



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.

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.

Crops

Liz Gartman, Regional Crops Educator

A regional agriculture newsletter for Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, Washington and Ozaukee county agriculture producers, industry representatives and agency staff that provides timely crop production updates, dairy and farm management resources and upcoming agriculture events. The goal is to create awareness of Extension programming and research in the region and maintain a connection between UW and the ag community.

Crop, dairy and livestock producers make key management decisions every day based on challenges related to markets, weather and farm goals. It is important for them to have access to up-to-date information and opportunities to help them choose production methods that help them achieve their goals. As a result, the Regional Ag Updates newsletter is prepared and e-mailed to approximately 900 ag producers, agency staff and agribusiness consultants that support farmers. In the winter months, the newsletter is sent monthly, with issues every two weeks during the crop production months. This newsletter shares field trial opportunities, timely management updates and tools to support production decisions, along with UW Extension and partner event opportunities. This newsletter consistently has a 40% open rate and one recipient shared the importance of having upcoming local and statewide events listed in one place. It further has become a great partnership tool between Extension and local producer led watershed groups, land and water departments and state agencies. This effort creates a greater awareness of resources available to support their farm production goals.

- A field study in collaboration with other Extension crops educators as part of the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program that is designed to identify optimum Nitrogen rates in a corn cropping system that utilizes dairy manure. Results from this trial will help improve commercial nitrogen management and farm profitability.



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 Cloverline Newsletter to all 4-H families, volunteers and leaders which includes Upcoming Events & Opportunities; Updates and Reminders; & Project New. The Newsletter keeps 4-H members informed of opportunities such as youth trainings, scholarships, and statewide events so youth learn, grow and engage within the 4-H county program.
- Weekly Club Leader Update email blast. Features the top 3 (new) priorities for the week as well as upcoming announcements for 4-H volunteers serving as Club and Project Leaders. This weekly email provides opportunities for volunteers to expand knowledge and skills as volunteer to increase connectedness to countywide 4-H programs and 4H office.
- Collaborative summer camp planning with adult volunteers and high school junior directors for the April 11th New Camp Counselor orientation and training event. This training engaged volunteers new to the camp experience by team-building; teaches the 4-H Essential Learning Elements; and begins youth planning camp their activities in order to be prepared for our June 2024 4-H Summer Camp.
- Scheduled club & countywide club visits & weekly phone/zoom calls to connect to 4-H clubs/projects that strengthen the relationship between 4-H Educator, 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.

Kelly Dione, Community Youth Development Educator

- A series of classroom presentations to fourth grade youth, in collaboration with West Bend School Counselors, where students will learn about problem-solving strategies, focusing on team problem solving, consensus building, experiential team-work and team reflection. The purpose of this effort is to improve social-emotional learning and provide opportunities to learn more about 4-H and other programs.
- 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.
- Germantown Youth Futures: A monthly board meeting for Germantown key stakeholders where year-round planning of positive youth activities occurs that promote positive peer norms, Alcohol and Other Drug prevention messaging, and adult/youth connections.



Cindy Sarkady
Area Extension Director

Liz Gartman
Regional Crops Educator

Ron Jakubisin
4-H Program Educator

Kelly Dione
*Community Youth Development
Educator*

Karen Girard
Megan Zimmerman
Support Staff

Cassi Worster
Area Marketing Specialist

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.