

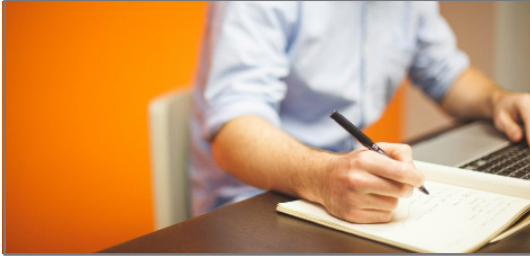


Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
OZAUKEE COUNTY

DECEMBER 2024 REPORT

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 workshop for board members of the Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium, a regional nonprofit, where participants learned about board roles, responsibilities, and tools that enable nonprofits to function at a higher-level. A facilitated conversation allowed participants to identify the next steps to strengthen board operations.

The Executive Director of the Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium (SEWISC), a regional nonprofit, contacted Paul requesting resources to strengthen the organization's board. The organization's mission is "working to reduce the impact of invasive species." In response, Paul taught a 1.5-hour workshop to 14 board and staff members. Content included an overview of the non-profit sector in Wisconsin, board member roles and responsibilities, and tools for high functioning boards. Additionally, Paul facilitated a process that allowed participants to reflect on what they learned and identify the next steps of implementing strategies to strengthen board operations. Through evaluation (N=14), 72% of participants agreed they gained knowledge on the nonprofit sector, 79% agreed that they gained knowledge on board roles and responsibilities, and 93% gained knowledge on tools to use for high functioning boards. The remainder of the participants indicated that they were "neutral" on the learning objectives and one commented that the rating "would be higher if I hadn't been through similar presentations. Great job!" Participants evaluated Paul's facilitation as a 4.5 on a 5-point Likert Scale (1=poor and 5=excellent). One participant commented, "the materials presented were informative and generated interesting and productive discussions." Another commented that the training "provided great guidance and increased board conversations."



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 Dairy Forage Day program for forage growers, dairy producers and ag consultants where participants learned about the benefits of feeding high oleic soybeans to lactating cows, agronomic management recommendations to mitigate mycotoxin challenges, the status of grain markets for 2025 and a regional dairy educator introduction and update to improve the feed and forage management for their dairy operations to improve milk production and farm profitability.

- 100% of attendees rated the program quality as good to excellent, with the greatest improvement in awareness for the Grain Marketing Update (52.9%).
- All topic areas were rated with a “somewhat increased awareness” to “a great deal increased awareness.”
- As a result of attending the Dairy Forage Day- when asked about one thing they learned that they would consider implementing in the future, attendees primarily indicated they would consider adding high oleic soybeans into their rations and are interested in learning more about marketing their grain to improve margins.
- All program topics presented were included on the list when asked what topics/resources were most valuable to you, with an emphasis on the high oleic soybeans and market update.

A series of in-person and virtual crops and soils update meetings for crop and forage growers, consultants, agronomists, students and agency staff where participants were provided relevant research updates from Extension specialists regarding soil and water management, forage and grain production, pest management considerations and economics of crop production. Through this program, attendees can make more informed decisions related to these topics to improve productivity and economic viability for their farms and their client’s farms.

- The Badger Crop Update planning team identified 3 key sites to host in-person events and planned one virtual event to accommodate those who could not travel to the in-person options.
- The group reached out to Extension specialists to determine what key agenda items were necessary and scheduled a format that allowed attendees to learn from the specialists but also engage with them to get their specific questions answered.
- The agenda included a series of short talks grouped into topic areas, with a follow up “question and answer” time that allowed a deeper dive into each specific topic to ensure we met the needs of those attending the updates.



- 83 participants attended one of the three in-person events, 117 participants attended the virtual program.

Planned a session at the Wisconsin Water and Soil Health (WWASH) conference in collaboration with other Extension educators. The goal of the session is to provide insight into opportunities to include diverse cover crop species into dairy forage programs with the end result being additional cover crop acres incorporated into livestock production systems, resulting in improved soil health.

Dairy

Manuel Peña, Regional Dairy Educator

A series of in person and virtual meetings with UW Madison - Extension colleagues, producer led conservation groups, USDA and Farm Service Agency partners, agriculture industry contacts and crop producers where we discussed opportunities for partnerships, ag community needs and programming gaps, to be able to develop an accurate needs assessment, that will lead to accurate programming that benefit all the different parties of the dairy industry in the region.

In order to know and understand the challenges the dairy industry is facing in this region. I am elaborating an informal needs assessment of the regional dairy community in order to plan programming that will provide support to them. A series of in person and virtual meetings with UW Madison - Extension colleagues, producer led conservation groups, USDA and Farm Service Agency partners, agriculture industry contacts and crop producers where we discussed opportunities for partnerships, ag community needs and programming gaps. As a new regional dairy educator in Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Dodge, and Fond du Lac counties, it is necessary to determine the needs of the agricultural community related to dairy programming. To best understand the needs of the dairy farmers, and different stakeholders in the dairy industry in the region, the dairy educator is meeting with these potential partners to determine gaps in programming and specific educational strategies necessary to properly serve them. As of November 27, 2024, the educator has met with the Clean Farm Families watershed group board, financial officers from Compeer Financial, Nutritionists from the Vita Plus nutritional company, and the Forage Council groups, while also making connections with other UW Madison-Extension educators and academics, producers, workforce and support personnel. The educator is asking questions (for both, English and Spanish speakers involved in the industry) and recording the responses to generate a needs assessment which will provide guidance into future programming plans. Further, the educator has provided support to local dairy farmers as needed by leveraging UW- Madison Extension professionals. This outreach will continue over the future but stronger for the next month to develop relationships with potential partners to establish an Extension presence in the dairy programming area of the region.



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.

Abi Quinlan, 4-H Program Educator

Connecting with key volunteers and adult leaders to evaluate the results of previously conducted Needs Assessment for the Ozaukee County 4-H Program. The goal is to confirm the assessment of needs, identify additional challenges, and develop foundational relationships with key stakeholders.

Given the significant transitions in staff over the past year, there is a clear opportunity to revisit and reassess the county’s needs to ensure alignment with current program goals and community priorities. I am meeting with various stakeholders, such as project leaders, adult volunteers, and youth leaders in addition to attending club meetings and activities. This allows me to gain a better understanding of each club’s operations and the triumphs and challenges. I have a solid foundational county wide needs assessment that was performed by a previous educator. My work emphasized the results of the needs assessment and provided me an opportunity to connect with stakeholders within the first month of my job to gather potential solutions to the challenges.

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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