



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 series of four Focus on Forage webinars for forage growers, livestock producers, agency staff and agricultural consultants where research-based forage management solutions are shared to optimize forage yield and quality to improve overall farm profitability.

Forage production is an important segment of crop production in Wisconsin and helps to support the livestock and dairy industries in the state. Meeting forage quality and forage yield goals of producers is a key metric to profitability on these operations.

The Focus on Forage planning team brainstormed timely forage topic ideas and generated a four session series - Focus on Alfalfa Companions, Focus on Corn Silage, Focus on Forage Cover Crops and Focus on Alfalfa Toolbox. The educators then identified Extension specialists, Educators, and researchers that could discuss the impact of these management recommendations to forage growers. Each webinar was one hour long, featured three to four speakers and allowed time for participants to ask questions related to their operations.

The four webinar series averaged 111 participants per session, which is an increase from the 2024 series. We are currently collecting post event survey data.

Dairy

Manuel Peña, Regional Dairy Educator

A workshop "Calving Management and Neonate Care in Dairy Cattle" for all the individuals that are involved in parturition, and calving management in dairy farms. We created an in person and bilingual event where participants from Ozaukee County, learned and reinforced their knowledge about obstetrics, care and support in the calving pen, neonate care and colostrum management, and how to maintain the success in the maternity areas. Through this effort pretended to increase the knowledge and good practices related to the earliest stage of life in dairy cattle, which should represent an increase in herd health, work safety and farm profitability.

Local dairy producers have expressed a strong interest in improving their calving management practices to enhance herd health and productivity. This workshop, "Calving Management Practices and Neonate Care" was



Extension

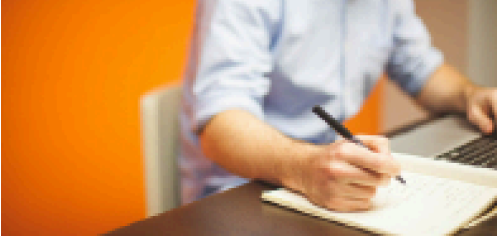
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
OZAUKEE COUNTY

MARCH 2025 REPORT

developed in response to these needs, aiming to provide dairy producers with the recent research based information. We addressed the program in Spanish and English to discuss topics such as calving preparation and assistance, neonatal care and colostrum management, disease prevention, nutrition and feeding, protocols and recordkeeping, and data management. This program had a lecture session in the morning and hands-on demonstration, where attendees had the opportunity to practice calving events on a cow model along with learning guidelines for calving management practices, record keeping and colostrum quality. With the development of this program, we provided great tools to farmers and workers to improve understanding of calving management practices, enhance ability to recognize and address health problems, improve skills in colostrum management and feeding, increase confidence in handling calves, increase adherence to recommended protocols, improve record keeping and data management, enhance commitment to animal welfare, and increase willingness to participate in ongoing training and education.



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 of the Rotary Club of Cedarburg-Grafton where we worked on creating a vision statement, 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 president of the board of the Rotary Club of Cedarburg-Grafton 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 Rotary Club is serving its members. Responses were received from 46 members and the results were presented and discussed at a club meeting attended by 22 members. Paul also engaged the board with an online survey to solicit feedback on creating a vision statement for the club. Additionally, Paul facilitated two strategic planning sessions with the board. At the first session attended by nine members, participants discussed survey results and identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges. At a second session attended by twelve members, participants developed a vision statement, identified goals, and developed action steps to accomplish three strategic goals. From evaluation (N=12), 100% of participants agreed that discussing a vision statement assisted them in understanding the general direction for their organization's future and 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 "very helpful process with improving the overall quality of the club" and another commented that Paul was "great at respectfully keeping us on task!"



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

A county-wide youth survey was conducted to gather input from older 4-H members on leadership opportunities, program engagement, and barriers to participation in county, state and national 4-H events. The intent of this effort was to amplify youth voices in program decision-making and develop opportunities that align with their needs and interests.

Abi Quinlan, Ozaukee County 4-H Program Educator, launched a survey to hear directly from older youth about their experiences in the program. The goal was to gather feedback on leadership opportunities, communication, and challenges they face in staying involved. Follow-up discussions with youth leaders reinforced the need for more flexible, low-commitment leadership roles and hands-on skill-building opportunities. The survey results highlighted key areas for improvement. 20% of youth felt there weren't enough leadership roles available at the county level, while 80% shared that time constraints made it hard to participate. Additionally, 60% expressed interest in officer training and meeting facilitation among other learning opportunities to improve their 4-H experience and professional skills. Many also mentioned wanting more county-based activities beyond travel-focused events. In response, Quinlan is working closely with youth leaders to develop new programs that fit their needs while offering a lower time commitment. Plans include resume and interview workshops, career exploration panels, and leadership skills training. There are also efforts underway to create more accessible leadership opportunities at the county level, ensuring older youth can stay engaged in ways that work for them.

We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.

UW-Madison Division of
Extension Ozaukee
County Office

121 W. Main St.
Port Washington, WI
53074

P: 262-284-8288
F: 262-284-8100
711 Wisconsin Relay

Cindy Sarkady
Area Extension Director

Abi Quinlan
4-H Program Educator

Paul Roback
Community Development Educator

Liz Gartman
Regional Crops Educator

Manuel Peña
Regional Dairy Educator

Claudia Breitengross
Kaitlin Felton
Support Staff