



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
WASHINGTON COUNTY

OCTOBER 2022 REPORT

We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities. Serving Washington County since 1918, Extension educators take pride in delivering programs which apply the research, knowledge, and resources of the University of Wisconsin to meet the issues and needs of Washington County.

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

Tina Kohlman, Regional Dairy Agent

- A popular press article written for Wisconsin State Farmer readers, where they learned how to prepare for transporting pre-weaned calves long distances. This effort is designed to show industry and university research-based best management practices to maintain and/or improve the growth, wellbeing, and welfare of a pre-weaned calf while being transported to an off-farm rearing facility.
- Planning for a bilingual dairy workers newsletter for on-farm dairy employees in collaboration with Language Access and Office of Access, Inclusion, and Compliance. The goal of this effort is provide a dairy resource to an underserved audience in order for them to gain new knowledge and best management practices to incorporate on the farm to help maintain and grow economic viability.
- Planning for bi-annual Midwest Manure Summit for farmers, managers, agronomists, engineers, nutrient management consultants, manure haulers, consultants, and other agri-business professionals. The goal of this effort is to teach individuals the latest, unbiased, university-based research on manure handling technologies, so that they can improve environmental sustainability and increase farm business viability.

Crops and Soils

Mike Ballweg, Regional Crops and Soils Agent

- A series of recent webinars (Badger Crop Connect) for farmers, agronomists and agriculture professionals, where they learned about: Tips on Making Great Corn Silage, Building Soil Health with Cover Crops, Hybrid Rye Forage Yields and Quality and lastly, Alfalfa Fall Management. The webinar series provides information and research findings allowing farmers and industry professionals to implement new practices that improve soil health, protect our natural resources and well as improve the profitability of farms across the state.



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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.*

Carol Bralich, Human Development & Relationship Educator

Planning AHEAD is a series of 7 program sessions for adults of all ages. Participants learn about end-of-life decision-making tasks including health care wishes, financial responsibilities, legal requirements and documentation, distribution of personal property, end-of-life care options, and dealing with grief. The program's goal is to reduce the stress experienced by survivors and to ensure that their wishes are honored. Over the past 2 years, Carol worked with a state Extension team to pilot, provide feedback and revise the Planning AHEAD curriculum.

An in-person Planning AHEAD weekly evening series was co-facilitated by Carol Bralich and Jennifer Fechter, ADRC Elder Benefits Specialist, at the West Bend Memorial Library. Over 21 attendees participated with 110 contacts. Each attendee received the step-by-step workbook with resources to reinforce and apply the content to their personal situation. Because of this series, 100% of the participants stated they learned enough to move forward with planning. Of those who completed the post-course evaluation survey (n = 13), over 90 percent strongly agreed or agreed that they have greater knowledge of advance medical and legal directives, estate planning, choices in end-of-life care and handling financial changes. Over 90 percent of the respondents said that they felt more confident in having conversations with loved ones related to end-of-life wishes and knowing where to find reliable resources for more information on end-of-life planning. A majority of respondents indicated that in the next three months they will update their end-of-life planning forms, encourage someone else to do end-of-life planning, make end-of-life wishes known and set up advance directives. Comments regarding the series included: informative, mind stretching, and helpful. One participant stated: "Both instructors were helpful...I may take this class again."

- A social marketing campaign, where adults receive reminders to check their credit reports so they can spot errors and potential incidents of fraud and identity theft, get reminded of outstanding debts, and identify steps to improve their credit, through this, participants can take action to correct mistakes in their reports and create plans to pay off their debts.
- An online self-study program, where participants learned about spending plans, credit, and paying bills on time. This effort is designed to improve the success of participants in maintaining timely payments so they have transportation to access employment and improve their credit score.

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).

Pamela Bartoli, FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator

- A series of six nutrition educational lessons (Color Me Healthy) for Pre-K students in the West Bend School District Head Start program where they learn about the importance of eating fruits and vegetables along with being physically active. The goal of the series was to encourage children to build healthy habits and try new foods.

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.

Positive Youth Development

Ron Jakubisin, Positive Youth Development Educator

- A series of meetings with Germantown's Youth Futures Youth Committee where students learn leadership skills in order to design, plan and deliver prevention activities to their middle and high school peers.
- A monthly board meeting ("Germantown Youth Futures") for Germantown key stakeholders where we collaboratively plan year-round positive youth activities that promote positive peer norms, AOD prevention messaging, and adult/youth connections.
- A series of classroom presentations to fourth grade youth, in collaboration with West Bend School Social Workers, where students will learn about problem-solving strategies, focusing on team problem solving, consensus building, experiential team-work and team reflection. The purpose of this effort is improve social emotional learning and provide opportunities to learn more about 4H and other programs.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Community Development provides educational programming to assist leaders, communities, and organizations realize their full potential. We work with communities to build the vitality that enhances their quality of life and enriches the lives of their residents. In short, the Community Development Institute plants and cultivates the seeds for thriving communities and organizations.

Paul Roback, Community Development Educator

A member of the West Bend Community Foundation (WBCF) board contacted Paul to assist with the planning and implementation of a Hartford Workforce Recruitment and Retention Summit. Paul has previously assisted the WBCF with similar community conversations. At the summit, representatives from business, local government, education, and nonprofit sectors discussed workforce recruitment and retention issues and identified strategies for the community to support employers' workforce challenges.

For this summit, Paul trained table facilitators, facilitated large-group conversation sharing during the event, compiled event notes, evaluated the event, and developed a report summarizing key concepts from the participant table conversations.

From evaluation (N=32), 100% agreed that they increased their awareness of the demographics and statistics impacting Hartford's employers, 94% agreed that their table conversation identified current strategies local organizations have put into place to address the challenges discussed at the event, 94% agreed that their table conversation identified priorities the community needs to move forward with to address the challenges discussed, and 100% rated the overall event as good or excellent. One participant commented that the event was "Very worthwhile. Felt like a 'community' coming together to address a very real challenge we all face." Another commented "Thoroughly enjoyed. Great ideas to work with."

Mike Ballweg
Regional Crops and Soils Agent

Tina Kohlman
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Ron Jakubisin
Positive Youth Development Educator

Paul Roback
Community Development Educator

Carol Bralich
Human Development & Relationships Educator

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