



## 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 Dairy Forage Day program for forage growers, dairy producers and ag consultants where participants learned about the benefits of feeding high oleic soybeans to lactating cows, agronomic management recommendations to mitigate mycotoxin challenges, the status of grain markets for 2025 and a regional dairy educator introduction and update to improve the feed and forage management for their dairy operations to improve milk production and farm profitability.

- 100% of attendees rated the program quality as good to excellent, with the greatest improvement in awareness for the Grain Marketing Update (52.9%).
- All topic areas were rated with a “somewhat increased awareness” to “a great deal increased awareness.”
- As a result of attending the Dairy Forage Day- when asked about one thing they learned that they would consider implementing in the future, attendees primarily indicated they would consider adding high oleic soybeans into their rations and are interested in learning more about marketing their grain to improve margins.
- All program topics presented were included on the list when asked what topics/resources were most valuable to you, with an emphasis on the high oleic soybeans and market update.

A series of in-person and virtual crops and soils update meetings for crop and forage growers, consultants, agronomists, students and agency staff where participants were provided relevant research updates from Extension specialists regarding soil and water management, forage and grain production, pest management considerations and economics of crop production. Through this program, attendees can make more informed decisions related to these topics to improve productivity and economic viability for their farms and their client’s farms.

- The Badger Crop Update planning team identified 3 key sites to host in-person events and planned one virtual event to accommodate those who could not travel to the in-person options.
- The group reached out to Extension specialists to determine what key agenda items were necessary and scheduled a format that allowed attendees to learn from the specialists but also engage with them to get their specific questions answered.
- The agenda included a series of short talks grouped into topic areas, with a follow up “question and answer” time that allowed a deeper dive into each specific topic to ensure we met the needs of those attending the updates.
- 83 participants attended one of the three in-person events, 117 participants attended the virtual program



## 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*

- Monthly meetings, for Washington County (Wash. Co.) 4-H Leaders Association Executive Committee, as well as Association Board at-large, where volunteers are provided with guidance and support to restructure the Leaders Association to increase youth voice, youth/adult partnerships, and engage all clubs with the county in county 4-H growth and success.
- Planning meetings for Wash. Co. 4-H Teen Connect event offers high school-aged 4-H members of the 16 county clubs to come together to build a countywide community of 4-H, socialize, team-build and explore their interests in planning these future events. A November event served as a pilot, with future Teen Connects scheduled for January 2025, and March 2025 with the intention of youth feedback to guide activities they would like to do.
- A monthly 4-H 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.
- Weekly 4-H Club Leader Update email blast. Features 3 (new) priorities, announcements, and/or resources for 4H volunteers serving as Club and Project Leaders to increase the capacity of volunteers to deliver 4-H club and project activities. Sent to 16 Club's identified leaders and countywide Project leaders

### **Community Youth Development**

*Kelly Dione, Community Youth Development Educator*

- Implementing a needs assessment to address current STEM programming and gaps related to post-secondary pathways in the Washington County workforce. Assessments given to local youth-serving organizations, businesses, and schools are currently being conducted and analyzed. This is an ongoing effort designed to plan future programming based on the needs of the community.

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