



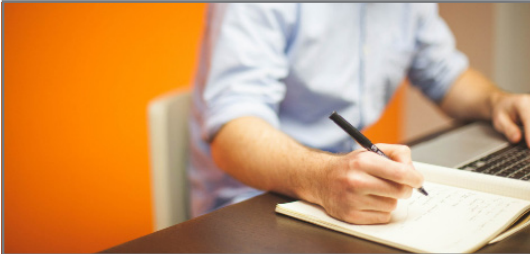
Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
WASHINGTON COUNTY

MAY 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.

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

Since 2021, Paul has been part of a county team that has developed an annual process that allows representatives from the Agriculture (AG) Community to share their perspectives on the current state of agriculture in Washington County with the County Executive. These sessions help inform county operations and policies. In 2023, Paul presented the themes identified from the previous year and facilitated a large group discussion of session participants. After the session, Paul authored a report that included session notes, themes identified by participants, and evaluation results.

There were about 30 participants at the session and evaluations (N=19) indicated that 100% agreed that the session allowed them the opportunity to share their thoughts on the AG Community and 95% agreed that as a result of attending the session, the County demonstrated an interest in supporting the AG Community. Overall, participants rated the session a 4.5 on a 5-point Likert Scale (1=poor and 5=excellent). One participant commented "It was worthwhile. It's the one time a year that farmers get to voice their opinion and people listen." Another commented that the event had "Well managed discussion. Everyone given equal opportunity to share."



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

- An in-person meeting for agriculture financial professionals, service providers, and agency personnel, where they learned on-farm extension agriculture research impacts, business development and entrepreneurship, cropping budgets, grain markets and risk management opportunities, fitness for transport of pre-weaned calves and market cows, and dairy industry outlook and indicators to assist clientele in improving farm business viability, environmental sustainability, and food safety.
- A dairy production and management newsletter for farmers, managers, employees, and agribusiness professionals where they learned estimating custom rates for field work and footbath management to improve farm business vitality, environmental sustainability, and food safety.
- A presentation for farmers and agri-business professionals, where they learned the importance of fitness for transport of pre-weaned calves and market cows, and best management practices to reduce stress and improve animal welfare and husbandry on these animals during transport. This effort is designed to improve business vitality and food safety.



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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 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.
- A child care summit meeting for child care directors, convened to discuss current challenges in the child care industry, including the retention of teachers and staff. The goal is to improve the retention of staff because that impacts the availability of spaces for families with young children in child care and therefore affects parents' ability to work outside of the home.
- 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.
- 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.



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

- 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.
- Monthly club visits to different 4-H clubs/projects that strengthen the relationship between 4-H Educator and Club/Project volunteers and youth in order to sustain and grow Wash. Co. 4-H clubs/projects within the mission, policies and guidelines of Wisconsin 4-H. (Ron Jakubisin)
- 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.

Tina Kohlman
Regional Dairy Educator

Liz Gartman
Regional Crops and Soils Educator

Ron Jakubisin
4-H Program Educator

Paul Roback
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