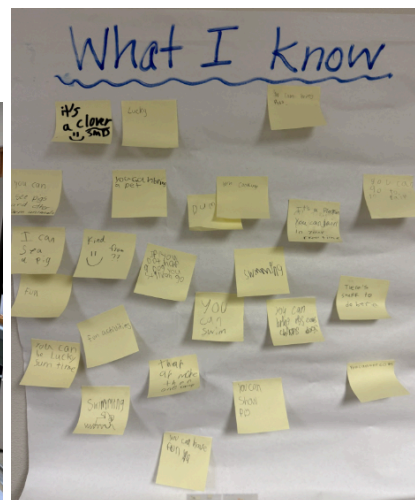
Local businesses donations included:

- Little Brown Cow - \$250 for bouncy house
- Culver's - \$550 for bouncy house
- Old Wisconsin - Beef sticks, basket
- Gibbsville Cheese - Cheese Curds, 3 separate baskets
- Oostburg Lumber - Merchandise to give away
- Pizza Ranch - 5 family sized dinner coupons
- Judi's Place - \$25 gift certificate
- Piggly Wiggly of Oostburg - Frosting
- Oostburg Bakery - 250 cookies



School Clubs

Held two sessions at each of the three new School 4-H Clubs sites in Sheboygan County. Two of the sites include the Boys and Girls Club of Sheboygan, housed at Cooper Elementary and the Change Academy. Random Lake Elementary, held sessions around starting a 4-H club. 15 students were in attendance over these two sessions.



Local artist, Danielle Hansmann, offered to 4-H members three sessions on abstract art in November, December, and January. The first session hosted 11 artists. Their artwork will be displayed in the 4-H Suit.



The 44th Annual 4-H Awards Banquet was hosted by Acuity in November.. There were approximately 250 in attendance. 126 youth and adults received awards.



The 4-H Educator, Sarah Feider, implemented a fundraiser to support the 4-H Leader's Association selling 4-H Hats. 4-H Leaders may purchase the hats for \$15, and all others, \$20.

