



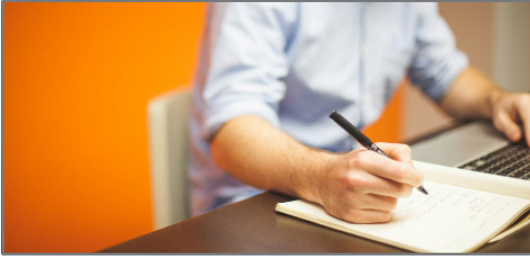
Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
WASHINGTON COUNTY

OCTOBER 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 2014, Paul and Human Development and Relationships Educator Carol Bralich have facilitated Real Colors workshops in response to organizations and local governments expressing a need for staff development in effective communication and team building. These goals align with the outcomes for Real Colors, which is an interactive three-hour workshop that teaches skills to understand human behavior and improve communication with others.

Carol and Paul taught a workshop for 18 participants from four Washington County nonprofit organizations. End of session evaluations (N=18) indicated that 100% of participants increased their ability to recognize their strengths and 100% increased their ability to recognize the strengths of others. Additionally, 100% increased their ability to build rapport quickly with others, 100% increased their ability to understand how others process information, and 94% increased their ability to modify their communication to connect with others. Overall, participants evaluated Carol and Paul's facilitation of the workshop as a 4.9 on a 5-point Likert Scale (1=poor and 5=excellent). Commenting on how they will use what they learned from the workshop, one participant stated that they will "try to recognize behaviors of others and understand how they are strengths." Another commented that "the facilitators were well prepared and very knowledgeable."



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

- A farm consultation for two dairy farm operators where families discussed options regarding farm transition. This effort is designed to explore options that meet personal and business goals for one family to retire and the second family to continue farming thus improving farm business viability, environmental sustainability, food safety.
- A digital/print media interview conducted by national agriculture magazine for dairy farmers, herdspeople, calf managers and employees, and other agribusiness professionals, where they learned nutritional and environmental management practices to mitigate cold stress in pre-weaned calves to improve farm business viability and food safety while maintaining animal welfare and wellbeing.
- A county agriculture business assessment for county government officials, where they learned about the county's current agricultural supply chain patterns. This effort is designed to assist staff in identifying gaps and disconnects within the supply chain to retain and develop county agriculture and horticulture businesses, thus improving business viability and food safety.

Crops

Liz Gartman, Regional Crops Educator

- Planning for a Regional Ag Day program for farmers, agronomists, nutritionists and other agriculture professionals in collaboration with the Cedar Creek Farmers in Washington county. The goal is to provide timely livestock, dairy and crop production and marketing updates to producers so they can make informed animal and crop management decisions in 2024.
- A radio segment for crops and livestock producers that outlined the Waterhemp Herbicide Resistance screening project where producers learned about the opportunity to have waterhemp weed seeds tested for resistance to multiple herbicide modes of action. The goal is to identify areas where waterhemp is developing resistance and provide growers management tools to deal with this problem.



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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 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. Each attendee received the step-by-step workbook with resources to reinforce the content. Carol continues to work with the state Planning AHEAD Extension team to update the curriculum and review statewide post session evaluation.

Starting in August of 2023, Carol co-facilitated a Planning AHEAD 7-session series in Germantown with Jennifer Fechter, the ADRC Elder Benefits Specialist. Twenty-four adults participated in the series with over 126 educational contacts total. The Planning AHEAD series post-course evaluations (n= 15) indicate:

- 100% of the participants stated they learned enough to move forward with planning.
- 87% agreed or strongly agreed that they have greater knowledge of choices in end-of-life care.
- 80% 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.
- The majority of respondents, 73%, in the next three months, will update their end-of-life planning forms.
- 67% of participants will make their end-of-life wishes known.

Participants shared that the workshop was: interesting, informative, thought provoking, motivating and eye-opening. One participant stated: "...encouraging all friends to attend next sessions! Fabulous speakers."



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

- 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.

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.



ADDED VALUE

- Met with Milwaukee area vegetable farmers in person and provided support over the phone and email in order to understand their issues and help them problems related to machinery, fertility, and grower organization in order to improve farm profitability and farmer networks. *(Sam Oschwald Tilton)*
- A research-based training module series for dairy farm employees titled “Dairy Workers Training.” The goal of this effort is to equip dairy workers with the essential milking and reproductive skills to enhance and refine their capabilities for optimizing their performance on the farm, thus improving farm business viability and food safety. *(Ryan Sterry)*
- To help Wisconsin Spanish dairy workers and the Spanish dairy industry to get the most current and update research information, UW-Extension has developed the Dairy Spanish Webinar El “Break” Info-Lechero. This Webinar is an update on different dairy topics covering reproduction, colostrum management, Fresh cows’ management, and milk quality and more. *(Alison Pfau)*

Tina Kohlman
Regional Dairy Educator

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Ron Jakubisin
4-H Program Educator

Kelly Dione
*Community Youth Development
Educator*

Paul Roback
*Community Development
Educator*

Carol Bralich
*Human Development &
Relationships Educator*

Cindy Sarkady
Area Extension Director

Karen Girard
Megan Zimmerman
Support Staff

Cassi Worster
Area Marketing Specialist