



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
OZAUKEE COUNTY

**SEPTEMBER 2025 REPORT**

## 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 webinar series for farmers, crop consultants, and agency personnel, where timely crop and research updates are presented alongside agronomic recommendations from topic experts in the UW system. Through this webinar we inform our constituents so they can make the most economically and environmentally sound decisions which ultimately lead to better sustainability.

- Weather, economics, pest pressure, and research findings all change throughout the growing year. Our audience needs updates on these variables and resources to respond to them.
- We host a webinar twice per month and feature one to three topic experts, mainly UW faculty, to share their timely recommendations, research updates, and relevant resources with participants.
- Our webinar series delivered tangible, useful recommendations and suggestions from topic experts to our audience when they needed them. This helped to ensure a successful season for Wisconsin crop growers. In addition, this webinar series helped to strengthen the bond between the university and the communities we serve by connecting the faculty doing ag research to the growers using those research results.

A collaborative effort between Extension educators, corn silage growers and consultants to gather and share corn silage production data including whole plant moisture. Through this effort, the data collected is used to drive an online tool that helps growers identify optimum corn silage harvest timing with the goal of producing high quality corn silage. (Liz Gartman, Manuel Pena)

- Wisconsin is the number one corn silage producing state, driven by the need for large quantities of quality forage for milk production. Proper timing of silage harvest is primarily driven by the whole plant moisture of the crop. Silage that is harvested too wet or too dry results in poor fermentation, affecting the palatability, stability and hygiene of the stored feed.
- For years Extension educators have partnered with industry groups to host corn silage dry downs, but much of that data had use limited to that particular growing season and region of the state.
- A team of Extension educators, along with our data and marketing specialists created a data collection process that gathered additional sample data, including county, planting date, seed brand, hybrid, fungicide use, previous crop along with the whole plant moisture collected at each dry down event.
- A reactive tool was created to allow growers to hone in on data relevant to their harvest decisions, including a map that displays whole plant moisture based on the most recent sample dates.



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- Further, Extension regional crops educators provide area updates each week to share the progress of crop harvest in their area, including relevant crop status information like disease pressure and weather conditions that are posted on the Extension Corn Silage website. These activities provide a holistic view of crop progress and help stakeholders better understand contributing factors to corn silage harvest progress.

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### Dairy

*Manuel Peña, Regional Dairy Educator*

A Bilingual presentation for managers and workers who have any connection to the calving area of the dairy farms where they learned about the importance of the nutrition of the transition cow and how to prevent some metabolic disorders that occur close to and/or right after calving. (Manuel Pena Pena)

Calving management is essential on farms, as it shapes the future milking herd. Proper care begins with the cow about to calve; her nutrition and management directly impact calf health and her post-calving performance. After hosting a couple of bilingual (English/Spanish) events on this topic, farmers asked for more sessions, appreciating the improved communication they bring to diverse farm teams. We initially focused on post-calving care, but my background in nutrition allowed me to expand into transition cow nutrition and its effect on reproduction. I developed a presentation that linked calf care to pre-calving cow health, emphasizing a holistic approach that considers the physical and physiological stresses cows face. Presenting in both languages continues to be highly valued by farmers working across language barriers.



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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 workshop for board members of the Port Washington-Saukville Art Council, a local 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.

Paul reached out to the board chair of the Port Washington-Saukville Art Council, a local nonprofit, to determine if the organization could benefit from Extension Community Development programming. After meeting with the board chair and three additional board members, it was determined that the organization would benefit from understanding board member roles and responsibilities, as well as strategic planning. The organization's mission is "Fostering vibrant conversations, community connections, and learning through the arts." In response, Paul taught a 1.5-hour workshop to nine 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=9), 88% of participants agreed they gained knowledge on the nonprofit sector, 88% agreed that they gained knowledge on board roles and responsibilities, and 100% gained knowledge on tools to use for high functioning boards. Participants evaluated Paul's facilitation as a 4.8 on a 5-point Likert Scale (1=poor and 5=excellent). One participant commented, "Super informative session and a great start for our kick-off for this great work. Excited to continue. Thank you!" Another commented "I feel overall that this was an excellent start to address our needs and issues."



### 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*

Across Ozaukee County, 18 chartered 4-H clubs and groups manage funds that support youth development through project supplies, scholarships, and community service efforts. Each group is responsible for tracking income and expenses and submitting an Annual Financial Report to remain in good standing with Wisconsin 4-H policies. The 4-H Educator, Abi Quinlan, plays a critical role in ensuring that these requirements are not only met, but also serve as a learning opportunity that strengthens both organizational transparency and the skills of volunteers and youth. (Abi Quinlan)

When the Ozaukee County 4-H Clubs and Groups submitted their Annual Financial Review, each was reviewed carefully by the 4-H Educator. Beyond compliance with state 4-H policy, this process was an educational opportunity as Abi met with youth and adult leaders to discuss best practices, offering coaching in positive financial management, and reinforcing the value of clear, accurate recordkeeping. By approaching the process as both oversight and support, youth and volunteers feel more confident and capable in their roles as financial stewards. All 18 chartered 4-H clubs and groups submitted timely financial reports, with a few working on corrections prior to submitting to the state 4-H level. Volunteers and youth shared questions and suggestions, such as a night work session and future presentations as a county to assist with the understanding of the Annual Financial Review (AFR) process. Overall, this effort not only fulfills state requirements but also reinforces 4-H's reputation as a transparent, well-managed youth organization, ensuring community confidence and long-term sustainability.

**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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