



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
WASHINGTON COUNTY

JUNE 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

Extension Human Development & Relationships educator, Carol Bralich, was invited to participate in the third annual Community Connections Resource Market for WIC participants in Washington County. The first stop at the outdoor drive through event for participants was to receive Farmer's Market vouchers, through the health department, to encourage healthy eating of locally grown produce. Extension provided financial and parenting educational resources, future Extension program information and free Money As You Grow children's books with a parent guide for the children to encourage saving early and money conversations at home.

One hundred and twenty three families attended the event, impacting a total of 319 children ranging in age from 0 - 18 years old. The purpose of the event is to foster trust with families in the county communities and bridge the gap in accessing resources.

- Planning meeting to restart a countywide child care director network by collaboratively creating a needs assessment survey to be distributed to all providers. Child care providers will have an opportunity to interact and learn with their peers.



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 Educator

- An alfalfa quality project for dairy farmers, crop managers, nutritionists, agronomists, and other agribusiness professionals. This effort is designed to teach individuals how to determine the optimal time to harvest first-crop alfalfa haylage based on quality criteria (Relative Feed Value), and not date, to improve farm business vitality and environmental sustainability.
- Planning and development of a carbon conference for dairy owners and managers, consultants, engineers, and agribusiness professionals in collaboration with Iowa State University Extension, University of Minnesota Extension, and University of Illinois Extension. The goal of this effort is to teach individuals best management practices to reduce or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and how to enter, navigate, and discuss carbon markets to address dairy production management, thus improving farm business management viability and environmental sustainability.

Crops

Liz Gartman, Regional Crops Educator

- Welcome Liz! Liz Gartman is our new Regional Crops Educator for Sheboygan, Fond du Lac, Washington & Ozaukee counties. Liz spent the early part of her career as a livestock feed specialist for a local co-op, was most recently an Agriculture Instructor at Lakeshore Technical College, and spent most of her life living and working on a farm. In her spare time, she coaches livestock and dairy quiz bowl/skillathon, raises beef and dairy cattle with her family, and spends her summers showing cattle around the state.
- As a new regional crops educator it is necessary to determine the needs of the agricultural community related to crops programming. To best understand the needs of the growers, community groups and agribusiness professionals in the region, the crops educator will meet with these potential partners to determine gaps in programming and specific educational strategies necessary to properly serve the region. As of June 20, 2023, the educator has met with the director of the Clean Farm Families watershed group, Sheboygan River Progressive Farmers board members, financial officers from Compeer Financial and an editor for Hay and Forage magazine, while also making connections with other UW Madison-Extension educators and support personnel. The educator is asking questions and recording the responses to generate a needs assessment which will provide guidance into programming plans. Further, the educator has provided support to local growers as needed by leveraging UW- Madison Extension professionals. This outreach will continue over the next 6 months to develop relationships with potential partners to establish an Extension presence in the crops programming area in this region.





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

- Ongoing guidance to Washington County 4-H Leaders Association Board of Directors to increase efficiency in conducting Board Meetings through Board development exercises and reviewing by-laws for recommended changes to streamline understanding and implementation.
- Guidance and support for volunteers within the 4-H Horse and Pony Project as they engage in the Charter process to obtain Club status as outlined in the policies and procedures of WI 4-H. Through this work, volunteers become informed of submission process of Charter application as well as review and updating of by-laws, handbook, etc. in order to achieve Club status by meeting the qualification for a quality WI 4-H Club.
- Collaborative summer camp planning and training sessions for adult volunteers and high school camp counselors to engage in team-building activities learned about the essential learning elements, and develop camp activities in order to be prepared to hold our June 2022 4-H Summer Camp successfully.

Community Youth Development

Kelly Dione, Community Youth Development Educator

Welcome Kelly! Kelly Dione is the Community Youth Development Educator at the University of Wisconsin-Division of Extension in Washington and Fond du Lac Counties. She works to design, deliver, and evaluate research-based educational programming and services aligned with the focus of Civic Engagement

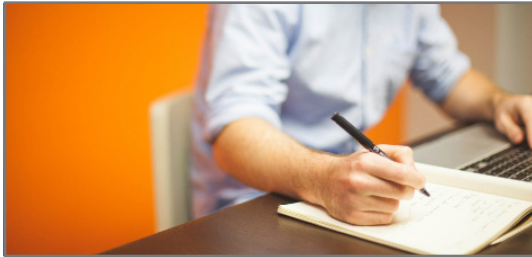
Kelly has a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise and Sport Science Teaching from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and a Master of Arts degree in Public Service and Nonprofit Management from Marquette University.

Prior to joining Extension, Kelly worked over 10 years at Marquette University in partnership with United Community Center as the Youth Empowerment Program Coordinator (YES) and Pre-College Advisor working with under-served communities on the south-side of Milwaukee. Her areas of expertise include youth-led program development, conflict resolution, and sustaining youth and family engagement by way of 1:1 advising, outdoor recreation and team building activities, wellness workshops, and retreats.





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 representative from the Washington Ozaukee Public Health Department contacted Paul to facilitate a process to develop vision and mission statements for a group of community stakeholders interested in addressing mental health wellbeing. Prior to an in-person meeting, Paul developed and distributed an electric survey to gather initial thoughts on a vision and mission for the group. The survey was sent to 67 community stakeholders and received 21 responses. Themes from the survey data led to the development of draft statements. During an in-person meeting attended by eight coalition members, Paul facilitated a conversation on the survey results and draft statements. As a result, statements were finalized and were brought forward to the next full coalition meeting for adoption.

Through evaluation (N=8), 88% of participants agreed that creating a vision statement assisted them in understanding the general direction for their organization’s future and 88% agreed that creating a mission statement helped clarify their role as an organization. One participant commented on Paul’s facilitation, “I think all thoughts were openly accepted and received, and you allowed the organization’s perspective to shine through the mission and vision.” Another commented, “Paul always does a great job of getting to the heart of the matter. Real asset to both the non-profits and coalition work.”

Tina Kohlman
Regional Dairy Educator

Liz Gartman
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Ron Jakubisin
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Kelly Dion
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Carol Bralich
Human Development & Relationships Educator

Cindy Sarkady
Area Extension Director

Karen Girard
Megan Zimmerman
Support Staff

Cassi Worster
Area Marketing Specialist