



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 series of first cutting alfalfa height and maturity data collections using Predictive Equations for Alfalfa Quality (PEAQ) sticks and scissor clips for Eastern Wisconsin farmers and agriculture professionals to help them appropriately target harvest timing. Further, this effort provides data that can be valuable to making management recommendations and decisions throughout the growing season and beyond to increase feed quality and alfalfa persistence. Alfalfa is a key crop in Wisconsin, and proper management is important to ensure we optimize yield and quality for dairy producers. First cutting alfalfa provides the largest yielding crop in a multiple cutting system, but challenging spring harvest conditions can result in missed opportunities to meet producer needs. Additionally, late harvest can affect the overall yield and quality of an alfalfa field. In response to this need, I collected alfalfa maturity measurements and quality samples in Sheboygan and Fond du Lac counties, following the standard procedures set out by UW Extension. Resulting data was collected and shared with the State Alfalfa outreach specialist as well as producers and agriculture professionals in the four county region via e-newsletter.
- 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. 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.



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.

4-H

Ron Jakubisin, 4-H Program Educator

- 'Cloverline', A monthly newsletter for all Wash. Co. 4-H families where information about all club activities, countywide projects, resources and announcements are contributed by and distributed to 4-H families that offer opportunities to increase skills and engage in 4-H activities. The monthly Cloverline Newsletter is emailed and posted on the 4-H county website. Youth Officers within the 16 Clubs use Cloverline information as part of their club's meeting announcements.
- Weekly Club Leader Update email blast. Features 3 newest announcements, and/or resources for 4-H volunteers serving as Club and Project Leaders to increase the capacity of volunteers to deliver 4-H club and project activities. The need for this effort was prompted by continual requests for information and resources by the Washington County 4-H Club Leaders, Project leaders, and parents.
- June 4-H Summer Camp summary: Camp was held from June 13-16th at Upham Woods, Wisc. Dells. There was a total of 104 in attendance (13 adults; 21 High Schoolers serving as camp counselors, and 70 third-eighth grade campers). Learning experiences included: biology, stargazing, archery, crafts, forestry, kayaking, team-building course with recreation/social activities. Youth serving as camp counselors and adults attended a total of 8 hours of training and planning prior to camp.

Community Youth Development

Kelly Dione, Community Youth Development Educator

- Developing a needs assessment where a collection of data from one on one meetings with local youth-serving organizations, businesses, 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.

Washington County identified a need to enhance 4-H to address a need for STEM programming related to post-secondary pathways in the Washington County workforce. Development of a list of adult and youth stakeholders that should be contacted and the development of questions to understand where the need is greatest to focus programming. A clear target audience and identified partnerships to foster youth engagement in 4-H Post-Secondary Pathways programming.



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