

EXTENSION FOND DU LAC COUNTY AUGUST 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
FOND DU LAC COUNTY

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

- Developing and planning a four-part Spanish dairy webinar series for Spanish-speaking dairy managers, herd managers, herds persons, and employees. The goal of this effort is to teach unbiased, university-based research in the areas of reproduction, nutrition, dairy management, and milk quality so they can improve farm viability and food safety, while maintaining animal wellbeing and welfare.
- 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

- As a new regional crops educator in Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Washington, and Fond du Lac counties, 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 August 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, county Land & Water groups, producer, agronomists 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

- Taught a hybrid presentation on the basics of food preservation & canning to employees at the world headquarters of a local business, Mercury Marine. The goal of this presentation is to introduce the resources and information needed to prevent food-borne illnesses while home canning.
- Providing technical assistance for the state FoodWise office to develop a plan and apply for a federal nutrition incentive program. The goal is to offer nutrition incentive programs at farmers markets across Wisconsin and to support local farmers markets, which helps bring fresh fruits and vegetables to families in need.
- 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.
- Providing technical assistance, education, and resources to community members in Fond du Lac County about food preservation safety. This service aims to prevent food borne illness through improper home canning practices.

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.

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

- Group facilitation for The Fond du Lac Salvation Army and United Way, to explore solutions in response to the absence of a local warming shelter. The goal is to develop a community-created action plan that leverages local assets and supports community members experiencing homelessness during the warming shelter season.

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

- An art activity for community youth and their families, where participants created celebrate me bracelets during the Fond du Lac National Night Out. The purpose of the event is to highlight county agencies working together and provide youth resources for families.
- A day camp (“Cloverbud Day Camp”) for younger 4-H members where they learned about art through hands-on activities. The purpose of this program is to discover new skills, explore the arts and crafts project, and experience hands-on learning.
- A multi-day camp for youth in grades third through eighth, where youth explored different art media, and participated in team-building and leadership exercises under the leadership of volunteers. The goal of this effort is to engage young people in leadership roles while learning about art.

Community Youth Development

Kelly Dione, Community Youth Development Educator

- Development of a community needs assessment tool where a collection of data from one-on-one meetings with local youth serving organizations and youth focus groups will be conducted, data organized, and analyzed. This effort is designed as the foundation of the programming needs of the communities. The needs assessment will be used to develop programming with youth organizations to build capacity, expand access, and connect youth and adults to work collaboratively on community projects.

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4-H Program Educator

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