



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 pest trapping network where I monitored traps during the growing season for economically important insect pests that can create issues in grain and forage crop production. This trapping network informs UW researchers and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection so research and outreach can be crafted to assist producers in reacting to pest pressures and protecting their crops.
- Planning 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.
- An ongoing planning effort to prepare for the 2024 Badger Crops and Soils Update at three locations across Wisconsin and one virtual meeting by selecting meeting topics, recruiting speakers, and providing regional crops and soils information. This program is designed to share agronomic updates with sales agronomists and crop consultants to assist with recommendations to their growers to increase farm profitability and natural resource stewardship.

WELCOME! Manuel Peña – Regional Dairy Educator; Sheboygan, Fond Du Lac, Dodge, and Ozaukee

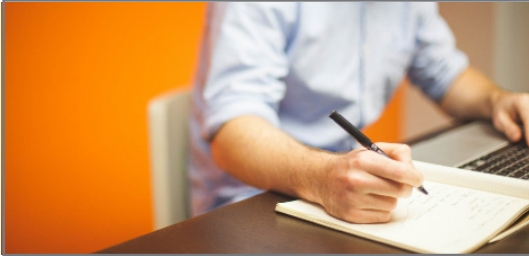
Manuel is the new Regional Dairy Educator for Sheboygan, Fond Du Lac, Dodge, and Ozaukee Counties. He is originally from Duitama, a small city in Colombia, 3 hours north of Bogotá, the capital city. He received his bachelor's degree in Animal Science at Universidad Nacional de Colombia. In the last semesters he worked for a national breeding association. After graduation he did an internship at NC State University working on Dairy management and another one at University of Florida working on forages and nutrition. Working at UF he linked with a Clemson's University professor who later would be his adviser on his master's and PhD degrees. His research has been focused on ruminal nutrition and forage management for the dairy industry. Manuel is looking forward to giving back to the community, helping as much as possible with their issues as much as to learn from their success and work together with other specialists.



In his free time, he enjoys outdoor activities and sports but also listening to music, reading and writing and even though he is not a great player he enjoys chess a lot.



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 strategic planning session for the board and staff of The Cedarburg Chamber of Commerce where we worked on updating the organization’s mission and vision statements, discussed organizational strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges, and identified goals. The intent of the planning process is to clarify the organization’s purpose and develop achievable steps to realize their vision.

The executive director of the Cedarburg Chamber of Commerce contacted Paul to facilitate a process that would create a strategic plan for the organization. As part of the planning process, the chamber was also interested in receiving feedback from its members.

To achieve the planning objectives, Paul first conducted a membership engagement survey to gain insight into how the chamber is serving its members. Responses were received from 89 members and the results were shared during the planning session. Paul also engaged the organization’s staff and board with an online survey to solicit feedback on updating the organization’s mission and vision statements. Paul then facilitated a four-hour strategic planning session attended by twelve board and staff members where we worked on updating the organization’s mission and vision statements and identified goals.

From evaluation (N=12), 100% of participants agreed that updating the mission statement helped clarify their role as an organization and updating their vision statement assisted them in understanding the general direction for their organization’s future. 92% agreed that the process of identifying goals increased their ability to identify issues and set priorities. Participants evaluated Paul’s facilitation as a 4.9 on a 5-point Likert Scale (1=poor and 5=excellent). One participant commented that the “mission/vision discussion was very helpful and probably wouldn’t have happened without Paul’s guidance.”

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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