



## 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*

An on-farm research study to better understand manure application, commercial nitrogen application rates, and nitrogen credits on corn yield and potential effect on groundwater. Results from this study will help farmers, agriculture industry professionals, and agency professionals in adjusting manure and commercial nitrogen applications to optimize corn yield and protect groundwater resources.

Planning for a hybrid foundational crop scout training program for entry-level crop scouts. The goal is to provide the key skills necessary to scout row crop and forage fields for common pests, identify crop nutrient deficiencies, perform basic specimen sampling and communicate results to managers and farmers so that we can better identify and address economically important crop challenges in season.

Crop scouts are an important piece of the crop management puzzle, and many of the crop scouts employed by farms, ag cooperatives and consultants need foundational skills to improve their work in the field. Typically they require training at a time their employers and mentors are busy with in season crop production work. After completing an internal training program for Extension Crops educators, we determine we could offer the program to an external audience. We are currently planning and will be executing a series of “Lunch & Learn” webinars that will be offered live and recorded. Each webinar will address a different basic skill related to crop scouting. After the webinar series is complete, a series of in person, in field training sessions will be hosted at the Arlington, Lancaster and Marshfield Research stations. The goal is to offer hands-on application of the skills taught.

An article for Dairy farm owners and employees where they can find basic information about Dry matter and techniques to measure it in their operations to help them understand the importance of knowing this characteristic that allows for accurate comparison and formulation of diets.



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WASHINGTON COUNTY

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## 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 & Kelly Dione, 4-H Educator

A series of classroom presentations to third and fourth grade youth in collaboration with West Bend School Counselors. The purpose of this effort is to improve problem-solving strategies, focusing on team problem solving, consensus building, and experiential team-work while providing an opportunity for youth to learn more about 4-H and build relationships with school personnel.

Based on a Needs Assessment conducted in January/February 2025, youth are in need of intentional programming to build communication and collaboration skills. There is also a need to build awareness of opportunities 4-H can offer in Career and College readiness as well as STEM programming in the younger grades of elementary and middle school. Continued partnership with the elementary schools in West Bend to deliver programming to youth to build relationships and promote 4-H and career and college readiness skills through a series of leadership workshops. The school partnership has created a continued trusting relationship in which the school requested 4-H to come to a family fun night and promote our 4-H STEM Day Camps and other 4-H club and project materials.

Develop Summer Day Camps to address Needs Assessment conducted in January/February 2025; STEM programming is a priority in Washington County Schools. There is a lack of interest in STEM careers between middle and high school. The hands-on interactive STEM camp will serve to enhance awareness and excitement in STEM.

Registrations are open for Wash Co. summer day camps offered for youth grades 3-8, where youth learn about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). The dates are set for June 23-25 (STEM Camp); June 30-July 2 (BUILD IT! Camp); and July 8 and 9 (Cloverbud Camp). The AmeriCorps member created a custom promotional video advertising these camps. This effort is to encourage youth to feel a sense of belonging and increase their interest in STEM. Camp was developed based on a needs assessment conducted in January/February 2025, STEM programming is a priority in Washington County.



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