



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 monthly newsletter to inform Wash Co 4-H families in the 16 Clubs and 20 Countywide projects the monthly Cloverline Newsletter brings together current 4-H resources, educational events and announcements which offers opportunities to increase skills and engage members in 4-H activities
- Weekly 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.
- Summer Camp Debrief Meeting evaluates the completed June camp with youth and adult volunteers. 21 High School-aged camp counselors and 14 adults with evaluation feedback of their educational sessions as well as reviewing implementation of camp scheduled; meeting includes goal setting for 2026 camp in which starts in November of 2025.
- A series of 4-H Club and Countywide Project Leaders Meetings (held minimum of 2x per year) which identifies successes and roadblocks of implementing 4-H programming, and identifies goals for training, recruitment and youth leadership in the '25-'26 year.

Kelly Dione, 4-H Educator

A 6 week after-school STEM program for youth in the West Bend School District, where participants explore aerospace, engineering, manufacturing, and culinary skills. Through this program, youth will increase their knowledge of career pathways and discover personal interests in STEM-related fields."

West Bend School District in Washington County has a robust pathways program offered for high school students that include Youth Apprenticeship programs and career related clubs and organizations that students can join in after-school. The High School also provides a curriculum that supports career pathways in health care and manufacturing and engineering. Students in elementary and middle school have less opportunities for career exploration in after-school programming that would interest students in STEM careers. Washington County 4-H is partnering with West Bend School District to offer after-school programs for youth in K-8th grade. These programs highlight the full scope of 4-H opportunities and offer experiential learning that connects new skills to real-world careers. This effort will provide new opportunities for West Bend School District youth to engage and learn about STEM careers and other 4-H opportunities.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
WASHINGTON COUNTY

AUGUST 2025 REPORT

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED

The Cloverbud Day Camp is filled with arts and crafts, group games and STEM-based activities with a Natural Science theme. Activities include a hike with a nature-based scavenger hunt, nature/art, pollinator lesson/game, dairy lesson & ice cream-making activity, group games and make-your-own 3-D camp souvenir. The Day camp provides a safe environment to explore STEM related activities and inspire joining 4-H and/or spark to explore more in 4-H.

Washington County lacks STEM-related activities for the age range of 5 year old to 2nd grade youth. 4-H itself in Washington County has not done daycamps for this age range since pre-covid years. Cloverbud Day Camp was offered to all Washington County youth through promotion at schools prior to school ending the spring semester as well as through our partners, as well as through our media/social media outlets. Targeting non-4-H youth as well as offering it to our members. 18 Cloverbud-aged youth participated in the Day Camp. Youth participation provided opportunities to: a) Explored Nature/STEM-related activities to ignite a Spark for possible future engagement in 4-H activities) non-4-H youth were introduced to 4-H programming, encouraging enrollment in 4-H c) interactive lessons that encouraged meeting new people, cooperation and appropriate social interaction.



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 informational article for forage growers, dairy producers and agriculture consultants where guidance surrounding optimum corn silage management practices were shared along with an update on the new corn silage data visualization tool. Through this article, stakeholders can learn more about optimum corn silage management and how this new Extension tool can help create a harvest plan to maximize corn silage forage quality.

- The University of Wisconsin Madison Division of Extension has a long history of partnering with cooperatives, feed dealers, growers, forage councils and consultants to offer a network of silage dry down events across the state to help growers monitor whole plant moisture.
- Efforts were made during the 2024 growing season to find a way to allow growers to use the data in real time, resulting in the Corn Silage Harvest Management Tool. Creation of the tool was one step in the data visualization process.
- The next step was to make growers and consultants more aware of the tool and how it can fit into their corn silage harvest plan. This article shared some of the key management steps when harvesting corn silage and outlined how growers can use the tool to dig into the data from their region of the state. The Wisconsin State Farmer has a broad reach across Wisconsin in print as well as online.

A presentation during the scheduled Badger Crop Connect series where I provided basic corn silage management recommendations from our UW Madison specialists and shared our new Corn Silage Harvest Management Tool. Through this presentation, I demonstrated how stakeholders can effectively use the tool to help plan their individual corn silage harvest to ensure appropriate whole plant moisture to meet forage quality goals.

- Our Extension research and data collection efforts are a key part of our job, but just as important is the outreach to share how stakeholders can use this work on their farms everyday.
- As part of the Badger Crop Connect Corn Silage episode, there was room to share the work we have done on the new Corn Silage Harvest management tool.

AGRICULTURE CONTINUED

- As a response to the opportunity to share, I created a presentation that outlined important corn silage harvest metrics that growers should employ to ensure harvest timing that allows for proper forage fermentation, along with the methods used to develop our Corn Silage Harvest Management tool, and how to use the tool to plan their harvest.

An article for farmers and farm workers, where we explained the different types of fiber in a dairy diet and how they affect milk production, to help them better understand fiber as a key nutrient, interpret lab reports, and identify nutrition-related issues at the feed bunk, leading to improve overall farm performance.

- We created this bilingual article in response to a common knowledge gap observed on dairy farms regarding the nutrients in cow diets and their impact on milk production. Many farmers and workers, lacked access to clear, practical information on how to interpret fiber values from lab reports and apply that knowledge on the farm. This effort aimed to improve understanding of fiber as a key nutrient, helping farm teams make more informed decisions to support cow health and feed efficiency. We developed a bilingual educational article tailored to both farmers and farm workers, focusing on the role of fiber in dairy cow diets. We ensure technical accuracy and presented the information in an accessible format for a wide range of readers. The article explains types of fiber, their impact on milk production, how to read fiber values in lab reports, and simple ways to assess fiber on-farm. Since it is an article its outcome cannot be determined yet but our goal was to bridge the communication gap and provide practical tools that could be immediately applied in daily feeding management.

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