



### 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*

### Dairy Webinar

A webinar for dairy owners/operators, livestock haulers, custom calf raisers, and agriculture professionals, where participants learned what calf raisers, transporters, and owners are doing to improve calf health during transport and what needs to be enhanced to improve the overall health of calves, which directly impacts the calf's growth and production as an adult. (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)

### 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)

### Wisconsin Agriculturist Magazine

An article in the Wisconsin Agriculturist magazine about mineral delivery methods for beef herds that will improve animal performance and profitability will appear in the online email blast in February 2025 and in the printed magazine in April 2025. There are a variety of ways to deliver minerals to beef cattle, including loose premixes, protein/energy tubs, and "cafeteria style" individual minerals. However, not every method is effective for every farm due to palatability, availability, and cost. The Regional Livestock Educator wrote an article that described the main methods of mineral delivery, as well as their pros and cons so beef producers can decide which method is best for their operation. By using a statewide publication, it increased the likelihood of reaching more cattle producers across Wisconsin. (Kim)



### New Technologies in dairy and the Smart Farm Hub

A webinar for dairy producers and industry professionals titled "New technologies in dairy and the Smart Farm Hub" to help them understand the opportunities UW-Madison has created for emerging technologies. There is a lot of data created from automation, the webinar will explain new technologies and how Smart Farm Hub was developed. (Jackie)

### Crop Presentations

A presentation for crop insurance customers where they learned various strategies for making crop management decisions in low-margin years. Projected corn and soybean prices are lower than the estimated cost of production, indicating potential for negative margins and economic stress for agricultural producers. In these situations, some producers have to decide which expenses are worth the investment and which could be cut without significantly impacting yield. To help inform their decisions, I presented information based on the Extension publication "Grain Management Considerations for Low-Margin Years" and highlighted several common scenarios producers face where they are most likely to see the greatest return on investment, and explained how independent data supports those considerations. Through this program, producers are better able to prioritize where their input dollars should be spent in order to see the best return on investment. (Jordyn)

### Greenhouse Producers

The beginning of a new growing season is a critical time for preparing greenhouses to receive and start new plants. Seedlings are highly susceptible to diseases, which are easily transferred by contaminated sources, and taking shipments of plants and materials from outside sources can introduce new pest problems into the greenhouse. To help greenhouse producers prepare for the new season, I wrote an article about various cleaning and sanitation practices that can be used to help prevent the spread of plant diseases and other pest pressures. As a result, producers will be more thorough in how they prepare for spring and more conscientious of sanitation strategies to be implemented throughout the year. This will prevent plant and profit loss for the greenhouse operation and improve their long-term success. (Jordyn)

### The Driftless Region Beef Conference

A multi-state conference (The Driftless Region Beef Conference) for beef producers where participants learned about the use of genomics and genetics to improve their beef herd, how to optimize pasture production, beef market outlook and implications of current cattle herd size, lifetime management impacts on beef x dairy cross performance, timing for marketing fed cattle, bunk management impacts on finishing cattle, developing replacement heifers. The purpose of this program is to provide information to beef producers to improve profit and sustainability. (Kim)

### Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Certification

A workshop for beef producers to meet their need for obtaining their Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification that maintains their economic viability. 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 two Regional Livestock Educator. 12 beef producers attended. (Kim)



### Dairy Feeder School

A workshop "Dairy Feeder School" for all the individuals with a link with the formulation, mixing, and/or delivering of feedstuff for dairy cattle. We are creating an in person and bilingual event where participants will learn and reinforce their knowledge about feed safety, feed management, transition cow health, and the economics of feeding. Through this effort we will impact animal health and milk production efficiency, by improve the use of resources such as, feed ingredients, time and labor leading to an increased farm profitability and waste reduction. (Jackie)

### Western Wisconsin Beef Producers Annual Meeting

An in-person presentation about setting production goals for beef cattle operations in order to increase productivity and profitability. The Western Wisconsin Beef Producers annual meeting was held with supplementary educational presentations for producers to learn and earn one Beef Quality Assurance continuing education credit. The Regional Livestock Educator presented about the importance of setting herd goals, what goals and record looking look like, and how to gauge progress towards those goals. 12 beef producers attended. (Kim)

### Dairy Producer Fact Sheet

A factsheet for dairy producers and nutritionists is being developed to provide guidance about the emerging use of roasted high oleic soybeans in dairy cattle diets. The goal is to provide research-based information to be used on farms to improve dairy cattle profitability and sustainability. (Jackie)



*FoodWise:*

*Maggie Milcarek, FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator  
Julia Harman, FoodWise Nutrition 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*

**Educational & Outreach Events**

An Informational Session held at Cuba City Apartments which serves older adults and adults with disabilities in Cuba City. The program was promoted to residents of two affordable housing properties, through the Senior Meal Site in Benton, and the Aging and Disability Resource Center. The goal of the information session was to promote the StrongBodies program, discuss the benefits of strength-training for older adults and recruit participants for the series.

Reaching out to and meeting with partners at Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR), Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program (SWCAP), and Seniors United for Nutrition (SUN) to determine areas of need and priorities for older adults in Iowa and Lafayette counties. The goal of this effort is to strengthen partnerships, identify opportunities for collaboration, and set up programming with FoodWise and GWAAR's community health worker. An Informational Session for a future Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention class held at Grace Lutheran Church and promoted to Lafayette County Housing Authority residents, which serves older adults and adults with disabilities in Darlington.

**Food Garden Grants**

Connecting with current partners in Iowa, Grant, and Green and Lafayette Counties to determine interest in and capacity for applying for grants for food gardens. At this time, five partners are interested in applying for garden grants this year: 1) Meridian Housing Group Dodgeville Apartments in Dodgeville (Iowa), 2) Soul Food and Livingston Community Improvement Corporation Emergency Food Pantry in Livingston (Iowa/Grant), 3) Family Promise of Green County in Monroe (Green), 4) Lafayette County Housing Authority Riverview Apartments in Blanchardville (Lafayette), and 5) Juda Elementary School in Juda (Green). The FoodWise Coordinator will write the grants and work with partners to develop a budget, workplan, sustainability plan, and educational opportunities.

An informational meeting and garden planning event held with residents and staff of Lafayette County Housing Authority Riverview apartments in Blanchardville. The purpose of this event was to provide information on the FoodWise food garden grant process, review last year's garden project, and discuss the possibility of applying for a continuation of the garden grant this year and future years. FoodWise staff continues to support the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources bilingual Community Health Worker in outreach efforts aimed at reaching older adults and Spanish-speaking adults in Green and Lafayette County. Such efforts include: setting up informational sessions on potential program offerings at senior meal sites, affordable housing properties, and local churches and supporting food pantry outreach to the Spanish-speaking population in Darlington.



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.

Communications, Communications, Communications

Communication is key in continuing to promote and tell the 4-H story of Lafayette County. Regular email communications are broadcasted out to members (youth and volunteers) about any and all upcoming events, activities, scholarships, and opportunities at both the local and state levels. The Administrative Assistant is continuing to actively update the website and manage both Facebook pages with visually appealing and attention-grabbing fliers and posts bringing to the attention of the community the happenings of the 4-H program.

Project areas are highlighted and communications are sent as to upcoming events/meetings/clinics to ensure that all youth are aware of the opportunities that 4-H has to offer. Additionally, the bi-monthly newsletter serves as an excellent resource to find more information on all things local and statewide related to educational opportunities for 4-H youth.

Fill the Floral Hall

Monthly programming is still occurring with focuses on incorporating new/different instructors to give youth a wider array of opportunities to experience and individuals to learn from. The February FtFH will be taking place on Saturday, March 1st, featuring Livestock educator, Kim Kester, who will be leading youth in the art of Wool Felting. Additionally, the remainder of the monthly programs have been planned out through the month of May 2025. Several areas of focus will be: wood cut-outs, leathercraft, and hydrodipping.



Youth Leadership- 4-H Ambassadors

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.



The 4-H ambassadors gathered for their yearly planning meeting and are successfully taking on additional responsibilities within 4-H programming for the year. Youth leading youth is truly the goal of any successful leadership program and the 4-H Ambassadors are a great group of active youth who seek to make 4-H experiences better and more interactive for all youth within Lafayette County. Be on the lookout for their offerings and activities.

## Community Programming

Community collaborations focusing on expanding access and capacity continue to be the labor of the 4-H and community libraries partnership. In January, 4-H offered an Introduction to Weaving at the McCoy public library in Shullsburg. Seven youths participated in learning about different styles of weaving and made several bookmarks. Additionally in February, Basics of Ukulele, was offered on two Friday afternoons at the Johnson Public Library, led by a 4-H Ambassador, who had been first introduced to the ukulele through a similar 4-H/library program when she was in elementary school. A total of 10 youth participated in the two-week introduction of the ukulele. February will end with an Upcycled Jewelry making event at the McCoy Public Library.



**ARCHERY  
CLINIC  
3/2/2025**

**UPCOMING CLINICS:  
MARCH: 16, 30  
APRIL: 13, 27  
MAY: 4**

## Shooting Sports Project

To date, forty-eight youth have enrolled in the 4-H Archery project for 2024-2025, an increase of 30% from last year's enrollment. An average of 17 youth participated in each of the first two clinics with at least 6 more clinics scheduled. Air rifle and air pistol clinics have come to a conclusion. Each discipline had 21-22 youth enrolled in the project area, holding steady from enrollment numbers from last year. Additionally, 16-17 youth participated in each discipline's clinics maintaining numbers from last year. The disciplines of .22 rifle and .22 pistol will be starting in March. As always, capacity and expanding access are focus areas of shooting sports to recruit and educate volunteers while best serving the most youth possible.