



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

An adult leader training for approved Ozaukee County 4-H volunteers, where participants learned about updated program policies, new countywide initiatives, and best practices for youth-adult partnership and empowerment. Through this training, the goal is for volunteers to strengthen their ability to create inclusive, youth-driven learning environments that align with current 4-H goals and policies.

In response to the identified needs, 4-H Educator, Abi Quinlan, designed and facilitated an in-person adult leader training that combined policy education with hands-on learning around youth-adult partnerships and youth empowerment. The training incorporated real examples from Ozaukee County programming to help leaders apply updated policies in practical ways, while also introducing new tools for effective communication, decision-making, and youth engagement. Quinlan used data from the needs assessment to tailor content to areas where leaders expressed uncertainty, such as risk management, inclusive practices, and aligning club activities with countywide goals. This effort created a foundation for consistent, research-informed leadership across projects and set the stage for ongoing support and follow-up learning opportunities throughout the 4-H year. Quinlan recorded the training and shared with all other volunteers to view after the event to ensure additional reach and impact throughout the county.



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 identified organizational values, created an identity statement, and developed strategic priorities. 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 (CCC) contacted Paul to facilitate a process that would update the organization's strategic plan. This aligns with Paul's position description, which includes "building the capacity of nonprofits, community organizations, local governments, and coalitions." Previously, Paul facilitated the chamber's strategic planning process in 2024. The CCC's mission is "Cultivating Cedarburg's economic success by supporting a vibrant business environment and promoting our unique community character." To achieve the planning objectives, Paul met with the chamber's executive director to review the status of prior strategic priorities to identify accomplishments and challenges. Paul facilitated a strategic planning session attended by eleven board and staff members where we created an identity statement that included brainstorming organizational values, identified the organization's competitive advantage, and clarified the organization's community impact. The identity statement will assist a strategic priority that needed additional attention from the prior strategic planning process, to "Educate people on what the chamber does and our value (self-promotion)." Then, we reviewed and updated the chamber's strategic priorities. From session evaluations (n=11), 100% of participants agreed that the strategic action plan dashboard helped them track the status of their goals and activities over the past year. Additionally, 100% agreed that they have a greater understanding of their organization's identity and that discussing priorities increased their ability to identify their next steps for future implementation. Participants evaluated Paul's facilitation as a 5.0 on a 5-point Likert Scale (1=poor and 5=excellent). One participant commented "Paul is a great facilitator and is very easy to work with. He always keeps us on task and makes our strategic process smooth."



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

An article for the Midwest Forage Association's "Clippings" e-Newsletter targeted forage growers, agency staff, researchers and agribusiness consultants. The article focused on the Wisconsin Cover Crop Data Network, an opportunity for cover crop growers to quantify their cover crop biomass while also receiving forage quality analysis metrics. The goal of this article was to create more awareness of the program and tools and seek new collaborators for the project moving forward.

The Midwest Forage Association publishes a monthly e-Newsletter, the "Clippings." They look to Extension specialists, researchers and industry to provide relevant, forage related content for this newsletter. The MFA reached out to me to provide an article and this was an excellent opportunity to share the Wisconsin Cover Crop Data Network with a wider audience that can learn from the work being done here in Wisconsin. I reached out to Dan Marzu, our Extension lead on the Wisconsin Cover Crop Data Network to get more information regarding the project. Dan provided key links and information about the project and I pulled together the article, with Dan providing his expertise in reviewing the content and purpose of the project. The MFA Clippings are e-mailed to all MFA members, and are accessible to others online. This article was also linked in the Hay & Forage Growers "Hay Pellets" listing which increased our reach to those receiving that e-Newsletter.

Dairy

Manuel Peña, Regional Dairy Educator

An article written for dairy farmers and industry professionals where we discussed the importance and impact of Body Condition Score (BCS). The purpose of the article is to help farmers of Ozaukee County to measure it on farm, to help prevent digestible disorders at different stages of production, and to increase efficiency of their cows.

Fresh cow issues cost producers approximately \$8 billion each year in the United States, representing a significant economic burden on the dairy industry. A substantial portion of these problems can be traced back to the cow's body condition at the time of calving, which plays a crucial role in determining her health, productivity, and ability to transition smoothly into lactation. Cows that are either too thin or too fat at calving are more susceptible to a range of metabolic disorders, such as ketosis, milk fever, and displaced abomasum, all of which can compromise milk production, increase veterinary costs, and even lead to early culling. Proper management



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of body condition during the dry period and close-up phase is therefore essential to minimizing these fresh cow issues and improving both animal welfare and farm profitability. This article is designed to guide farmers in accurately scoring the body condition of their animals at different stages of production. By understanding and applying proper scoring techniques, farmers can make informed management decisions that support herd health, productivity, and overall farm efficiency.

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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