



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
GREEN COUNTY

Extension Green County

August 2025 Educator Report



Regional Crops & Soils Educator

Jordyn Sattler

Regional Dairy Educator

Jackie McCarville

2025 UW Forage & Cover Crop Field Day

A field day for forage growers, dairy producers, agency staff, and agriculture consultants where participants learned about ongoing forage research projects, were updated on upcoming technologies, and engaged with Extension specialists and educators on a variety of forage focused topics. The goal of the event was to share relevant data, management recommendations, and novel forage technologies to improve forage production on Wisconsin farms. (Sattler)



New Seeding Alfalfa Systems Trial

Planning for and managing a trial evaluating different management strategies for new seeding alfalfa. The goal is to better understand how rye can be used as a companion crop for new seeding alfalfa and the impact it would have on preventing soil erosion and first year forage yield. Results will help alfalfa producers compare options and implement practices that will benefit their farm. (Sattler)

Dairy Feed Inventory Spreadsheet

Planning for a spreadsheet tool for dairy producers and consultants. The goal is to help producers understand the value of managing inventory and to be able to use the spreadsheet to account for loss and varying qualities of feed, and storage methods so that they can better plan and manage feed inventories. Feed is the largest expense on a dairy farm, accounting for about half of all input costs. (McCarville)

Insect Trapping Network

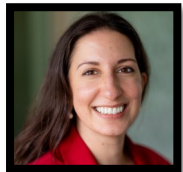
Participating in an insect trapping network to assist Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the UW entomology lab monitor incoming pest populations and forecast potential damage to crops. Through this effort, timely notifications will be distributed to producers who will then have local information to help guide their pest scouting and make more timely and effective pest management decisions. (Sattler)

Badger Dairy Insight

A webinar, one session part of Badger Dairy Insight, for dairy farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned about updates to heifer synchronization protocols to promote increased heifer pregnancy rates. (McCarville)

Radio Spot with 95.5 WEKZ

A monthly radio spot (on two different radio stations) for dairy 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. (McCarville)



Community Development Educator

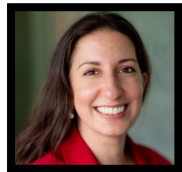
Victoria Solomon

Green County Community Engagement on Renewable Energy Siting

Wisconsin already has 33 large-scale solar developments (13 with battery storage) in place or under development in 21 of its 72 counties. Developers are approaching farmers and rural landowners to secure land leases or options to purchase, and local governments often do not learn about new projects until late in the planning process when there is not enough time to determine community priorities for renewable energy siting.

Under the Department of Energy grant Extension is working with Green County as the first of three pilot communities to explore a process to determine community priorities and strategies to encourage renewable energy siting that supports those priorities. Solomon worked with the county board to get approval for this education and engagement work. She recruited an advisory committee with a range of relevant expertise. Based on advisory committee input the RESET project team conducted preliminary focus groups and interviews around renewable energy concerns and priorities. Extension then offered two in-person community conversations where participants first learned about renewable energy trends; Wisconsin laws governing renewable energy siting; and tools such as good neighbor agreements, community benefit agreements, leases, and the emerging practice of agrivoltaics, and then had a chance to share their renewable energy questions, hopes, and concerns in small group discussions. Over 70 county residents, including farmers, landowners, and local government officials, attended the two workshops. Their input will be compiled into a report and presented to the advisory committee and county board.





Community Development Educator

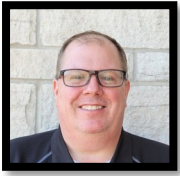
Victoria Solomon

2025-2026 Green County Leaders Participants

Applications for the upcoming Green County Leaders year have closed, and program preparations are underway. The following individuals make up the cohort for the 2025-2026 cohort.

- Alex Hernandez—Membership Coordinator, Green County YMCA
- Amber Fuerbringer—Associate Attorney, Duxstad McDaniel Law Group, S.C.
- Anthony Eterno—Software Developer, Colony Brands
- Ashley Wolber—Automotive Project Coordinator, Precision Drive & Control
- Bibiana Gonzalez—Owner, Vicky's Little House
- Brandi Moon—Branch Manager, First Community Credit Union
- Brienne Beach—Custodial Manager, Sodexo
- Bryan Schroeder—Registered Nurse, Administrative Supervisor, SSM Health
- Cam Elmer—Supply Chain Expeditor, Precision Drive & Control
- Carrie Millsaps—C.S.R./H.R. Assistant, Woodford State Bank
- CaSandra Smith—Operations Supervisor, Colony Brands
- David Pross—Nurse Manager, LPN, New Glarus Home
- Evan Feeley—Attorney, Kittleson Law Firm
- Hannah Garvoille—Real Estate Agent, EXIT Professional Real Estate
- Hannah Ryan—Senior Analyst, Colony Brands
- Jeff Worzella—Administrator, New Glarus School District
- Jenna Curran—Product Owner, SD Data Center, Inc.
- Kaley Baer—H.R. Manager, Precision Drive & Control
- Kathleen Grossen—Office Manager, Tri-Insure, LLC
- Lauren Burke—Director of Food & Beverage/Events Coordinator, Monroe Golf Club
- Logan Peterson—Mechanical Engineer, Monroe Truck Equipment
- Malika Jubeck—Retention Specialist, Mosher Insurance
- Matthew Thomson—Senior Product Evaluation Engineer, Kuhn North America
- Max Skradski—Senior Quality Operations Manager, Colony Brands
- Megan Kesler—R&D Scientist/Asst. Sanitation Manager, Colony Brands
- Mitchell Tordoff—Director of Finance, Precision Drive & Control
- Olivia Roth—Office Specialist, UW Extension Green County
- Philip Loduha—Sales Support Specialist, Kuhn North America
- Rachel Elsing—Junior Residential Lender, The Bank of New Glarus
- Sandi Thomas—Events and Operations Manager, Monroe Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Sean Meirose—Program Manager, UW Health
- Suzanne Meier—Director of Guest Relations & Volunteer Services, SSM Health





Human Development & Relationships Educator

Bob Wiegel

Planning AHEAD

End of life planning can be an intimidating process. It can also be confusing and emotional which may explain why only 37% of Americans have completed Advance Care Directives. Communities report increased requests for public assistance among older adults who are newly living alone, putting a strain on local budgets. Proactive planning for end-of-life decisions and care can prevent these financial and emotional burdens. In response to this need, Extension developed a comprehensive end-of-life program called Planning AHEAD (Advance directives, Handling financial changes, Estate Planning and Arriving at Decisions for the end of this life). The Planning AHEAD curriculum covers seven topics: Getting Started, Handling Financial Changes, Advance Directives, Estate Planning, Choices in End-of-Life Care, Final Wishes, and Understanding Grief. The course is typically delivered in one-hour sessions once/week for seven weeks. Among survey respondents who took the course in 2024, 99% learned enough in the course to move forward with planning and 100% will tell a friend or family member about something important they learned during this program. Also, in a 4-month follow-up survey 93% said they are either done with their plans, actively working on them, or committed to completing their plans (compared to 37% before the course). One participant shared "Because of this series, I was able to initiate a conversation with my kids (who are young adults) in a manner that didn't make it 'scary'. Planning for two Planning AHEAD courses for both counties in June and July.

Rent Smart Planning

The average American tenant is "cost-burdened" (paying 30% or more of income toward rent) for the first time in United States history. According to the 2022 State of Home Affordability in Wisconsin report, 65% of renters in the state pay more than 30% of their income on housing and 37% of renters spend more than 50%/month (among renters who earn less than \$50,000/year). The report also indicates that many renters don't earn enough to afford the average rental unit. The hourly wage needed to afford fair market rent for a two-bedroom Wisconsin home is \$18.56. Minimum wage in the state is \$7.25. The shortage of homes relative to demand (for both rentals and those for purchase) is -52,615. The lack of affordable housing availability makes it difficult for a community to attract and retain workers. Extension's Rent Smart course provides participants with knowledge and skills that can help them find and keep safe and affordable housing that meets their needs. The six-session course features lessons on:

- Determining what they can afford to pay for rent
- Checking out the rental property and landlord
- Understanding who's responsible for maintenance, repair, and care
- Application process
- Communication skills
- Rental agreements

The Rent Smart program also offers a train-the-trainer course for community service providers so that they can use the curriculum to help their clients meet their housing needs. Rent Smart is designed to help participants find and keep safe, affordable, and quality rental housing. Among Rent Smart survey respondents in 2024, 98% said This class will help me obtain appropriate housing in the future. 98% of respondents said This class will or might help me keep housing in the future. We know from follow-up surveys that 84% of respondents who moved since completing the course report that the new housing is safer, more affordable, and/or better quality. In 2024 Rent Smart train-the-trainer survey results, 92% of community service provider participants feel moderately or definitely able to help clientele sustain housing once it's acquired (compared to 59% before). When residents have reliable housing that they can afford and landlords have responsible tenants, communities benefit through having a stable workforce. Starting planning for Rent smart in Green and Lafayette Counties starting in mid to late September. Meeting with county leaders and residents to determine need and best time and location.



FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator

Maggie Milcarek

FoodWise Nutrition Educator

Julia Harman

Monthly Radio Spot

A monthly nutrition education radio spot for WEKZ 95.5 in Green County. The topic this month was farmers markets. FoodWise staff provided information on the health and community benefits of shopping at farmers market as well as tips for shopping at the market. They also provided information on Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers for families and adults. The purpose of this effort is to provide nutrition education, inform the public of the FoodWise program, and promote Extension as a resource in the community.

Area 17 Food Garden Nutrition Education Planning

Planning for nutrition education at four food garden sites in the four-county area. Planning for nutrition education at LCIC Food Pantry in Livingston, Family Promise Housing in Monroe, Riverview Apartments in Blanchardville, and Dodgevilla apartments in Dodgeville. The goal of this effort is to provide education and resources about selecting, preparing, storing and preserving fresh fruit and vegetables and encourage people to eat produce from the food gardens.