

# EXTENSION FOND DU LAC COUNTY JUNE 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



**Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
FOND DU LAC COUNTY

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



*Community Development provides educational programming to assist leaders, communities, and organizations realize their fullest potential. We work with communities to build the vitality that enhances their quality of life and enriches the lives of their residents. We educate in leadership development, organizational development, food systems, community economic development, local government education and much more. In short, the Community Development Institute plants and cultivates the seeds for thriving communities and organizations.*

*Noah Reif, Community Development Educator*

- Facilitated a meeting for a local event planning team (Fond du Lac Pride Picnic), where the group determined the role of Law Enforcement at the event and how to create a safe and welcoming event for attendees. The goal of the meeting was to provide a starting point for an event safety plan for the group amidst the rising threat of violence against LGBTQ+ people.
- Attended two events (Juneteenth and the Fond du Lac Pride Picnic) as vendors to share Extension resources, programming, and connections with community members. The events were well attended with over 100 community members over the two events stopping at the booth to take resources.

## HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS



*The Extension Institute of Human Development & Relationships provides the tools Wisconsinites need to thrive as well-rounded, capable individuals and families. We support families in caring for each other in ways that promote growth and understanding. Our programs promote aging-friendly communities, coach effective parents and help families put technology, mindfulness and financial awareness to use.*

*Kimberly Clark, Human Development and Relationships Educator*

- A monthly e-newsletter (Just in Time Parenting) for parents/caregivers of 0-5 year olds provided age-paced developmental and parenting information. Our goal was to improve parents' knowledge, increase positive parent-child interaction, and support children's well-being.
- Planning and developing an in-person financial course for young people ages 15-26 who are currently living or have lived under the foster care system, with essential financial knowledge and skill building opportunities. The goal is for participants to learn how to gain control of their financial future, assess assets and build economic security long term.

## 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

Tracy Keifenheim, 4-H Program Educator

- A clothing revue for 4-H youth, where youth modeled consumer savvy, crocheting, knitting, or sewing projects they made. This effort is designed to build confidence as well as increase their fashion, crocheting, knitting, or sewing knowledge.
- A foods revue for youth, where participants make a recipe containing cheese to present for feedback based on the recipe and place setting. This effort is designed to promote culinary skills, build confidence, and healthy lifestyle choices.
- A day camp (“Cloverbud Day Camp”) for younger 4-H members where they learned about culinary skills through hands-on activities. The purpose of this program is to discover new skills, explore the foods and nutrition project, and experience hands-on learning.

### Community Youth Development

Kelly Dione, Community Youth Development Educator

Welcome Kelly! Kelly Dione is the Community Youth Development Educator at the University of Wisconsin-Division of Extension in Washington and Fond du Lac Counties. She works to design, deliver, and evaluate research-based educational programming and services aligned with the focus of Civic Engagement

Kelly has a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise and Sport Science Teaching from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and a Master of Arts degree in Public Service and Nonprofit Management from Marquette University.

Prior to joining Extension, Kelly worked over 10 years at Marquette University in partnership with United Community Center as the Youth Empowerment Program Coordinator (YES) and Pre-College Advisor working with under-served communities on the south-side of Milwaukee. Her areas of expertise include youth-led program development, conflict resolution, and sustaining youth and family engagement by way of 1:1 advising, outdoor recreation and team building activities, wellness workshops, and retreats.



## 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.*

### Dairy

Tina Kohlman, Regional Dairy Educator

- An alfalfa quality project for dairy farmers, crop managers, nutritionists, agronomists, and other agribusiness professionals. This effort is designed to teach individuals how to determine the optimal time to harvest first-crop alfalfa haylage based on quality criteria (Relative Feed Value), and not date, to improve farm business vitality and environmental sustainability.
- Planning and development of a carbon conference for dairy owners and managers, consultants, engineers, and agribusiness professionals in collaboration with Iowa State University Extension, University of Minnesota Extension, and University of Illinois Extension. The goal of this effort is to teach individuals best management practices to reduce or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and how to enter, navigate, and discuss carbon markets to address dairy production management, thus improving farm business management viability and environmental sustainability.

### Crops

Liz Gartman, Regional Crops Educator

- Weclome Liz! Liz Gartman is our new Regional Crops Educator for Sheboygan, Fond du Lac, Washington & Ozaukee counties. Liz spent the early part of her career as a livestock feed specialist for a local co-op, was most recently an Agriculture Instructor at Lakeshore Technical College, and spent most of her life living and working on a farm. In her spare time, she coaches livestock and dairy quiz bowl/skillathon, raises beef and dairy cattle with her family, and spends her summers showing cattle around the state.
- As a new regional crops educator it is necessary to determine the needs of the agricultural community related to crops programming. To best understand the needs of the growers, community groups and agribusiness professionals in the region, the crops educator will meet with these potential partners to determine gaps in programming and specific educational strategies necessary to properly serve the region. As of June 20, 2023, the educator has met with the director of the Clean Farm Families watershed group, Sheboygan River Progressive Farmers board members, financial officers from Compeer Financial and an editor for Hay and Forage magazine, while also making connections with other UW Madison-Extension educators and support personnel. The educator is asking questions and recording the responses to generate a needs assessment which will provide guidance into programming plans. Further, the educator has provided support to local growers as needed by leveraging UW- Madison Extension professionals. This outreach will continue over the next 6 months to develop relationships with potential partners to establish an Extension presence in the crops programming area in this region.





## FOOD SECURITY, HEALTHY EATING, AND HEALTHY LIVING



*FoodWise* advances healthy eating habits, active lifestyles and healthy community environments for families with limited incomes through nutrition education at the individual, community and systems levels. *FoodWise* reaches individuals and families through local community partners by providing nutrition classes in-person and virtually, indirect education (newsletters, etc.), and social media/marketing. *FoodWise* is an obesity prevention program that addresses policy, system and environmental changes through local and state public health efforts.

*FoodWise* is federally funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

**Health & Well-Being** works to catalyze positive change in Wisconsin families through evidence-based programs focused on nutrition, food security and safety, chronic disease prevention, mental health promotion, prevention of substance abuse and health insurance literacy. Local health coalitions efforts are supported by coalition capacity building tools and health equity frameworks. Rooted in both urban and rural communities, we're working together to help solve the state's most pressing well-being needs and to ensure that all Wisconsinites live stronger, healthier lives.

*Amanda Miller, FoodWise Coordinator, Health & Well-Being Educator*

- A series of English and Spanish parent/child cooking classes for FitFamilies participants, a program that helps WIC families develop and achieve their health-related goals. These classes offer families the opportunity to work together in the kitchen to develop important life skills and to encourage healthy eating.
- Partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Fond du Lac Teen Center to develop and implement the Teen Cuisine summer cooking series. The cooking series will teach teenagers the important skills needed to cook on their own in the future.
- Began the Junior Master Gardener Program, which is an interactive, summer-long youth gardening and nutrition program for youth aged 8-12 years old. The goal of this program is to highlight the benefits of youth gardening, which includes healthy eating, physical activity, mental health, and social connectedness.

Cindy Sarkady <i>Area Extension Director</i>	Tracy Keifenheim <i>4-H Program Educator</i>	Amanda Miller <i>FoodWise Coordinator Health &amp; Well-Being Educator</i>	Patty Percy <i>Community Garden Coordinator</i>
Tina Kohlman <i>Regional Dairy Educator</i>	Kelly Dione <i>Community Youth Development Educator</i>	Melanie Phillips <i>FoodWise Educator</i>	Tina Engelhardt Sherry Auchue <i>Support Staff</i>
Liz Gartman <i>Regional Crops Educator</i>	Diana Hammer <i>Community Development Educator</i>	Grace Gallagher <i>FoodWise Educator</i>	Cassi Worster <i>Marketing Specialist</i>
Kimberly Clark <i>Human and Development Relationships Educator</i>	Noah Reif <i>Community Development Educator</i>		