



Agriculture



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

- **Swath/Windrow Grazing for Winter Feeding Beef Cows - Pilot Project**

A pilot study to gauge the feasibility of swath/windrow grazing as a winter feeding option for beef cows in southwestern Wisconsin, in collaboration with CALS faculty and Lancaster ARS personnel. Results from this pilot study will offer beef producers a potential new winter feeding strategy that utilizes drought-resistant/climate resilient forages, saves time and money by reducing fieldwork/fuel usage, reduces damage to fields, and provides adequate nutrition for cows. Climate change has altered forage growing seasons, leading to the adaptation of alternative forages in beef pasture systems. Education is needed within this area as producers are continually looking for alternative forages that can withstand extreme weather conditions while maintaining production. In addition, swath grazing has been gaining popularity in both Iowa and Canada to utilize crops for winter feeding. This practice extends the grazing season and spreads manure on fields as cattle dig through snow to consume feed. This practice is also economically valuable to beef producers as it greatly reduces the time/fuel cost associated with hauling hay and manure. A pilot study was adapted from Iowa State swath grazing trials in order to gauge the feasibility of implementing swath/windrow grazing in the hills and valleys of southwestern Wisconsin. A small 10- to 12-acre plot at Lancaster Ag Research Station was planted in oats and will be followed by sorghum and millet, which will be crops used for windrowed forage through winter. Forage quality will be evaluated throughout standing, cut, and stockpiled phases. The project engages regional Extension educators, Lancaster ARS personnel, and state Extension specialists. Data is still pending as this project is ongoing. Results from this pilot study will offer beef producers a potential new winter feeding strategy that utilizes drought-resistant/climate resilient forages, saves time and money by reducing fieldwork/fuel usage, reduces damage to fields, and provides adequate nutrition for cows. (Kim & Jordyn)

- **Transition Cow Nutrition**

A factsheet to help dairy producers and employees understand the importance of transition cow nutrition and the importance of how it helps control metabolic diseases. Good transition cow nutrition sets up the cow for a successful lactation and saves the producer money.

- **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)

- **Badger Dairy Insight (BDI)**

A webinar, one session part of Badger Dairy Insight, for dairy farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned about research on nutritional strategies to reduce methane emissions in dairy cattle. (Jackie)

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- **Noontime Beef Roundup Webinar Series**

A monthly webinar series of timely topics for beef producers to inform and assist them in decision making on their own operations. Wisconsin is continuing to see popularity in beef production and with this comes interest in important and emerging topics. The Noontime Beef Roundup Webinar Series for 2025 will provide insights for beef producers and industry professionals. This free series will cover a range of topics critical to the success of the beef industry, featuring expert speakers and interactive sessions with the hope of maintaining beef operations economic viability. (Kim)

- **Radio Interviews**

Weekly radio interviews for farmers and agriculture professionals where the audience learns about current crop management 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. This effort is promoting Extension and building credibility in the community so farmers can better understand the resources available to them, and use them to make the most economical and environmentally conscious decisions for their farm and surrounding areas. (Jordyn)

- **Beef Quality Assurance Certification - Monroe**

Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification maintains market access that contributes to the economic viability of beef producers. Harvest facilities will purchase cattle from beef producers with proof of BQA certification. The need for this programming is indicated by data collected from national beef quality audits of processors and conducted every five years. We adapt and deliver the national BQA curriculum for Wisconsin producers including research-based information to maintain farm-level food safety and access to markets. Curriculum was delivered by the Regional Livestock Educator and Statewide Beef Outreach Specialist. (Kim)

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Community Development



Victoria Solomon
Community Development Educator

Green County Leaders

The fourth session of Green County Leaders was held in Monroe and focused on Leadership and Healthy Communities. The day started with a session on Wisconsin's Native Nations, including learning about the Medicine Wheel. From there, participants learned about Green County demographics and implications for demographic trends, learned more about nonprofits in Green County and how to get involved, learned about the new Green County Community Health Assessment work and how to get involved, toured Monroe Clinic, and had guided time to reflect and set goals for 2025.

Participants shared the following responses to the question "What were the 2-3 most important lessons, ideas, or perspectives that you will take away from this session?"

- "I'm not the only one struggling to afford housing in Green County. How important it is to create an achievement road map to accomplish my goals, the importance of planning ahead for my future health needs."
- "Spend time where it matters. Spend my time where it's needed most."
- "The breadth and depth of charities present in Green County."

Additional comments included:

- "As always, so many eye-opening experiences and time to reflect on what's important."
- "I learned a lot about many nonprofits that I knew very little about. And all of the leaders in these nonprofits were very passionate! It got me thinking about how I can donate funds and time to my community."

Facilitated Discussion for Soil Sisters

Facilitated a discussion with Soil Sisters leadership to identify ways to strengthen the network during transition and increase efforts to serve network / organizational membership.

Facilitated Coffee Conversation

Several years ago Solomon facilitated conversations in Green County between law enforcement and Latino leaders. Recognizing that there may be some changes in the next several months and understanding that participants shared the facilitated conversations were beneficial for all involved, I organized and facilitated another conversation in December 2024. Participants shared the discussion was beneficial. Highlights of what the participants shared they liked about the discussion include:

- "The openness of the conversation, the willingness to participate."
- "I learned a lot - so many diverse perspectives."
- "Very open discussion about the relationship between law enforcement and immigration."

Participants shared the desire for additional facilitated discussions; Solomon will continue to facilitate the discussions.

Know Your Rights Educational Session

Recognizing that there is an increasing percentage of the workforce interested in learning about their rights, Solomon partnered with the Green County Multicultural Outreach Program / Dando una Mano, Voces de la Frontera, and Union Presbyterian Church in Monroe to provide a Know Your Rights educational session. This session was an opportunity for immigrants to learn about their rights and how to effectively communicate their rights. Session participants also included allies so they could learn how to best support the community in knowing their rights.

Participants shared that this session was very effective. They learned about their rights while also expanding their networks.



Youth Development



Ellen Andrews
4-H Youth Development Educator



4-H New Family Orientation

Parents and family members of 4-H youth play a major role in the learning and growth experiences that youth have in 4-H. Their interest and support of 4-H programming will help the 4-H member gain new skills, learn to work with others, and make new friends. The 2024 4-H New Family Orientation is a great opportunity for new families to learn about the 4-H program and how families can best support their member's 4-H experience. The event kicks off with a free pizza party, followed by fun activities for the kids, and an orientation for the parents. Thanks to the help and support of numerous volunteers, we engaged 19 families, with youth of a wide variety of ages. Evaluations of this event indicated that of responding families (n=12),

- 92% increased their understanding of Green County 4-H.
- 92% increased their understanding of how they can help and support their 4-H member(s) in having a great experience.

Parents expressed lots of appreciation for the fun opportunity for them and their children to meet other new families. They also noted that the most useful part of the event was the parent orientation, where they got to learn more information about projects, records books, deadlines and more.

Testimonials from 4-H Members, as part of the 4-H Travel Scholarship Process

Milo Dickson, 9th grade - "My experience as (4-H Club) Vice President will help me in future leadership roles. I have a better understanding of what it takes to be a leader, in that one must always keep in mind what others need and expect...I am confident that with every new experience in 4-H, school and other clubs my abilities and skills will continue to be challenged while also developing and growing."

Mirielle Smith, 10th grade - "One of the most positive and impactful 4-H experiences I have ever had was a my experience on the 4-H American Spirit East Trip... I am incredibly grateful for this experience, it forced me out of my comfort zone, it forced me to grow and to learn about the people, places and lives for those around me. It made me become more responsible and thing about how my actions affect others around me."



FoodWise



Maggie Milcarek, FoodWise Coordinator
Julia Harman, FoodWise Educator



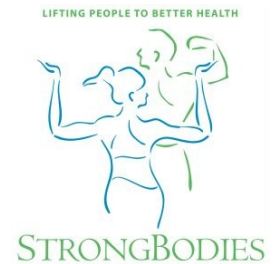
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ADRC Lunch & Learn

A nutrition education event for the Green County Aging and Disability Resource Center monthly Lunch and Learn. FoodWise staff engaged ten participants in a class focused on how to have a Healthier Holiday. Participants received tips on building a healthier holiday meal, ideas for stretching your food budget, food safety reminders, and health tips to use year-round. Participants also received a variety of healthy holiday recipes and resources. The goal of this effort is to encourage healthy eating habits and food resource management for older adults.

StrongBodies Strength Training & Nutrition Education

Exploring opportunities for a StrongBodies strength training and nutrition education series in Green County. Reaching out to partners in affordable housing, senior meal sites and ADRC to gauge interest in hosting a winter/spring session.



Radio recording

A monthly recorded radio spot for WEKZ 95.5 that used Extension resources and FoodWise curriculum to provide information on healthy holiday tips including: ingredient swaps, healthy baking, and food safety. The purpose of the effort is to encourage healthy eating habits and promote Extension as resource in the community.

FoodWise

FoodWise