



Agriculture

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.

Cold Stress in Dairy Calves

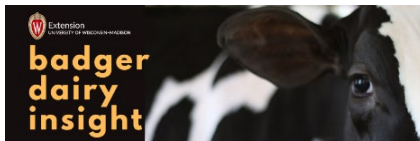
A research-based educational article for dairy farmers and agri-business professionals, where participants will learn about cold stress in pre-weaned dairy calves. The goal of this article is to help dairy farmers learn about how to reduce the chance of cold stress in dairy calves with a few simple management tools.



Hay Production

An on-farm dairy research field trial in collaboration with UW-Madison Department of Animal & Dairy Science where educators helped connect research to producers to understand the microbiology in hay samples. Results from this study will help dairy farmers, managers, employees, researchers, and agribusiness professionals understand the effect of haying conditions and the microbiology of the hay after processing.

Badger Dairy Insight



A digital media/television interview aired in Wisconsin and the upper Midwest for farmers and consumers on Badger Dairy Insight. This effort aimed to increase awareness about our webinar series aimed to increase knowledge in genetics/reproduction, nutrition topics, animal welfare, and automation/modernization in the coming year.



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

Lunch Bunch

A presentation to a group of HCE members, "Lunch Bunch", where the evidence based Sources of Strength was overviewed, in order to develop an understanding of the program and its strengths and resiliency lens/framing and thereby start to build a landscape of shared culture and language around supporting youth mental health.



Community Health Improvement Process

A Community Health Improvement Process presentation and facilitation with Lafayette County residents, where attendees received information about local health issues and determined health issue priorities, so that the community coalition can develop strategies and use available resources to work on improving and impacting on or more targeted issues. The two primary issues identified were Mental Health & Substance Use and Housing access. Two committees (including the existing Mental Health Matters group) are working on defining their objectives for 2024, and need input and support from the county board.

Strong Bodies Classes - Darlington

A series of bilingual (Spanish and English) strength training sessions offered in person, where older adults learn best practices and learn nutrition and health education. Participants engage in regular strength training exercises to improve strength, balance, and flexibility so they can stay healthy and socially connected. October 10 – December 21, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Juntos Program

Planning and development of the Juntos 4-H High School Family Night program and delivery in the late fall of 2023, where Spanish-speaking families learn about how to graduate from high school and prepare for post-secondary educational options, so that their students graduate high school and move on to higher education. The initial series of six sessions finished up on November 9th, and we plan to continue in the Spring with a series of Family Nights and work toward inviting Spanish-speaking families and youth leaders to be involved in 4-H. It was a wonderful collaboration with Darlington High School and 18-25 youth and parents attended each week.



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



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

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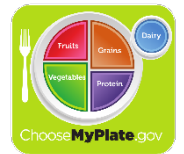
Kathy Lange Maggie Milcarek

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Nutrition Education Series

- A six-week nutrition education series for youth in second, third, and fourth grade classrooms at Shullsburg Elementary School where they taste new foods and learn about eating a variety of foods from MyPlate, label reading, the importance of breakfast, physical activity, and hand washing. The goal of these classes is to encourage healthy habits at school and at home.
- A six-week nutrition education series for youth in second, third, and fourth grade classrooms at Blackhawk Elementary School where they taste new foods and learn about eating a variety of foods from MyPlate, label reading, the importance of breakfast, physical activity, and hand washing. The goal of these classes is to encourage healthy habits at school and at home.



Farmers Market & FoodWise

Support for a coalition consisting of Farmers Market Managers and FoodWise staff in Southwest Wisconsin. The goal of this effort is to strengthen community partnerships, empower members through sharing of best practices, develop and disseminate resources, and promote equitable access to healthy and local foods.



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.



Promoting 4-H

By promoting 4-H thought increased publicity through multiple media outlets the enrolled numbers for the program as showing growth. Promotion materials, Facebook post, website fliers, window displays, and radio interviews are used monthly to further promote 4-H programming within the county 4-H program, as well as a bi-monthly newsletter, The Lafayette County Marquee. By being at the forefront of media attention the program is allowing for the creation of Sparks, relationship building, and the sense of belonging.

Fall Photography Challenge



The Fall Photography Challenge shines a light on the talented photographers throughout Lafayette County, encouraging everyone to get outdoors and enjoy all the beauty that can be found during the fall season. This also encourages self-expression and allows youth to demonstrate skills learned in the area of photography. Upon submission, these will be displayed within the Lafayette County Extension office.

Cloverbud Fall Fun Day

“2023 FALL Cloverbud Fun Day” was created in conjunction with Green County to engage younger youth, kindergarten through second grade, with older 4-H youth and adult volunteers by igniting their SPARKS in what 4-H has to offer. This event was available to both youth enrolled and not enrolled in 4-H to truly engage in sense of belonging, sparks, and relationship building. Each of the activities were centered on the theme of fall and what 4-H has to offer youth in the two counties. Youth participated in pumpkin decorating, the science of leaves changing color, and creating their “natural person” incorporating the story of their person just like the 4-H story that each youth has. Through offering experiences like Fall Cloverbud Fun day, youth can try-out what 4-H is about which will lead to more youth joining 4-H.

Fill the Floral Hall

4-H parents noticed a need for more projects in Floral Hall at the county fair and asked for my assistance in helping them develop a once-a-month project day (2-3hours) where youth could come together with volunteers and focus on an area of interest (Spark) related to a specific project: very much like the project days in the past. I have engaged in supporting the project by coordinating with the primary lead volunteer in the yearly planning of the monthly activities, offering the office’s assistance in pre-registrations, contacting volunteers/community members to assist with the project area, and obtaining the needed supplies for the day to take place. With the consistency of the projects taking place since October 2022, the project days have grown in participants and capacity for more volunteer-led support from others furthering the relationship building amongst youth and adults. With a sense of belonging, more youth and adults are participating each month. While the focus was to create more projects for Floral Hall, it has turned into a very welcoming monthly gathering of 4-Hers to share experience and expertise furthering relationships, sense of belonging, and Sparks. These connections are expanding out into the community as youth and adults interact.

