

Agriculture



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

Focus on Forage Planning

A series of four Focus on Forage webinars for forage growers, livestock producers, agency staff, and agricultural consultants where research-based forage management solutions are shared to optimize forage yield and quality to improve overall farm profitability. (Jordyn)

Wisconsin Amish Shopper Article

A regular column that rotates between the Livestock, Crops and Soils, and Dairy educators in the Wisconsin Amish Shopper newspaper, which reaches Amish and Mennonite families in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota. An article on spring pasture maintenance was written to help producers plan for their grazing season. (Jackie)

Article for the Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association "Cattle Trails" Newsletter

An educational article for beef producers and agri-business professionals, where the audience will learn about setting goals, records to keep, and analyzing production records. (Kim)

"I'm a Farmer, Too" Women in Agriculture Workshop

An educational day for women in agriculture to learn about future business opportunities, acquire new skills, and network with one another. Sessions focused on diversified revenue streams, biosecurity, diversified crop systems, and on-farm classes to incorporate in agritourism ventures. (Jackie, Jordyn, Kim)



School for Beginning Beef Production

Six-part virtual series for individuals new to beef production or dairy producers transitioning to beef production. Participants learned about various aspects of beef enterprises, including marketing strategies, cattle health, nutrition and reproduction, and cattle enterprises. The goal of this series is to enhance the economic sustainability of emerging beef producers. (Kim)

Noontime Beef Roundup Webinars

A monthly webinar series of timely topics for beef producers to inform and assist them in decision making on their own operations. (Kim)

Manure Applicator Training

A training session for manure applicators and farmers where participants learn to apply manure safely and accurately to keep themselves safe, protect the environment, respond to manure spills, and increase farm profitability. (Jordyn)



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Year 1 Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program Results

An update for attendees of a farmer-led watershed group's annual meeting where they learned about the local Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program project and viewed results from the first year of the trial. Through this effort, crop producers and agricultural professionals have increased their understanding of nitrogen management in corn following soybeans and rye cover crop, and will have enhanced interest in the second year of the project. (Jordyn)

Radio Spot w/ 95.5 WEKZ and 93.7 WBGR

A weekly radio spot for livestock producers, allied ag industries, and the general public to learn about Extension publications and resources, programming updates, and available webinars or workshops in the area. The intent was to reach a broader audience with timely topics and resources in order to positively influence on-farm economic viability, knowledge and skills, and overall impression of Extension. (Kim)

Radio Interviews

Weekly radio interviews for farmers and agriculture professionals where the audience learns about current dairy production considerations and/or resources available to them from the UW-Madison Division of Extension to help them make more timely and economic decisions on their farms. (Jackie)

Badger Dairy Insight

Badger Dairy Insight Webinar for dairy producers and dairy farm workers to learn and understand from elite Dairy Producers on the topic of Fertility in High Performing Dairy Herds across the state. Dr. Paul Fricke moderated the session featuring 4 dairy farmers including one from Green County. (Jackie)

Water Quality Coalition Meeting

A collaborative meeting for the Green County Water Coalition where community partners reflected on lessons from the past year and created a further action plan for 2025 to increase groundwater quality with research, education, and action. (Jordyn)

Fecal Egg Counting Workshop for Sheep & Goat Producers

An in-person workshop for sheep and goat producers to learn about proper integrated parasite management and target selective treatment in order to keep flocks/herds healthy and productive. The workshop included a hands-on microscope session where participants practiced preparing manure samples to evaluate for presence of parasite eggs. (Kim)





Community Development



Victoria Solomon
Community Development Educator

Green County Leaders

The eighth session of Green County Leaders was held in Monroe and focused on Entrepreneurial Leadership and Stewardship. The day started with sessions on economic development and entrepreneurial leadership. From there, participants learned from local entrepreneurs as well as larger scale businesses. Participants toured Colony Brands, Badger State Ethanol, and Monroe Truck.

In response to the question "What are your biggest takeaways or lessons from today's sessions?" participants responded:

- "Bring an idea to life, build a team, set a dream, and run towards that vision."
- "There is so much more to Green County than I actually knew."
- "How visions/ideas can be powerful with a strong spirit."
- "There is so much more in Green County than I ever realized."
- "Amount of community involvement by experience."
- "How a simple idea can turn into something big."
- "All of them. Very interesting what all these businesses do for the community."
- "I enjoyed the tours, they were very interesting and learning more about the major companies in the community."
- "Seeing the excitement and culture at each facility really makes a person appreciate their community."

In response to the question "Any other comments about today?" participants responded:

- "Enjoyed everything about today's session!"
- "Loved today's session!"
- "Green County is awesome!"
- "Loved all the tours."



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A collaborative meeting for the Green County Water Coalition where community partners reflected on lessons from the past year and created a further action plan for 2025 to increase groundwater quality with research, education, and action.

Stories of Pivotal Leadership

Solomon conducted research on stories and pivotal leadership as a way to further grow leadership development work. This has resulted in the following:

- "[The Power of Storytelling in Creating Pivotal Community Leadership](#)" (peer-reviewed article published today in the *Journal of Leadership Studies*)
- "[Stories of Positive Pivotal Leadership: Sparking Hope & Shaping Change](#)" (booklet published on Minds @ UW)
- Videos of two leaders and their stories, available online under "Resources" on the Extension Community Leadership webpage.
 - [Masood Akhtar and We Are Many—United Against Hate](#)
 - [Mai Zong Vue and The Hmong Institute](#)

Youth Development



Ellen Andrews
4-H Youth Development Educator



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GREEN COUNTY

4-H Scholarship Application & Interviews: Opportunities for Learning & Recognition

The Green County 4-H program is fortunate, thanks to the generosity of the 4-H Adult Leaders Association and an individual donor, to be able to offer several post-secondary scholarships each year to graduating seniors. High school youth members also need opportunities to practice written and oral communication skills necessary when applying for and interviewing for future jobs. The Green County 4-H College Scholarship Application process offers a prime opportunity for youth to gain real world experience developing a written application, which includes a cover letter, resume, essay and recommendation letter. All youth who wish to be considered for one of the available scholarships must also complete an interview with a panel of reviewers. While often there are more applicants than available scholarships, each youth does benefit from participating in the process. As a result of the application process, 91% of participants indicated they gained a better understanding of what skills they gained from their 4-H participation, and 73% gained a better understanding of how to develop a resume. The team of 4-H and non-4-H reviewers each provide positive and constructive feedback for each applicant on both their written application and interview.

4-H Cloverbud Spring Fun Night

Green County 4-H is home to approximately 100 Cloverbud members in 5K-2nd grades. Youth members at this age benefit from hands-on activities designed specifically for their developmental needs, but not all 16 local 4-H club have the capacity to lead their own Cloverbud activities. To help insure our Cloverbuds have an fun, engaging 4-H experience, 4-H Educator Ellen Andrews works with a committee of adult and youth leaders to offer 3-5 countywide Cloverbud programs throughout the year. This March we offered a Cloverbud Spring Fun Night. At the event, 14 youth enjoyed a wide variety of interest areas, as capillary action scientists, catapult engineers and plastic canvas stitching artists. Youth used a variety of fine motor skills, all while having fun making new friends from across Green County. Andrews recruited and provided 4-H volunteers and parent helpers with coaching in developing and teaching the activities. This type of supported leadership opportunity for adults will hopefully help prepare them to be more engaged volunteers back in their children's 4-H clubs.





Human Development & Relationships



Bob Wiegel
Human Development & Relationships Educator

Environmental Scan of Green and Lafayette Counties

Planning for programs within the Green and Lafayette Counties Community by meeting with various community partners to establish relationships with partners as well as planning programming that aligns with the goals of partners and Extension. The goal is to learn about the needs of Green and Lafayette Counties' residents and establish community partners so that programming aligns with the needs of the community and programs serve the residents of the county.

In Green County, 6.6% of households are in poverty with 30% of households living under the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) threshold. In Lafayette County, 10.5% are in poverty with 35% of households living under the ALICE threshold. The financial hardship in the county makes it difficult for residents to pay for day-to-day expenses as well as plan for their financial futures. In order to have effective programming that Green and Lafayette counties residents are interested in attending and that serves their needs, it was crucial to meet with important organizations that serve the community. These organizations offered information on resident needs in our meetings. Meetings with these organizations also helped to develop working partnerships to help deliver programming to marginalized groups in the community that these organizations serve. Needs of the community have been assessed and program planning has begun in partnership with community based organizations. These programs will provide skills in financial capability to residents of Green County and help empower them to make successful financial choices for their situation.



FoodWise



Maggie Milcarek, FoodWise Coordinator
Julia Harman, FoodWise Educator



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Green County WIC Partnership Events

Exploring partnership opportunities with Green County WIC: The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. Planning for potential direct education and outreach events with WIC families in Green County such as virtual classes, farmers' market tours, and cooking classes.

Radio Recording

A monthly nutrition education radio spot for WEKZ 95.5 in Green County. Given the high cost and low availability of eggs, we provided information on substitutes for eggs in cooking and alternatives to eggs for meeting our protein needs. Information was provided on the importance of and benefit of protein in our diets and recommendations for various sources of protein, including plant protein. The purpose of the effort is to encourage healthy eating and physical activity habits and promote Extension as resource in the community.

Egg Substitutes for Baking Fact Sheet

Recognizing the impact of high egg prices and shortages of eggs in many communities, the Health and Well-Being Institute state Team created an educational handout offering practical egg substitution solutions for cooking and baking. FoodWise staff provided 40 Green Cares food pantry households, and 44 Family Promise food pantry households, with this educational handout at the food distribution site in Monticello & Brodhead. The purpose of this activity is to support families in navigating food affordability challenges and help food pantries provide relevant and timely information to their participants.

Planning Educational Events for Community Partners

Beginning to purchase items and plan for educational events for five partners that were awarded FoodWise Policy, Systems and Environment grant funds for 2025. FoodWise Coordinator will be supporting food gardens at the following locations:

- 1) Meridian Housing Group Dodgeville Apartments in Dodgeville (Iowa),
- 2) Soul Food and Livingston Community Improvement Corporation Emergency Food Pantry in Livingston (Iowa/Grant),
- 3) Family Promise of Green County in Monroe (Green),
- 4) Lafayette County Housing Authority Riverview Apartments in Blanchardville (Lafayette), and
- 5) Juda Elementary School in Juda (Green)

The purpose of these projects is to address food insecurity in communities, provide garden-based nutrition education opportunities, and increase the consumption of fruit and vegetables.

FoodWise

FoodWise