



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
OZAUKEE COUNTY



## Monthly Report June 2020

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### AGRICULTURE

**Stephanie Plaster**

Due to the COVID-19 situation, the Youth Tractor and Machinery Safety Certification Course that was planned to be held in March was cancelled. This 24-hour program meets the requirements of Wisconsin Act 455, which requires youth under the age of 16 to hold a certificate of training in order to operate a tractor or self-propelled implement of husbandry on a public road. It also meets the child labor requirements in agriculture under the Fair Labor Standards Act, pertaining to the employment of youth ages 14-15 on farms not operated by their parents or guardians. This program is held each year due to the high demand from youth, families, and farm employers in Ozaukee and Washington Counties.

Stephanie worked with the UW Center for Ag Safety and Health to develop the criteria and curriculum needed to transition this course to an online model. This involved developing 8 online zoom teaching sessions, interactive homework assignments, and a plan for the required in-person driving and written exams.

Twenty-eight youth completed the online sessions held over a four week period. The program has already had an impact on participants and their families. One of the parents commented, "I have been listening in on the class too - thank you. I am currently working on a hay cutting machine getting ready for 1st cutting, and there is a PTO guard on it that is....well...let's put it this way....not 100% the way it should be. Due to the class, it got me thinking....and I found myself at the dealer today getting details on what I need to get it 100% right. This class is for the old guys too!!!"

### 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

**Jayna Hintz**

The Ozaukee County 4-H Program Educator, Jayna Hintz, has been providing resources and opportunities to 4-H members and volunteers in different ways these past few months. The Innovation Zone page on the Ozaukee County 4-H Extension website is updated on a regular basis with opportunities for 4-H members. Information is also shared out on Facebook and through broadcast emails. Recently 4-H members were invited to participate in an international Pen Pal Program and/or a Virtual Exchange between Wisconsin and Tennessee. Offerings range from virtual photography classes to meeting real world scientists and learning about related careers. Members are appreciative of the opportunities, one 4-H parent emailed "I also need to say thank you for all the online additional programming that you have provided. My kids have really enjoyed the photography lessons as well as the professionals that have showcased various professions. Thank you all for working so hard to support our kids." Opportunities for 4-H youth are shared in the new bi-weekly Harbinger released June 23rd. The primary objective for our redesign is to provide 4-H information and news in a timely manner. We also view the redesign of the newsletter as an opportunity to explore and use Mailchimp's wonderful tools and features to evaluate how our readers are engaging with the newsletter. Allowing us to continually improve as we gain more knowledge and insight. Less than twelve hours after the new formatted newsletter was released we received the following email "... let you know that I think the new revised Harbinger looks great. Simple, organized, and I feel bimonthly will be great as well. Thanks for taking the time to complete this in such a crazy time already."

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For more information about Extension— Ozaukee County, please visit our website at <https://ozaukee.extension.wisc.edu/> or call 262.284.8288.

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# We Teach, Learn, Lead And Serve, Connecting People With The University of Wisconsin, And Engaging With Them In Transforming Lives And Communities.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Karina Ward

As Ozaukee County undertakes the difficult work of confronting racial, social, and economic inequalities, Extension remains committed to engaging in the conversations and much needed work necessary to bring about a more just and equitable society.

Our commitment is reflected in Karina's community engagement work, where she co-creates spaces for community dialogue, deliberation and engagement to ensure that every voice is heard. One way to do this is through listening circles, which create a safe place to share without judgement. Listening circles give people a chance to say what they are thinking and feeling and can help engender mutual understanding and support. They are especially effective in stressful times and for difficult or divisive topics.

The format is simple. Each person in the circle has one to two minutes to say whatever is on their minds about the specific topic or prompt. When one person is speaking, the others in the group listen attentively and withhold comments; their task is to listen and try on a new perspective. The circle is over after every person has had a chance to speak. Participation is completely voluntary and some members may prefer to participate solely as an active listener. The specifics of what people say in the circle are kept confidential while what is learned goes with participants. Everyone leaves the circle challenged to take actionable change.

Karina is currently working with Ozaukee County to facilitate a series of listening circles about race. More information, including registration, is available at <https://bit.ly/2Vbli05>. If you are interested in holding something similar at your organization, contact Karina at [karina.ward@wisc.edu](mailto:karina.ward@wisc.edu).

## UPCOMING EVENTS.

### July 7, 2020

- Ozaukee County Community Conversation Circle about Race, 4:00-5:30 pm (registration required: <https://bit.ly/2Vbli05>)

### July 8, 2020

- Youth Tractor & Machinery Safety Certification Exam Day, Eden Community Center, 9 am

### July 8, 16, 23, 2020

- 4-H Summer Virtual Exchange with Tennessee

### July 14, 28, 2020

- 4-H Harbinger Newsletter published

### July 16, 2020

- 4-H Leaders Association Board Meeting, Online, 6 pm.
- 4-H Leaders Association Meeting, Online, 7:30 pm.

### July 29 - August 2, 2020

- Ozaukee County Fair



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We are serving and supporting our community through research and virtual education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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