



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2025 REPORT

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

A Spanish-language adaptation of a Qualtrics survey was developed for a local nonprofit organization that serves individuals and families seeking economic self-sufficiency. This effort enhances accessibility and inclusivity, ensuring more diverse participation and accurate data collection to inform impactful programming.

By providing a Spanish-language version of the survey, more individuals can share their needs and experiences, leading to a better understanding of the community. This helps the nonprofit organization design programs that are more inclusive and effective. In the long run, this effort supports families in accessing the resources they need to improve their financial stability and overall well-being.

Met with Family Resource Center of SC, United Way of Sheboygan, SC Social Work, First Congressional Church, and Prism Health and Wellness to build relationships, identify community needs, and identify alignment with Extension's Life Span Efforts.

As a result of these environmental scans, Sheboygan Extension has gained a deeper understanding of the unique needs and challenges within the community. This insight is guiding efforts to expand support for family caregivers, particularly refugee families and non-English speaking caregivers, while also laying the groundwork for innovative intergenerational programs in the greater Sheboygan area. By aligning services with local organizations, we are fostering partnerships to address these priorities effectively



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 presentation for the Washington County “Thinking Outside the Barn” program for area crop growers, agency staff and consultants where participants learned about the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program and the project taking place in Washington County. Through this presentation, attendees learned about the requirements for the program, the types of research they can engage in along with opportunities for collaboration between Extension and crop consultants to complete the program.

Questions surrounding nitrogen use in crop production are common in our area. The Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program is an opportunity for growers to ask questions surrounding nitrogen management on their farm and participate in on farm research to answer those questions. I was asked to provide an overview of the program along with some of the challenges and opportunities this project presented to us. I collaborated with Allen Dornacker, the crop grower hosting our NOPP site, and we put together and presented a slide deck that outlined the expectations of the NOPP program as well as some of our take home messages regarding the challenges and opportunities that on farm research offers. There were approximately 70 attendees at the meeting, representing crop growers, NRCS/FSA staff, county land and water staff and crop consultants. This size group gave us great exposure for the NOPP program and encouraged producers to think about opportunities to participate in the project.

An article for the Midwest Forage Association’s Clippings newsletter that discussed the importance of identifying issues with silage storage structures, the problems for forage quality associated with improper storage systems and some factors to consider when assessing structure integrity. The goal is to identify areas that producers can focus on to ensure proper silage storage in an effort to improve silage fermentation and overall forage quality.

Forage growers have the challenge of dealing with a variety of factors that can affect overall forage quality, many of those issues cannot be avoided. However, silage storage is a key area that can be better managed and as we empty these structures in anticipation of a new crop of forage, it is a prime time to assess these structures and perform maintenance or choose different storage options. I researched the topic and pulled together an article that discussed different silage storage structures and highlighted opportunities to improve and maintain those systems to optimize forage quality and reduce feed shrink.



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AGRICULTURE CONTINUED

Dairy

Manuel Peña, Regional Dairy Educator

A workshop “Calving Management and Neonate Care in Dairy Cattle” for all the individuals that are involved in parturition, and calving management in dairy farms. We are creating an in person and bilingual event where participants will learn and reinforce their knowledge about obstetrics, care and support in the calving pen, neonate care and colostrum management, and how to maintain the success in the maternity areas. Through this effort we will increase the knowledge and good practices related to the earliest stage of life in dairy cattle, which will represent an increase in herd health, work safety and farm profitability.

A workshop “Dairy Feeder School” for all the individuals with a link with the formulation, mixing, and/or delivering of feedstuff for dairy cattle. We are creating an in person and bilingual event where participants will learn and reinforce their knowledge about feed safety, feed management, transition cow health, and the economics of feeding. Through this effort we will impact animal health and milk production efficiency, by improving the use of resources such as, feed ingredients, time and labor leading to an increased farm profitability and waste reduction.

A series of in person and virtual meetings with UW Madison - Extension colleagues, producer led conservation groups, such as the Sheboygan River Progressive Farmers, USDA and Farm Service Agency partners such as CP feeds, Vita Plus, Zoetis and Compeer financial, 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.

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.

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 public health department in incorporating the Results Based Accountability model into local health coalition work. The purpose of this model is to improve the performance of programs and services for a more measurable and longer term impact.

Promoted the Wisconsin Chili Lunch Day by sharing information on social media, newsletters, and other educational outlets. The purpose of this annual day is to encourage farm to school efforts, eating local, and making healthy recipes.

Began a new partnership with Centro Comunitario La Cima food pantry in partnership with the Sheboygan County Food Bank. These classes will help food pantry recipients with using food pantry foods for healthy meals and recipes.

Began a new partnership with Grant Elementary 5th grade teachers to offer a series of classes using the Food Day curriculum. The purpose of these classes is to introduce the food system and environment and to encourage eating less processed foods and eating more real foods.

Planning a cooking demonstration event in partnership with Head Start. The purpose of this event is to encourage parents of young children to try healthy, kid-friendly recipes and to teach them ways to introduce new foods to their children.



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

A facilitated conversation with nonprofit leaders in Northeast Wisconsin where participants learned how to manage an organization through a major transition to retain staff, volunteers, and donors and continue to carry out the mission of their organization.

A Spanish-language adaptation of a Qualtrics survey was developed for a local nonprofit organization that serves individuals and families seeking economic self-sufficiency. This effort enhances accessibility and inclusivity, ensuring more diverse participation and accurate data collection to inform impactful programming.

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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. Have created surveys and will distribute February, March, April and beginning of May.



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

Jayna Hintz
Area Extension Director

Liz Gartman
Regional Crops Educator

Manuel Peña
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Sarah Feider
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