

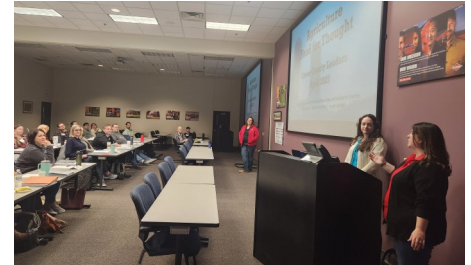
## Agriculture



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

### **Green County Leaders Ag Presentation**

A community leadership development program session of Green County Leaders in which participants learned about the importance of agriculture and natural resources in Green County, all to hone understanding of agriculture, economic development, and land stewardship. (McCarville, Kester & Sattler)



### **“Parasite Patrol” Fecal Egg Count Workshop**

An in-person workshop for sheep and goat producers where information was presented, and a fecal egg count was demonstrated and taught to participants. Participants learned about the parasite lifecycle, fecal egg counts, and additional integrated management strategies to decrease production and economic losses to parasite infections. Participants also learned how to collect, prepare, and analyze fecal samples to determine parasite infection and how to use this information to select animals and management strategies to improve animal health and increase production and profitability. (Kester)

### **Understanding Dry Matter: A Key to Better Dairy Feeding Management**

An article for dairy farm owners and employees where they can find basic information about dry matter and techniques to measure it in their operations to help them understand the importance of knowing this characteristic that allows for accurate comparison and formulation of diets. (McCarville)

### **Fact Sheet—“Bird Breakdown: Exploring Yield & Cuts of Poultry”**

A fact sheet on the Livestock program website for consumers and poultry producers to better understand the expected yield and common cuts of meat for chicken, turkey, duck, and pheasant in order to accurately predict production. (Kester)

### **Foundational Crop Scouting Planning**

Planning for a hybrid foundational crop scout training program for entry-level crop scouts. The goal is to provide the key skills necessary to scout row crop and forage fields for common pests, identify crop nutrient deficiencies, perform basic specimen sampling, and communicate results to managers and farmers so that we can better identify and address economically important crop challenges in season. (Sattler)

### **“Creating Bee Friendly Garden Spaces”**

An in-person presentation for the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to learn about how to support pollinators when selecting plants for their gardens in order to increase native pollinator populations. (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)



## Agriculture



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

### **Planning for Emergency Livestock Transport Response—Trailer Demonstration**

A training session for Lafayette County Fire Department Chiefs on livestock trailer accidents, including key considerations and important things to remember when dealing with accidents involving animals. Those attending learned about ways to keep both humans and animals safe. (McCarville & Kester)



### **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. (Kester)

### **Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) In-Person Training**

A livestock quality assurance training for youth exhibitors, where they learned about the quality care of animals through animal well-being, food safety, and life skills to help individuals understand their role in food animal production to improve business viability and environmental sustainability. (Kester)

### **Good Agricultural Practices Training for Tobacco Producers**

A training for tobacco producers where they learned about agronomic recommendations and new research being done on the management of various tobacco varieties. Through this effort, producers can be certified in Good Agricultural Practices and will make more knowledgeable management decisions on their farm. (Sattler)

### **Forage Focus Article—"Swath Grazing as an Alternative Winter Feeding Strategy for Beef Cows"**

An article for the Midwest Forage Association's "Forage Focus" newsletter about how swath/windrow grazing can be incorporated into beef production systems as a method of extending the grazing season and minimizing inputs. (Kester)

### **Wisconsin Agriculturist Article — "Benefits of Crossbreeding"**

An article for beef cow-calf producers where readers learned the value of crossbreeding and how it can be implemented on their farms to help them improve profitability. (Kester)

### **Insect Trapping Network**

Participating in an insect trapping network to assist the 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)



## Community Development



**Victoria Solomon**  
Community Development Educator

### Green County Leaders: Leadership and Land Stewardship

**Green County Leaders** The ninth session of Green County Leaders was held in Brodhead and focused on Leadership and Land Stewardship. The day started with a session on agriculture and the food system and included a session on community planning and natural resource management. The session included a tour of Kuhn North America and Williams Bedrock Bovines. In response to the questions "What surprised you? What were 1-2 of your biggest takeaways from this session?" participants responded:

- "I was not knowledgeable on any of the farm process, I've never been around any farming business or farms itself."
- "So many interesting practices and data points to understand."
- "I really don't know much about ag, so it was very eye-opening."
- "Speakers were engaging and knowledgeable."
- "Challenges facing the farming community as a whole."
- "Love all the data showing trends over the years & how crops, production, and ownership have changed."
- "Did a great job explaining the topics for us to understand."



### Advancing Entrepreneurship: Legal Essentials for Start-Ups in Green County

The Legal Essentials for Start-Ups in Green County provided education for entrepreneurs in Green County. This was an opportunity for Green County community members to learn from Attorney Jeff Glazer from the UW Law and Entrepreneurship Clinic about essential legal knowledge for running businesses and managing risk. Nine adult participants attended the bilingual (English/Spanish) session. This session was possible through a partnership with UW-Madison Division of Extension, the UW-Madison Law and Entrepreneurship Clinic, The Bank of New Glarus, Dando Una Mano Together We Rise, Green County Development Corporation, and the UW-Madison Rural Entrepreneurship Venture. As a result of the session... 4 participants met someone they didn't know before 4 participants will share what they learned with someone else 2 participants will try something new to improve their business Participants shared that the session was beneficial to them in multiple ways.

When asked "What aspects of today were most beneficial to you", participants responded...

- "Todo." ["Everything."]
- "Aprender sobre LLC." ["Learning about LLCs."]
- "Conocí la forma de hacer mis impuestos." ["I learned how to do my taxes."]
- "Como obtener mi permiso para laborar." ["How to obtain my work permit."]

Additionally, one shared that one lesson they learned from the session was that "Es tiempo de empezar con una solicitud de préstamo para mi negocio." ["It's time to start on a loan application for my business."]

Other participant comments included:

- "Fue muy provechoso, más de lo que imaginaba. Gracias a todos por su ayuda. Gracias a The Bank of New Glarus!" ["It was more beneficial than I had imagined. Thank you everyone for your help. Thank you to The Bank of New Glarus!"]
- "Agradezco la oportunidad de aprendizaje." ["Thank you for the learning opportunity."]

This session was positive enough that over the weekend there were conversations that led to another organization in another county wanting to have this session in their community.

### Workforce Development: Monticello School Career Day

Solomon presented about the Wisconsin Idea and her work as an Extension educator in community development to Monticello middle schoolers as part of their school career day. This was an opportunity to expand their understanding of career opportunities.





## Youth Development



**Ellen Andrews**  
4-H Youth Development Educator



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

### 4-H Camp Staff: Interviewing for an Important Job

The 4-H Camp program uses both adult volunteer and high school age youth to provide most staff positions at camp. These youth staff positions are unpaid and are designed to provide more support for campers and increased leadership opportunities for older youth. Andrews worked with a team of adult volunteers to create an interactive, small group interview process. This year's eleven youth staff applicants participated in discussions on a variety of key camp topics, while also demonstrating their skills to work together to create a positive environment for younger youth at camp. As a result of this process, youth staff get a jump on the training necessary to be strong youth staff members, and Andrews, with support of the adult volunteer team, was able to make decisions on filling youth staff positions based on needs of the program and on the skills of the interested applicants.

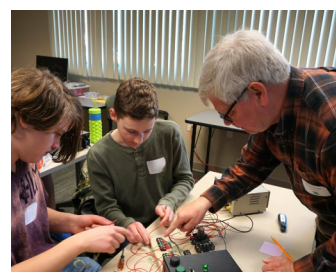


### 4-H Exploration Day Grows Bigger & Better

Green County 4-H aims to provide opportunities for youth to explore a variety of interest areas through hands-on workshops that engage youth in new and meaningful learning. In April, Andrews partnered with Blackhawk Technical College instructors, along with 4-H volunteers and Extension Educators, to offer a 4-H Exploration Day at the college campus. The event offered 22 different session topics spread over three different morning periods and was open to youth in 3rd grade and older. We had 81 youth register for this program. In post session surveys, 85% of responding participants (N=126) indicated that they learned or did something new in their workshop, and 74% of participants indicated that they were interested in learning more about the topic. This opportunity was made possible thanks to the 11 adults and 6 older youth that volunteered to teach sessions.

In a post event survey, 100% of responding presenters (N=9) indicated that they felt this event was a valuable use of their time and provided a positive educational experience for the youth, noting:

- "The kids learned so much they never even would have thought of on their own. We used that day to spark questions and imaginations in those kids minds."
- "I see this as a good way for members to try out a topic and see if it matches their interests. Its also a good way for leaders to reach members that may be in clubs that do not have a leader in a particular project."



## Human Development & Relationships



**Bob Wiegel**  
Human Development & Relationships Educator

### Green County 4-H Exploration Day

The 4-H educator in Green County invited Wiegel to participate in this event at Blackhawk Tech in Monroe. Multiple educators from the Green County Extension Office participated in offering programs to expand the knowledge of 4-H youth. Wiegel designed a class where students first discussed what goals are and the difference between short term goals vs. long term goals. They then imagined what they would be doing in ten years and wrote letters to themselves about how to plan to get where they want to be. They then played the “bean game” that helped them learn how to prioritize their spending. Three students participated and all indicated positive feelings and outcomes from the class. They were able to enhance their financial skills.



### 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. 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. 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.

### Onboarding

Wiegel continues to meet with county leaders in both Green and Lafayette Counties to identify needs and familiarize county leaders with the programming that he can offer through Extension. Wiegel attended formal and informal meetings in both Green and Lafayette Counties. He has met with the county Departments of Human Services, Green County Sheriff, and a public library. He will be offering Planning Ahead in both Counties starting in June and Money as you Grow in Lafayette County in April and Green County in May. Wiegel participated in a SWIFLE (Southwest Wisconsin Initiative for Financial Education) event where high school students participated in a real life scenario to help them better understand budgeting and spending skills. He continues to make strong connections with leaders and potential participants in both counties. Both Green and Lafayette Counties have identified housing and financial struggles for county residents as major issues that Extension can help address.



## FoodWise



**Maggie Milcarek, FoodWise Coordinator**  
**Julia Harman, FoodWise Educator**



**Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

### **Nutrition Education Series—Juda**

A five-week nutrition education series at Juda Elementary School for second, third, and fourth graders will focus 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.

### **Nutrition Education—WEKZ 95.5**

A monthly nutrition education radio spot for WEKZ 95.5 in Green County. Information was provided on National Nutrition Month, the USDA MyPlate guidelines, and simple tips to start using MyPlate in your daily life. Included were recommendations for various sources of protein, dairy, grains, fruits and vegetables, and water intake. The purpose of the effort is to encourage healthy eating and physical activity habits and promote Extension as resource in the community.

### **Food Garden Planning**

FoodWise Coordinator is purchasing initial seed starting materials, materials for raised garden beds, and educational materials for the five food gardens in the four-county area. Coordinator and Educator are working with garden partners to plan and develop garden education opportunities for spring and summer. Gardens include: Family Promise (Green County), Livingston Community Improvement Corporation Food Pantry Garden (Iowa/Grant), Lafayette County Housing Authority Riverview Apartments in Blanchardville (Lafayette), Meridian Housing Group Dodgevilla Apartments in Dodgeville (Iowa), and Juda Elementary School in Juda (Green). The purpose of the gardens are to increase access to and consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables and provide educational opportunities at the garden site.