

EXTENSION FOND DU LAC COUNTY AUGUST 2024 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.

Crops

Liz Gartman, Regional Crops Educator

- Planning to coordinate Extension educators state wide to ensure uniform data collection related to corn silage harvest management. The goal is to share whole plant moisture with forage growers in each region and aggregate additional silage data including planting date, relative maturity, corn hybrid, fungicide use, grain stage and previous crop. This data would be utilized to inform future corn silage harvest recommendations.

Corn silage dry down events are held across the state as means to determine when optimum corn silage harvest should occur due to whole plant moisture measurements. As we are already gathering some data regarding the samples collected, we determined there is additional information that would be beneficial to better understand the factors affecting when corn silage should be harvested. This prompted the forage team in the crops and soils program to look further to determine what data might be beneficial to informing harvest management decisions. Resources were prepared for educators and partners to utilize when gathering data at local corn silage dry down events. Partners will be provided a worksheet for producers to fill out and return with their stalk samples. Additionally, an Excel document is available to collect that data as well. Data will be collected and used to inform future management recommendations.

- A webinar for agribusiness professionals, crop growers and livestock producers where attendees learned about managing alfalfa and corn silage due to challenges during the 2024 growing season. Through this effort, participants can manage their corn silage and late season alfalfa harvests to optimize forage quality and improve and farm profitability.

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

Facilitation support for a community nonprofit needs assessment meeting convened by United for Diversity. With Extension's support, community nonprofits collaboratively identified organizational areas of strength, areas of growth, and opportunities for collaboration with each other.

The United for Diversity Board President contacted the educator and requested facilitation support for the meeting to ensure that perspectives could be shared freely. The educator created a facilitation plan with the collaboration of United for Diversity, which was used when the educator facilitated the needs assessment meeting with community nonprofits. This session may provide community nonprofits with an increased understanding of available resources and opportunities to build their capacity to meet growing community needs. A detailed report of the event was prepared by the educator for the United for Diversity Board and attending nonprofit leadership. The nonprofits identified areas of strength and greatest need and discussed a broader vision. The educator has been asked by United for Diversity to facilitate additional conversations with community nonprofits focused on needs in the future.

A series of planning meetings with the Fond du Lac County Director of Administration, County GIS Specialist, Extension Broadband Specialist, and Community Development Educator. Through Extension's support, Fond du Lac County will strengthen its position to attract bids from internet service providers to increase broadband access to underserved people in the county.

The county director of administration contacted Extension and requested support in creating a community engagement plan that satisfied BEAD grant requirements through NEW North. The extension educator organized and facilitated planning meetings culminating in a community engagement plan. This plan will satisfy the grant requirements and greatly strengthen the county's position as it enters the bidding process for broadband projects in late 2024 or early 2025.

A series of vision, values, and mission workshops for Broken Bread Food Pantry's board members and staff. Because of the program, staff and volunteers will be better positioned to align the organization's leadership with its purpose, and increase their capacity to meet changing community needs.

The director of Broken Bread food pantry contacted the educator and requested a Vision, Values, and Mission workshop series with the current board. The organization is exploring expanding its programming to more effectively meet the needs of those it serves in the community and wants to align its leadership with its purpose. The educator collaborated with the director on a series of Vision, Values, and Mission workshops that would be held over the summer months. The staff and board members will exit the series with an updated vision statement, organizational values, and an implementation plan for the next steps.

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 multi-day camp for youth in grades third through eighth, where youth explored different art media and built relationships with other youth who were interested in art. This effort aimed to increase interest in art and have youth feel a sense of belonging.
- A Cloverbud Day Camp for youth grades K-2, where participants played games, created crafts, sang camp songs, and made new friends. This effort encouraged youth to feel a sense of belonging and increase their interest in 4-H day camp.
- A Cloverbud Day Camp for youth grades K-2, where participants learned about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This effort was to encourage youth to feel a sense of belonging and increase their interest in STEM.

Community Youth Development

Kelly Dione, Community Youth Development Educator

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.

Independent living skills for foster youth aging out of the system was identified by the Fond du Lac County Executive as a need in the community. It became an ask for the UW-Madison Extension educators in HDR and CYD to collaboratively work on a pilot program in 2023. The HDR and CYD educator partnered with DHS Independent Living Coordinator to pilot a program called KEYS. Two students graduated from the 6 session program. A workgroup has been created since their graduation to collaborate with other educators in different counties to build on the curriculum, discuss relevant field trips, and strategize on how to foster youth engagement. In the second year, we plan on getting more feedback from youth who are or have been in foster care through focus groups and revising curriculum materials. Participants will have increased confidence associated with personal finance and other independent living skills. Increase partner outreach to promote youth participation in the KEYS program. Increase foster parent awareness of KEYS program goals and 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.*

Carol Bralich, Human Development and Relationships Educator

Planning AHEAD is a series of 7 sessions for adults of all ages. Participants learn about end-of-life decision making tasks. The program's goal is to reduce the stress experienced by survivors and to ensure that their wishes are honored. Each attendee received the step-by-step workbook with resources to reinforce the content. Starting in June 2024, Carol co-facilitated a Planning AHEAD series at the Ripon Public Library with participants from Fond du Lac, Green Lake and Winnebago counties. Twenty-three adults participated in the series with 119 educational contacts. The post-course evaluations (n= 10) indicated:

- 100 percent of the participants stated they learned enough to move forward with planning.
- 100 percent agreed or strongly agreed that they have greater knowledge of advanced medical and legal directives, estate planning, choices in end-of-life care and handling financial changes.
- 100 percent of respondents said that they felt more confident in having conversations with loved ones related to end-of-life wishes and knowing where to find reliable resources for more information on end-of-life planning.
- The majority of respondents, 80%, in the next three months, will make their end-of-life wishes known to family members
- 60% of participants will encourage someone else to do end-of-life planning.

One participant wrote in the evaluation survey: "Thank you for an excellent presentation! Appreciate multiple speakers, love the workbook and practical application of info " And, another participant, "class very informative on different facets"

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

- Offered a youth gardening program for children aged 8-12 years old that introduces hands-on activities in the kitchen and garden. The goal of this summer-long program is to bring together the FoodWise program and Master Gardeners to encourage healthy eating and gardening at a young age.
- Providing support for the planning of a local food summit event. The purpose of this event is to bring local food pantries together to raise awareness of poverty, hunger, and the needs of food pantries and their clients in Fond du Lac County.
- Hosting farmers market voucher distribution events and farmers market classes at senior meals sites and senior housing units. The purpose of these events and classes are to provide support for the promotion and distribution of the senior farmers market voucher program, which is new in Fond du Lac County.
- A 8-part series on Teen Cuisine for the teen Boys and Girls Club summer program in Fond du Lac County. The goal of this effort is to build important life and kitchen skills in young adults.

Cindy Sarkady
Area Extension Director

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Human Development and Relationships Educator

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Health & Well-Being Educator*

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