



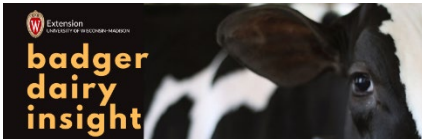
Agriculture:

*Jackie McCarville, Regional Dairy Educator
Jordyn Sattler, Regional Crops & Soil Educator
Kimberly Kester, Livestock 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

Badger Dairy Insight



A webinar, one session part of Badger Dairy Insight, for dairy farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned about research on nutritional strategies to reduce methane emissions in dairy cattle. (Jackie)

Radio Interviews

Weekly radio interviews for farmers and agriculture professionals where the audience learns about current crop management considerations and/or resources available to them from the UW-Madison Division of Extension to help them make more timely and economic decisions on their farms. This effort is promoting Extension and building credibility in the community so farmers can better understand the resources available to them, and use them to make the most economical and environmentally conscious decisions for their farm and surrounding areas. (Jordyn)

Radio Spot w/ 95.5 WEKZ and 93.7 WBGR

A weekly radio spot for livestock producers, allied ag industries, and the general public to learn about Extension publications and resources, programming updates, and available webinars or workshops in the area. The intent was to reach a broader audience with timely topics and resources in order to positively influence on-farm economic viability, knowledge and skills, and overall impression of Extension. (Kim)

Noontime Beef Roundup Webinar Series

A monthly webinar series of timely topics for beef producers to inform and assist them in decision making on their own operations. Wisconsin is continuing to see popularity in beef production and with this comes interest in important and emerging topics. The Noontime Beef Roundup Webinar Series for 2025 will provide insights for beef producers and industry professionals. This free series will cover a range of topics critical to the success of the beef industry, featuring expert speakers and interactive sessions with the hope of maintaining beef operations economic viability. (Kim)



Swath/Windrow Grazing for Winter Feeding Beef Cows – Pilot Project

A pilot study to gauge the feasibility of swath/windrow grazing as a winter-feeding option for beef cows in southwestern Wisconsin, in collaboration with CALS faculty and Lancaster ARS personnel. Results from this pilot study will offer beef producers a potential new winter-feeding strategy that utilizes drought-resistant/climate resilient forages, saves time and money by reducing fieldwork/fuel usage, reduces damage to fields, and provides adequate nutrition for cows. Climate change has altered forage growing seasons, leading to the adaptation of alternative forages in beef pasture systems. Education is needed within this area as producers are continually looking for alternative forages that can withstand extreme weather conditions while maintaining production. In addition, swath grazing has been gaining popularity in both Iowa and Canada to utilize crops for winter feeding. This practice extends the grazing season and spreads manure on fields as cattle dig through snow to consume feed. This practice is also economically valuable to beef producers as it greatly reduces the time/fuel cost associated with hauling hay and manure. A pilot study was adapted from Iowa State swath grazing trials in order to gauge the feasibility of implementing swath/windrow grazing in the hills and valleys of southwestern Wisconsin. A small 10- to 12-acre plot at Lancaster Ag Research Station was planted in oats and will be followed by sorghum and millet, which will be crops used for windrowed forage through winter. Forage quality will be evaluated throughout standing, cut, and stockpiled phases. The project engages regional Extension educators, Lancaster ARS personnel, and state Extension specialists. Data is still pending as this project is ongoing. Results from this pilot study will offer beef producers a potential new winter-feeding strategy that utilizes drought-resistant/climate resilient forages, saves time and money by reducing fieldwork/fuel usage, reduces damage to fields, and provides adequate nutrition for cows. (Kim & Jordyn)

Beef Quality Assurance Certification- Monroe

Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification maintains market access that contributes to the economic viability of beef producers. Harvest facilities will purchase cattle from beef producers with proof of BQA certification. The need for this programming is indicated by data collected from national beef quality audits of processors and conducted every five years. We adapt and deliver the national BQA curriculum for Wisconsin producers including research-based information to maintain farm-level food safety and access to markets. Curriculum was delivered by the Regional Livestock Educator and Statewide Beef Outreach Specialist. (Kim)

Outcomes of this program:

- Short-term: Beef producers gain awareness of management practices that influence the economic viability of their farms. Practices include feeding and breeding strategies, market access, and animal handling.
- Medium-term: Beef producers adopt management practices that positively influence the economic viability of their farms.
- Long-term: Beef producers achieve and maintain economic viability.

FoodWise:
Maggie Milcarek, FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator



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.

Educational & Outreach Events

Outreach and educational events held at area food pantries in partnership with our bilingual Community Health Worker through the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR). FoodWise and GWAAR staff provided education, resources and support to people using the SWCAP food pantries in Dodgeville and Darlington and the Livingston Community Improvement Corporation food pantry serving Iowa/Grant counties. The goal of these efforts is to build relationships with food pantry partners and participants, reach the underserved Spanish-speaking community in our area, and promote healthy eating and physical activity.

Planning for a StrongBodies series and Tai Chi series in Lafayette County. Working with Lafayette County Housing Authority and Seniors United for Nutrition meal sites to plan a Tai Chi series and/or StrongBodies series at multiple locations in Lafayette County. The goal of these efforts is to promote physical activity, provide nutrition education, and reduce social isolation among older adults in Lafayette County.

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 youth people the hands-on experiences they need to develop an understanding of themselves and the world.

Shooting Sports Project

All areas of shooting sports are or will be underway. Six disciplines of shooting sports are available to 4-H youth: archery, air rifle, air pistol, .22 rifle, .22 pistol, and shotgun. As winter began, air rifle started in December and will be wrapping up in January with the transition to air pistol. Additionally, archery is slated to start in January and clinics will be held through the early spring months. 4-H Shooting Sports has grown in membership participation in the past three years due to increased support from state certified leaders and is offering youth the opportunities to learn and experience safety, safe equipment handling, wildlife/ecology, and range practice. 4-H Shooting Sports gives youth the needed education and experience to become responsible, safe, and self-directed members.

Fill the Floral Hall

Continuing with the monthly project experiences of providing youth within the county with opportunities to ignite "SPARKS," develop relationships, belonging, and engagement while utilizing the resources of talented individuals, Lafayette County Extension continues to offer monthly project programming to youth. In December, youth partook in YARN ART creations co-led by Janet Trout, Extension Administrative Assistant. For January, registered participants will be learning how to make poof deco mesh wreaths from the Family & Consumer Sciences teacher at Monroe High School. The Spring event will be featuring the art of Wool Felting in collaboration with a local business, local schoolteacher, and our own UW-Madison Livestock Educator. Several other events are being planned around the areas of leathercraft and hydro dipping to name a few.

Horse Project

In conjunction with the 4-H Horse Project, the county leader and youth members will be starting their clinics this winter and carrying them through the fall months. Additional Livestock opportunities are available at the state level for youth interested the Dairy Bowl and Meats Judging.

Community Programming

4-H and Local Libraries - Through the expanding access efforts, Extension (4-H) and Johnson Public Library hosted an event prior to winter break where 30+ youth participated in the making of gingerbread houses and 3D snowflakes. Local libraries are a hub for youth, especially during the after-school hours and by connecting with them, 4-H is expanding their reach to youth who haven't experienced 4-H in a traditional sense before. These community collaborations allow for meeting youth where they are at. With the initial success, 4-H is expanding their reach and will be providing monthly programming, once a month at McCoy Public Library and continue programming opportunities with Johnson Public Library while connecting with other county libraries to learn of their supporting needs.

