



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 corn silage dry-down event for dairy farmers and forage growers in the eastcentral region, where participants can submit corn silage samples for free to assess their dry matter content. This information helps them to determine the appropriate time to harvest their corn for silage maximizing forage quality. Farmers have only one chance to do it right every season, we want to support those decisions. (Manuel Pena)

- Dry matter (DM) data are important for determining the appropriate harvest timing for corn silage. Measuring whole-plant DM provides a more reliable indication of harvest readiness than using kernel milkline alone, since the relationship between kernel maturity and whole-plant moisture can vary among hybrids and growing conditions. Harvesting corn silage at the appropriate DM content for the storage structure helps support proper fermentation, minimize storage losses, and preserve the nutritive value of the crop. Corn harvested too wet can result in poor fermentation and nutrient losses through seepage, while overly dry silage can be more difficult to pack, increasing the risk of mold and other storage losses. Over three consecutive Wednesdays, from August 26 through September 9, we hosted a corn silage dry matter sampling event. Farmers had the opportunity to submit corn silage samples at no charge and receive DM results to help evaluate crop maturity and harvest timing. Providing timely DM information can help farmers make more informed harvest decisions based on actual whole-plant moisture conditions. These decisions can contribute to better preservation of nutrients and forage quality during storage and provide more consistent information for subsequent dairy diet formulation.



Community Development



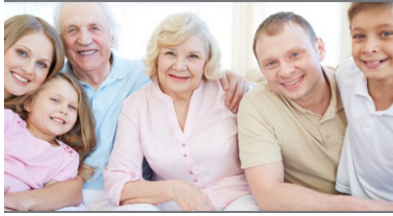
Community Development provides educational programming to assist leaders, communities, and organizations realize their fullest potential. We work with communities to build the vitality that enhances their quality of life and enriches the lives of their residents. We educate in leadership development, 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

This has been an ongoing effort to better understand the current state of educational materials, land use ordinance, and relevant state case law surrounding the emerging land use of data centers. The findings of these efforts will help better prepare local government officials to update their land use ordinances with the best understanding of the impacts of these data center developments. (Kirtis Orendorff)

- Officials from multiple municipalities in Sheboygan County have expressed educational needs regarding the new and emerging land use of data centers, especially in response to current developments in Port Washington and Beaver Dam. This educational need regarding land uses is concurrent with efforts to distribute materials regarding large scale solar developments. Officials are seeking education regarding regulatory powers regarding data center land uses, impacts on the community, and environmental and infrastructure concerns. Researching the land use requires multiple steps of inquiry. First, we needed to understand what concerns there were from community members. We also needed an understanding of what municipalities have in their zoning ordinances to address this land use at present. Then we began speaking to other educators and urban planning contacts to understand the current state of educational materials and efforts. We then compiled examples of other municipalities' efforts regarding land use ordinance updates. Karl Green, Community Development Specialist with UW-Extension, will be bringing a presentation regarding data center land use and community impacts to the December Wisconsin Towns Association meeting. Continuing efforts will be made to distribute materials to relevant municipal officials regarding ordinance updates and impacts will follow this presentation to municipalities in Sheboygan County.

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.

Jace Purdy, Human Development & Relationship Educator

Meeting with community collaborators. The goal is to see how we can work together to better serve our target audiences.

- Starting a new role, in a new community, requires a lot of face to face meetings with the existing organizations that are serving the target audiences my role will also be serving. These introductory meetings take plenty of communication and footwork. So far communications have been ongoing in order to meet potential collaborators and have face to face meetings. At this point we continue to communicate, set up meeting times and places, and talk about how to best support each other.

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

A six-hour day camp for 18 youth in grades K–7, where participants built teamwork and communication skills through team-building activities, 4-H Bingo, art, LEGO sink-and-float challenges, S'mores, puppet and air-dry clay creations, and hands-on exploration of what 4-H has to offer. Through these experiences, youth developed new skills, connected with peers, and were introduced to the wide variety of opportunities available through 4-H.

- The program was developed in response to an ongoing partnership with the local library, which had invited 4-H to provide programming for youth for two consecutive years and expressed interest in continuing the partnership the following year. This created an opportunity to provide engaging, hands-on activities while increasing youth awareness of 4-H programs and the learning, leadership, and social opportunities available to them. I responded by collaborating with the library to provide a six-hour, hands-on 4-H day camp for 18 youth in grades K–7. Activities included team building and teamwork challenges, 4-H Bingo, art, LEGO sink-and-float challenges, S'mores, puppet and air-dry clay creations, and an introduction to the opportunities available through 4-H. This approach allowed youth to experience a variety of fun, educational activities while building connections with 4-H and learning about future opportunities to participate. The program supported the broader community by giving youth opportunities to build teamwork, communication, creativity, problem-solving, and social skills in a welcoming environment. By introducing youth and families to 4-H through the library partnership, the program helped increase awareness of local youth development opportunities and strengthened community connections between 4-H and the library. These experiences can help youth develop confidence, positive relationships, and skills that contribute to their success in school, their communities, and future leadership roles.

Positive Youth Development | Diana Hammer, Youth Development Educator

Life Skills Launchpad is a program designed to prepare young people for managing their finances and making big life decisions such as buying a vehicle, finding work, paying for education, navigating housing and paying their bills.

Young people in Wisconsin are facing increasingly complex financial decisions at an earlier age, yet many lack the knowledge and confidence needed to successfully navigate these choices. From selecting a financial institution and managing credit to understanding the costs of postsecondary education, transportation, housing, and everyday living expenses, youth are expected to make decisions that can have long-term impacts on their financial well-being and future opportunities. At the same time, employers, educators, and communities recognize the importance of equipping young people with practical life and money management skills that support successful transitions into adulthood.

To address these needs, Diana led a five-day series in Sheboygan County Juvenile Detention on August 24-28. **12 youth in grades 8-11** participated in lessons on buying a vehicle, career skills assessment (Holland's Code), career exploration, renting an apartment, and understanding money personalities. Diana set the tone for the class using inclusive group



processes to build trust, safety, and mutual respect. Additionally, state 4-H STEM Specialist Joanna Skluzacek led activities for social-emotional learning using Lego blocks.

Highlights from the **participant program evaluation** include:

- 7 felt it's important to be passionate about the work they do.
- 8 felt this program helped them explore future career options.
- 8 felt encouraged to plan for the future.
- 8 felt that adults in the program cared about them.
- 8 felt safe in the program.
- 8 felt liked by others in the program.
- 6 felt the program helped them explore future career options.

But **in their own words**, participants shared these take aways:

- Be careful who you rent from and the more expensive houses aren't better.
- Don't just look at one job or house. Look at more than one.
- It's a lot more to housing than face front
- What jobs would I like: Welding and mechanics
- house/rent: smaller houses are smart because of your budget
- look at rent and ask to get an estimate & price
- I learned I'm a stockpiler. I like to save my money and not spend.
- I learned my strengths and what I like to do

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.*

Natural Resources

An on-site, multi-day and overnight, face-to-face experience for youth participants from an organized group (school, 4-H club, scout, church, or other organization). The purpose of the activity is to build skills and competencies in teamwork & communication, knowledge of Upham Woods ecological resources, enhance participants' connections and relationships with nature, increase inspiration to learn and explore outside, improve use of critical thinking skills to engage with science and the environment, and increase scientific and environmental literacy. (Location type: Geography Served) Total Reach: A total of 1,704 youth and 477 adults from 41 groups

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Manuel Peña <i>Regional Dairy Educator</i>	Diana Hammer <i>Positive Youth Development Educator</i>	Cassi Worster <i>Marketing Specialist</i>
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