



## 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*

- 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 is distributed to the 4-H families of the 600 youth members and 200 volunteers and leaders. The Cloverline Newsletter is also posted on the 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. Additionally, events both local and statewide are shared on a web-based calendar. Volunteers have stated in recent leaders meeting that Weekly Club Leader Updates are valuable and the 4-H Office should continue doing this.

### **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.



## 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*

Planning to coordinate Extension educators state wide to ensure uniform data collection related to corn silage harvest management. The goal is to share whole plant moisture with forage growers in each region and aggregate additional silage data including planting date, relative maturity, corn hybrid, fungicide use, grain stage and previous crop. This data would be utilized to inform future corn silage harvest recommendations.

Corn silage dry down events are held across the state as means to determine when optimum corn silage harvest should occur due to whole plant moisture measurements. As we are already gathering some data regarding the samples collected, we determined there is additional information that would be beneficial to better understand the factors affecting when corn silage should be harvested. This prompted the forage team in the crops and soils program to look further to determine what data might be beneficial to informing harvest management decisions. Resources were prepared for educators and partners to utilize when gathering data at local corn silage dry down events. Partners will be provided a worksheet for producers to fill out and return with their stalk samples. Additionally, an Excel document is available to collect that data as well. Data will be collected and used to inform future management recommendations.

A webinar for agribusiness professionals, crop growers and livestock producers where attendees learned about managing alfalfa and corn silage due to challenges during the 2024 growing season. Through this effort, participants can manage their corn silage and late season alfalfa harvests to optimize forage quality and improve and farm profitability.

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