



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

Planning for a four session Focus on Forage webinar series for forage growers and agriculture consultants in collaboration with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the US Dairy Forage Research Center. The goal is to provide research-based forage management solutions to improve forage quality and meet producer goals.

- Forage growers and dairy producers require high quality forages to meet the needs of their operations. Changing growing conditions and increased planting and harvest challenges create barriers to achieving these forage production goals.
- In response to this situation, forage working group team members outlined the key topics they felt would meet the needs of these stakeholders. Webinar sessions were scheduled using the Zoom platform, and team members identified and scheduled subject matter experts to address each of the topics identified for a four-part webinar series.

Dairy

Manuel Peña, Regional Dairy Educator

A newsletter for farmers, managers, employees and agribusiness professionals in collaboration with the Eastern Wisconsin Dairy Herd Improvement Cooperative that informs the reader of upcoming UW Madison Division of Extension programs, provides key crop and dairy management updates and includes timely production articles.

- 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 newsletter is direct mailed to approximately 300 dairy producers every two months, and the targeted information drives dairy producers to engage with Extension programs and educators.



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

Two strategic planning sessions for the board and staff of the Lakeshore Regional Child Advocacy Center, a local nonprofit, 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 Lakeshore Regional Child Advocacy Center (CAC), a local nonprofit, contacted Paul to facilitate a process that would create a strategic plan for the organization. The Lakeshore Regional CAC is “a trauma-informed environment where partners collaboratively investigate child abuse, families receive support and advocacy, and most importantly, the child’s words are always heard.” To achieve the planning objectives, Paul first conducted an external feedback survey to gain insight into how well the organization is achieving its mission and how inspired stakeholders are by the organization’s vision. Next, he engaged the organization’s staff and board with an online survey to solicit feedback on updating the organization’s mission and vision statements. Then, Paul facilitated two strategic planning sessions attended by ten board and staff members where we worked on updating the organization’s mission and vision statements; identified organizational strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges; and identified goals. From evaluation (N=8), 100% of participants agreed that the external stakeholder survey provided helpful information for their discussion, 88% agreed that the updated mission statement helped clarify their role as an organization, and 100% agreed that the updated vision statement assisted them in understanding the general direction for their organization’s future. 100% also 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 it was an “excellent planning process” and another commented that Paul “helped keep us on task when conversations arise about a goal.”



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 youth leaders to evaluate the results of the previously conducted Needs Assessment for the Ozaukee County 4-H Program. The goal is to confirm the assessment of needs, address gaps in programming, and begin developing new opportunities for youth engagement and leadership development.

Given the transitions in staff over the past year, there is a clear opportunity to revisit the county's needs to ensure alignment with current program goals and community priorities. Feedback from youth leaders has highlighted the need for increased county-level programming and support for state and national event participation. I have conducted youth leader interviews to better understand their experiences, challenges, and aspirations within the program. These conversations have revealed a desire for more opportunities to engage with peers across clubs at the county level and additional encouragement to participate in broader 4-H events. I have also begun discussions and collaborative planning to address these gaps by creating special interest programming that serves youth whose project areas lack dedicated leaders. Through these efforts, I have deepened my understanding of the program's challenges and opportunities while building stronger connections with youth stakeholders. These insights have informed the initial planning and development of new county-level programming to enhance youth engagement and participation, with further progress anticipated in the coming months.

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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