



Agriculture



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

- **DMC, ARC/PLC Webinar**

A webinar turned into a video on the topic hub plus Facebook live stream to inform dairy producers about DMC & ARC/PLC. (Jackie)

- **The Driftless Region Beef Conference**

A multi-state conference (**The Driftless Region Beef Conference**) for beef producers where participants learned about the use of genomics and genetics to improve their beef herd, how to optimize pasture production, beef market outlook and implications of current cattle herd size, lifetime management impacts on beef x dairy cross performance, timing for marketing fed cattle, bunk management impacts on finishing cattle, developing replacement heifers. The purpose of this program is to provide information to beef producers to improve profit and sustainability. 150 people attended this conference. (Kim)

- **Nitrogen Use Efficiency Presentation**

A presentation for crop producers and agricultural professionals where I provided information about Nitrogen Use Efficiency, shared results from local assessments done during the 2024 crop year, and empowered producers to perform efficiency assessments on their own farms. Through this program, producers have the knowledge and resources they need to perform their own Nitrogen Use Efficiency assessments and will be better able to fine-tune nitrogen application rates on their farms to be more profitable and environmentally friendly. (Jordyn)

- **Wisconsin Agriculturist**

An article in the **Wisconsin Agriculturist** magazine about mineral delivery methods for beef herds that will improve animal performance and profitability. There are a variety of ways to deliver minerals to beef cattle, including loose premixes, protein/energy tubs, and "cafeteria style" individual minerals. However, not every method is effective for every farm due to palatability, availability, and cost. The Regional Livestock Educator wrote an article that described the main methods of mineral delivery, as well as their pros and cons so beef producers can decide which method is best for their operation. By using a statewide publication, it increased the likelihood of reaching more cattle producers across Wisconsin. The article will appear in the online email blast in February 2025 and in the printed magazine in April 2025. (Kim)

- **Dairy Webinar**

A webinar for dairy owners/operators, livestock haulers, custom calf raisers, and agriculture professionals, where participants learned what calf raisers, transporters, and owners are doing to improve calf health during transport and what needs to be enhanced to improve the overall health of calves, which directly impacts the calf's growth and production as an adult. (Jackie)

- **Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification**

A workshop for beef producers to meet their need for obtaining their Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification that maintains their economic viability. **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 two Regional Livestock Educator. 12 beef producers attended. (Kim)



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- **New Technologies in dairy and the Smart Farm Hub**

A webinar for dairy producers and industry professionals titled "New technologies in dairy and the Smart Farm Hub" to help them understand the opportunities UW-Madison has created for emerging technologies. There is a lot of data created from automation, the webinar will explain new technologies and how Smart Farm Hub was developed. (Jackie)

- **Greenhouse Article**

An article for greenhouse producers where they learned various greenhouse sanitation practices to help them prepare for spring. This will give them the knowledge needed to help prevent the spread of plant diseases and insect pests, allowing them to prevent product loss and increase profitability in their operation. (Jordyn)

- **Dairy Feeder School**

A workshop "Dairy Feeder School" for all the individuals with a link with the formulation, mixing, and/or delivering of feedstuff for dairy cattle. We are creating an in person and bilingual event where participants will learn and reinforce their knowledge about feed safety, feed management, transition cow health, and the economics of feeding. Through this effort we will impact animal health and milk production efficiency, by improve the use of resources such as, feed ingredients, time and labor leading to an increased farm profitability and waste reduction. (Jackie)

- **Western Wisconsin Beef Producers Annual Meeting**

An in-person presentation about setting production goals for beef cattle operations in order to increase productivity and profitability. The **Western Wisconsin Beef Producers annual meeting** was held with supplementary educational presentations for producers to learn and earn one Beef Quality Assurance continuing education credit. The Regional Livestock Educator presented about the importance of setting herd goals, what goals and record looking look like, and how to gauge progress towards those goals. 12 beef producers attended. (Kim)

- **Crop Management Presentation**

A presentation for crop insurance customers where they learned various strategies for making crop management decisions in low-margin years. Through this program, producers are better able to prioritize where their input dollars should be spent in order to see the best return on investment. (Jordyn)

- **Noontime Beef Roundup Webinar Series**

A virtual webinar for beef producers and industry professionals to learn important and emerging topics related to the beef industry. This webinar was focused on the importance of on farm biosecurity measures in protecting livestock and employees. 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 provides insights for beef producers and industry professionals. This free series covers 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. Biosecurity presents an economic risk for producers if it is not practiced. Education is needed in this area in hopes of maintaining the integrity of delivered food products and overall economic viability. Members of the UW-Extension Livestock Team identified biosecurity as an important topic in beef production and contacted an industry expert to provide insight and research-based information for beef producers and other industry professionals. (Kim)

- **Dairy Producer Fact Sheet**

A factsheet for dairy producers and nutritionists is being developed to provide guidance about the emerging use of roasted high oleic soybeans in dairy cattle diets. The goal is to provide research based information to be used on farms to improve dairy cattle profitability and sustainability. (Jackie)

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Community Development



Victoria Solomon
Community Development Educator

Green County Leaders

The Green County Leaders session was cancelled due to snow.

Solomon did present the First Impressions responses to the Village of Brooklyn in partnership with Olivia Otte with Green County Development Corporation (GCDC). Additionally, Solomon had received a request from the Monroe Kiwanis to present about Green County Leaders. She presented and received positive remarks from Kiwanis about the impact of the program in Green County.

Green County Board and County Administrator Forum

The Green County Board Strategic Planning Committee adopted a recommendation to the County Board that the county move from a County Clerk-County Administrative Coordinator position to a fulltime County Administrator position. U.W.-Madison Division of Extension's Local Government Education Program and Green County Extension were asked to present on the potential implications of moving to a county administrator at a community forum prior to the county board meeting. Local Government Education and Green County Extension staff presented on the potential implications of moving to a fulltime county administrator at a February 11, 2025 community forum prior to the county board meeting. The presentation was made in partnership with the Wisconsin Counties Association. The County Board, and community members, had the opportunity to ask questions about the potential for moving to a fulltime county administrator following an educational presentation. County Board Supervisors and community members left the meeting better informed and more prepared to consider the recommendation made by the County Board Strategic Planning Committee.

Program Preparation

February has involved a number of significant preparations for educational events. These include:

- Invitations out to the Green County RESET Advisory Team.
- Preparation for facilitation of the Law Enforcement/Latino Advisory Committee Coffee Conversations.
- Know your rights session partnerships
- Continued recruitment for Elevando Wisconsin.



Youth Development



Ellen Andrews
4-H Youth Development Educator



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GREEN COUNTY

4-H Communication Contest: Growing Public Speaking Skills & Confidence

Public speaking skills are highly valuable for youth as they foster confidence, improve communication abilities, enhance critical thinking, and prepare them for academic, social, and professional success. By encouraging youth to learn to express their ideas clearly, we are making them better equipped to navigate future situations requiring effective communication and leadership qualities.

4-H Educator, Andrews, organized and hosted the annual 4-H Communication Contest, open to all 4-H members in 5-year-old kindergarten through high school. Youth can select from presenting prose or poetry, or a traditional speech or demonstration on a topic of their choice. This event provided 14 youth with the opportunity to develop and polish their public speaking skills in a supportive and encouraging environment. The audience was treated to an entertaining variety of topics and presentation formats, from youth of all ages.



New 4-H Volunteer Meetings: Establishing a Solid Relationship to Build On

Training is one way that 4-H insures volunteers are prepared to provide a safe, engaging place for youth to learn and grow. When a new adult wishes to get involved as a volunteer with the 4-H program, they are required by the State 4-H program to complete a background check and three online trainings. The trainings provide an overview of volunteer roles and responsibilities, best practices when working with youth, best practices for building safe spaces, and responsibilities for reporting incidents of sexual misconduct. Volunteers are required to do the online training on building safe spaces annually, and the training on reporting incidents of misconduct bi-annually. Moving these trainings to an interactive online format has provided volunteers with greater flexibility in when they complete the trainings. However, it also means that the volunteer could complete the training requirements without ever meeting the local 4-H Youth Development Educator, to whom they are accountable to as a volunteer.

Starting with the 2024-2025 4-H program year, the Green County 4-H Educator, Ellen Andrews, started requiring all new 4-H volunteers to have a one-on-one meeting with her in-person or via a video conference, before they can be approved as volunteers. The meeting with each new 4-H adult volunteer, provides the volunteer and educator an opportunity to get to know each other, discuss why the volunteer is interested in being volunteers, review volunteer expectations and share role specific resources. Through this effort, Andrews is insuring she has an established relationship and line of communication with each volunteer she oversees and volunteers feel more supported and purposeful in their roles.



FoodWise



Maggie Milcarek, FoodWise Coordinator
Julia Harman, FoodWise Educator



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Radio recording

A monthly nutrition education radio spot for WEKZ 95.5 in Green County. This month focused on the physical activity guidelines for Americans, the benefits of staying active, how to keep moving during the winter months and setting goals that stick. The purpose of the effort is to encourage healthy eating and physical activity habits and promote Extension as resource in the community.

Community Health Worker partnership and outreach

FoodWise staff continues to support the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources bilingual Community Health Worker in outreach efforts aimed at reaching older adults and Spanish-speaking adults in Green and Lafayette County. Such efforts include: setting up informational sessions on potential program offerings at senior meal sites, affordable housing properties, and local churches and supporting food pantry outreach to the Spanish-speaking population in Darlington.

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