



Agriculture

Josh Kamps, Regional Crops & Soils Educator
Jackie McCarville, Regional Dairy Educator



The Extension Agriculture Institute is your connection to the latest University of Wisconsin-Madison research. Our five program areas; Agriculture Water Quality, Crops and Soils, Dairy and Livestock, Farm Management, and Horticulture, are here to educate and respond to the needs of the agriculture community while providing resources that promote economic and environmental sustainability in Wisconsin. We apply research to challenges facing communities and businesses.

Pigweed and Palmer Amaranth In-Person discussions with growers to assist with developing the required skills necessary to accurately differentiate pigweed species and rate the risk of Paler amaranth infestation within cropping systems management across southern WI.

The southern WI weed management discussions informed growers of the risk of Palmer amaranth infestation within cropping systems across southern WI. The discussion impacted the management decision of 40+ growers, representing 19 farms, with a total of 35,000 acres. A literature review by Ward et al. (2013) identified a risk of yield loss up to 94 percent in heavy infested fields of Palmer amaranth for many crops including corn and soybean. Growers gained the required skill to accurately identify multiple pigweed species, the knowledge to locate available resources, and the techniques for managing the risk of pigweed infestation.

Soybean Leaves Problem Water serves many functions for plants including temperature regulation, sugar transfer, and soil nutrient uptake. The yellow streaking on these soybean leaves are likely due to a potassium deviancy at this particular growth stage.



Armyworms The true Armyworm is a damaging pest to grass crops and forages in Southern WI. This pest arrives during the spring by way of mot migration from the south. Once the moths arrive breeding soon begins and eggs are carefully laid on lush green plants. Hungary larve emerge in 7 – 10 days and begin a month long feeding streak with the majority of plant damage done during the last 10 days ahead of the pupae stage. Early identification and control is critical to effective manage this pest.

Forage Stability for Dairy Farms A research-based educational article for dairy farmers, managers, employees, and agri-business professionals, where they will learn about utilizing for forages test to determine forage stability for dairy farms. The goal of reading a forage test can help determine how stable their forages are to increase business viability and the environmental stability.

Factsheet Development Planning for development of factsheets/articles, longer publications, and videos on nutrition, genetics and reproduction topics. The goal of this effort is to increase farmer, nutritionist, veterinarian, and other agribusiness professionals understanding of management of these topics to help improve farm sustainability and economic viability.

- **Badger Dairy Insight** Contribute and co-coordinate statewide Dairy e-newsletter for farmers, nutritionist, veterinarians, agribusiness professionals, and other interested individuals to inform their participants of new dairy management articles/factsheets, connect with dairy educators, and learn about upcoming programming to help them learn about new research and management techniques to improve their overall farm sustainability.



Health and Well-Being *Bridget Mouchon, Health & Well-being Educator*

The Extension Institute for Health & Well-Being works to catalyze positive change in Wisconsin communities to promote health and well-being. Our research-based programs are focused on food and nutrition security, chronic disease prevention, mental health promotion, substance use prevention, and access to health care. 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 have the opportunity to live stronger, healthier lives.

Suicide Prevention A 1.5-hour suicide prevention program (QPR: Question, Persuade, Refer) for SSM-Monroe and Colony Brands staff and other members of the public, where participants learned skills and strategies to identify and respond to signs of suicidal thoughts and behavior in order to connect individuals to appropriate professional help, provide support, reduce stigma and reduce the risk of suicide. A Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) suicide prevention training for law enforcement staff, where the officers learned the basic facts about suicide, including disparities in rates, etiology, signs and symptoms and how to respond to someone who may be suicidal, in order to increase their skills and confidence in responding and engaging appropriate supports for those in need.

Youth Mental Health Awareness A 6-hour mental health awareness program (Youth Mental Health First Aid) for the public in Southwestern Wisconsin, where participants learned skills and strategies to identify and respond to signs of a mental health or substance use challenge in order to connect individuals to appropriate professional help, provide support, reduce stigma, improve mental wellness and reduce the risk of suicide.

Bienvenido Program A 5 session series of the Bienvenido program, for Spanish-speaking immigrants, where they learned the mental, emotional, and relational impacts of being an immigrant and strategies to coping with the stress of their unique experience. This effort was designed to improve knowledge and understanding of healthy coping skills, increase social connections and awareness of community resources.





*Maggie Milcarek, FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator
Kathy Lange, FoodWise Nutrition Educator*

Nutritional Education Outreach

- A nutrition educational outreach effort at Governor Dodge State Park for students with disabilities from schools in Grant, Lafayette and Iowa counties. The Recreational Education Exploration Day event was organized by County Communities on Transition which promotes the successful transition of students with disabilities to live, work and successfully participate in post-school activities. The goal of this event was to increase knowledge about healthy eating, prepare a healthy snack, and give students an opportunity to try new foods.
- A nutrition educational outreach effort at the Lafayette County Senior Social where information was provided to seniors on the benefits of eating healthy foods and the connection between food and mental health. Participants received healthy recipes and tips on healthy eating. A goal of this effort is to increase knowledge and skills needed to prepare nutritious, affordable snacks and meals at home.



Natural Resources

Joe Bonnell, Regional Natural Resource Educator



The Extension Institute for Natural Resources works to provide science-based information and education at the crossroads of communities, natural resources, and agriculture in our state and beyond. From water and forestry programming to conservation training and youth environmental education, our outreach specialists, educators, researchers, affiliates, and support teams navigate complex issues, facilitate challenging conversations and help prepare and guide the next generation of community leaders.

Famer Conservation Leadership Program

- Planning for a farmer conservation leadership program for farmers in the Sinsinawa River watershed. The goal of this effort is to pilot a program in this watershed that will build the capacity of farmers to become effective advocates for conservation practices that can improve water quality in the Upper Mississippi River basin.

Farmer-Led Watershed Surveys

- A survey of agencies and organizations that support farmer-led watershed groups in Wisconsin was conducted to better understand how these groups are functioning and the nature of support they receive from their partners. Results of the survey will be used to inform decisions about what types of support are most beneficial and most needed by the farmer-led groups.



Positive Youth Development

Hailee Kammerud, 4-H Youth Development Educator

The Extension Institute of 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 afterschool programs give young people the hands-on experiences they need to develop an understanding of themselves and the world.

CLOVER

4-H Camp A day camp for youth in grades K-2nd (Cloverbuds) and 4-H Ambassadors, where youth were able to explore their SPARKS in 4-H through Space Exploration, STEM, and Healthy Meal planning, including a matching game of "Producer - Product". The day camp provided team building amongst the youth and leadership experiences for the 4-H Ambassadors to build a strong sense of belonging and connecting.

- A three-county summer camp for 4-H members where they engaged in nature and teamwork activities to strengthen their understanding of the Wisconsin environment and their place in it. From Lafayette County there were a total of 24 campers, 4 counselors, and adult chaperones.



Secrets of 4-H



- A day camp for youth in grades 3-5, where youth were able to explore the "Secrets of 4-H," by fueling their SPARKS (areas of interest) in the extensive programming that 4-H has to offer at the county, state, and national levels. Lafayette County 4-H Ambassadors created, planned, and delivered programming in the areas of 4-H Trivia, Trick Photography, and Communication Arts through the creation of group skits. The day camp provided team building with the 4-H Ambassadors and county youth, as well as leadership opportunities.

Shooting Sports

- The 4-H Youth Development Educator provides ongoing facilitation support for the Lafayette County 4-H Shooting Sports – Gun program and volunteers, providing them with resources and strategies to make sure youth have authentic and safe experiences within the Shooting Sports project area. The Shooting Sports project provides youth the opportunity to explore their sparks while creating a sense of belonging and engagement.

4-H Record Book

- Development of a 4-H Record Book rubric and streamlined curriculum that allows for 4-H youth to develop their record keeping skills for members of Lafayette County 4-H. The goal for a clear, simplified version of record sheets is to create a reflective process of learning for 4-H members to be more conducive to the experiential learning model.



Extension

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