



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
WASHINGTON COUNTY

AUGUST 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 Money Smart Wisconsin meeting for financial institutions, community agencies, and libraries, convened to plan financial activities and events for the 2024 financial awareness campaign. The goal is to improve the financial capability of community members.
- Countywide child care director network meeting to provide an opportunity for directors and administrators to learn from other child care center directors, discuss child care industry challenges, and provide input for future network meetings and professional development.
- 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.
- 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

- Planning fall 2023 calendar events which teach leadership skills to youth officers and general club leaders (adults) in order to effectively run club meetings, educational activities and social activities after fall enrollment.
- Monthly radio interview on WIBD Radio (West Bend WI) that highlights a 4-H Youth and/or adult volunteer focusing on skills and confidence gained through participation in 4-H Clubs, projects and/or travel experiences
- 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 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.
- 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.

Community Youth Development

Kelly Dione, Community Youth Development Educator

- A series of interviews using a community needs assessment tool where a collection of data from one-on-one meetings with local youth serving organizations and youth focus groups will be conducted, data organized, and analyzed.
- A series of meetings with UW-Madison - Extension Colleagues as well as observing programming to better understand the role of the CYD educator and develop strategies for potential collaborations within Extension.
- Developing a needs assessment where a collection of data from one on one meetings with local youth serving organizations and youth focus groups will be conducted, data organized, and analyzed. This effort is designed as the foundation of the programming needs of the communities.



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

- Currently soliciting Washington County dairy farms for an on-farm dairy research field trial in collaboration with UW-Madison Department of Animal & Dairy Science where educators helped connect research to producers to evaluate the relationship between increased circulating cortisol with milk yield, health problems, reproductive performance, and culling rates. Results from this study will help dairy farmers, managers, employees, researchers, and agribusiness professionals understand the effect of elevated cortisol levels to predict stress factors and sources of stress on dairy farms allowing rational development of new management, nutritional, or therapeutic approaches to decrease stress and improve health, productivity, and reproduction of lactating dairy cows.

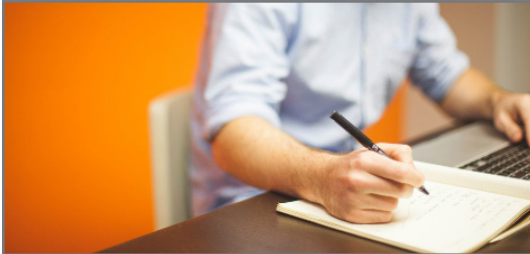
Crops

Liz Gartman, Regional Crops Educator

- As a new regional crops educator in Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Washington, and Fond du Lac counties, 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 August 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, county Land & Water groups, producer, agronomists 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.



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 board of the West Bend Community & Alumni Scholarship Foundation, a local nonprofit, contacted Paul to facilitate a process that would create a strategic plan for the organization. Paul met with board leadership to learn about the organization and the objectives that they would like to achieve from a planning process. To achieve their objectives, Paul first engaged the organization’s membership with an online survey to solicit feedback on the development of a mission and vision statements for the organization. Then, Paul facilitated two strategic planning sessions attended by 14 board members. The planning process included creating mission and vision statements, identifying and prioritizing goals, and developing actions steps to ensure their success.

From evaluation (N=10), 100% of participants agreed that creating a mission statement helped clarify their role as an organization and 90% agreed that creating a vision statement assisted them in understanding the general direction for their organization’s future. 100% of participants agreed that identifying and prioritizing goals increased their ability to identify issues and set priorities and creating action plans increased their ability to identify their next steps for future implementation. Additionally, 90% agreed that discussing action plans increased their ability to identify their next steps for future implementation. Participants evaluated Paul’s facilitation as a 4.9 on a 5-point Likert Scale (1=poor and 5=excellent). One participant commented that “We now have our work cut out for us, but we have a plan and renewed energy! Thank you!”

Tina Kohlman
Regional Dairy Educator

Liz Gartman
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Ron Jakubisin
4-H Program Educator

Kelly Dione
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