



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 for a four session Focus on Forage webinar series for forage growers and agriculture consultants in collaboration with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the US Dairy Forage Research Center. The goal is to provide research based forage management solutions to improve forage quality and meet producer goals.

Forage growers and dairy producers require high quality forages to meet the needs of their operations. Changing growing conditions and increased planting and harvest challenges create barriers to achieving these forage production goals.

In response to this situation, forage working group team members outlined the key topics they felt would meet the needs of these stakeholders. Webinar sessions were scheduled using the Zoom platform, and team members identified and scheduled subject matter experts to address each of the topics identified for a four part webinar series.

A newsletter for farmers, managers, employees and agribusiness professionals in collaboration with the Eastern Wisconsin Dairy Herd Improvement Cooperative that informs the reader of upcoming UW Madison Division of Extension programs, provides key crop and dairy management updates and includes timely production articles.

A partnership between the Eastern Wisconsin Dairy Herd Improvement Cooperative and Extension results in a newsletter mailed to 300 current dairy producers in Eastern Wisconsin.

The newsletter shares 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 newsletter is direct mailed to approximately 300 dairy producers every two months, and the targeted information drives dairy producers to engage with Extension programs and educators.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
WASHINGTON COUNTY

JANUARY 2025 REPORT

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

Washington County Teen Connect event(3) 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 12 attending. The Jan. 25 event increased to 19 with a future Teen Connect scheduled for March 2025 and more to be determined later. These teens as well as parents have verbalized the need for this and noticed an increase in participation and feel it will continue to grow.

The high school-aged youth 4-H members are the group that tends to attend less meetings, and events due to other life opportunities such as jobs, traveling sports teams, increased mobility (driving) and expanding peer groups and interests. Teen Connect offers an opportunity within 4-H to continue peer connection through age appropriate activities, social activities while keeping the mission of 4-H in the forefront.

A series of planning and training meetings in which adult and youth members plan and train to be 'camp counselors' for their county's annual overnight camp experience

The Volunteer Planning Committee with guidance from the educator, will meet regularly from Jan. to June that will review youth 'teen counselor' applications in Feb.; conduct interviews in March; hold a special training for 1st time camp volunteers in April (both adult and teen); plan and conduct 2 training dates (May);and plan and deliver a Family Camp Orientation Night (May) prior to camp (June). Summer camp has successfully grown from 74 Wash. Co. 4-H campers in 2023 to 104 campers in 2024.

Kelly Dione, 4-H Educator

A series of interviews using a community needs assessment tool where a collection of data from one-on-one meetings with local youth-serving organizations will be conducted, data organized, and analyzed. The results will review the work done by K-12 institutes and Moraine Park Technical College with local employers to identify possible interests or areas for new 4-H clubs and adult volunteers.

Wisconsin 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential by working and learning in partnership with adults and is committed to providing opportunities for youth to learn life skills. Washington County faces an unprecedented shortage of volunteers to dedicate time to 4-H clubs. Adding a 4-H Educator is intended to dedicate efforts to broadening 4-H membership opportunities by establishing new 4-H Clubs. New clubs aim to offer avenues for youth development, addressing essential elements that will best serve the Washington County community. One focus includes post-secondary pathways including STEM-related project areas. It will also include expanding access to youth starting in grade school to help them learn about STEM and find their SPARK. Sparks are self-discovered and self-identified. This role will begin by completing a needs assessment and reviewing work already being done by K-12 institutes and Moraine Park Technical College with local employers to identify possible interests or areas for new youth clubs. Outcomes from the needs assessment will lead the programming efforts and priorities. Priority club formation and project area priorities include: Clubs that cultivate a highly skilled workforce by fostering critical thinking and STEM activities in our kids, projects that enhance partnerships that increase specific skills desired by our workforce and utilize professional human resources of our industry, projects and partnerships that utilize community facility assets for our youth.

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