



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

The agriculture marketplace is constantly changing, requiring producers to identify farming practices that allow them to remain profitable and environmentally sustainable. Partnering with the Cedar Creek Farmers Producer Led Group and Washington Co. Land & Water, we planned a Regional Ag update meeting that provided insight on topics related to disability resources for farmers, manure and nutrient management, feed efficiency and quality for livestock and marketing considerations to recognize as we plan the 2024 crop year. I invited speakers that are experts in their field and were able to provide up to date, practical management applications for attendees. Attempts were made to include speakers with a wide range of expertise to provide a well-rounded program to best suit the needs of attendees.

92% of attendees rated the program as “Excellent” or “Good” overall. A majority (over 50%) of attendees indicated they would use information “a great deal” related to Feeding Cover Crops (54%); Manure Management (65%), Local Nitrogen Rates (52%) and Marketing Ideas for 2024 (53.6%). Attendees indicated they saw value in manure sampling and management, implementing cover crops as part of soil health programs, and practical ways to feed cover crops to livestock. These management practices can better equip producers and supporting agribusinesses and agency staff to increase resiliency in crop systems and farm businesses.



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

The purpose of the Childcare and Education Network of Washington County (CCEN) is to have a collaborative community network that ensures a safe, high quality child care and education system. Carol, as chairperson, coordinated a 4-hour Registry approved Childcare Conference for early childhood educators and childcare professionals on March 16, 2024 at Silverbrook Intermediate School in West Bend. Over 75 attendees participated in this professional development.

The theme of the conference was Relationships Matter. The goal of the conference was to help early childhood professionals understand the importance of building relationships with co-workers, the children and their families so they can better communicate with the parents and support the children in their care. The opening session focused on building father friendly environments. One participant stated that they would “be intentional and ask dads to give input on what they would like to do.” Participants also chose two breakout sessions from the following topics: building family partnerships, nurturing infants and toddlers, challenging behaviors, and coaching strategies for directors. Overall feedback was positive, including the comment “Amazing Conference! Subject matter hit home to the issues facing childcare centers. Thank you!”



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 News; Attn: Club & Project Leader info; and Submitted News (all clubs/projects invited to submit). Distributed via 4HOnline database and posted on webpage for all to access. Newsletter keeps 4-H members informed of opportunities to learn, grow and engage as a county program.
- Weekly Club Leader Update email blast. Features 3 (new) priorities, announcements, and/or resources for 4H volunteers serving as Club and Project Leaders. Distributed via email addresses and posted to webpage for all to access. This weekly email provides opportunities for volunteers to expand knowledge and skills as volunteer with in increase connectedness to countywide 4-H programs and 4H office.
- 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 2024 4-H Summer Camp successfully.
- 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. (Ron Jakubisin)
- 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.

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 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.



ADDED VALUE

How Extension is Funded

Cindy Sarkady, Area Extension Director

- Extension is funded through a variety of sources, mainly through the US Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food & Agriculture in addition to state funding, dedicated grants, and program fees
- Extension’s USDA grant requires a local match; this is a mandate of our funding and creates close partnerships with county/tribal governments to align services and be an invested partner in our work
- County budget for Extension services leverage all those funding opportunities that Extension brings to the table, from federal and state to grants and research funding
- Contracted amount: \$184,600
- Based on FTE fee of \$44,900 (prorated for part-time)
- Total county investment: \$449,103
- Includes contracted amount above in addition to office space, support staff, travel/training
- Actual salaries and fringe for full- and part-time Extension employees: \$712,978
- Co-funded salaries plus fringe: \$360,378

Amounts based off 2023 data.

Ron Jakubisin
4-H Program Educator

Kelly Dione
Community Youth Development Educator

Carol Bralich
Human Development & Relationships Educator

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