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*

An educational station for youth and other agricultural agents, where attendees learned about the general programming of Extension but also about the Mooving Cows app, that supports the active training of cow handlers at dairy farms developed by Dr. Jennifer Van Os at UW Madison. They also learned about our Bilingual newsletter "BoviNoticias", the intention is not only to promote its use but also to maintain communication/feedback with the users of it to provide the information they need to overcome their challenges.

- I was invited to attend the National 4-H Dairy Conference at the Crave Brothers Farm, which is located in the region I serve, and hosted participants from all around the country. The goal was to promote Extension's programing and contribute to build a sense of community in agriculture in Wisconsin and America. The event provided an opportunity to connect directly with 4-H youth, dairy industry partners, and adult participants from across the region. We set up an educational station with information and games to engage with participants and create meaningful interactions with 4-H youth, dairy industry partners, and adult attendees. Throughout the event, I shared information about Extension programs and resources, answered questions, and facilitated conversations about agriculture and youth development opportunities. By engaging participants from across Wisconsin and the United States, I helped promote Extension programming, strengthen relationships with industry stakeholders, and contribute to a welcoming environment that fostered a sense of community within agriculture. The event also provided an opportunity to increase awareness of local Extension efforts and build connections that may support future educational and outreach initiatives.A bilingual (English and Spanish) newsletter, Bovi-noticias, for dairy farm owners, managers, employees, and industry partners, where readers gain practical, research-based information that explains the reasons behind key farm management practices and supports everyday decision-making. Through this effort, dairy operations are better equipped to strengthen workforce engagement, improve communication and safety, enhance animal well-being, and support long-term farm sustainability and profitability.

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

Alongside efforts to prepare data center educational materials for local governments, additional support has been provided to officials addressing day to day questions regarding land use and zoning topics. While the upcoming election has taken priority in recent weeks, this time can be used to prepare for upcoming events and discussion topics.

- Multiple municipalities in Sheboygan County are preparing ordinance updates regarding solar land uses, in order to bring their ordinances in compliance with recent state statute updates. To assist, Kirtis has been attending public hearings in Rhine and Lynden to provide technical insight and support when questions arise, as well as preparing and distributing any additional information relevant to a given meeting. In addition, Kirtis has been helping with specific questions as they arise in the county. These questions are typically regarding rezonings, subdivisions, and other planning and zoning related issues outside of the comprehensive planning process. One such example included assisting with the Conditional Use Permit process for a landowner interested in constructing a private airstrip on their property. Kirtis provided rationale, important considerations, and other municipality's ordinance as examples to the town of Holland. The clerk that Kirtis contacted expressed their thanks, writing via email "Thank you Kirtis! I truly appreciate the help and plan to save this information for future reference."

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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.

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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 four-week hands-on Chick Quest program for three groups of 21 youth in 3rd grade, where participants incubated and observed chicks while learning about the chick and egg life cycles, identifying the parts of a chick and egg, and designing engineering solutions through egg-drop challenges. Through this experience, youth developed science, problem-solving, and observation skills while gaining a deeper understanding of animal development and agriculture.

- Youth have never incubated chicks or learned about their life cycle. This was an opportunity to allow youth to gain insightful information about chicks and watch them grow and change in real time. 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.

"Yay, The chick lady is back!" - *Commented one student during the second week of Chick Quest.*

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

Planning a kickoff event for an eventual Youth Leadership Team in collaboration with Sheboygan County Youth Justice. The goal is to engage justice-impacted young people in a club that they shape and have ownership of in order to grow their leadership skills and potentially inform YJ procedures.

Young people who have been involved with the legal system are rarely asked for their opinion on how the system works or for recommendations on how it could be improved. Sheboygan County's Youth Justice Office has received state funding to engage current and former clients in a Youth Leadership Team and has asked Extension to help with group design and facilitation. Hammer and YJ colleague Jessica Bitter promoted a fun gathering this summer as a potential YLT kick-off, but no youth RSVP'd for this. Changing strategies, they decided to pick a topic to start from and try again. Research shows that people involved in the legal system have many characteristics suitable for business ownership, so Hammer suggested introducing the group to area business owners. In a meeting with Whitney Viglietti, Bitter & Hammer discussed the goals and made a plan to host the first meeting at the Viglietti's businesses. Students will get a tour, eat a delicious meal, meet people they might work with someday, and learn about navigating through failures and successes. So far, 8 students have RSVP'd for the gathering on 10/29/26.

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.*

Patrick Nehring, UW Extension Community Development Professor,

- Facilitated conversations with nonprofit leaders in Northeast Wisconsin, where participants learned ways to move beyond disconnected fundraising activities to build an intentional, relationship-based program to carry out the organization's mission.

UW Extension Health and Well Being Institute

- Over the past year, Covering Wisconsin has informed and engaged with 12 regional- and population-focused coalitions in which Wisconsin professionals interested or directly involved in health insurance enrollment gather to discuss changes to health coverage policy, share outreach and educational strategies, receive free professional trainings, and offer ideas for relevant consumer resource messaging and design. Through our efforts, a total of 64 coalition meetings were held, attracting 1,186 attendees, to focus on the health coverage issues affecting Wisconsin residents, especially immigrants, Spanish-speaking residents, Hmong residents, and those located in Central, East Central, Milwaukee, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest, and Western regions. (Location type: Geography Served) Total Reach: 1,186 people attended 64 enrollment network meetings over the past year and 2,615 people were reached through the enrollment network email listserves
- Health insurance Navigator assistance for anyone in Wisconsin, where a total of 74,147 coverage services were provided directly to increase enrollment, retention, and appropriate use of benefits. Through this effort, our Navigators assisted 13,360 consumers with qualified health plan enrollments through the federal Health Insurance Marketplace and applications to Medicaid, supporting access to health care and improved health outcomes. (Location type: Geography Served) Total Reach: Statewide: - 74,147 coverage assistance services provided - 8,335 individuals assisted with Marketplace qualified health plan selection - 5,025 individuals assisted with Medicaid - 9,206 consumers educated in health insurance literacy

Jayna Hintz *Area Extension Director*	Sarah Feider *4-H Youth Educator*	Brandi Cha *Support Staff*
Manuel Peña *Regional Dairy Educator*	Diana Hammer *Positive Youth Development Educator*	Cassi Worster *Marketing Specialist*
Kirtis Orendorff *Community Development Educator*	Jace Purdy *Human Development and Relationships Educator*	

The University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.