



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
OZAUKEE COUNTY

JUNE 2024 REPORT

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

An interview with the Ozaukee Press discussing the effect heavy rains has had on farmers in the region as they attempt to harvest alfalfa and plant their crops. The goal of this outreach is to provide the community at large insight into the impact this challenging growing season has on field crops and dairy producers as it relates to farm economies. As a response to an interview request from a reporter at the Ozaukee Press, I reached out and engaged in a discussion about the current status of corn and soybean planting and alfalfa harvest in the area. The need is related to general awareness of weather impacts on agriculture in our region.

A series of first cutting alfalfa height and maturity data collections using Predictive Equations for Alfalfa Quality (PEAQ) sticks and scissor clips for Eastern Wisconsin farmers and agriculture professionals to help them appropriately target harvest timing. Further, this effort provides data that can be valuable to making management recommendations and decisions throughout the growing season and beyond to increase feed quality and alfalfa persistence. Alfalfa is a key crop in Wisconsin, and proper management is important to ensure we optimize yield and quality for dairy producers. First cutting alfalfa provides the largest yielding crop in a multiple cutting system, but challenging spring harvest conditions can result in missed opportunities to meet producer needs. Additionally, late harvest can affect the overall yield and quality of an alfalfa field. In response to this need, I collected alfalfa maturity measurements and quality samples in Sheboygan and Fond du Lac counties, following the standard procedures set out by UW Extension. Resulting data was collected and shared with the State Alfalfa outreach specialist as well as producers and agriculture professionals in the four county region via e-newsletter.

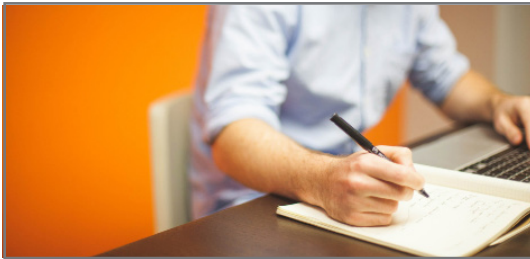


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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



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

Paul Roback was contacted by the leadership of the Ozaukee Master Gardeners, a local nonprofit, to facilitate a process that would engage members in a discussion of the organization's mission statement. Board leadership wanted members to identify ways in which the organization is currently meeting its mission and new ideas that the leadership of the organization could consider for engaging members to further the mission.

Paul met with the organization's Executive Board to further understand their needs and plan a process that would engage members in discussing new opportunities to fulfill the organization's mission and strategies to increase membership involvement. After this meeting, members were invited to a Membership Engagement Roundtable session. Twenty-two members attended the session where Paul facilitated a process that engaged members in discussing what excites them about being a member, ways in which the organization is doing a good job at fulfilling its mission, opportunities to further the mission, and what would inspire participants to be more involved with the organization. After the session, Paul developed a report summarizing the discussion and recommendations for the organization to consider. Paul then met with the organization's Executive Board to discuss the report and recommendations.

Through evaluation (N=21), 100% participants agreed that the session identified opportunities for the Ozaukee Master Gardeners to explore in the future and 90% agreed that the session identified opportunities to increase their participation with the organization. Additionally, 100% strongly agreed that the session allowed them the opportunity to share their ideas while also allowing others to share their thoughts. Overall, participants evaluated Paul's facilitation a 4.9 on a 5-point Likert Scale (1=poor and 5=excellent).



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

A spring 4-H Club Leader meeting for general club leaders where participants developed an understanding of needs assessment data to connect it to ideas about how the 4-H program can further support youth sparks. I have been conducting a needs assessment for the past few months to determine what the next steps for strengthening the 4-H program should be, and I need to find ways to communicate my findings with volunteer leaders. This club leader meeting was one step in communicating the results of that needs assessment out to 4-H volunteer leaders. In the meeting, I presented the data in a visual format and had participants brainstorm what they noticed, thought, and wondered about the data. From there, participants communicated their conclusions. I presented my conclusions and participants were able to express their level of agreement or disagreement. I then presented an image of the “Driving the Thriving” image for 4-H and we discussed how it connected to the data and to youth sparks. A primary conclusion we all agreed upon was that the 4-H program needs more project leaders for various project areas in order to support youth sparks. We connected the data back to the key 4-H idea of how to nurture the sparks of youth in the program. This process was important because it will help the 4-H leaders work as a team with Extension staff toward a common goal of supporting youth sparks in the 4-H program.

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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