



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 hybrid foundational crop scout training program for entry-level crop scouts. The goal is to provide the key skills necessary to scout row crop and forage fields for common pests, identify crop nutrient deficiencies, perform basic specimen sampling and communicate results to managers and farmers so that we can better identify and address economically important crop challenges in season.

Crop scouts are an important piece of the crop management puzzle, and many of the crop scouts employed by farms, ag cooperatives and consultants need foundational skills to improve their work in the field. Typically they require training at a time their employers and mentors are busy with in season crop production work. After completing an internal training program for Extension Crops educators, we determine we could offer the program to an external audience.

We are currently planning and will be executing a series of "Lunch & Learn" webinars that will be offered live and recorded. Each webinar will address a different basic skill related to crop scouting. After the webinar series is complete, a series of in person, in field training sessions will be hosted at the Arlington, Lancaster and Marshfield Research stations. The goal is to offer hands-on application of the skills taught.

Dairy

Manuel Peña, Regional Dairy Educator

Bovi-noticias is a collaboration between Educators on the Dairy team and Farm Management team. This bilingual (English & Spanish) newsletter was designed to support dairy farms and their employees. This publication delivers accessible, research-based information in both English and Spanish, aiming to; provide relevant, practical insights for workers, managers, and owners; Increase awareness of the "why" behind practices to encourage employee understanding and enhance engagement of dairy teams; Serving as a resource for team meetings, facilitating discussions between management and workers, and fostering problem-solving.

To address the identified need for accessible, research-based information for the diverse dairy workforce in Wisconsin, the Bovi-noticias e-newsletter has been developed. This bilingual (English and Spanish) publication directly responds to the challenge of ensuring all individuals involved in daily dairy operations have access to



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relevant and practical insights. By providing content in both languages, Bovi-noticias aims to overcome language barriers and promote a shared understanding of best practices across farm teams. Furthermore, the newsletter goes beyond simply providing information by explaining the "why" behind recommended practices. This approach fosters deeper comprehension and encourages greater engagement among employees, empowering them to contribute more effectively to farm goals. By serving as a resource for team discussions and problem-solving, Bovi-noticias facilitates better communication and collaboration between management and workers. Ultimately, this initiative directly responds to the need for a more informed, skilled, and engaged dairy workforce, which is crucial for improving animal health, optimizing resource utilization, enhancing farm efficiency, and increasing profitability within the Wisconsin dairy industry.



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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

A public participation survey of residents of the Village of Fredonia to gather perceptions of the Village's parks, recreation, and open space. Results will inform the development of the Village's Park and Open Space Plan will help guide policies, park facility development, and funding.

The Village of Fredonia has initiated a process to update their Park and Open Space Plan (POSP). This plan will help guide Village policies, park facility development, and funding. The POSP is a necessary component to be eligible for Federal and State grants. As part of this process, the Village would like public input on the Village's current park system, needed improvements, and future development. The Village Administrator asked Paul to assist in obtaining public participation in the planning process. After meeting with the Village Administrator and Clerk, Paul researched and designed a public participation survey. Draft questions were reviewed and edited by the Village Administrator, Clerk, and members of the Village's Park and Recreation Committee. The survey was launched on February 1st and closed on February 17th. Responses were received from 91 individuals. Paul compiled the responses into a report and a PowerPoint Presentation. Both were shared with the Village Administrator, Clerk, and Chair of the Park and Recreation Committee. The Chair of the Village's Park and Recreation Committee shared the survey results at a public engagement meeting, where additional feedback was provided. Paul presented the survey data at a Park and Recreation Committee meeting. At this meeting, Paul learned that the Village was already using the survey results to make park infrastructure improvements. Results of this process will not only inform the development of the POSP, but also the Village's Capital Improvement Plan. Overall, this process generated more public participation than a prior parks survey, which only had 10 responses.



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

Planning meetings and activities for a safe, engaging in-person overnight summer camp experience at Upham Woods for Ozaukee County 4-H youth. This experience is anticipated to bring together almost 70 youth participants, 10 of which are youth counselors and a youth director, and 7 adult chaperones to engage in a variety of hands-on activities while building leadership skills and making memories. The 10 youth are serving as the committee members, led by 1 youth director and supported by the 4-H Educator, and making decisions regarding the theme, activities, t-shirt designs, and more.

The Ozaukee County 4-H Program is coordinating a three-day, two-night summer camp at Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center for up to 70 youth, supported by 7 approved adult chaperones. This camp offers hands-on experiences in leadership, arts and crafts, swimming, nature adventures and exploration, and team building. Designed to spark curiosity and build life skills, the camp encourages personal growth, confidence, and new friendships. It also strengthens youth connection to the 4-H program and introduces them to leadership pathways that continue beyond camp. Ozaukee County youth and families have expressed a strong interest in more meaningful leadership opportunities for older youth and expanded countywide programming that brings together members across clubs and communities. The 4-H Summer Camp at Upham Woods directly responds to this need by offering a dynamic, multi-age experience for youth in grades 3–9. Younger campers (grades 3–6) engage in skill-building and exploration through outdoor adventures and cabin camping, while older youth (grades 7–9) have the opportunity to participate in a tent sleeping, survival style camp and older youth, 9th grade and above, have the opportunity to take on leadership roles as counselors, activity leaders, and directors. This model fosters peer learning, strengthens youth voice, and encourages active participation in planning and leading countywide efforts. By uniting youth from across the county, camp promotes a sense of belonging and community while advancing 4-H's commitment to growing confident, capable young leaders. As a result of intentional planning, partnership, and promotion, the Ozaukee County 4-H Summer Camp at Upham Woods will provide a high-quality overnight experience for 70 youth and 7 adult chaperones, with leadership opportunities for youth. Youth will build confidence, try new activities, develop friendships, and gain a stronger connection to the 4-H program. Counselors and directors will grow in their leadership and communication skills through hands-on roles in mentorship and camp operations. The camp will also strengthen countywide engagement by bringing youth together from across clubs and communities—creating shared experiences that carry into future 4-H events and leadership roles. Campers will return home with new skills, a deeper sense of belonging, and a renewed excitement for continued 4-H involvement.



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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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