



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
GREEN COUNTY



Back row (L to R): Victoria Soloman, Samantha Wileman, Ellen Andrews, Jayne Butts, Jackie McCarville; Front row (L to R): Peg Sheaffer, Jerry Guth, Kathy Pennington, Sue Nelson.
Not Pictured: Bridget Mouchon, Maggie Milcarek, Kathy Lange, Lynn Perkins, Dawn Sass.

**AGRICULTURE • 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT • NUTRITION
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT • HEALTH & WELL-BEING**

EXTENSION GREEN COUNTY

Annual Report 2023

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.



Extension Green County
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March 12, 2024

Dear Green County Board of Supervisors:

Attached is the 2024 annual report for the University of Wisconsin Extension Green County office. This report highlights some of the major educational programs conducted by the Extension Educators in Green County this past year.

Extension Green County brings the Wisconsin Idea to Green County. UW academic staff and faculty use university research-based resources to deliver programs and meet community needs in the areas of Agriculture-Dairy, Crops & Soils, and Livestock; Health and Well-Being; Nutrition; 4-H Youth Development; and Community Development. Our Educators are contracted with UW-Madison, Division of Extension, to serve the residents of Green County. This unique partnership, between UW-Madison and Green County, assures responsiveness to local needs, reduces county costs, and provides an important link to UW resources.

In addition, we collaborate with valuable partners throughout the county and state. We have included a list of the organizations that we work with to delivery important programs to serve the needs of Green County citizens.

We hope this report provides you with a brief overview of the programming and impact our educators, staff and programs have in Green County. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us to ask questions or learn more about our programming efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lynn Perkins'.

Lynn Perkins
Area Extension Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jayne M. Butts'.

Jayne M. Butts
Extension Green County Office Manager



Meet Extension Green County

Extension Green County staff are academic and faculty members contracted by UW-Madison, Division of Extension, to serve the needs of Green County and surrounding counties. County educators are responsible for conducting applied research and delivering researched-based information to county residents.



Lynn Perkins – *Area Extension Director* for Grant, Green, Iowa and Lafayette Counties.

Developing and directing Extension Educator Teams in Grant, Green, Iowa, and Lafayette Counties.

- **Ellen Andrews** – Institute of Positive Youth Development, 4-H Youth Development Educator
- **Bridget Mouchon** – Institute of Health & Well-Being, Health & Well-Being Educator
- **Victoria Solomon** – Institute of Community Resource Development, Community Resource Development Educator
- **Amanda Cauffman** – Institute of Agriculture, *Regional Livestock Educator*
- **Joshua Kamps** – Institute of Agriculture, *Regional Crops & Soils Educator*
- **Jackie McCarville** – Institute of Agriculture, *Regional Dairy Educator*
- **Maggie Milcarek** – FoodWise- Grant, Green, Iowa & Lafayette Counties, *Nutrition Coordinator*
- **Kathy Lange** – FoodWise-Grant, Green, Iowa & Lafayette Counties, *Nutrition Educator*



The principle that education should benefit people's lives beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

This principle has guided the University of Wisconsin system for over a century.

Guided by a common purpose, UW students, alumni, faculty and staff give back to every county in Wisconsin through research projects, professional careers and public service.

Jayne Butts, *Extension Office Manager* and **Samantha Wileman**, *Extension Activity Assistant*

Major responsibilities: Assist in the promotion and coordination of Extension Green County programs.

The staff serves under the supervision of the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee. Those members are:

Sue Nelson, Chair; Dawn Sass, Vice-Chair; Kathy Pennington, Secretary;
Jerry Guth; Peg Sheaffer.

For more information, contact the Extension Green County office at 608-328-9440 or visit our website green.wisconsin@wisc.edu





2023 Agriculture Program Summary Report

Regional Educators for Grant, Green, Iowa & Lafayette Counties

Jackie McCarville, Dairy Educator
Josh Kamps, Crops & Soils Educator
Amanda Cauffman, Livestock Educator

Agriculture Educational Programs:

- Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Annual Update Meetings
- Dairy Modernization Tours
- Badger Dairy Insight -Statewide Webinars
- Badger Crop Connect –Statewide Webinars

County/State Administration:

- UW-Extension Dairy Team, UW-Extension Livestock Team, UW-Extension Crops Team
- Green County Clean Sweep Grant Applications and Reports to the WI Department of Agriculture
- Blackhawk Technical College Agriculture Advisory Board

Media Educational Outreach

- Monthly DHI Newsletter
- Monthly Radio Programs on Big Radio AM and “Farm Talk” Programs on WBGR FM Radio
- Programming promotion on Extension Green County Facebook page
- Articles in the Wisconsin Agriculturist and Wisconsin State Farmer
- UW-Extension Green County Agriculture Website: <http://green.extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/>
- UW-Extension Lafayette County Agriculture Web Site: <http://lafayette.extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/>
- UW-Extension Grant County Agriculture Web Site: <http://grant.extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/>
- Dairy Topic Hub: <http://dairy.extension.wisc.edu>
- Livestock Topic Hub: <http://livestock.extension.wisc.edu>
- Crops & Soils Topic Hub: <http://cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu>

Dairy e-newsletter

Starting in October of 2022, Jackie McCarville and a colleague create a monthly e-newsletter for the dairy industry. Each month the newsletter features 1-2 dairy articles written by dairy educators and specialists based on dairy program workgroups (nutrition, emerging technologies, animal wellbeing, and reproduction and genetics), hot topics of the month, meet the educator spotlight, hay market update, and calendar of events. Each article has a button that directly links them to the full article. The e-newsletter currently goes to over 1,800 email addresses. We also have great success with our open rate at around 40%. We are also tracking analytics on each e-newsletter to see how it increases traffic driven to the Dairy Topic Hub. After a couple of e-newsletters being sent out, we also know that a prime time to send them is either 11am or 4pm. The e-newsletter won the Wisconsin Association of County Agricultural Agents communication award for newsletters. If interested in signing up for the e-newsletter, please visit: <https://dairy.extension.wisc.edu>.



I'm a Farmer Too

In March, Amanda Cauffman and Jackie McCarville hosted “I’m a Farmer Too” for women in agriculture. The event took place in Mineral Point but had great representation from women in Grant, Green, Iowa, and Lafayette counties. Joy Kirkpatrick, Farm Succession Specialist, was the main speaker talking about Planning for the Unknown. Carolyn Ihde, Crawford and Richland Counties Livestock educator, spoke about animal diseases on the farm. Amanda spoke about marketing your farm to consumers. and Jackie spoke about farm safety for all ages on the farm. The day ended with women creating wooden animal heads. Jackie’s topic attracted the attention of a few attendees who work in the agriculture industry. They reached out to Jackie to speak about farm safety at one of the “Her Farm” network events held in May in Cambridge.



Manure Composting

Josh Kamps hosted a field day training on composting principles where farmers learned about what is required to start and maintain an on-farm mortality and manure composting system. At the conclusion of the field day training farmers were prepared to identify a low-risk location to start an on-farm composting site, take inventory of the available on-farm products, and continue to learn about the necessary timings for managing a functioning compost system.

Youth Focused Education

Jackie McCarville does a few activities focused on youth education. She teaches Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) for youth exhibitors who show animals at the county or State Fair. YQCA focuses on Animal Well-Being, Food Safety, and Life Skills. She also is an advisor for the Green County Youth Animal Auctions corporation. This board is a joint venture of the Green County Meat Animal Auction and Dairy Youth Auction committees. They merged to form the new 501(c)3. Their purpose is to encourage Green County youth to develop life skills in agriculture by providing educational programming, community involvement and scholarships. Jackie also teaches an animal safety session at the Green County Rural Safety Day. Having been involved in her own farm animal accident, this is something near and dear to Jackie’s heart. The session involves safety around all kinds of animals including household pets. One youth had the following quote after attending the session, “I learned that mom animals are the most dangerous animals.”



Feeder Cattle Clinic

In February, Amanda Cauffman hosted a Feeder Cattle Clinic for beef and dairy feedlot operators in Green and Grant Counties. Farmers heard from speakers who spoke on the 2023 Market Outlook, an overview of antibiotic rule changes, an update on implant labels and management, and stockmanship considerations. Attendees at this Feeder Clinic were able to learn ways to increase the value of their marketed beef and increase profitability through better management practices.

Regional Agriculture Educator model:

As you may recall, in April of 2022, the agriculture educators went to a regional staffing model to serve Grant, Green, Iowa, and Lafayette counties. Amanda Cauffman, resigned from her regional livestock educator position the end of May. Josh Kamps, resigned from his regional crops and soils educator position the end of August and has transitioned to Walworth, Rock, and Jefferson counties. Starting in mid-January of 2024, we will have a new crops and soils regional educator. Starting in mid-February of 2024, we will have a new livestock regional educator.





2023 Extension Program Summary Report

Victoria Solomon

Extension Community Resource Development Educator



Solomon gives Green County access to university research and knowledge in:

Community Leadership Development – Educational programming to develop community leadership, deliberative dialogue, and civic engagement.

Facilitation & Organizational Development – Providing unbiased facilitation processes to community and organizational discussions.

Economic Development— Enhancing local economic health and downtown vibrancy.

Water Education – Bringing programming in drinking water quality to households and communities.

Community Leadership Development

Green County Leaders (GCL) 2022-2023

Green County Leaders (GCL) is an educational program where individuals practice leadership skills, deepen their understanding of community issues, and network with leaders in Green County. The 2022-2023 GCL class had 32 participants. The class had seven community projects: Aspiring Leaders of Green County, EV Charging Stations, Green County Beautification, Art in Public Spaces, Youth Sports, ATV/UTV mapping, and Addressing Homelessness.

Over the course of the 2022-2023 GCL program, participants connected with over 100 community leaders. They toured 22 locations in 7 communities. Participant evaluations showed that participating in Green County Leaders increased their effectiveness at work, engagement in community, and for those able to run for office, likelihood to run. For example:

- 100% found GCL helped them to be more effective in their current employment;
- 100% found GCL to help them be more effective in their personal life;
- 97% expanded their network as a result of participating in the GCL program.

“This class is truly life changing!”

As a result of their participation in GCL, 22 became involved in a community issue, 21 initiated a community project, and 11 joined a new committee or board. Participants shared:

- *“This class is truly life changing!”*
- *“I find myself approaching situations with greater open mind.”*
- *“Helped me engage in the community more!”*
- *“The connections and friendships I made were very impactful.”*
- *“I look at communities with that First Impression with a more positive outlook and look for how I can be impactful in a positive change.”*
- *“Green County is an amazing place with many amazing people and organizations. It has opened my eyes to how fortunate I am to call Green County home!”*
- *“I feel like I’m finally putting down roots.”*
- *“I learned things that have helped dynamics at home with my family.”*



Overall, Green County leaders has completed its 20th program year. 32 people graduated this year, resulting in an alumni network of 428 people. This year’s class completed 7 projects, resulting in 82 GCL projects. This amounts to \$544,416 of volunteer hours in Green County communities. Additionally, the results of the modified First Impressions program in Albany are being used to advance Albany’s economic development. GCL has a partnership with WEKZ so that every session has participant interviews with WEKZ to share big learnings from the sessions.



Community Leadership Development (cont)

Elevando Wisconsin

Elevando Wisconsin is a statewide leadership program that has been created and co-constructed from hopes and needs identified by Green County's Latino leaders. This program is designed to elevate personal and community leadership skills, building a network of leaders across Wisconsin. Sessions are in Spanish and English. Both the spring 2023 and the fall 2023 Elevando Wisconsin cohorts had Green County participants, as does the newly formed Elevando Wisconsin Advisory Board.

Economic Development

Brodhead Community Economic Analysis

Facilitation of multi-stakeholder community meetings in Brodhead to identify issues and opportunities to advance Brodhead economic development. Through these meetings and process, strategic issues were identified. From these issues, goals were identified as ways to address these issues. The top prioritized goals were further expanded by a subgroup. This process also included expanding working relationships with partners in the Brodhead area to improve economic well-being and quality of life. Implementation actions were already underway at the end of 2023 as a result of this process.

Water Education

2023 Green County Annual Drinking Water Testing Program

Partnered with the towns of Decatur, Spring Grove, and Sylvester to offer a drinking water testing program with an educational session for participants to ask follow-up questions, better understand their sample results, and their options to address possible concerns. Fifty-six wells were tested throughout the towns.

Groundwater Quality Trend Data Project – Year 4

Green County started innovative groundwater quality data collection to implement a recommendation developed by the Green County Livestock Facility Study Group. Green County funded 5 years of data collection, with 2023 being the last year of the data collection. Solomon facilitated a Multicommittee meeting with several Green County Board committees so that they could make an informed decision on the path they would like to take forward regarding groundwater quality trend data and groundwater quality efforts. As a result of this Multicommittee meeting, the Green County Board has approved funding (\$57,400) two more years (2024 and 2025) of groundwater quality trend data collection. This data will help inform groundwater quality improvement efforts.

Green County Farmer-led Watershed Meeting

In response to the 4 year groundwater quality trend data work in Green County, UW-Madison Division of Extension partnered with Green County Land and Water Conservation Department to hold a multi-stakeholder Green County Water Quality Update and Roundtable session. As a result of this session...

- 87% (20) had an increased understanding of Green County groundwater quality.
- 70% (16) are interested in learning more about Green County groundwater quality.
- 65% (15) will share what they learned with someone else.
- 52% (12) met someone they didn't know before.
- 43% (10) have increased motivation to take action to manage nitrogen in fields.
- 26% (4) will try something new to better manage nitrogen.

“Farmers and non-farmers can work together”

In response to “what are your biggest lessons or takeaways?” some select takeaways include:

- “Farmers and non-farmers can work together.”
- “Education is key to farmers, landowners, and non-farmers.”
- “Better understanding of how nitrates travel to groundwater.”



The meeting ended with collective participant agreement to gather the discussion notes, create an action plan, and continue the conversations and learning, particularly across farmers, landowners, and non-farmers to increase action for cleaner water in Green County. Following that meeting, Extension and Green County Land and Water Conservation Department staff met to draft an action plan. As a result of that action planning discussion, Extension and Green County Land and Water Conservation identified the opportunity to meet a desired action identified in the meeting by proposing that the county land include a demonstration / pilot plot. This plot would be the first of its type in Green County and will be located in an area that can include educational signage.





2023 4-H Youth Development Program Summary Report

Ellen Andrews

Extension Green County 4-H Youth Development Educator



In 4-H, we believe in the power of young people. We see that every child has valuable strengths and real influence to improve the world around us. 4-H is America's largest youth development organization-empowering young people across our community to lead for a lifetime.

As the Green County 4-H Youth Development Educator, Andrews is charged with overall leadership and oversight for all Green County 4-H Youth Development programs. This includes guidance and support for the 16 4-H club, 125 adult volunteers and 515 youth members. Working in partnership with community partners and volunteers, Andrews is able to provide a wide variety of programs that are research-backed and offer life-changing experiences to youth.

4-H Project Learning

Project learning is an important aspect of a youth's 4-H experience, and is about more than finding a new hobby or preparing an exhibit for the County Fair. It is also about facilitating youth sparks, which are an essential ingredient for thriving youth. A spark is a passion for an interest or skill, which becomes a source of energy, joy, purpose and direction in a young person's life. 4-H plays an important role in helping young people discover and pursue their spark. Examples of county offered project learning experiences this year included...



- **The 4-H Foods Committee** —offered workshops focused on baking, cooking, and cake decorating skills. The workshops each had 25-40 youth register, with heaviest participation among our youngest members. The volunteers leading the workshop very intentionally designed the workshops to promote and prepare the youth for the Green County Fair Foods Revue and Cake Revue. As a result, we saw a 250% increase in registrations for Foods Revue and a 170% increase in Cake Revue registrations.

- **Archery** – has long been our most popular 4-H Shooting Sports discipline, with 96 4-H youth registered for archery workshops in 2023. Andrews works to help coordinate and support our team of certified 4-H Archery volunteers who teach youth life skills, safety procedures, and responsible use of equipment, all while fostering a love for the sport of archery through a series of four workshops and a 4-H hosted county fair shoot.
- **4-H Dairy Judging** - Each spring, our 4-H Dairy Judging Coaches coordinate and lead a series of practices for 4-H youth to prepare to compete in a regional dairy judging contest. The purpose of this effort is to increase participants' knowledge of the characteristics of quality dairy cattle of various breeds, while also increasing decision-making, reasoning and communication skills. We are extremely grateful for the 10 different dairy farms across Green County that welcome our 4-H members to their farms each year, and prepare practice classes for the youth to judge.



4-H Summer Camps

Youth need opportunities explore new interests and learn critical skills like resilience, independence and teamwork. 4-H camp programs provide youth a wonderful opportunity to have these experiences that stretch their comfort zone, while supported by caring adults. These camp experiences provide powerful learning opportunities for all of our youth, whether as a camper or youth staff member. The largest camp program that Green County 4-H offers is 4-H Summer Camp, a 4 day and 3 night camp for youth in 3rd-6th grade, held at Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center near Wisconsin Dells.



Preparations for this 4-H Summer Camp starts months in advance, with the assembling of a dedicated team of volunteer adult and youth staff members to plan and lead camp. 4-H members in 9th grade and above were invited to apply to serve as camp counselors. Andrews works with a group of adult volunteers to create a very interactive group interview process that helps the adults assess how suitable the youth applicants might be for this leadership opportunity, while also jump starting the camp staff training process for the youth applicants.

In 2023, Green County 4-H took 36 campers and 10 youth staff members to 4-H Summer Camp (a 21% increase over 2022). For all but a few of our youth staff, this was their first time stepping up to the responsibility of being a 4-H Camp Counselor and playing a key role in looking out for the physical and emotional safety of their campers. For many of our campers this was their first overnight 4-H camp experience. This meant leaving their parents, bravely meeting and living with new people, and experiencing a variety of outdoor and camp activities. In the process, many new friendships were forged, new interests were discovered, and new life skills were developed. In addition, our youth staff grew by leaps and bounds in their communication, problem solving, empathy and leadership skills.



Volunteer Development and Support

Adult volunteers are Wisconsin 4-H's most valuable asset in delivering the quality youth-led, adult guided programs to support youth as they acquire essential life skills. In 2023, volunteers reported contributing an average of over 43 hours during the year, which was a 30% increase over the previous year. At the Independent Sector's Wisconsin volunteer time value of \$29.97 per hour, Green County 4-H volunteers contribute over \$178,000.00 in value to our county.

Volunteers play a critical role in the delivery of quality educational programs. Research shows there is predictive relationships between the quality of the 4-H programs that volunteers provide and the level by which youth thrive and go on to achieve developmental outcomes. A program evaluation completed by Green County older youth 4-H members in fall 2023 (n=53) indicated that overall most youth are experiencing a high quality 4-H Program, including 90% of youth experiencing caring adults, who empower youth to have a voice in decision making.

The safety of all youth and adults we work with is extremely important to Extension and the 4-H program. To ensure volunteers are prepared for their positions, Extension requires several initial and ongoing trainings related to the roles and responsibilities of 4-H volunteers, best practices for working with youth, educational resources, and recognizing and reporting concerns of child abuse, neglect, sexual misconduct and other prohibited behaviors.

While volunteers can conveniently complete many of these trainings at any time from their own computer or mobile device, Andrews has still found in-person training to be a very important opportunity to start building a foundational relationship with the volunteers, built on a shared understanding of expectations and purpose. The Green County Extension 4-H staff also seek to remove possible barriers for volunteers in completing these required trainings by offering options for both print based and in-person completion of the online trainings.





2023 Extension Program Summary Report

Bridget Mouchon

Extension Health & Well-Being Development Educator

The Health and Wellbeing Educator provides education and outreach to the community on behavioral health and other health issues and provides leadership to a number of local groups and coalitions.

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Education - Trainings offered through Extension are evidence-based and research demonstrates their effectiveness.

- Mental Health First Aid trainings for Youth and Adults – English and Spanish.
- safeTALK and QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) suicide prevention trainings.
- WeCOPE stress management workshops.
- COMET (Changing Our Mental and Emotional Trajectories) trainings.
- Sources of Strength school-based suicide prevention program (trainer).
- Parent Cafes (Spanish) – learning about parenting mentally healthy kids through facilitated conversations

Coalition Support and Leadership

- Green County Healthy Communities Coalition Steering Member
- Green County Mental Health Matters Coalition Co-chair
- NAMI Green County President (NAMI stands for National Alliance on Mental Illness)
- Active member of Multi-Cultural Outreach Program of Green County
- Active member of GUPPY (Green County United Prevention Professionals for Youth)

Other Community Outreach

- Attended multiple community events to provide connections and outreach to Extension, NAMI and other coalitions' resources (examples include Dia del Niño, Take Flight for Mental Health, Monroe High School Launch program Mental Health Summit)
- NAMI Crisis Intervention Team Training (CIT) - coordinated 40 hours of professional development for law enforcement
- Community Health Worker support and supervision

Impact Statements:

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Education

Evidence-based mental health and suicide prevention trainings provide community members and professionals the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to address issues they encounter with the people they interact with every day. I provided these kinds of trainings to emergency responders, Department of Workforce Development, Farm Service Agency staff, library staff, school staff, and SSM-Monroe staff, as well as many other members of our communities. We have also begun to provide some of our trainings and outreach in Spanish. This reach into the Spanish-speaking population will continue to build throughout 2024, due to the new Spanish-speaking Community Health Worker with whom this educator is supervising and working.



Community Health Worker (CHW) Supervision

In the state and our two rural farming counties, we need greater access to Spanish language health and wellness resources, mental health, and medical care. We need people who are fluent in Spanish, and share the immigrant background and story, to connect and be a trustworthy resource in our communities.



The Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) received funding for Community Health Workers (or CHW - significant evidence of effectiveness) and connected to partner in Green and Lafayette Counties. The program manager, Area Director and the County Educator worked with the UW-Madison to approve a partnership agreement. Mouchon now supervises a Spanish-speaking CHW, Cristy.

Cristy is now trained to lead Strong Bodies (Gente Fuerte), Bienvenido (stress management / mental health program for immigrant adults), Parent Cafes, and Care Transition Intervention (post hospitalization) Program. She has taken the CHW training recognized by the state through Milwaukee AHEC. We offered Parent Cafes in Green County, and Bienvenido, Strong Bodies and Juntos 4-H in Lafayette in 2023.

We are working to improve the referral system to determine Social Determinants of Health (SDoH, which may include housing, food insecurity, etc) needs through healthcare settings and get clients connected with Cristy. The Spanish-speaking community in our rural counties is also struggling with mental health issues and access to all kinds of health care. We will be gathering evidence of the impact of the CHW role on people's health outcomes, including hospital readmission rates. The work we do here will hopefully be an example of work that can be done elsewhere in the state.

Coalition and Other Community Outreach Impacts

Through Green County coalitions, I am helping to identify and respond to community needs, develop resources, coordinate events, and coordinate outreach and awareness of what we all offer. Some highlights of work that I am contributing to include:

1. Allocating ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds to the three Health priority working committees to work on the goals and activities of each - These three workgroups are Adverse Childhood Experiences (or ACEs), Housing, and Mental Health. I am active on two of these.
2. Working to get Spanish-language Parent Cafes delivered in Green County, and initial planning to develop a Family Resource Center, as part of ACEs workgroup.
3. Developing better training/events outreach and marketing for all Green County Mental Health Matters coalition member organizations.
4. As a member of GUPPY (Green County United Prevention Professionals for Youth), helped the group facilitate getting school staff back at the table after COVID.





Healthy Choices Healthy Lives

FoodWise is federally funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). With local strengths, we support healthy eating habits, active lifestyles and healthy community environments for Wisconsin residents experiencing limited incomes through nutrition education at the individual, community and systems levels.



Green County Landscape

Whether people are healthy or not is affected by systems, policies, and environmental factors.

4%

of county residents experience limited income and low access to a grocery store[^]



8%

of county residents use SNAP benefits to purchase food for themselves and their families.*



Achieving More Together

UW-Madison Division of Extension works alongside the people of Wisconsin throughout urban and rural communities to deliver practical educational programs where people live and work. In Green County, FoodWise partners with Juda and Albrecht elementary schools; Family Promise of Green County; Aging & Disability Resource Center; Monroe Housing Authority; and area food pantries to help make the healthy choice the easy choice in our communities.

Community

Impacts in 2023

Engaged with 95 second, third and fourth graders around nutrition education topics at Juda School in Juda and Albrecht in Brodhead.

Engaged with 60 learners in a variety of community-based settings including senior meal sites, adult day centers, affordable housing apartments, emergency shelters and temporary housing sites.

Worked with a non-profit organization to establish a community food garden & donate over 270 pounds of produce to 4 sites serving over 150 community members with limited income.

Partnered with area food pantries to provide recipes using seasonal ingredients and food pantry staples.

[^]County Health Rankings

* WI Dept of Administration and WI Dept of Health Services

Inspiring Collaborations

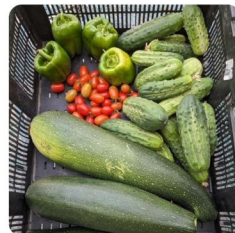


The FoodWise team focused on re-establishing and building new partnerships in Green County in 2023. One of the new collaborations was with the Monroe Housing Authority. Over 90 people live at Churchill Woods Apartments in Monroe. All of the residents experience limited income and 90% of residents use SNAP benefits to pay for food. FoodWise collaborated with the new partner to offer a series of nutrition education classes.

We engaged with 39 adult learners on a variety of topics such as: how food influences mood, how to read and understand nutrition labels, how to make healthier food choices on a budget, and how to use food pantry staples. Participants had an opportunity to learn new skills and sample healthy recipes.

Churchill Woods is an ideal site for programming with their large community room and kitchen, on-site food pantry, and enthusiastic participants. The FoodWise team is working with the staff and residents to identify future program opportunities.

Multi-level Program Efforts



This is the first year that FoodWise partnered with Family Promise of Green County, which provides temporary housing and services to people experiencing homelessness. When we approached Family Promise, they welcomed the opportunity to partner with us on a grant that would establish a food garden on their property and provide nutrition education classes to participants in their programs.

The first season of the Family Promise garden was a huge success thanks to support from staff, board members, program participants, community members, and businesses. Over 270 pounds of vegetables were grown and donated to four sites that served more than 150 people. The FoodWise team also engaged with children and adult learners in a series of nutrition education and cooking classes.

The partnership with Family Promise increased the availability and consumption of fresh vegetables in Green County; provided education to young adults and families; and fostered community connections. FoodWise looks forward to future collaborations with Family Promise.

FoodWise education is funded by the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – SNAP and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program – EFNEP. An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Connect With Us

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2841 6th St.
Monroe, WI 53566



Maggie Milcarek
Nutrition Coordinator



Kathy Lange
Nutrition Educator



Extension Green County Proudly Works with the Following Agencies & Groups...

Extension Green County assists a wide variety of groups and organizations through educational programming and collaborations. Some of these groups are listed below.

- Albany Lions
- Area Chambers of Commerce
- Area Faith-Based Organizations
- Area Farm Fertilizer & Chemical Dealers
- Area Financial Institutions
- Area Public Libraries
- Area Optimist Groups
- Area School Districts
- Area Vo-Ag Instructors and FFA Chapters
- Better Brodhead
- Blackhawk Technical College
- Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin
- Dairy Herd Improvement Association
- Department of Natural Resources, State & Local
- Equity Livestock
- Family Promise of Green County
- Fowler Dental Clinic
- Government Officials (State & Federal elected)
- Green Cares Food Pantry
- Green County 4-H Adult & Junior Leaders Inc.
- Green County Ag Chest
- Green Co. Aging & Disability Resource Center
- Green Co. Assn for Home & Community Education
- Green County Beef Producers
- Green County Board of Supervisors
- Green County Dairy Youth Recognition Auction
- Green County Development Corporation
- Green County Early Head Start & Headstart
- Green County Emergency Management
- Green County Fair Association
- Green County Family YMCA
- Green County Farm Bureau
- Green County Food Pantry
- Green County Master Gardeners Association
- Green County Health Department & WIC
- Green County Healthy Communities Coalition
- Green County Holstein Breeders
- Green County Housing & Homeless Prevention
- Green County Human Services
- Green County Landfill
- Green County Law Enforcement Agencies
- Green County FFA & 4-H Meat Animal Auction
- Green County Land and Water Conservation Dept
- Green County Pork Producers
- Green County Probation & Parole
- Green County Sheep Producers
- Green County Tourism
- Green County Zoning Department
- Green Haven Family Advocates
- GUPPY, Inc.
- Healthy Kids Healthy County
- Home of Our Own
- Literacy Council of Green County
- Monroe Housing Authority (Churchill Woods, Apts)
- Monroe Kiwanis
- Monroe Main Street
- Multi-Cultural Outreach Program
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Pleasant View Nursing Home
- SSM Health Monroe Hospital
- Southwest WI Regional Planning Commission
- Southwest WI Small Business Development Center
- Southwest WI Community Action Program
- Sugar River Watershed
- Town, Village and City Elected Officials & Staff
- United Way of Green County, Inc.
- USDA Farm Services Agency
- UW Platteville
- UW State Specialists
- WI Association of Agriculture Educators
- WI Association of County Extension Committees
- WI Cattlemen's Association
- WI Center for Agriculture Safety and Health
- WI Counties Association (WCA)
- WI Department of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection
- WI Early Childhood Association (WECA)
- WI Farmer's Union
- WI Humanities Council
- WI Towns Association
- World Dairy Expo
- Youth and Adult 4-H Volunteers and Members