



### **Regional Crops & Soils Educator**

**Jordyn Sattler**

### **Regional Dairy Educator**

**Jackie McCarville**

### **2025 Foundational Crop Scout Training Series**

A hybrid Foundational Crop Scout training that blends a series of webinar trainings with in person field days for entry-level crop scouts, crop growers, and consultants where participants learn the basic skills necessary to scout field crops including corn, soybeans, and alfalfa. Through this training series, we will provide "just in time" training to crop scouts as they begin work in the busy growing season. (Sattler)

### **Southwest WI Forage & Cover Crop Field Day**

A field day for farmers, crop consultants, and other supportive industries who are involved in forage production where participants engaged with specialists and current research trials related to carryover herbicide concerns when establishing alfalfa, alfalfa seeding management systems, cover crop allelopathy, weed control options for pastures, and the UW Alfalfa Cutting Tool for fall cutting decisions. Through this effort, participants have more awareness and technical knowledge of management techniques that can improve their forage yield and quality, as well as benefit soil health and conservation. (Sattler)



### **Tips to Mitigate Heat Stress While on Pasture**

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. This article talked about grazing dairy cattle and how to prevent heat stress while out on pasture. (McCarville)

### **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)



**Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
GREEN COUNTY

# Extension Green County

## July 2025 Educator Report



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### 2025 Alfalfa Harvest Quality Project

A series of alfalfa measurements that will help to better understand optimum alfalfa and winter cereal harvest across Wisconsin. The results of this study will help forage growers to determine what techniques can best predict optimum forage harvest timing to improve first cutting forage quality for livestock. (McCarville & Sattler)

### 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)



### April Badger Dairy Insight

A webinar, one session part of Badger Dairy Insight, for dairy farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned about Bovine Leukemia Virus, the impact on profitability and herd health, and how to manage it. (McCarville)

### UW Alfalfa Cutting Tool Demo

A demonstration for forage producers and related ag professionals where I demonstrated how to use the UW Alfalfa Cutting Tool and explained how it can be used to help make fall harvest decisions and plan full season cutting schedules. Through this activity, participants gained more exposure to the tool and will be more comfortable utilizing it to guide their alfalfa management for minimized risk. (Sattler)

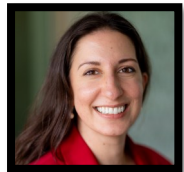
### New Seeding Alfalfa Systems Trial Presentation

An in-field presentation for forage producers and associated agronomy professionals where participants observed several different management systems for establishing alfalfa including planting alfalfa into a cereal rye cover crop and learned best management practices for making those systems successful. Through this effort, participants may consider trying new practices that could increase total forage yield in the first year, as well as better protect soil from erosion during a critical time. (Sattler)



### 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

### About Green County Leaders

Green County Leaders is an educational program where individuals practice leadership skills, deepen their understanding of community issues, and prepare for leadership roles. This creates a network of active and visionary individuals who leverage their experience and expertise to benefit their community and local community-based organizations. Over the program's 23 years, its alumni network has grown to 494 graduates who have partaken in 95 unique community projects, contributing over \$661,672 in skilled volunteer hours to Green County communities. The 2024-2025 cohort graduated 30 participants in May of 2025.

As a result of Green County Leaders, 2024-2025 alumni have shared the following impacts:

- 97% of alumni felt more effective in their current employment,
- 93% of alumni felt more effective in their personal lives,
- 93% of alumni expanded their professional networks,
- 87% of alumni expanded their personal networks,
- 100% of alumni felt more connected to Green County,
- 13 alumni joined a new committee or board,
- 17 alumni volunteered in a way they would not have otherwise,
- 26 alumni used program skills to build more effective teams,
- 10 alumni considered running for elected office,
- 1 alum ran for office, and
- 1 alum started their own business.



### Testimonials

Participants in 2024-2025, as well as their employers, shared the following testimonials about Green County Leaders:

#### From 2024-2025 Alumni

"Green County Leaders was very eye opening to me. It was a great way to learn about myself and how I can improve my leadership. It really made me think about what kind of legacy I want to leave behind. It also made me very aware of issues that we are currently facing in Green County and has inspired me to get involved to alleviate said issues."

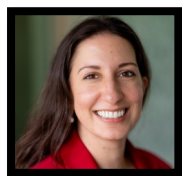
- Trevor Hasse, Green County Leaders Class of 2024-2025, representing Precision Drive & Control

#### From Employers and Colleagues

"Beyond networking, Green County Leaders plays a pivotal role in initiating and advancing community-driven projects that require collaboration. For example, the City of Monroe greatly appreciates the efforts that resulted in a new Splash Pad at Twining Park. These efforts often address key local needs and inspire long-lasting positive change. The program is also instrumental in supporting retention of young professionals by providing opportunities for emerging leaders to become integrated into the community and gain a deeper understanding of Green County as a whole. It cultivates a strong sense of connection and belonging—essential for long-term engagement and growth. Lastly, we currently have two alumni Green County Leaders that currently serve as Alderpersons for the City of Monroe. Green County Leaders played a role in their desire to serve that role."

- Brittney Rindy, City Administrator of Monroe





## Community Development Educator

### Victoria Solomon

#### Community Projects

During the 2024-2025 program year, Green County Leaders participants worked collaboratively on community-based projects that would have a lasting positive impact on Green County and hone their leadership skills. 5 projects were generated and worked on throughout the course, in partnership with local businesses and organizations.

- **Green County Humane Society Pathway Happy Paws Walkway** focuses on bridging the Green County Humane Society and Pleasant View Nursing Home with a quarter-mile pathway to increase the relationships and access between Pleasant View residents and animals at the Humane Society, who offer companionship and comfort.
- **Green County Smiles** is an extension of a 2023-2024 Green County Leaders project, with this year's efforts aimed to improve oral health throughout Green County by visiting first graders at Juda Elementary School to teach students proper tooth brushing techniques in partnership with Fowler Dental.
- **Greener Monroe** utilizes focused fundraising and awareness campaigns in partnership with the City of Monroe Parks to bring approximately 27 new durable recycling bins to Monroe's parks in the summer of 2025, helping to reduce litter, promote proper recycling, and foster environmental stewardship.
- **Impact Green County** was created to address the gap between local organizations needing volunteer support and community members eager to get involved by means of a new online platform to serve as a hub for Green County volunteer engagement, making creating and signing up for volunteer opportunities simple and accessible.
- **New Glarus Dog Park** project was launched in response to a community interest in the creation of a safe, accessible, and well-designed space for dogs and their owners. Research on the creation of comparable dog parks in southern Wisconsin and meetings with community stakeholders were completed, and recommendations were provided to the Village of New Glarus to ensure a smooth transition of project responsibility to a local nonprofit.
- **Temporary Animal Care Network** was created to address the issue of individuals experiencing unexpected crises such as homelessness, illness, deployment, or abuse, and the resulting need for temporary animal care in such situations. Surveyed Green County residents expressed a willingness to act as volunteer animal care providers as a part of this assistance network.

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- Brittney Rindy, City Administrator of Monroe

#### Project Partner Testimonials

"As a partner of several groups through the years, my involvement with Green County Leaders has been incredibly rewarding. I've learned how to support and encourage emerging leaders while strengthening my own leadership through collaboration and community-driven projects. The program demonstrates an appreciation for local leadership and shows the importance of investing in people to create positive change in our community."

- Josh Trame, Parks & Forestry Supervisor - City of Monroe

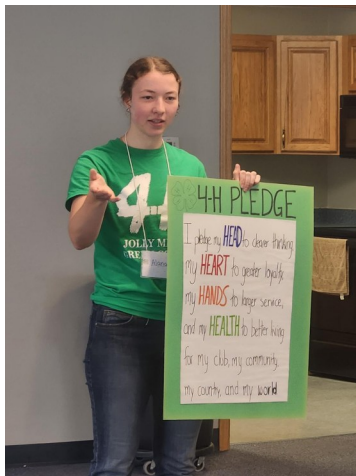


## 4-H Youth Development Educator

### Ellen Andrews

### Expanded Partnerships Open Doors to 4-H Membership

Extension Green County successfully piloted a Summer 4-H Club program model in 2024, that was initiated thanks to funding from Serve Wisconsin and Green County for an AmeriCorps member. Last summer's community partner, Green County YMCA was eager to see the program continue, and Monroe Park and Recreation program was also very interested in hosting the program. After federal funding for the AmeriCorps program was cut for summer 2025, Extension Green County staff did some creative problem solving to consider how could continue these Summer 4-H Club partnerships in some format within the capacity of our other summer staff positions. The Green County 4-H Summer Intern, Alana, along with support from Ellen Andrews, is partnering with Green County YMCA and the Monroe Park and Recreation program to bring 4-H to youth in through two chartered 4-H clubs that will meet five times over the summer. We have also provided both organizations with supplemental 4-H curriculum that they can utilize in off weeks. These two 4-H clubs are expected to bringing 90-100 new members into the 4-H program. As part of these 4-H club meetings throughout the summer, youth are experiencing a variety of topic interests and participating in hands-on learning, which often resulted in some sort of project or exhibit. Every child in our summer 4-H clubs will have the opportunity to select one item they made through 4-H display in our 4-H promotional booth at the County Fair. While these clubs are running only through the end of the summer, youth in the clubs are full 4-H members and have the same opportunities to participate in 4-H as year-long members. The youth in both the YMCA and Park and Rec programs chose creative names for their 4-H club, can attend camp, and experience the skill-building, learning, leadership, and growth opportunities provided by the 4-H program.





## 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.

1. In 2018, UW Health indicated that out of 41,000 patients, only 40% of those 65 and older had completed Advance Directives, and of those 85 and older, only 63% had one.
2. In a 2019 needs assessment, Extension educators throughout Wisconsin indicated a need for educational programs targeted to older adults who are about to or have lost a spouse or partner. Many were women who reported they had little experience managing money and had to learn new skills and make difficult decisions at a time when their lives had been upended by the loss of a loved one.

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.



### FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator

**Maggie Milcarek**

### FoodWise Nutrition Educator

**Julia Harman**

#### Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Outreach Event and Class

An outreach event and class held in partnership with ADRC and the Monroe Farmers Market for 21 Monroe Housing Authority Churchill Woods residents. FoodWise staff conducted a class, offered recipes feature produce that grows in Wisconsin and provided educational handouts. Participants learned food safety and nutrition tips and information on shopping using food assistance benefits at Farmers Markets. The goal of this effort was to distribute and increase use of the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers; encourage healthy eating habits and promote the purchase of local produce at farmers markets.

#### Monthly Radio Spot

A monthly nutrition education radio spot for WEKZ 95.5 in Green County. The topic this month was food gardening. FoodWise Staff provided information on the physical and mental health benefits of growing your own vegetables and herbs and talked about what you could still plant in the garden in June to harvest all summer long. We also highlighted our garden projects in Green County. The purpose of the effort is to encourage healthy eating and physical activity habits, raise awareness of FoodWise and our programs, and promote Extension as 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.

#### Summer School Garden Classes at Juda Elementary School

A nutrition education class held during summer school at the Juda Elementary School food garden in conjunction with the food garden grant. FoodWise staff conducted one class with each grade of students in 4k, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade. FoodWise engaged learners in lessons and activities that focused on the importance of eating fresh fruits and vegetables and exploring where the food grows. Students had an opportunity to sample different fresh fruits and vegetables and some students made and sampled a salsa. The goal of this activity was to encourage healthy eating habits and promote active lifestyles both at school and at home and connected students to the school garden.

