



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
GREEN COUNTY

Extension Green County

June 2025 Educator Report



Regional Crops & Soils Educator

Jordyn Sattler

Regional Dairy Educator

Jackie McCarville

Regional Livestock Educator

Kim Kester

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, "just in time" training will be provided to crop scouts as they begin work in the busy growing season. (Sattler)

Abbotsford Parasite Patrol Workshop

A workshop for small ruminant, beef, and dairy producers in collaboration with Extension County and Regional Educators, the UW Extension State Small Ruminant Outreach Specialist, local producer groups, and veterinarians. The goal for this workshop is for producers to manage parasite resistance, anthelmintic use, genetic selection, and pasture management to reduce anthelmintic resistance and economic loss to parasitism. (Kester)

Southwest WI Forage & Cover Crop Field Day Planning

Planning for a field day for forage producers, crop consultants, and agronomists where they will learn about research being done in forage production and see management practices that could be implemented on their own farms to improve forage yield and soil health. (Sattler)

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals

A training for youth who are raising livestock to learn more about animal welfare, character development and food safety. The goal of this training is to help youth better understand the importance of ethically raising livestock while promoting agriculture. (McCarville)

Wisconsin Amish Shopper Article—"Biosecurity Practices Keep Livestock Healthy"

A regular column that rotates between Livestock Educator, Dairy Educator, and Crops & Soils Educator in the Wisconsin Amish Shopper newspaper, which reaches Amish and Mennonite families in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota. Late April: "Biosecurity Practices Keep Livestock Healthy" - Methods to limit transmission of infectious agents such as highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) on-farm, and signs/symptoms of infected cattle and poultry. (Kester)

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)





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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)

Gard Day at the Farm

An on-farm educational event for 4th graders to learn about the importance of agriculture. The Regional Livestock Educator presented on honeybees as critical pollinators for crops. The Regional Crops & Soils Educator and Nutrient & Pest Management Outreach Specialist presented various soil practices that decrease erosion and runoff to improve soil conservation. The Regional Dairy Educator presented on multiple skillsets a dairy farmer must possess (that aren't just milking cows), in order to efficiently operate their farms. (McCarville, Sattler & Kester)

Migratory Pests Making a Presence in WI Article–WI Shopper

An article for Amish producers that shared information about black cutworm and true armyworm moth flight activity into Wisconsin and potential pest pressure to be aware of in their crops. Through this effort, producers will know where to look for insect pests, how to identify black cutworm and true armyworm larvae, and be able to evaluate pest populations and crop damage thresholds at which corrective action should be taken. (Sattler)

Wisconsin FFA Career Development Event

Creating a dairy production test for 100 youth who qualified for the State FFA dairy judging contest. The test covers dairy production areas in genetics and reproduction, nutrition, animal welfare, and emerging technologies along with reading a DHIA herd summary report. Youth taking this test have a better understanding of the dairy industry and the important decisions farmers make while dairy farming. (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)



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)



Community Development Educator

Victoria Solomon

Green County Leaders Graduation

May included the Green County Leaders community project presentations and graduation. While participants (now alumni) shared many positive learnings, takeaways, and impacts from the program, the evaluation data is still being aggregated and analyzed.



Elevando Wisconsin Graduation

The Spring 2025 Elevando Wisconsin cohort graduated in May. This cohort included several participants (now alumni) from Green County. While participants shared many positive learnings, takeaways, and impacts from the program, the evaluation is still be translated, aggregated, and analyzed.

Green County Coffee Conversation

A conversation with community members and law enforcement where participants learned more about each others perspectives and experiences. Through this program, Latine community members know more about local law enforcement and local law enforcement have stronger relationships in community.

Chamber Board Planning Retreat

A facilitated strategic planning meeting for the Monroe Chamber of Commerce Board, where they reflected and explored the mission, vision, values, and actions to strengthen their organization and identify the best pathway for their work now and in the future.



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4-H Youth Development Educator

Ellen Andrews

Youth-Adult Partnerships are a factor in both the potential capacity and impact of the 4-H Youth Development program. When youth and adults work together to plan, learn, and lead, youth have opportunities to develop leadership skills while adults guide and support them. This collaborative approach helps foster youth and adult leadership development, while also creating more positive youth development experiences for other youth.

4-H in the Great Outdoors

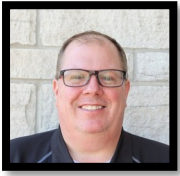
The Green County 4-H Junior & Adult Leaders Executive Board set a goal at the beginning of the year to create a new educational event where youth could learn about 3 or more project areas. Youth members of the board felt that an outdoor event with self-paced station to explore might be a great new way to engage more youth in project learning. A few adult board members stepped up to help guide and support the youth in bringing this idea to a reality in the form of the new event "4-H in the Great Outdoors", which was held in early May at Cadiz Spring State Recreation Area. 4-H Educator, Andrews, and the Extension Office provided educational resources and support in promoting the event. Youth and adult leaders collaborated to offer seven different hands-on outdoor learning stations, as a method of exploring a variety of nature related interest areas, including kayaking, fishing, fire building, wildlife and plant identification, and paracord bracelet making. 4-H families enjoyed an afternoon in the park experiencing this free event.



4-H Performing Arts Committee: The Show Must Go On

The Performing Arts are an interest area of many youth, but often not well resourced enough with opportunities for youth to grow and thrive. Four years ago a handful of youth, along with a couple brave adult volunteers, came together with the goal of offering more experience in 4-H where youth could grow their skills and passion for the performing arts. In that time, the group has produced numerous events, while being a shining example of youth leadership development. This year marks the beginning of a leadership transition for this group, as many of the founding youth leaders graduate out of the 4-H program and a new generation steps up to learn how to plan and lead these events. The Performing Arts Committee is proud to say that not only has the show gone on, but it has continued to flourish, producing both an outdoor theatre day camp and a 4-H talent show this spring.





Human Development & Relationships Educator

Bob Wiegel

Planning and Preparation of Programming in Green and Lafayette Counties

Through meeting with county leaders and local residents, it was recognized that there was a want and need for the Planning AHEAD programming. A time and place in both counties for programming to occur was scheduled. Courses will take place in June and July, and were advertised on social media, the Extension website, and local radio. This will ensure that those wishing to participate will have the ability to work through the decisions they need to make to plan for end-of-life. Wiegel attended formal and informal meetings in both Green and Lafayette Counties. He has met with Veteran Affairs, HCE, Human Services, Bank Leaders, members of the Hispanic Community, and multiple public libraries. He participated in a Get Real Event where high school students participated in a real life scenario to help them better understand budgeting and spending skills. Wiegel continues to make strong connections with leaders and potential participants in both counties. He is starting programming in both counties in the very near future and is planning for future events. Through the two Planning AHEAD courses that will be held this summer, participants will have the tools to make their end-of-life wishes known to loved ones and those left behind will be able to access necessary documents and procedures to help ease their transition.

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

Nutrition and Brain Health Presentation

A nutrition education presentation for 18 older adults taking a "Boost Your Brain and Memory" class through the Green County ADRC. This presentation highlighted the importance of good nutrition for older adults, emphasizing how a balanced diet and physical activity supports overall health and brain function as we age. It introduced the MyPlate model adapted for older adults, provided practical tips for eating healthy, and engaged participants in a hands-on-activity. The goal of this effort was to strengthen our partnership with ADRC and provide class participants with the knowledge and skills to improve eating and physical activity habits.

Area 17 Food Garden Support

FoodWise Coordinator continues to support five community food gardens in Area 17. Including purchasing items for: an additional raised bed and composting system at Riverview Apartments in Blanchardville; additional raised beds and educational signage at the Emergency Food Pantry garden in Livingston; and plants and seeds for food gardens at Juda Elementary School in Juda, Family Promise in Monroe, and Dodgevilla Apartments in Dodgeville. The purpose of these efforts is to increase access to and consumption of healthy and fresh produce for SNAP eligible youth, families, and older adults in the four-county area.

May Radio Spot

A monthly nutrition education radio spot for WEKZ 95.5 in Green County. The topic this month was "Celebrate Spring with Fresh Spring Vegetables" where we provided information on the nutrition stars of spring and how to use them including: asparagus, spinach, broccoli, peas and rhubarb. The purpose of the effort is to encourage healthy eating and physical activity habits and promote Extension as resource in the community.

Nutrition Education Series at Juda Elementary

A five-week nutrition education series at Juda Elementary School for second, third, and fourth graders which focuses on teaching the importance of healthy eating and physical activity. Students will explore the five food groups, the benefits of eating a variety of foods, and strategies for making healthy choices. They will also be encouraged to try new foods, with opportunities to sample them together. To reinforce these lessons at home, weekly educational handouts will be provided to parents and caregivers. The program aims to foster healthy eating habits and promote active lifestyles both at school and at home.