



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
OZAUKEE COUNTY

APRIL 2024 REPORT

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



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 after-school programs give young people the hands-on experiences they need to develop an understanding of themselves and the world.

Colleen Machut, 4-H Program Educator

- Researching school demographics in Ozaukee County to determine schools in which 4-H could facilitate programming. The purpose of conducting this research is to determine how 4-H can make the most significant impact in addressing the needs of youth and to expand access to underrepresented populations, while also growing the 4-H program and membership. By determining which schools have the highest need, it can be ensured that we are choosing these schools intentionally. Engaging youth at the school level will also promote 4-H as a program.
- Creating a data synthesis and representation of the results from needs assessment interviews conducted in March 2024 with 4-H club and project leaders. The purpose of creating the data synthesis is to detect patterns in the needs that 4-H club and project leaders are identifying in the 4-H program. Analyzing patterns and trends will help determine what areas for improvement need to be targeted to the greatest extent in order to make the most significant impact on the growth of the 4-H program. Additionally, creating this data synthesis will help in communicating 4-H programming goals to volunteers, members, and families, and will show that their voices have been heard in this process.
- Meeting with youth and parents to gather their perspectives and feedback on the Ozaukee County 4-H program. The purpose of holding these meetings is to engage 4-H youth and parents in providing feedback about their experiences with the 4-H program. Youth and parents are meeting 1:1 with the 4-H Program Educator and discussing their 4-H “treasures” and their 4-H “wishes” to give an idea of the strengths and areas of growth for the program. Then, both parents and youth complete a brief survey targeting specific data points that have been indicated in prior needs assessment interviews with club and project leaders. This process will contribute to determining our next steps and goals for continual improvement, as well as helping youth and parents feel heard and valued. Additionally, it helps the 4-H Educator build relationships with members and families, which is foundational to a strong program.



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AGRICULTURE



If it happens on a farm or in a field, the Extension Institute of Agriculture works with you to achieve better results. Our innovative dairy management programs range from genetics to farm and business management. Extension researchers work hand-in-hand with row crop, forage and fresh produce growers to provide best practices for every aspect of the growing phase. We also advise communities on using sustainable practices to create inviting spaces free from invasive species

Crops

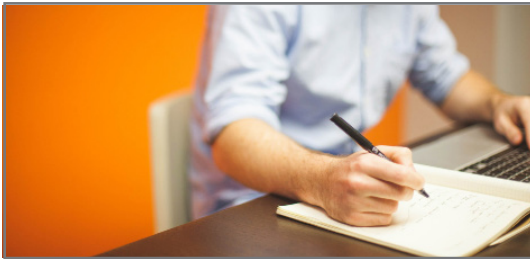
Liz Gartman, Regional Crops Educator

- A field study in collaboration with other Extension crops educators as part of the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program that is designed to identify optimum Nitrogen rates in a corn cropping system that utilizes dairy manure. Results from this trial will help improve commercial nitrogen management and farm profitability.
- A regional agriculture newsletter for Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, Washington and Ozaukee county agriculture producers, industry representatives and agency staff that provides timely crop production updates, dairy and farm management resources and upcoming agriculture events. The goal is to create awareness of Extension programming and research in the region and maintain a connection between UW and the ag community.

Crop, dairy and livestock producers make key management decisions every day based on challenges related to markets, weather and farm goals. It is important for them to have access to up-to-date information and opportunities to help them choose production methods that help them achieve their goals. As a result, the Regional Ag Updates newsletter is prepared and e-mailed to approximately 900 ag producers, agency staff and agribusiness consultants that support farmers. In the winter months, the newsletter is sent monthly, with issues every two weeks during the crop production months. This newsletter shares field trial opportunities, timely management updates and tools to support production decisions, along with UW Extension and partner event opportunities. This newsletter consistently has a 40% open rate and one recipient shared the importance of having upcoming local and statewide events listed in one place. It further has become a great partnership tool between Extension and local producer-led watershed groups, land and water departments and state agencies. This effort creates a greater awareness of resources available to support their farm production goals.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Community Development provides educational programming to assist leaders, communities, and organizations realize their fullest potential. We work with communities to build the vitality that enhances their quality of life and enriches the lives of their residents. IN short, the Community Development Institute plants and cultivates the seeds for thriving communities and organizations.

Paul Roback, Community Development Educator

A board member from the Cedarburg Education Foundation, a local nonprofit, contacted Paul to facilitate a process that would create a strategic plan for the organization. To achieve the planning objectives, Paul first engaged the organization’s board with an online survey to solicit feedback on updating the organization’s mission statement and seek input for creating a vision statement. Then, Paul facilitated two strategic planning sessions attended by 11 board members. The planning process included updating their mission statement, creating a vision statement, identifying and prioritizing goals, and developing actions steps to ensure their success.

From evaluation (N=9), 100% of participants agreed that updating the mission statement helped clarify their role as an organization and creating a vision statement assisted them in understanding the general direction for their organization’s future. 89% agreed that identifying and prioritizing goals increased their ability to identify issues and set priorities. 100% agreed that creating action plans increased their ability to identify their next steps for future implementation. Participants evaluated Paul’s facilitation as a 4.8 on a 5-point Likert Scale (1=poor and 5=excellent). One participant commented “Really great job driving the conversation, asking great questions, and pushing thoughtfulness. Thank you for your help!” Another commented “Paul shows his great experience in facilitating strategy discussions. This was awesome!”

We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.

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