



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
WASHINGTON COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2023 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.

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

- A series of e-mail communications for community partners where they learn about parenting, relationships, family caregiving, finances and well-being so that they can share the latest resources with their clients. The purpose of this effort is to improve parenting skills, support their family caregiving role and improve their financial skills and their personal well-being.
- A 7-session course that helps adults of all ages to make end-of-life financial, healthcare, and final wishes decisions in order to reduce the stress experienced by survivors and to ensure that their wishes are honored.
- 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.
- Planning for early learning professional development, with Registry credit, for child care providers. The goal of the conference is to help early childhood professionals understand and address challenging child behaviors so they can better communicate with the parents and support the children in their care.



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

- Six of a multi-dairy heifer factsheet series for dairy farmers, managers, employees, calf raisers, nutritionists, veterinarians, and other allied industry members where they learned the “why” and “how” of several best management practices including colostrum management, dehydration/fluid therapy, bedding comfort, biosecurity, and monitoring youngstock for disease. This effort is designed for individuals to improve animal husbandry and welfare practices for improved farm business viability, environmental sustainability, and food safety.
- A dairy quality assurance training for youth exhibitors, where they learned about the quality care of animals through animal well-being, food safety, and life skills to help individuals understand their role in food animal production to improve business viability, environmental sustainability, and food safety.
- Planning for a program for women in agriculture (VITAL - Valuably Informed Thriving Agricultural Leader) in Northeastern WI. The goal of this effort is to teach individuals the latest, unbiased, university-based research on transition cow health, farm diversification, and farm economics so that they can improve farm efficiencies and increase farm business viability.
- A research project to serve as a case study & pilot project, surveying the impact of copper sulfate footbath materials application via manure on soil and alfalfa copper concentrations and alfalfa quality and productivity on eastern Wisconsin dairy farms. Results from this study will help dairy farmers understand how to better manage copper sulfate footbaths, resulting in healthier levels of copper in soil, forages, and livestock.
- Development and planning for in-person CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operations) Update Meeting series for WPDES (WI Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permitted farms, crop and dairy managers, agriculture engineers, crop consultants, agronomists, professional and on-farm nutrient applicators, government agency personnel, and other interested individuals in collaboration with WI DNR (Department of Natural Resources). The goal of this effort is to discuss and teach individuals to protect ground and surface water and dairy farm sustainability through dairy management and feeding efficiency; manure storing and handling; and nutrient management utilizing the latest research and regulatory updates to improve farm business viability and environmental sustainability.



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.

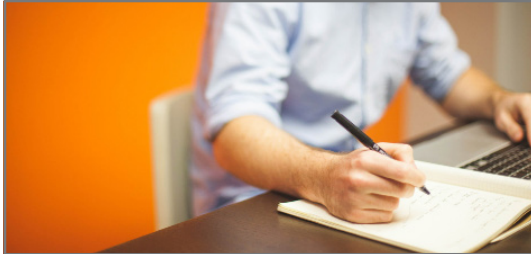
Positive Youth Development

Ron Jakubisin, 4-H Program Educator

- Ron Jakubisin, started as the new full-time 4-H Educator for Washington County. He previously served in the role of Positive Youth Development Educator in a shared position between Washington and Fond du Lac Counties.
- Ron has engaged in a series of orientation meetings with key Washington County 4-H volunteers, specifically with the Leaders Association President, volunteer Summer Camp planning committee in order to acclimate to the most pressing 4-H activities at hand.
- Ron has attended several on-boarding meetings with the Area 15 Director, Regional Program Manager (4-H) and attended the Eastern Regional 4-H Educators Meeting to become oriented to 4-H policy for clubs, projects, and volunteers. Ron has scheduled several appointments in February to visit clubs and projects as a way of introduction and meeting 4-H project volunteers.



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

The Executive Director of the LOVE>hate Project, a local nonprofit, contact Paul requesting resources to strengthen the organization’s board. The organization’s mission is “ENDING male on female violence. Inspiring LOVE over hate.” Because of this contact, Paul taught a 1.5-hour workshop to seven board and staff members. Content included an overview of the non-profit sector in Wisconsin, board member roles and responsibilities, and tools for high functioning boards. Additionally, Paul facilitated a process that allowed participants to reflect on what they learned and identify next steps of implementing strategies to strengthen board operations.

Through evaluation (N=6), 100% of participants agreed they gained knowledge on the nonprofit sector, 100% agreed that they gained knowledge on board roles and responsibilities, and 100% gained knowledge on tools to use for high functioning boards. Participants evaluated Paul’s facilitation as a 4.7 on a 5-point Likert Scale (1=poor and 5=excellent). One participant commented, “Cannot say enough. EXACTLY what we needed! Clear. Concise. Well organized. Well presented. Useful information. Great listening by facilitator and leadership.” Through discussion, participants developed a timeline to update board governance documents and a strategy to recruit additional board members.

Tina Kohlman
Regional Dairy Agent

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4-H Program Educator

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