



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 presentation that introduced the concept of Dairy Heifer Grazing to agriculture professionals engaged in consulting with producers. Through this presentation, attendees learned about the cost savings using dairy heifer grazing versus conventional heifer grazing, the potential for less nutrient loss, water quality improvement and improved health and longevity that can benefit dairy producers profitability and environmental sustainability. Raising dairy heifer is an expensive enterprise for most dairies and producers are interested in opportunities for cost savings that can improve overall farm profitability without compromising performance and quality. This coupled with a move toward identifying ways to improve water quality and soil health make dairy heifer grazing a viable option. After holding two listening sessions based on this management strategy, it was determined to be a viable way to move the needle on key issues facing dairies. Sharing the data with participants that serve as advisors to dairy producers allows them to advocate for the practice when meeting with their clients. A presentation was prepared that focused on the cost savings when raising heifers using managed grazing versus confinement, the improvement in nutrient loss of Nitrogen and Phosphorus due to runoff that is common in conventional systems, and the benefits to animal performance, fitness, health and welfare when raised in grazing based systems. We answered questions and shared key articles and data to support our discussion. Via evaluation, 26 attendees shared (agree + strongly agree) that the information was applicable and relevant to their work, and 11 indicated they would frequently share the information in their work. 27 attendees agreed/strongly agreed they increased their knowledge related to this topic.
- A dairy production newsletter for farmers, managers, employees and agribusiness professionals that provides the reader an introduction to upcoming UW Madison Division of Extension Programming including the Pest Text Alerts, Wisconsin Ag Climate Outlook reports, opportunities to optimize forage testing and updates on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in dairy cows. This newsletter provides timely updates on Extension recommendations, events and industry news. A partnership between the Eastern Wisconsin Dairy Herd Improvement Cooperative and



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
WASHINGTON COUNTY

## MAY 2024 REPORT

*Agriculture continued.*

Extension results in a newsletter mailed to 300 current dairy producers in Eastern Wisconsin. The newsletter results from the cooperative's milk testing and allows local Extension educators to share key activities, events and articles that focus on improving management related to crops and dairy cattle. The partnership allows Extension educators to determine what resources are most important to producers at the times the newsletter is published, which in turn provides research based solutions to growers and farmers when it makes sense for their farm. We collaborate with DHIC staff to ensure timely delivery of the content. The newsletter is directly mailed to approximately 300 dairy producers every two months, and the targeted information drives dairy producers to engage with Extension programs and educators.



## 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

- An orientation meeting for parents/guardians of 4-H youth (3rd-8th grade) attending the upcoming June 2024 summer camp. Through this session parents/guardians of campers will increase their understanding of the educational goals of camp as well as learn strategies to process campers experiences after camp reflecting on what the youth campers experienced and learned. The meeting also reviews schedules, safety, and procedures related to summer camp. 4-H parent awareness of learning objectives of camp needed as camp in general is seen as a recreation time. The orientation event aligns parents with 4-H learning objectives for camp This event is done annually prior to June Summer Camp event. The event features components presented. event planned for May 30, 2024
- 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. With 16 Clubs and 20 Countywide projects the monthly Cloverline Newsletter brings together current 4-H resources, educational events and announcements which they can take advantage of in one newsletter which is emailed and posted on the 4-H county website 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. Monthly newsletter is emailed and posted on county 4-H website for easy reference for families and 4-H members
- Weekly Club Leader Update email blast. Features 3 (new) priorities, 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. Additionally, events both local and statewide are shared on a web-based calendar. Weekly Club Leader Update email blast. Features 3 (new) priorities, announcements, and/or resources for 4 H volunteers serving as Club and Project Leaders. Volunteers have stated in recent leaders meeting that Weekly Club Leader Updates are valuable and the 4-H Office should continue with this.



*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. The workshops are with West Bend WI School District School Counselors in 3 Elementary schools with community presentations (by Extension) that address Social Emotional Learning Standards for elementary students (including positive communication skills, emotion/anger self-regulation, cooperative play, and consensus building). Success would be measured by implementation of a minimum of two workshops presented to 4th graders: 1) Problem-solving strategies and 2) T.E.A.M.: together everyone achieves more (focusing on team problem solving, consensus building, experiential teamwork, and team reflection on developing successful planning of strategies)
- 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. The learning targets focus on understanding why and how to work as a team (positive communication, consensus, compromise, and goal-setting) within the family and how words and actions affect others and how to resolve conflict in a respectful way. These key learning objectives contribute to building a positive home environment as well as transferable skills in the school community by emphasizing the importance of teamwork, setting goals and developing meaningful relationships that foster success in goal-setting. Youth organize, plan and implement social activities that address the local prevention needs of the youth in Germantown.
- 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. As part of this community non-profit organization Extension contributes as a key community sector that makes up Germantown Youth Futures to organize, plan, and implement skill-building sessions as well as social activities that address the local prevention needs of the youth in Germantown.

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