

Agriculture:

Jackie McCarville, Regional Dairy Educator
Jordyn Sattler, Regional Crops & Soil Educator
Kimberly Kester, Regional 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 providing resources that promote economic and environmental sustainability in Wisconsin. We apply research to challenges facing communities and businesses.

Dairy News

A webinar, one session part of Badger Dairy Insight, for dairy farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned about Bovine Leukemia Virus, the impact on profitability and herd health, and how to manage it. (Jackie)

Creating a dairy production test for 100 youth who qualified for the State FFA dairy judging contest. The test covers dairy production areas in genetics and reproduction, nutrition, animal welfare, and emerging technologies along with reading a DHIA herd summary report. Youth taking this test have a better understanding of the dairy industry and the important decisions farmers make while dairy farming. (Jackie)

State FFA Career Development Event

A workshop for small ruminant, beef, and dairy producers in collaboration with Extension County and Regional Educators, the UW Extension State Small Ruminant Outreach Specialist, local producer groups, and veterinarians. The goal for this workshop is for producers to manage parasite resistance, anthelmintic use, genetic selection, and pasture management to reduce anthelmintic resistance and economic loss to parasitism. (Jackie)

Wisconsin Amish Shopper

A regular column that rotates between Livestock Educator, Dairy Educator, and Crops & Soils Educator in the Wisconsin Amish Shopper newspaper, which reaches Amish and Mennonite families in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota. Late April: "Biosecurity Practices Keep Livestock Healthy" - Methods to limit transmission of infectious agents such as highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) on-farm, and signs/symptoms of infected cattle and poultry. (Kim)

An article for Amish producers where I shared information about black cutworm and true armyworm moth flight activity into Wisconsin and potential pest pressure to be aware of in their crops. Through this effort, producers will know where to look for insect pests, how to identify black cutworm and true armyworm larvae, and be able to evaluate pest populations and crop damage thresholds at which corrective action should be taken. (Jordyn)

Radio Spot

A monthly 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)



Youth Training

A training for youth who are raising livestock to learn more about animal welfare, character development and food safety. The goal of this training is to help youth better understand the importance of ethically raising livestock while promoting agriculture. (Jackie)

Midwest Forage Association

An article for the Midwest Forage Association's "Forage Focus" newsletter about how swath/windrow grazing can be incorporated into beef production systems as a method of extending the grazing season and minimizing inputs. (Kim)

Pest Trapping

Southern Wisconsin is often one of the first areas of the state that experiences pest pressure from migratory insects, but has recently had a lack of monitoring which results in delayed awareness of damaging pests and potential economic crop loss. To begin building the insect trapping network in the Southwest region of the state, I set up a site with two pheromone traps targeting different migratory pests. For the first half of the growing season, they are capturing Black Cutworm moths and True Armyworm moths, and will transition to Western Bean Cutworm moths and Fall Armyworm moths later in the season. This will provide local data to producers and alert them to potential pest threats in their area, while building awareness and continuing to develop the network with area collaborators. (Jordyn)



Alfalfa Seeding Systems



A series of alfalfa measurements that will help to better understand optimum alfalfa and winter cereal harvest across Wisconsin. The results of this study will help forage growers to determine what techniques can best predict optimum forage harvest timing to improve first cutting forage quality for livestock. (Jordyn)

Honeybee in Agriculture

An on-farm educational event for 4th graders to learn about the importance of agriculture. The Regional Livestock Educator presented on honeybees as critical pollinators for crops. The Regional Crops & Soils Educator and Nutrient & Pest Management Outreach Specialist presented various soil practices that decrease erosion and runoff to improve soil conservation. The Regional Dairy Educator presented on multiple skillsets a dairy farmer must possess (that aren't just milking cows), in order to efficiently operate their farms. (Jackie, Jordyn, Kim)

Foundational Crop Scout

A hybrid Foundational Crop Scout training that blends a series of webinar trainings with in person field days for entry-level crop scouts, crop growers and consultants where participants learn the basic skills necessary to scout field crops including corn, soybeans and alfalfa. Through this training series, we will provide "just in time" training to crop scouts as they begin work in the busy growing season. (Jordyn)

Forage Field Day Planning

Planning for a field day for forage producers, crop consultants, and agronomists where they will learn about research being done in forage production and see management practices that could be implemented on their own farms to improve forage yield and soil health. (Jordyn)

Human Development & Relationships:

Bob Wiegel, Human Development & Relationship Educator



This Human Development & Relationships Educator will provide financial education to individuals and families, helping to improve financial capabilities and stability through evidence-based resources and educational programs. In addition, they will promote healthy child and family development through research-based resources and educational programs for parents, caregivers, and professionals working in early childcare and the education workforce.

Lafayette and Green County Community Research

A series of book reading guides for children and their parents, where participants learn basic money concepts including goal setting, prioritizing needs and wants, solving problems, making decisions, and self-control. Through this, they lay a foundation for financial security and contribute to positive financial management in later life. Eight children ages 6 - 8 attended Johnson Public Library event. We first read the book Deena's Lucky Penny, next we practiced identify and counting money, finally everyone painted their own piggy bank.



Money Smart

A newsletter series (Money \$mart in Head Start) for parents of young children where they learn skills such as using credit wisely, keeping their money safe, savings strategies, organizing their financial records, and making choices about health insurance. Through this program parents can create more financial stability for their families.

Planning AHEAD Program

A 7-session course that helps adults of all ages to make end-of-life financial, healthcare, and final wishes decisions in order to reduce the stress experienced by survivors and to ensure that their wishes are honored. Planning for Planning AHEAD program. The goal is for participants to learn tools to prepare for end-of-life decisions for themselves and their families. This will ease the stress that families feel during a difficult time and will help loved ones make a smoother transition.

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 Wisconsinites have the opportunity to live stronger, healthier lives.

Shullsburg Elementary Nutrition Education

A five-week nutrition education series at Shullsburg Elementary School for second, third, and fourth graders which focuses on teaching the importance of healthy eating and physical activity. Students will explore the five food groups, the benefits of eating a variety of foods, and strategies for making healthy choices. They will also be encouraged to try new foods, with opportunities to sample them together. To reinforce these lessons at home, weekly educational handouts will be provided to parents and caregivers. The program aims to foster healthy eating habits and promote active lifestyles both at school and at home.

Food Garden Grants

FoodWise Coordinator continues to support five community food gardens in Area 17. Including purchasing items for: an additional raised bed and composting system at Riverview Apartments in Blanchardville; additional raised beds and educational signage at the Emergency Food Pantry garden in Livingston; and plants and seeds for food gardens at Juda Elementary School in Juda, Family Promise in Monroe, and Dodgeville Apartments in Dodgeville. The purpose of these efforts is to increase access to and consumption of healthy and fresh produce for SNAP eligible youth, families, and older adults in the four-county area

Transition Recreational Education and Exploration Day Event

A County Communities on Transition Recreational Education and Exploration Day Event at Governor Dodge State Park. County Communities on Transition promotes the successful transition of students with disabilities from school districts in Iowa, Grant and Lafayette Counties to live, work and successfully participate in post-school activities. FoodWise staff provided an opportunity for students to engage in a physical activity game while learning about the five food groups and "sometimes" food. Students then students were offered a sample of a healthy trail mix. The goal of this activity is to promote healthy eating habits and physical activity for children and young adults.



Nutritional Outreach Programs

The first in a series of nutrition education classes and resident engagement efforts in conjunction with the food garden at Lafayette County Housing Authority Riverview Apartment building in Blanchardville. FoodWise staff engaged with residents on nutrition education topics related to selecting fruits and vegetables to grow in the garden and benefits and uses of different garden produce. The goal of this effort is to encourage resident involvement in the community food garden and provide information and resources relevant to the garden.

Community Outreach



An educational outreach and partnership engagement effort at the Lafayette County Senior Social hosted by ADRC of Lafayette County. FoodWise staff shared information with participants and partners on the StrongBodies, Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention and Walk with FoodWise programs. FoodWise staff had an information table and gave a presentation on program offerings and guidelines for exercise, strength-training, nutrition for older adults and hydration. Participants received healthy recipes and informational handouts. A goal of this effort is to promote active living and healthy lifestyles for older adults in Lafayette County, promote FoodWise as a resource in the community and develop new partnership opportunities.

Tai Chi

A twice-weekly, 8-week Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention class, including a weekly nutrition lesson. Nine participants are registered for the series held at Grace Lutheran Church and promoted to Lafayette County Housing Authority residents, which serves older adults and adults with disabilities who are low-income in Darlington. The Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention Program is recognized by the CDC as an evidence-based program for improving health and wellness, as well as proven effective for fall prevention.

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.



Community Collaborations:



We were excited to help McCoy Public Library kick off their summer reading program with a fun and colorful Mosaic Art activity! Kids got creative with patterns and color while celebrating the start of a summer full of stories and imagination. We'll be back at McCoy on August 6th for a special painting day using watercolors and Sharpies. We're bringing some hands-on fun to Johnson Public Library on June 12th with a cookie decorating activity! It's a perfect way to add a little sweetness to the summer reading excitement. Come get creative with us and enjoy a tasty treat!

Dive into 4-H: A Splash of Fun and Creativity:

We had an amazing time at our Dive into 4-H event! Twelve kids—both current 4-H members and newcomers—joined us for a day full of fun, learning, and creativity. The event was led by five enthusiastic 4-H Ambassadors and supported by our awesome summer interns. Together, they guided participants through a variety of hands-on stations, including tie-dyeing, snack making, 4-H cheers, sun catcher crafts, and hat and sunglass decorating. It was a fantastic opportunity for youth to experience what 4-H is all about—friendship, learning, and fun!



Summer Interns:

We're thrilled to welcome Savannah and Kaitlyn as our 2025 summer interns! With their support, we're excited to expand our programming and offer even more opportunities for youth engagement this season. Savannah and Kaitlyn will be supporting events, helping with outreach, and lending a hand wherever needed. Their enthusiasm and dedication are already making a difference, and we're so glad to have them on board.

Kaitlyn, a recent Benton High School graduate, will be attending UW–Oshkosh in the fall to study Elementary Education. She's a longtime 4-H member, passionate about working with kids, and spends her summers preparing animals for the county fair and participating in mission trips.

Savannah, a 2024 Darlington High School grad, just completed her first year at Cornerstone University in Michigan, where she's studying Graphic Design and photography. She's looking forward to promoting 4-H in creative ways and connecting with people across the county and beyond.



Gearing up for Camp—Journey through the Stars:

Camp season is almost here, and we're busy getting everything ready for our cosmic adventure with this year's theme: Journey Through the Stars! Our amazing summer interns are hard at work prepping projects, organizing crafts, and gathering supplies and snacks to make camp extra fun.

Meanwhile, our camp counselors are participating in training sessions throughout June—learning how to be effective leaders, build teamwork, and problem-solve so they're ready to guide campers through a stellar experience.

We can't wait to blast off into a summer full of fun, learning, and unforgettable memories!