



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
WASHINGTON COUNTY

**JUNE 2025 REPORT**

## 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

Creation of a data visualization tool for forage growers, crop consultants and livestock nutritionists in collaboration with local forage councils and agribusinesses. The goal is to provide timely, easy to use corn silage dry down data that these audiences can leverage to identify the optimum timing to harvest corn silage in their area which will produce forage more likely to meet animal nutrient requirements to support production.

- Across the state, crops educators and consultants that support forage growers sample and report the whole plant moisture of corn for silage. Whole plant moisture is a key guiding factor for making corn silage harvest decisions.
- There was a need to update the tool used by Extension educators to share this data with our growers. In response to the need, we identified the important data that we need to collect from growers during the dry down events, and created tools to allow for simple data collection at the dry down sites.
- With the help of our data scientist, a tool was created that provides this data, but also allows the user to manipulate the table and maps to see the information that is most relevant to their needs. Color coding data points provides an indication of the suitability for harvest of each data point, making it easy for stakeholders to visualize the data.

A webinar for farmers, crop consultants, and agency personnel, where timely crop and research updates are presented alongside agronomic recommendations from topic experts in the UW system. Through this webinar we inform our constituents so they can make the most economically and environmentally sound decisions which ultimately lead to better sustainability.

- Weather, economics, pest pressure, and research findings all change throughout the growing year. Our audience needs updates on these variables and resources to respond to them.
- We hosted a webinar twice per month and featured one to three topic experts, mainly UW faculty, to share their timely recommendations, research updates, and relevant resources with participants.



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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 &

A June 4-H Summer Camp for Washington County Youth grades 3rd - 8th, with opportunities for high school-aged youth to serve in leadership positions as mentors and role models.

- The Washington Co. 4-H program successfully completed their annual Summer Camp trip this past June 11-13, 2025 to Upham Woods, Wisc Dells WI. There were 103 registered campers (3rd-8th grade, high schoolers serving as camp counselors, and adult volunteers). 4-H Educators Ron Jakubisin and Kelly Dione, along with UW-Intern/AmeriCorps members Emily Schmidt & Stephanie Hartwell also attended and were involved throughout the year in the planning process of camp.
- High School-aged youth serving as 'camp counselors' presented mini-workshops called theme-rotations throughout camp (Theme of camp was 'Mystery At 4-H Camp'). Sessions included STEM & Nature topics.
- Campers 3rd - 8th grade experienced Archery, Nature Science, Animal Identification, Astronomy, Swimming, Canoeing, Crafts, Flag Raising/lowering ceremonies, Team-building course, and social activities throughout the camp.

A monthly 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 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.
- A monthly Cloverline 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.

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED

*Kelly Dione, 4-H Educator*

STEM summer day camp offered for youth grades 3-8, where youth learn about 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. Development of a STEM Summer Day Camp. Volunteers, youth leaders, the summer AmeriCorps, and the 4-H program educator will facilitate the STEM Day Camp. This is a new camp offered in 2025. Youth leaders will help lead the camp. Youth who attend will share ideas for what they would like to incorporate into Camp for 2026. New opportunities for existing and new 4-H members to engage and learn about STEM and other 4-H opportunities.
- The first STEM Day Camp was successfully completed June 25th. Nine students participated (4th-7th grade) along with four high school 4-H student volunteers. Five of the nine students were community members that have never been involved in 4-H prior to the camp. 4-H Educator Kelly Dione and UW-Intern/AmeriCorps members Emily Schmidt and Stephanie Hartwell were involved in planning and facilitating activities. 100% of the students said the activities helped them learn more about science, technology, engineering, and math and they would recommend this camp to a friend.

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