



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
GREEN COUNTY

2024

Annual Report

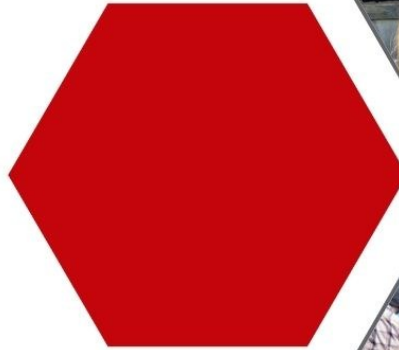
4-H Youth Development

Agriculture

Community Development

Health & Well-Being

Nutrition Education



Extension Green County



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 11, 2025

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 deliver 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 'Samantha Wileman'.

Samantha Wileman
Extension Green County Business 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.

Provides oversight, development and supervision of Extension Educator Teams in Grant, Green, Iowa, and Lafayette Counties.

- **Ellen Andrews** – 4-H Youth Development Educator
- **Bridget Mouchon** – Health & Well-Being Educator
- **Victoria Solomon** – Community Development Educator
- **Kimberly Kester** – Regional Livestock Educator
- **Jordyn Sattler** – Regional Crops & Soils Educator
- **Jackie McCarville** – Regional Dairy Educator
- **Maggie Milcarek** – FoodWise Coordinator – Grant, Green, Iowa & Lafayette Counties
- **Julia Harman** – FoodWise Nutrition Educator – Grant, Green, Iowa & Lafayette Counties



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 Business Manager* and **Samantha Wileman**, *Extension Office Specialist*

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:

Erica Roth, Chair; Dawn Sass, Vice-Chair; Yvette Smith, Secretary;

Susan Knox; Peg Sheaffer.

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





Jackie McCarville, Dairy Educator
Kimberly Kester, Livestock Educator
Jordyn Sattler, Crops & Soils Educator

2024 Agriculture Report

Regional Educators for Grant, Green, Iowa & Lafayette Counties

Agriculture Educational Programs:

- Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Annual Update Meetings
- Youth for the Quality Care of Animals
- Badger Dairy Insight Webinars
- Focus on Forage Webinars
- Badger Crop Connect Webinars
- Weed Management Workshop – Statewide Collaboration
- Beef Quality Assurance Certifications
- Beef 101 Webinars

Media Educational Outreach

- Monthly DHI Newsletter
- Monthly Radio Programs – Farm segments on 97.7 FM WGLR, 95.5 FM WEKZ, and 93.7 FM WBGR
- Programming promotion on Extension Green County Facebook page
- Articles in the Wisconsin Agriculturist, Wisconsin State Farmer, Wisconsin Amish Shopper News
- UW-Extension Green County Agriculture Website: <http://green.extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/>
- UW-Extension Lafayette County Agriculture Website: <http://lafayette.extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/>
- UW-Extension Grant County Agriculture Website: <http://grant.extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/>
- UW-Extension Iowa County Agriculture Website: <https://iowa.extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/>
- Dairy Topic Hub: <http://dairy.extension.wisc.edu>
- Livestock Topic Hub: <http://livestock.extension.wisc.edu>
- Crops & Soils Topic Hub: <https://cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu/>

Fecal Egg Counting Workshop at Dairy Sheep Association of North America Symposium

In November, Kim gave a demonstration at the Dairy Sheep Association of North America Symposium in Juda for sheep producers to learn how to conduct the modified McMaster method of fecal egg counting and necessary equipment to improve deworming protocol and overall flock health. Internal parasites significantly diminish small ruminant health, leading to reduced productivity in individual animals and herds/flocks. Many of these parasites are prevented or treated with dewormer. Dewormer resistance is a widespread issue in the small ruminant industry across the United States. Fecal egg counting identifies worm species and indicates severity of worm load. Sheep producers learned proper technique, equipment required, and purpose of fecal egg counting, as well as other internal parasite management concepts. There were 80 participants that included local Green County sheep producers, as well as shepherds from across Wisconsin, other states, and even international producers.



Beef Quality Assurance at National Junior Angus Show

Kim and Jackie both taught sections of Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification training to a mixed youth and adult audience at the National Junior Angus Show in Madison on July 1st. They worked with other Extension educators and specialists to adapt the adult-targeted BQA certification program for a youth audience by including youth-led demonstrations and activities. BQA teaches producers about farm-level safe food production practices to decrease animal and carcass bruising, injection site lesions, antibiotic/chemical residues, and biosecurity threats. The goal of BQA is to improve the value of marketed beef cattle, increase consumer confidence in beef, and enhance herd profitability through better management. At this event, 165 individuals participated and 97% were either satisfied or extremely satisfied with the training.

Predictive Equations for Alfalfa Quality (PEAQ) Monitoring

The first cutting of alfalfa for the year is the highest quality and highest yielding cutting. This spring, Jordyn and Jackie monitored alfalfa height and relative feed value in hay fields throughout the area to provide producers with local data about the rate at which quality was changing. With this information, producers were more aware of when fields in their area were reaching their quality target so they could maximize yield and prioritize harvest.

Nitrogen Use Efficiency

In cooperation with Green County Land & Water Conservation, Jordyn facilitated the implementation of four nitrogen use efficiency trials with Green County farmers. This project stems from the farmers' interest in refining nitrogen rates on their farms and the groundwater quality concerns that may result from overapplication of nitrogen. Monitoring nitrogen use efficiency and improving it to where the nitrogen being applied is balanced with the nitrogen being removed from the system helps ensure there is a return on the cost of nitrogen inputs, and there is minimal nitrogen leftover at the end of the season with the risk of being lost to the environment. A pre-harvest field day was held to showcase the project and discuss a variety of nutrient sequestering and soil health management tools.



Repro Roadshow

The roadshow was an update on UW-Madison dairy reproduction research, covering heifer reproduction, sexed semen, the high fertility cycle, and more. The roadshow featured Dr. Paul Fricke, Professor and Extension Specialist in Dairy Cattle Reproduction, and Dr. JP Martins, DVM, Ph.D. from the Department of Medical Sciences – School of Veterinary Medicine UW-Madison. 100% of participants answering the evaluation poll said “yes” to the question, “I have gained new insights on how to help me or my clients optimize conception rates and manage breeding in my herd.” Jackie spoke on the impact stress and strain have on reproduction and getting cows pregnant more quickly. 100% of participants answering the poll said yes to the question “I have increased my understanding of how stress can affect the occurrence of disease.” The local event was held in February in Lafayette County with participation from Grant, Green, Iowa, and Lafayette Counties.

Udder Health Workshop

Held in partnership with Zoetis, this workshop hosted in April and held in Green County talked about the importance udder health plays on milk quality. A Zoetis representative spoke on milk quality. Jackie spoke about the importance of feeding cows a well-balanced diet and how that can help reduce the incidences of udder health and metabolic diseases leading to more profit for producers. Participants who responded to the post meeting evaluation plan to make changes to their business based on the program with 94% being satisfied with the program topics.





Victoria Solomon

2024 Community Development Report

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

- Community Leadership Development** — Educational programming to develop community leadership, civic engagement and deliberative dialogue.
- Local Government** — Providing educational opportunities for local government officials and staff.
- Economic Development** — Enhancing local economic health.
- Water Education** — Bringing research-based education to Green County landowners.

Community Leadership Development

Green County Leaders (GCL) 2023-2024

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 2023-2024 GCL class had 36 participants. The class had seven community projects: Open Doors Green County, Green County Empowerment, Green County Smiles, Green County Microloan Program, New Glarus Community Orchard, Green County Beautification - Highway Prairie, Monticello Community Projects.

Over the course of the 2023-2024 GCL program, participants connected with over 100 community leaders and toured 23 locations in 8 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;
- 100% feel more connected to Green County;
- 99% expanded their network as a result of participating in the GCL program.

As a result of their participation in GCL, 19 became involved in a community issue, 17 volunteered in a way they would not have otherwise, 13 considered running for elected office, and 10 joined a new committee or board.

Participants shared:

- “I am ready to take on a role when I previously didn’t believe I was.”
- “Green County has a lot more to offer than most people think.”

Overall, Green County leaders has completed 22 program years, resulting in an alumni network of 464 people. There have been 89 community projects, approximately \$621,574 skilled volunteer hours contributed to Green County communities. This does not include the amount of fundraising conducted to fund these projects.

Additionally, the results of the Green County Leaders/First Impressions program in Monticello informed community action; this included bringing in \$13,700 to implement recommendations and action. Green County Leaders is possible due to partnership between Solomon and Olivia Otte with Green County Development Corporation (GCDC) with strong support from community organizations and businesses.



“This program was invaluable to me. I cannot thank you enough!”

Elevando Wisconsin

Elevando Wisconsin is a 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. The spring 2024 cohort focused on southwestern Wisconsin and included Green County participants.



Local Government

Green County Board Education & Strategic Plan

On request from the Green County Board, Solomon held a series of educational sessions for county board onboarding. These included an introduction to county government, understanding the structure of the Green County government, and issues and opportunities in Green County. The educational sessions informed a Green County government strategic planning process conducted by Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC). Highlights from participant reflections include:

- "Very excellent sessions. I learned a lot and I'm so impressed by this community!"
- "Starting out having just been elected this was so eye-opening!...it was a valuable introduction to a place I have lived for almost 20 years."



Comprehensive Planning Education for Towns in Green County

Solomon partnered with Green County town officials to provide educational training on comprehensive planning. 16 participants from 8 towns across Green County participated. Participants learned the value and purpose of comprehensive planning as well as feasible actions to review and update their comprehensive plans in ways that included public engagement. Highlights of what they shared they would do as a result of the program include:

- "I have a starting point going forward."
- "Debrief with my peers. Develop an action plan based upon the guidance you provided."

Training for Child Protective Services & Law Enforcement

Green County Child Protective Services and Law Enforcement reached out requesting educational programming to grow in understanding demographics trends and serving communities in Green County. In response, Solomon developed an all-day educational session; 28 people attended the session. As a result of the sessions, as one participant shared, "At the core of everything, connections and belonging are of utmost importance."

Economic Development

Housing Series

Solomon partnered with Green County Development Corporation (GCDC) to hold a series of educational sessions on housing. These included sessions on cooperative housing models, accessory dwelling units, and green housing; 25 community and business leaders attended from communities across Green County. Highlights of what presenters shared they would do as a result of the session include...

- "Present to businesses and other parties willing to promote and initiate action."
- "May look at co-op housing as an option for recommendation in local housing studies."

Water Education

Annual Water Testing

Solomon partnered with the towns of Cadiz and Jordan 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. 42 wells were tested throughout the towns. Participants shared these sessions were very effective.

Green County Groundwater Quality Trend Data

Green County started innovative groundwater quality data collection to implement a recommendation developed by the Green County Livestock Facility Study Group. At the end of 2023, 269 well owners submitted test samples for year 5. Tests were analyzed in 2024; 15% of wells tested indicated nitrate levels above what is considered safe for drinking water. This data has informed groundwater quality education and programming to improve groundwater quality, resulting in the creation of the Green County Water Quality Coalition to increase intentionality and capacity for this work.

Green County Water Quality Coalition

Solomon co-facilitated, co-developed, and co-planned the creation of a Green County Water Quality Coalition for intentional collaboration and coordination with Green County departments for research, education, and action for groundwater quality. The goal is to increase water quality in Green County. Coalition members collaborated working to continue groundwater research, education, and action to improve Green County's groundwater quality. Goals and an action plan were established for 2025.





Ellen Andrews

2024 4-H Youth Development Report



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 17 4-H club, 126 adult volunteers and 571 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 Club Leadership Team Training

4-H Community Clubs serve as the access point by which over 85% of our youth members access 4-H membership. These clubs are meant to be youth led and adult supported. While clubs have long used a youth officer and adult leader structure, it can be difficult to build and maintain an environment where all parties truly value each other's perspective, youth are prepared to take on meaningful responsibility, and adults are ready to release control. Providing both youth officers and adult club volunteers with ongoing training is critical to fostering an effective youth-adult partnership.



The 2024 4-H Club Leadership Team training aimed to bring together youth officer and adult club organizational leaders to create a more shared youth-adult leadership model in clubs. The interactive training got participants moving and discussing issues of belonging and ideas for creating more engaging 4-H Club meetings. Youth and adults worked in their club groups to create an action plan for improving their monthly 4-H Club meeting experiences for members. The training concluded with breakout sessions focused on their individual leadership positions.

This was only the second year of switching to a Club Leadership Team Training, rather than simply a Club Officer Training. We had 52 participants this year, which was a 20% increase over last year.

There was a visible excitement from the youth and adults at this training to continue to improve the 4-H club experience for themselves and their club members. Participants noted a great deal of useful ideas, perspectives and skills gained at this training, including more active ways to include youth in decision making, the importance of recreation in club meetings, and many leadership specific skills.



4-H Project Learning through Partnerships

Countywide 4-H project workshops are one way that our 4-H program tries to ensure that all 4-H members have access to meaningful, hands-on learning experiences that support youth engagement. Research has proven that youth who experience high levels of engagement and program quality are more likely to achieve academic success, social competence, personal responsibility, and civic engagement. Partnering with other organizations in our community help 4-H to offer a wide variety of project learning opportunities each year, such as the following...

- Green County is fortunate to have Beef Producer and Pork Producer organizations that are both active and interested in supporting the ongoing learning of our youth. Andrews has worked to actively recruit 4-H leaders to partner with these organizations to provide project workshops, where the producer organizations provide the content expertise, while the 4-H volunteers support a positive youth development environment.
- New in 2024, 4-H partnered with Blackhawk Technical College to host Spring 4-H Project Day, which afforded 4-H more space and the opportunity to work with the BTC Agribusiness and Farm Management Instructor to offer hands-on agriculture sessions with simulators. Youth could take three different project sessions, ranging from art to robotics to animal science, and so much more.
- Geology, including learning about how to collect mineral and fossil specimen, is the interest of over 35 youth in Green County 4-H. Thanks in part to a partnership with the Highway Department, Green County 4-H was about to offer a 4-H Fossil Dig in an exposed rock cut. Through this effort, youth learned about safety, how to search for and identify fossils, and deepened their project interest in Geology.
- For three years, the Green County 4-H Performing Arts Committee has been putting on a 4-H Talent Show for the public, where youth lead the full program, learning and practicing skills in planning, teamwork, audio equipment, public performance and more. New in 2024, this youth driven committee also developed a 4-H Band and 4-H Theatre Troupe, whom also performed at the Talent Show. Many thanks to the Monroe Arts Center who provided a location for the 4-H Band to practice and store equipment several months leading up to the big event.



Partnership Opens Door to New 4-H Membership

New in 2024, Extension Green County hosted a Summer 4-H AmeriCorps member, who served 450 hours focused on growing capacity and bring 4-H to more youth. The AmeriCorps member, along with support from Ellen Andrews, partnered with Green County YMCA to create a weekly summer 4-H club for 54 youth in the YMCA day care program. As an essential part of the 4-H program, youth experienced a variety of hands-on project learning, which often resulted in craft or exhibit. Every child in the YMCA 4-H club selected one item they made to talk about with a volunteer 4-H judge and then display in our 4-H promotional booth at the County Fair. While the club ran only through the summer, youth in the clubs could also attend summer camp, and experience the skill-building, learning, leadership, and growth opportunities provided by the 4-H program.



AmeriCorps





Bridget Mouchon

2024 Health & Well-Being Report

The Health and Well-Being 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.

Behavioral Health Prevention and Intervention Programming:

Mental Health First Aid – Held multiple local and statewide trainings for adults supporting adults, adults supporting youth, First Responders, and in Spanish Suicide Prevention trainings (safeTALK, QPR) – held with school districts, workplaces and in community, including at SSM and Colony Brands.

COMET (Changing Our Mental and Emotional Trajectories) – Held multiple sessions for statewide online groups, and locally in libraries and other community locations.

We COPE – A mental health self-management program - Held 3 series online for regional audiences, and 1 for Southwestern and South-Central Library staff.

Bienvenido – This psychosocial skills and mental health program for Spanish-speaking immigrants was led by Mouchon and Cristy Alvarado, the Community Health Worker supervised by Mouchon, twice – once in Darlington at the Catholic Church and once in Monroe at the Presbyterian Church.



Health and Wellness Programming:

Strong Bodies (GenteFuerte) – Evidence-based strength training program for older adults was offered in collaboration with Maggie Milcarek, Area 17 Nutrition Coordinator and Cristy Alvarado in Darlington (Housing Authority and Grace Lutheran Church) and Monroe Housing Authority. Mouchon also led StrongBodies several times with the online statewide program.

SLEEP – (Sleep Education for Everyone, Michigan State University) – piloted with a small group of Green County staff in 2024.

Coalition leadership and Coalition-driven efforts:

Green County Mental Health Matters (a committee of the Green County Healthy Community Coalition)

The Green County Mental Health Matters Coalition is a workgroup organized to address the mental health priority identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment. The group has been actively working on organizing behavioral health events and resources, including funding a behavioral health navigator, outreach and education events, and ways to increase access to support beyond behavioral health treatment. Mouchon has been a leader with this coalition for many years. The group is transitioning to continuing and very capable leadership. Mouchon met with partners outside of the main coalition meeting to organize several ongoing pieces of work, including an after-school program with Girl Scouts and NAMI; Mental Health CHAT which is a program for elementary school students; suicide bereavement and mental health peer support groups; and a suicide prevention and awareness outreach project for September, including events and an effort to share existing and new resources available in Green and surrounding counties. The outcomes include a plan for coalition leadership and a plan for continuing with the coalition workplan, as described above.



Embedding programs and services:

Bienvenido - Mouchon attended a Bienvenido mental health promotion program facilitator training in Nebraska with Cristy Alvarado in early 2023. She and Cristy led the program in Darlington in 2023 and in Monroe in 2024. In July 2024, Jen Park-Mroch and Mouchon organized and hosted a Bienvenido facilitator training in Southwest Wisconsin. Several bilingual community resource people from Green and Lafayette counties attended this training. The entire facilitator training was delivered in Spanish, facilitation materials and participant workbooks are in Spanish. The Bienvenido training is supported through a North Central Extension, USDA-NIFA grant.



The group members from Green and Lafayette counties who attended the July facilitator training are actively planning to lead the youth version of the program in Monroe and Darlington school districts as well as leading the adult version in both locations in the fall of 2024. Group members who attended the facilitator training, which extends beyond Green and Lafayette Counties, are also talking about ways to increase availability of mental health care in Spanish, using some innovative methods. This may include using a live in-person paraprofessional who is trusted by both the professional mental health provider and the client to interpret during therapy or counseling sessions. The current way providers attempt to provide mental healthcare utilizes a phone interpretation service, which is not ideal at all for sensitive therapy or counseling sessions. Other support, resource, and advocacy issues are being shared and discussed through a new closed social media group a participant organized during the training. The Darlington and Monroe School Districts may bring this to the attention of Department of Public Instruction if their programs with youth go well this fall.

Sources of Strength – Mouchon was trained as a trainer and co-led adult and youth leader trainings to help school districts onboard this evidence-based school-wide suicide prevention and wellness/connection promotion program. Held at Argyle and Monticello/Juda school districts, held for Better Brodhead after-school staff and volunteers, and supported connecting Monroe School District to the High School program and the Darlington School District to the Elementary program.

Peer Support – There are many ways to provide peer support, which works independently or alongside of mental health and substance use disorder treatment. Peer support involves training people who live with and are recovering from mental health and substance use disorders, or have experienced a particular stressful life situation (e.g. suicide bereavement, parenting a child with significant disability) who are in a place where they can support others. Peer support can be provided via a support group or one-on-one. Mouchon has helped NAMI Green County develop a mental health support group and worked with Green County Human Services to offer a suicide bereavement support group. This is an area where efforts could be further advanced.

Community Health Worker (CHW) – Mouchon has served as the site supervisor for Cristy Alvarado, who is employed through the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR). Cristy has been trained through Milwaukee AHEC's Community Health Worker program, and has also been trained to do programming in Care Transitions Intervention, Si Yo Puedo Controlar mi Diabetes, Strong Bodies (Gente Fuerte), Bienvenido, WeCOPE, COMET, and has been working with SWCAP's CHW Hub team to do one-on-one client work, helping to address health and socioeconomic needs. They have facilitated and organized a few Strong Bodies and Bienvenido class series, and led a Parent Café series together.





Healthy Choices Healthy Lives

FoodWise in **Green County** is federally funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed). 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.

38%

of children in schools were eligible for free or reduced price meals.[^]



8%

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



[^]Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

* WI Dept of Administration and WI Dept of Health Services

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 Family Promise, Juda Elementary School, Monroe Housing Authority, the Aging and Disability Resource Center and food pantries to help make the healthy choice the easy choice in our communities.

Community Impacts in 2024

Engaged 144 learners around nutrition education topics at a K-12 school, a senior center, emergency shelter and housing properties.

Partnered with Juda School to establish a food garden, offer direct education, and engage in the Harvest of the Month campaign which featured monthly taste tests and promoted eating Wisconsin-grown fruits & vegetables.

Worked with Family Promise to expand their food garden to eight raised beds, donate over 144 pounds of produce, and provide nutrition education resources to people with limited incomes.

Offered a StrongBodies strength-training and nutrition education series to older adults with Monroe Housing Authority.



Inspiring Collaborations

Churchill Woods Apartments, an affordable housing community for older adults in Monroe, partnered with FoodWise this year to deliver inspiring programs to 31 residents. After a twice-weekly, 11-week StrongBodies strength-training and nutrition education series participants increased activity, improved their balance, decreased joint pain and felt more socially connected. FoodWise staff provided a DVD of the program to encourage the residents to continue to exercise together.



Additionally, FoodWise collaborated with ADRC of Green County and the Monroe Farmers Market to offer education and distribute Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers to Churchill Residents. This collaboration empowered residents to confidently shop at the market for fresh produce while learning practical skills for selection, storage, and preparation.

These collaborative efforts enhanced the physical and mental well-being of the residents and created lasting impact.

Multi-level Program Efforts at Juda

This year FoodWise partnered with Juda Elementary School to deliver impactful multi-level programming. FoodWise Educators engaged kindergarten through fourth-grade students in a series of classes during the school year and summer. They explored new foods, nutrition and physical activity concepts, and food gardening.

Juda also joined the statewide Harvest of the Month campaign. Juda staff prepared dishes featuring seasonal vegetables and FoodWise led students in taste tests. Students voted on dishes and their favorites were added to the school menu.

Additionally, FoodWise supported the school in securing a grant for a vegetable garden. Students actively participated in building, planting, maintaining, and harvesting the garden, with the produce being incorporated into the school's salad bar. Some students also extended their learning to home gardening activities.

By integrating direct education with school-wide initiatives, the collaboration with FoodWise and Juda promoted healthier habits and inspired positive change both at school and at home.

Connect With Us

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Maggie Milcarek, Nutrition Coordinator
Julia Harman, Nutrition Educator



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.



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
- AmeriCorps
- Area Chambers of Commerce
- Area Faith-Based Organizations
- Area Farm Fertilizer & Chemical Dealers
- Area Financial Institutions
- Area Food Pantries
- 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 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 Fair Association
- Green County Family YMCA
- Green County Farm Bureau
- Green County Master Gardeners Association
- Green County Health Department & WIC
- Green County Healthy Communities Coalition
- Green County Holstein Breeders
- Green County Human Services
- 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 Sheep Producers
- Green County Tourism
- Green County Zoning Department
- Green Haven Family Advocates
- GUPPY, Inc.
- Literacy Council of Green County
- Monroe Housing Authority (Churchill Woods, Apts)
- Monroe Kiwanis
- Monroe Main Street
- Multi-Cultural Outreach Program
- 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 Counties Association (WCA)
- WI Department of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection
- WI Farmer's Union
- WI Towns Association
- World Dairy Expo
- Youth and Adult 4-H Volunteers and Members