



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.

Dairy | Manuel Peña, Regional Dairy Educator

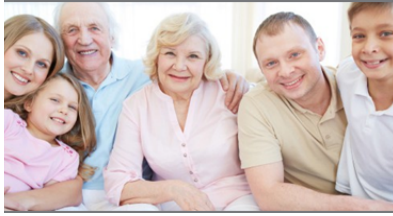
A calving management workshop for dairy producers, farm managers, veterinarians, and calf care professionals, where participants learned best practices in calving management, colostrum delivery, calf nutrition, health, and rumen development to improve calf survival, growth, welfare, and long-term herd productivity Hosted in Sheboygan County.

- Dairy producers and calf care teams face ongoing challenges in raising healthy, productive calves while balancing labor demands, rising input costs, animal welfare expectations, and long-term farm profitability. The preweaning period is one of the most critical stages in a dairy animal's life, as management practices related to calving, colostrum delivery, nutrition, housing, disease prevention, and weaning can have lasting effects on calf survival, growth, health, and future milk production. Poor early-life management can increase the risk of illness and mortality, reduce growth performance, and negatively impact lifetime productivity, while effective management can improve animal welfare and economic outcomes. In response, the Calving Management Workshop was developed to provide producers, farm employees, veterinarians, and industry professionals with current science-based recommendations and hands-on management strategies. The program aimed to improve knowledge and decision-making related to calving management, calf care, nutrition, rumen development, and weaning practices, ultimately supporting healthier calves, improved animal welfare, and greater long-term productivity and profitability for dairy operations. The workshop had a big impact on the attendees. They thought the information was delivered in a good manner and would be able to share with others and be part of other events like this one. The main topics of this workshop were, Bovine Obstetrics, common mistakes in the maternity pen, and rumen development, besides the educational stations about feed tubing, dystocia assistance and record keeping.



- ★ The participants at the end stated on the evaluation that they are very likely to share the information with co-workers, clients and others. **"Everyone did a fantastic Job", "The information was presented in a great way", "I will apply the information in the farm I work", "I have learned a lot of detail of the practices and introduced new concepts of rumen development", "I can apply this on my daily work", "It was very educational, thanks for the opportunity to participate", "I would be interested on attending to more events like this", "I have 20 years in the industry and we need more classes like this one."** - Workers, Nutritionists, Managers

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.

Kirtis Orendorff, Community Development Educator

On June 17 and 18, 2026, UW Extension hosted the 2026 Sheboygan County Community Needs Forum with a focus on the CDI and PYD institutes. The goal was to facilitate discussions on where local governments are facing challenges and needs, what interest there is for youth in government programming, and what resources UW Extension can provide to Sheboygan County.

- Discussions at both meetings were held to better understand what the immediate needs are for local government officials in the county. The identified concerns, needs, and challenges will help guide what programming, resources, and materials the CDI educator will bring to Sheboygan County. An additional online survey was sent out on 6/24/2026, with the hopes of gathering additional input from those who may have not been able to attend or have additional thoughts after attendance. Some feedback from the meeting on potential future programming and resources include trainings for new and existing government officials, comprehensive plan update checklists, public meeting facilitation, and other resources to assist with planning and zoning related matters. UW Extension - Sheboygan County will publish a Community Needs Forum 2026 Report based on the findings from both the meeting and the follow up survey.

Positive 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

An educational day camp for youth, where participants learned about 4-H while engaging in hands-on STEM, nutrition, recreation, and creative arts activities. Through this program, youth strengthened collaboration, leadership, and interpersonal skills while discovering opportunities for continued learning and involvement.

- The SASD Recreational Department reached out to me to do programming for youth in the area of Cooper School. Students need things to do and learn during the summer months to keep them engaged and learning. To address the need for positive youth engagement opportunities during out-of-school time, I planned and facilitated an all-day youth camp that provided hands-on learning, social interaction, and skill-building experiences. Youth participated in a variety of activities, including LEGO challenges, team-building and connection activities, 4-H educational games, cooperative recreation, an obstacle course, watercolor painting, and a nutrition-focused cooking activity. Throughout the day, I engaged participants in experiences designed to build teamwork, communication, problem-solving, creativity, and confidence while introducing them to 4-H and opportunities for continued involvement in youth development programs. Evaluations were handed out at the closing of the program day. Youth described that making the Nutella Wraps were the highlight of the day. They loved doing the obstacle course and found that watercoloring was challenging.



"This was so much fun. I want to come to Cloverbud camp."

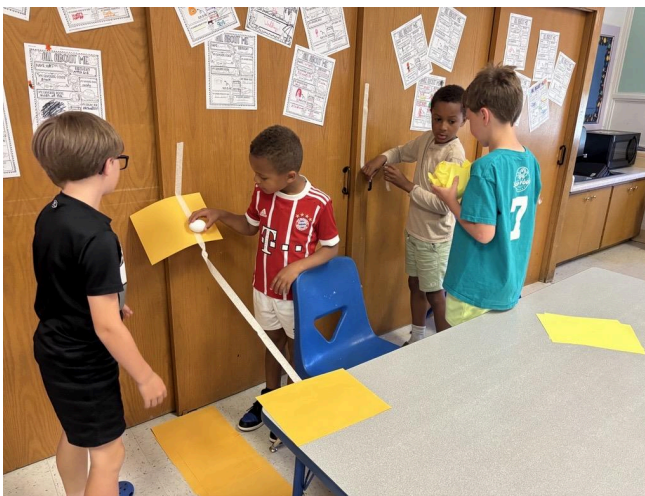
Preparation and planning for youth staff in grades 8-12 who will be counselors, leaders and role models for basecamp in the summer of 2026.

- Basecamp at Upham Woods is 4 days where youth run activities, plan events, and keep youth engaged at camp. Youth staff are given time to work collaboratively to make decisions and prepare for this event. 4-H Educators prepared for five in person training and planning sessions leading up to camp. Included in the sessions is

deciding camp themes, camper choice activities, campfires, and many other traditional programs that take part of camp. Also the 4-H educators go through policies, procedures, and emergency situations with the youth counselors and staff. This is an ongoing effort beginning in February and ending in July. Over the course of these five meetings, youth are gaining teamwork skills, building relationships, making decisions based on collaboration from the group as a whole.

An embryology program for fifth-grade students, where participants incubated eggs, followed the chick life cycle, and engaged in activities like candling and labeling egg structures. Through this effort, students strengthened their knowledge of biological systems and built foundational STEM skills through experiential learning.

- Youth are curious and interested in life cycles, this program offered an interactive and engaging way for youth to learn about a specific animal and watching it grow. The 4-H Chick Quest program has been an excellent curriculum to reach the needs of teaching youth about food, animal science and agriculture. It also provided an excellent opportunity to partner with a local youth organization. Youth learned about the incubation environment, care for incubating eggs, chick development stages, egg science (parts of the egg), the hatching process and baby chick needs. It also gave me the opportunity to talk about 4-H and what our program offers.



A sparks program for Middle School and High School students where students engaged in various activities throughout the school year to practice something new to them. Through this program, students will have greater implications on their intellectual, social, and emotional self.

- The guidance counselor reached out to me to engage the youth at the school in areas that they were not necessarily familiar with. 4-H was a program that was unfamiliar to all students. In this particular school, the rural students do not or cannot participate in after school activities. Sarah Feider, 4-H Program Educator, partnered with the Sheboygan Area School District to bring 4-H and experiential learning to a new audience. Students engaged in activities through centering youth in the community, building belonging, and learning together - 4-H Core Values.

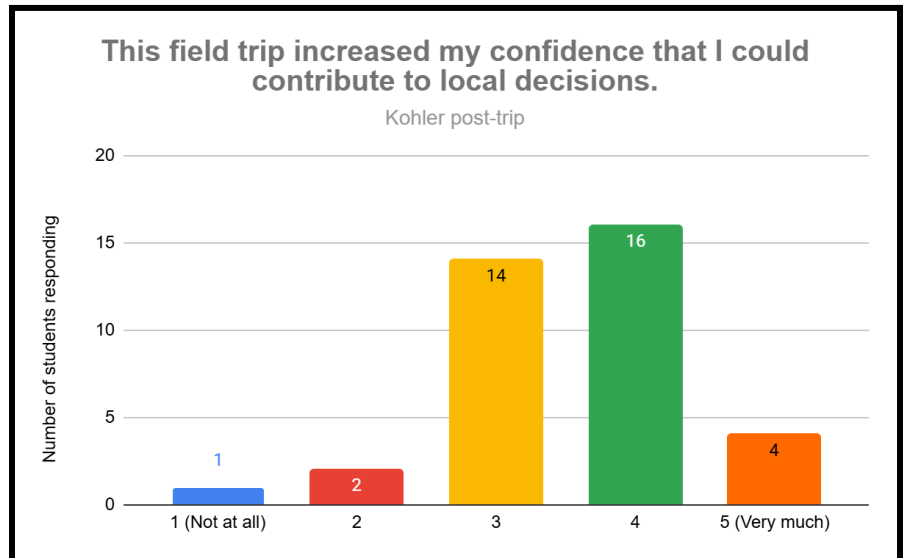


Positive Youth Development | *Diana Hammer, Youth Development Educator*

Students from three high schools participated in discussions and activities with county employees and elected officials to learn how county government works and affects them.

Sheboygan County requested Extension's PYD Educator help organize and lead a county youth government day that has been popular here in the past. Diana reached out to all area high schools about the opportunity, and three agreed to participate so their students could learn more about local government and careers.

Diana designed and delivered an introductory class ahead of time to Central High School's American Government class. She adapted and expanded the lesson for the three sections of Kohler High's Advanced Placement Government class since they meet for longer class periods. In both schools, she used a Monopoly game customized to Sheboygan County as a teaching tool.



29 students from South and Central High Schools visited in April. 46 students from Kohler High attended Sheboygan County Government Day in May. On both days, students heard presentations and participated in simulations hosted by the county administrator, deputy county administrator, county board vice-chair, sheriff, youth justice workers, circuit court judge, district attorney, planning director, county clerk, county register of deeds, human resources staff, medical examiner, and county treasurer. The American Legion provided lunch. Diana returned to Kohler classes after the visit to lead a reflection exercise.

Fifty-one students responded to a feedback survey. On a 1-5 scale, the average was 4 for:

- "I learned about potential job opportunities,"
- "I learned about a part of local government that affects me in my life today."
- "I learned about a part of local government that might affect me in the future."
- "This field trip increased my confidence that I could contribute to local decisions." (Kohler only)

The majority (44) stated their favorite activity of the day was the mock trial with Judge Sutkiewicz. The most common request for improvement was to make the sessions more interactive (13). Kohler students rated the pre-class activities with an average of 3 out of 5. Setting the stage for future educational activities, 19 students said "yes" and 24 said they "maybe" would be interested in more local government experiences like job shadowing, touring another municipality, or helping make a community decision (84%).

Value Added -*Sheboygan County Community members actively engage in UW -Madison Extension Regional and Statewide Program offerings. Highlights of these programs are shared in this section of the report.*

May 29, 2026 Artificial Intelligence (AI) Training for Northeast Wisconsin Public Health Agencies. Public Health officers from across Northeast Wisconsin learned about effective promoting techniques for using AI. (Location type: Geography Served) Total Reach: 40+ public health officers from county and municipal public health officers across Northeast Wisconsin.

- The Outagamie Public Health Department asked Extension to provide artificial intelligence training for public health officers across Northeast Wisconsin. The request was to tailor the training to effective public health prompting. Extension provided the requested artificial intelligence training on May 29, 2026. The training was provided virtually to more than 40 county and municipal public health officials and focused on effective prompting techniques tailored specifically for public health officers. Participants reported that Extension provided "excellent" training (based on a survey done at the close of the training) and that they felt far more comfortable effectively prompting AI following completion of the training session.

Healthcare in the Digital Age is a workshop for leaders in the Northeastern region of the state (elected officials, community and economic development, healthcare related fields) where participants explore the critical connection between broadband access and improved health outcomes—and how these advancements drive local economic growth. (Location type: Geography Served)

Jayna Hintz <i>Area Extension Director</i>	Sarah Feider <i>4-H Youth Educator</i>	Emily Lamb <i>Support Staff</i>
Manuel Peña <i>Regional Dairy Educator</i>	Diana Hammer <i>Positive Youth Development Educator</i>	Cassi Worster <i>Marketing Specialist</i>
Kirtis Orendorff <i>Community Development Educator</i>		

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