



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
OZAUKEE COUNTY

MAY 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*

Structured needs assessment surveys and conversations with 4-H youth and parents in which they had the opportunity to express their sparks and feedback in order to set priorities for next steps in the development of the Ozaukee County 4-H Program.

Being new in my position as 4-H Educator, it is essential that I conduct a thorough needs assessment in order to determine what the next steps should be in the development and continual improvement of the 4-H program. Gathering feedback from 4-H youth and their parents is essential information to guide this process. To respond to this need, I developed interview questions, surveys, and structured conversations that I used to facilitate interactions. I adjusted these to different developmental levels with several different versions of the surveys and interactions. Using data points that I had gathered from club and project leaders, I asked youth and their parents to prioritize the data points in terms of relative importance in moving the program forward. The most significant outcome of this work will be the determination of how to best move 4-H forward in a process of continual improvement while also empowering youth and volunteers. By continuing to improve 4-H, the program will become more successful in achieving the mission of helping youth to thrive in their lives. Based on the results of the needs assessment process thus far, several themes are emerging as to the priorities that may be most important to address: the need for project leaders to support youth sparks, the need for communication and support for members and leaders, and outreach to the community. Priorities may still change as more data is collected and analyzed.

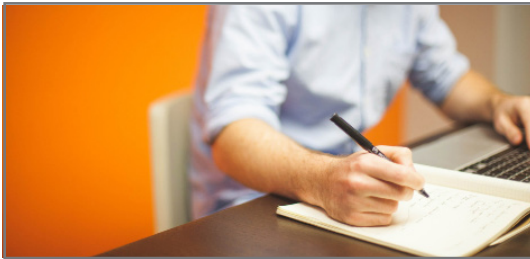


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## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



*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 series of pre-planning meetings with four Ozaukee County area nonprofits where we discussed the organizational development needs of each nonprofit and co-designed planning processes to address the identified needs. The intent of the planning process is to clarify the organization's purpose and develop achievable steps to realize their vision.

Community-serving organizations, including nonprofits, are more effective when they have a clear purpose/mission, vision, and goals. When there are changes in leadership, resources, community needs, and other internal or external factors that affect the organization, it is a best practice to engage in some form of strategic planning to set priorities, focus energy and resources, and ensure everyone is working towards common goals. Extension Community Development Educator Paul Roback conducted a series of preplanning discussions with the leadership from four Ozaukee County area nonprofits, including the Rotary Club of Cedarburg-Grafton, Portal, the Ozaukee Master Gardeners, and the Lakeshore Regional Child Advocacy Center. During each of these pre-planning meetings, we discussed the organizational development needs of the nonprofit and co-designed planning processes to address the identified needs. As a result of these discussions, Paul will deliver organizational development programming with each nonprofit. This includes designing and implementing a membership survey and facilitating strategic planning with the Rotary Club of Cedarburg-Grafton; conducting an external stakeholder survey and strategic planning with Portal; facilitating a membership engagement listening session with the Ozaukee Master Gardeners; and conducting an external stakeholder survey and facilitating strategic planning with the Lakeshore Regional Child Advocacy Center. The intent of these processes is to strengthen these organizations by increasing clarity and direction in their efforts to address local needs.



## 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 presentation that introduced the concept of Dairy Heifer Grazing to agriculture professionals engaged in consulting with producers. Through this presentation, attendees learned about the cost savings using dairy heifer grazing versus conventional heifer grazing, the potential for less nutrient loss, water quality improvement and improved health and longevity that can benefit dairy producers profitability and environmental sustainability.

Raising dairy heifer is an expensive enterprise for most dairies and producers are interested in opportunities for cost savings that can improve overall farm profitability without compromising performance and quality. This coupled with a move toward identifying ways to improve water quality and soil health make dairy heifer grazing a viable option. After holding two listening sessions based on this management strategy, it was determined to be a viable way to move the needle on key issues facing dairies. Sharing the data with participants that serve as advisors to dairy producers allows them to advocate for the practice when meeting with their clients. A presentation was prepared that focused on the cost savings when raising heifers using managed grazing versus confinement, the improvement in nutrient loss of Nitrogen and Phosphorus due to runoff that is common in conventional systems, and the benefits to animal performance, fitness, health and welfare when raised in grazing based systems. We answered questions and shared key articles and data to support our discussion. Via evaluation, 26 attendees shared (agree + strongly agree) that the information was applicable and relevant to their work, and 11 indicated they would frequently share the information in their work. 27 attendees agreed/strongly agreed they increased their knowledge related to this topic.

A dairy production newsletter for farmers, managers, employees and agribusiness professionals that provides the reader an introduction to upcoming UW Madison Division of Extension Programming including the Pest Text Alerts, Wisconsin Ag Climate Outlook reports, opportunities to optimize forage testing and updates on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in dairy cows. This newsletter provides timely updates on Extension recommendations, events and industry news.



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# APRIL 2024 REPORT

*Agriculture continued*

A partnership between the Eastern Wisconsin Dairy Herd Improvement Cooperative and Extension results in a newsletter mailed to 300 current dairy producers in Eastern Wisconsin. The newsletter shares results from the cooperative’s milk testing and allows local Extension educators to share key activities, events and articles that focus on improving management related to crops and dairy cattle. The partnership allows Extension educators to determine what resources are most important to producers at the times the newsletter is published, which in turn provides research based solutions to growers and farmers when it makes sense for their farm. We collaborate with DHIC staff to ensure timely delivery of the content. The newsletter is directly mailed to approximately 300 dairy producers every two months, and the targeted information drives dairy producers to engage with Extension programs and educators.

**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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