

## 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 &*

- Significant planning for Volunteer Trainings for the '25-'26 year which includes an August meeting to inform volunteers (Club Leaders and countywide Project Leaders) of new policies, AFR deadlines, training calendar dates set for Fall, and other important UW Extension/4-H news that impacts Washington County.
- Significant Youth Leadership Planning with youth board members for August board meeting, as well as youth input for '25-26 Teen Connect events and Summer Camp Youth Leadership Facilitator training.
- Ongoing communication to the Washington County 4-H Community: The Weekly Club Leader Update email blast and the monthly Cloverline newsletter (sent to all 4-H members, families, volunteers, etc.). With 16 Clubs and 20 Countywide projects the monthly Cloverline Newsletter brings together current 4-H resources, educational events and announcements about 4-H activities, events in order to increase the capacity of volunteers to deliver 4-H club/project activities.

*Kelly Dione, 4-H Educator*

A STEM Day Camp for youth in grades 3rd - 8th where youth engage in activities related to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). This effort is to encourage youth to feel a sense of belonging and increase their interest in STEM.

Based on a 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. 4-H STEM Day Camps consisted of two, 3-day camps. STEM camp and Build it! Camp each had hands-on learning activities that correlated





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with different careers in STEM. STEM Camp had 9 youth participate, 5 of whom were not 4-H members in the community. Students engaged in hands-on STEM activities, including robotics, forensic science, engineering, geocaching, and electricity. Build it! Camp had 16 youth, 3 of whom were not currently 4-H members. Students engaged in hands-on Engineering activities, including rocketry, robotics, bridge building, Rube Goldberg machines, and exploring hydraulics in simple machines. The Washington County Civil Engineer led the students in rocket building and also talked with students about his career path in engineering. Youth were invited to shoot their rockets with the 4-H Rocketry Project at a local County Park. Five high school student volunteers helped guide the youth through the activities and facilitated some of the activities. New opportunities for existing and new 4-H members to engage and learn about STEM and other 4-H opportunities. All students reported the activities helped them learn more about STEM and Engineering, 96% said they'd recommend the camp to a friend, and all students said they learned something new that they didn't know before the camp.

"Thank you so much for putting these camps on. She learned a lot and had fun - and made new friends! I wanted to give a special shout out to Stephanie (AmeriCorps member). [Stephanie] was a great leader, and my daughter enjoyed talking with her about softball. She really made an impact on my daughter and her words of wisdom and guidance, not just camp related, she really took to heart." ~parent of STEM camper



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### 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 field day for forage growers, dairy producers, agency staff and agriculture consultants where participants learned about ongoing forage research projects, were updated on upcoming technologies, and engaged with Extension specialists and educators on a variety of forage focused topics. The goal of the event was to share relevant data, management recommendations and novel forage technologies to improve forage production on Wisconsin farms.



Forage production has not been a key focus of statewide programming in Extension. The importance of the dairy and livestock industries in the state require that we focus programming on improving the quality of forage across the state, while investigating novel forage options like cover crop and annual forages. A collection of Extension specialists and researchers from the USDA Dairy Forage Research center collaborated to provide updates on the research they are engaged in or wrapping up related the agronomic considerations of forage production along with the animal performance benefits of incorporating different forage species into diets. A rotation of field stops showcasing this research was planned for the morning of the field day, with flash talks highlighting novel technologies, grazing management and opportunities for growers to engage with researchers and Extension educators. Evaluation results are still being compiled.

“It was a great event. We were thrilled to be a part of it” “Thanks for hosting this event! I liked the conversations around N management in regards to cover crops.” “Great field day. Looking forward to next year” “Cover crop breeding efforts are important to support.”

A stop on the Clean Farm Families Poker Run event for local growers where we discussed opportunities for growers to engage in the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program, Insect Pest Trapping network and reporting, and slug monitoring. Further, we shared the new Bovinoticias newsletter and information regarding AgriAbility and the Wisconsin Farm Center. The goal of this effort was to share opportunities to join Extension on-farm efforts and build relationships between state and local educators and growers.



- The Clean Farm Families Producer Led Watershed group hosts events over the course of the year, and while planning their annual Poker Run determined that showcasing some Extension programs would be a good fit for those attending the event.
- The Ozaukee County Demo Farm network joined the effort to monitor slugs and armyworm/cutworm moths over the growing season. As part of the planning effort, we determined that sharing these efforts with representation from our pest management program would make sense. Additionally, we have several Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program sites in Ozaukee & Washington Counties, and this event allowed us to discuss some of the preliminary results from those projects and share the opportunity for growers to participate in their own NOPP projects. The new bilingual dairy newsletter Bovinoticias was a good addition to our stop, as several Spanish speaking dairy employees attended the event.
- Approximately 42 growers, agency staff, consultants and farm employees attended the event.

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