



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

JUNE 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

Sheboygan County participated in a statewide virtual offering of Planning AHEAD, a seven-week educational program developed by Extension to help older adults and their families prepare for end-of-life decisions. Participants engaged in weekly sessions covering key topics such as getting started with planning, handling financial changes, completing advance directives, estate planning, final wishes, choices in end-of-life care, and understanding grief.

The program was designed in response to a growing need identified by Wisconsin communities and educators, particularly among older women who had recently lost a spouse or partner and faced new financial and legal responsibilities. By offering clear guidance and supportive discussion, Planning AHEAD aimed to reduce emotional and financial stress, empower participants to make informed decisions, and promote peace of mind for individuals and their loved ones.

There were 22 total participants over the seven weeks, and all participants reported learning enough to move forward with planning.

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

Creation of a data visualization tool for forage growers, crop consultants and livestock nutritionists in collaboration with local forage councils and agribusinesses. The goal is to provide timely, easy to use corn silage dry down data that these audiences can leverage to identify the optimum timing to harvest corn silage in their area which will produce forage more likely to meet animal nutrient requirements to support production.

- Across the state, crops educators and consultants that support forage growers sample and report the whole plant moisture of corn for silage. Whole plant moisture is a key guiding factor for making corn silage harvest decisions.
- There was a need to update the tool used by Extension educators to share this data with our growers. In response to the need, we identified the important data that we need to collect from growers during the dry down events, and created tools to allow for simple data collection at the dry down sites.
- With the help of our data scientist, a tool was created that provides this data, but also allows the user to manipulate the table and maps to see the information that is most relevant to their needs. Color coding data points provides an indication of the suitability for harvest of each data point, making it easy for stakeholders to visualize the data.

A webinar for farmers, crop consultants, and agency personnel, where timely crop and research updates are presented alongside agronomic recommendations from topic experts in the UW system. Through this webinar we inform our constituents so they can make the most economically and environmentally sound decisions which ultimately lead to better sustainability.

- Weather, economics, pest pressure, and research findings all change throughout the growing year. Our audience needs updates on these variables and resources to respond to them.
- We hosted a webinar twice per month and featured one to three topic experts, mainly UW faculty, to share their timely recommendations, research updates, and relevant resources with participants.

AGRICULTURE CONTINUED

Dairy

Manuel Peña, Regional Dairy Educator

A survey for farmers, employers and employees who have different mother languages (Spanish and English) and do not speak each other's, where they provide information that helps us understand the strategies they use to bridge the language barrier and how that affects the activities at the farm.

Disruption in communications significantly decreases the farm's ability to onboard, manage, and retain employees, a critical task for successful operations. Optimal communications are a central piece to implementing successful workforce development programs. Additionally, the perception of employees regarding the language barriers on farms also remains unknown. A series of in person meetings with farmers, where we can discuss their challenges and the opportunities for the current research and future programing. As a Bilingual Regional Dairy Educator, working with the farms who have language barriers is important. The goal is to develop resources that improve communication, safety, and productivity on farms. This work supports both farmers and their Spanish-speaking employees, and it addresses broader issues by helping create more inclusive and effective workplaces in the dairy industry.

To address the identified need for accessible, research-based information for the diverse dairy workforce in Wisconsin, the Bovi-noticias e-newsletter has been developed. This bilingual (English and Spanish) publication directly responds to the challenge of ensuring all individuals involved in daily dairy operations have access to relevant and practical insights. By providing content in both languages, Bovi-noticias aims to overcome language barriers and promote a shared understanding of best practices across farm teams. Furthermore, the newsletter goes beyond simply providing information by explaining the "why" behind recommended practices. This approach fosters deeper comprehension and encourages greater engagement among employees, empowering them to contribute more effectively to farm goals. By serving as a resource for team discussions and problem-solving, Bovi-noticias facilitates better communication and collaboration between management and workers. Ultimately, this initiative directly responds to the need for a more informed, skilled, and engaged dairy workforce, which is crucial for improving animal health, optimizing resource utilization, enhancing farm efficiency, and increasing profitability within the Wisconsin dairy industry.

The Wisconsin dairy industry faces ongoing challenges and opportunities related to optimizing animal health, productivity, and farm efficiency. While owners and managers often possess strong foundational knowledge, a need exists for easily accessible, research-based information tailored to the diverse workforce directly involved in daily dairy operations. This includes employees responsible for animal care, feeding, and other essential tasks. Language barriers can further complicate the dissemination and understanding of best practices. Recognizing this need, a collaborative effort between Dairy and Farm Management Extension Educators has resulted in the development of Bovi-noticias, a bilingual (English and Spanish) e-newsletter. This publication aims to bridge the information gap by providing relevant, practical insights and explaining the rationale behind key practices, ultimately fostering a more informed, engaged, and efficient dairy workforce, leading to improved animal well-being, enhanced resource utilization, and increased farm profitability.

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

The Sheboygan County Activity and Nutrition (SCAN) Coalition and Healthy Sheboygan County are planning the “Sunny Days Activity Challenge.” Community members that live and work in Sheboygan County are encouraged to be physically active by sharing photos throughout the summer. Photos can be submitted at minimum once per week and at maximum once per day. To share, participants are encouraged to post on Facebook or Instagram using the tag @HealthySheboyganCounty and the hashtag #SunnyDaysSheboygan (make sure the post is public.) For those without social media, photos can be emailed to hsc@sheboygancounty.com with Sunny Days Sheboygan in the subject line.

Winners will be chosen every Monday (one winner per household.) Share a photo at least each week to qualify for the grand prize. Winners announced and prize/event info posted on the Healthy Sheboygan County Facebook page.

The challenge runs from July 1 - July 31.



HEALTHY SHEBOYGAN COUNTY **Sunny Days Activity Challenge**

Who Can Join: Live or work in Sheboygan County? You're in! The challenge runs July 1-31 and is open to adults and families.

What it's All About: Stay active each week by exploring local parks and public spaces—have fun, get moving, and be well in Sheboygan!

How to Participate:

- Share at least 1 weekly activity photo.
- You can submit up to 1 photo per day to boost your chances!
- Post on Facebook or Instagram, tag @Healthy Sheboygan County, and use hashtag #SunnyDaysSheboygan (make sure your post is public)
- No social media? Email photos to hsc@sheboygancounty.com

Prizes:

- Weekly: 5 winners will be chosen every Monday (1 winner per household).
- Grand Prize: Share a photo each week to qualify!
- Winners announced, and prize/event info posted on Healthy Sheboygan County's Facebook page.
- Scan the QR code, below, to access the page directly!

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

SCAN ME

Sponsors: Aurora Health Care, Uptown Social, Live More the Y, ANYTIME FITNESS, Nourish, maywood, PILATES ANCHORED LLC, LMT, TOPSPIN, experientals, ABOVE & BEYOND, bookworm & GARDENS, ELEVATE, MHA, Generations, OLIVE BRANCH.

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

Youth in grades 8-12 come together months in advance to help prep, plan and facilitate base camp for youth in grades 3-7. These youth staff create a sense of belonging and create a safe space where younger youth can find a spark relating to theater, games, archery, cooking, crafts, collaboration, team building and more.

In 2024, Sheboygan and Manitowoc County collaborated to create a new camp experience. These campers were able to make connections not just within their own county, but another county as well. Youth were able to experience different ways camp can be held and learned from one another to make a more enjoyable camp experience. Providing a camp opportunity with other counties allows youth to build connections across Wisconsin experience hands on activities they may 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.



“When I was a kid, I went to camp every year. It was scary at first, but my counselor, Haylie, really helped me. It was because of her that I wanted to be a counselor when I got older.” - Anna (grade 9)

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED

Diana Hammer, Positive Youth Development Educator

A situational analysis of youth empowerment opportunities and gaps in Sheboygan County so that program priorities can be determined for 2026.

Diana Hammer started on June 9 as Sheboygan County's half-time Positive Youth Development Educator. The role is focused on centering youth voices in spaces where young people and adults work together. The first priority is to meet with youth and the adults who care about them to learn more about the strengths and opportunities for youth empowerment programming. In her first three days, Hammer met with Extension colleagues to learn more about their roles and their partners who may also work with youth, participated in the county input session where youth-serving organizations shared about their goals and concerns, and scheduled meetings to visit those leaders at their sites. She also began Extension's Positive Youth Development training for new educators. By carefully listening to a variety of perspectives on youth empowerment, Hammer will be able to determine where to direct her efforts for maximum impact.

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Regional Crops Educator

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