



August 2023 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. Our work supports people, communities and businesses.

- An on-farm consultation in Jefferson county where Extension colleagues and the dairy producer worked together to identify production challenges and develop standard operating procedures to improve calf care. (Alison Pfau)
- Developing and planning a four-part Spanish dairy webinar series for Spanish-speaking dairy managers, herd managers, herds persons, and employees. The goal of this effort is to teach unbiased, university-based research in the areas of reproduction, nutrition, dairy management, and milk quality so they can improve farm viability and food safety, while maintaining animal wellbeing and welfare. (Alison Pfau)
- Planning and development of a carbon conference for dairy owners and managers, consultants, engineers, and agribusiness professionals in collaboration with Iowa State University Extension, University of Minnesota Extension, and University of Illinois Extension. The goal of this effort is to teach individuals best management practices to reduce or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and how to enter, navigate, and discuss carbon markets to address dairy production management, thus improving farm business management viability and environmental sustainability. (Alison Pfau)
- The University of Wisconsin Madison Division of Extension is developing a research project involving alternative forages. The goal of this research is to answer the farmer questions about the use and feeding guidelines, and also get a better understand the economic implications of planting and harvesting these alternatives forages (Alison Pfau)
- Planning and developing short educational videos in Spanish and English, emphasizing different dairy farming practices and topics such as calf care, nutrition, dairy production, reproduction, health, farm worker/farm manager relationship and animal welfare. Also, in partnership with the regional crops educator, will planning videos about soil health, weed and pest management and diversified cropping systems. (Alison Pfau)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



The Community Economic Development program promotes local economic well-being and quality of life in Wisconsin communities. We work with and support community economic development practitioners and organizations, tribal and governmental entities, and business and nonprofit organizations and help gain access to the information, research, education, and technical assistance necessary to make informed decisions.

- Pre-planning with Fort Atkinson Chamber of Commerce leadership team to prepare for strategic planning process to provide direction and updated goals and implementation plan for the organization. (Steve Chmielewski)



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- Pre-planning with Jefferson Chamber of Commerce leadership team to prepare for strategic planning process to provide direction and updated goals for the organization. (Steve Chmielewski)
- A five-session program (Local Government Academy) for Fort Atkinson residents where they strengthen relationships and increase understanding of city operations, challenges, and goals. This effort is intended to improve resident and local government relations and increase civic engagement. (Steve Chmielewski)

HEALTH & WELL-BEING



The Extension Institute of Health & Well-Being works to catalyze positive change in Wisconsin families through evidence-based programs focused on nutrition, food security and safety, chronic disease prevention, mental health promotion, and prevention of substance abuse. Rooted in both urban and rural communities, we're working together to help solve the state's most pressing well-being needs and to ensure that all Wisconsinites live stronger, healthier lives.

HORTICULTURE



The UW-Madison's Extension Horticulture Program provide research-based horticulture information to Wisconsinites so they can make gardening decisions that keep their plants healthy while protecting the environment. We provide research- and evidence-based horticulture management education, resources and decision-making tools to home gardeners and commercial horticulture practitioners.

- Planning and development of the optional Lab component of the fall 2023 Foundations in Gardening online course that will provide an opportunity for course participants to dig deeper into important horticulture concepts and apply what they learn through interactive activities. (Julie Hill)
- A yearlong activity/service for residents of Jefferson County to provide research based reliable information to their horticulture questions. The goal of this effort is to educate individuals of Jefferson County so they can implement best practices in their landscapes that will positively affect the environment and their communities. (Julie Hill)
- Presenting an upcoming program at UW-Whitewater (in partnership with UW-W Continuing Education): *Fall Gardening for a Winter-Ready Landscape*, Saturday, September 30, 10:00 a.m. Program description: Even though the days are getting shorter, and winter is around the corner, your gardening tasks are not done yet! Join us for this overview of gardening practices for pest prevention, plant protection, and garden/lawn preparation. We will discuss garden clean-up in relation to diseases, insects, and wildlife food; fall lawn care, protecting susceptible plants from snow/cold damage and more.
- Coordinating statewide webinar series for consumer horticulture audiences where participants learn best horticultural practices to mitigate pollinator decline and climate change, decrease environmental contamination and pollution, and grow healthy plants for sustainable gardens and communities. The goal of this effort is to increase adoption of best horticultural practices addressing environmental issues in Wisconsin.



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- Upcoming Webinars (For more information and to register, please visit: <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/mini-webinars-for-gardeners/> All webinars are recorded for later viewing):
 - Soil Testing - Why, When and How - September 13, 12:00 p.m.
 - Debunking Houseplant Myths - October 31, 12:00 p.m.
 - Adaptive Gardening Tools for your Holiday Gift List - November 9, 12:00 p.m.
 - Growing Adenium (Desert Rose) - The Flamboyant Succulent - Tuesday, November 14, 12:00 p.m.

Positive Youth Development



The UW-Madison's Extension Horticulture Program provide research-based horticulture information to Wisconsinites so they can make gardening decisions that keep their plants healthy while protecting the environment. We provide research- and evidence-based horticulture management education, resources and decision-making tools to home gardeners and commercial horticulture practitioners.

- A county wide project learning course for 4-H horse and pony project members, where youth can build on horse knowledge and care skills. This effort is designed to create a greater knowledge base in equine vet sciences, color genetics, breed standards, equine nutrition and care. (Jerry Wilcenski)
- Dairy science educational county wide programming focused on youth Spark and expanding understanding of the whole dairy industry in Jefferson County. The goal of this effort is to provide opportunities for youth who do not live on farms to learn about and work hands-on at dairy farms as well as learn about industry career paths. (Jerry Wilcenski)
- A county wide project learning course for 4-H livestock project members, where youth can build on livestock feeding and care skills. This effort is designed to assist all youth trouble shoot livestock care problems, develop a plan of work for their projects, and learn about food safety and quality. (Jerry Wilcenski)



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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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