



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

**Jordyn Sattler**

### **Regional Dairy Educator**

**Jackie McCarville**

#### **Cost of Raising Heifers Survey**

To address the need for accurate, farm-level data on replacement costs, Extension is developing and distributing a cost of raising heifers survey. The survey will gather detailed information on feed, housing, labor, health, and management expenses from participating farms to better capture the true economic impact of raising replacements. Results will be used to update benchmarks, identify cost-saving opportunities, and guide future programming that helps producers align replacement strategies with herd goals and financial sustainability. (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)

#### **Dairy Heat Stress**

A series of videos for dairy farmers and agribusiness professionals, where viewers increased their knowledge on effective heat abatement practices on dairy farms to increase their knowledge in keeping dairy cattle comfortable and profitable. (McCarville)

#### **Pasture Walk**

A pasture walk where dairy and livestock producers learned about rotational grazing, including the cost of production in grazing systems and soil health benefits. Through this effort, producers understand the economics and resources available to successfully transition from continuous grazing pastures to rotational grazing for greater production and efficiency, thus building resilience of the farm and sustainability of the farm environment. (Sattler & McCarville)



#### **Wisconsin Extension Weed Management Workshop**

An educational workshop where participants learned about foundational weed management strategies, proper spray nozzle selection, and agronomic research results of targeted spray technologies to reduce the spread of herbicide-resistant weeds, deliver an effective weed spray treatment, and identify techniques to use targeted spray technology in the application of pesticide directly to weed plants reducing the amount of active ingredient applied on farm fields and reducing the impact of pesticide on crop growth and development. (Sattler)

#### **Best Practices for Roasting Beans**

An article written for dairy farmers and advisors that explores the best practices for roasting soybeans on-farm for dairy diets. The purpose of this article is to provide the readers with practical knowledge and best strategies to optimize their roasted beans and therefore, feed value, dairy cattle performance, and economic return on their farm. (McCarville)



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

# Extension Green County

## October 2025 Educator Report



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#### **Beyond BMR: Securing the Future of High-Quality Corn Silage Article**

An article for dairy farmers and forage producers that addressed the reduced availability of brown mid-rib (BMR) corn hybrids as a tool for producing high quality corn silage. From this article, readers learned about alternative tools and crop management strategies to maintain high levels of quality in their forages and ultimately high milk production on farm. (Sattler)

#### **A Guide to Navigating Agricultural Technology Investments**

Development of an article series and guide to navigating agricultural technology investments for farmers. The goal of this effort is to help farmers make informed, strategic, and economically viable decisions that fully consider all aspects of their farming operations and lifestyle. (McCarville)

#### **2025 Corn Silage Harvest Moisture Monitoring**

A collaborative effort between Extension educators, corn silage growers, and consultants to gather and share corn silage production data including whole plant moisture. Through this effort, the data collected is used to drive an online tool that helps growers identify optimum corn silage harvest timing with the goal of producing high quality corn silage. (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)

#### **Youth Conservation in Ag Field Day**

A presentation for youth where participants learned what it means to have healthy soil, why soil health is important, and which conservation practices can be implemented in our cropping systems to promote soil health and conservation. Through this program, youth gained exposure to various future agricultural career opportunities and may be adopters of soil conservation practices on their own farms in the future. (Sattler)





## Community Development Educator

### Victoria Solomon

#### Green County Leaders: Leadership & Growth Mindset

The first session of Green County Leaders focused on Leadership and Growth Mindset. This was an engaging opportunity for the 32 participants to learn more about themselves through Real Colors and Strengths Based Leadership workshops, learn more about each other and effective teambuilding through engaging teambuilding exercises, and more about Green County communities by connecting with New Glarus leadership and New Glarus Home. In response to the question "What were the 2-3 most important lessons, ideas, or perspectives that you will take away from this session?" participants responded:

- "Everyone has different perspectives. Everyone has something they can offer to help."
- "Focus on strengths not weaknesses. Know yourself as best you can. Friends are everywhere."
- "Ability to work with others after knowing tendencies. Understanding the diverse background of people in the class."

In response to the question "Any other comments about today?" participants responded:

- "Learned so much about myself, and about others. It was great to meet people and start to form connections. Today made me even more excited for the rest of the year!"
- "Learned about different personalities, strengths, and weaknesses. Important for teams to have all different types to get things done."
- "Important content delivered in a fun way. Meeting so many other community members that I cannot wait to get to know better."



#### Green County Leaders: Leadership & Vibrant Communities

Green County Leaders session 2 focused on Leadership for Vibrant Communities. This focused on understanding lifelong learning with a presentation on the Wisconsin Idea and Extension Green County, leadership and creativity along with an introduction and tour of Monroe Arts Center, reflection time on leadership legacy, learning about the Monroe Theatre Guild, and improv for leadership. Participants also learned about the community project proposals put forward by community leaders looking to address issues and opportunities in Green County.

Participants chose projects and built teams around the following projects:

- A Library of Things: A Community Resource for Green County: Will increase diverse supplies available for checkout at the Brodhead Memorial Public Library.
- Cheese Country Trailhead Beautification/Informational Kiosk: Will create a trailhead on the Cheese Country Trail.
- Family Promise Children & Adult Safe Zone: Will create a safe outdoor space for the families (adults and children) staying with Family Promise at the new Family Promise Center.
- Temporary Animal Care Network: Establish a network of homes available to temporarily house an animal for a person in short term crisis / change such as extended hospital stays, sudden change in living situation, family emergency, domestic abuse, fire or natural disaster, military deployment, etc.
- Creation of a Fuerza Latina Market: Creation of a market / support for Latine entrepreneurs.
- Green County Smiles: Increase toothbrushing education in K-12 schools, including expanding dental programming across school districts and building a network of trained volunteers to increase dental health habits.
- Monroe Botanical Gardens: Creation of a botanical garden in Green County, including the space and nonprofit format.



## 4-H Youth Development Educator

### Ellen Andrews

#### **4-H Record Books: Plan, Reflect & Recognize**

4-H Record Books are a valuable educational resource that offers opportunities for our members to reflect on their learning, develop life skills of planning and record keeping, and be recognized for their growth.

Cloverbud Record Books are optional for youth in 5K-2nd grades. We were excited to have 41 Cloverbuds submit a Record Book this year. All members in 3rd grade or older are expected to complete a 4-H Record Book, as part of our member-in-good-standing expectations. Youth have the option of completing a Club, Minimal or County Record Book. This year 47 youth submitted the County Record Book, which offers more opportunities for planning, reflection and recognition. A few comments that reflect the value of 4-H include:

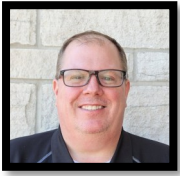
- New Youth in 10th Grade – I was impressed by how efficient and organized the club was, along with how welcoming the members were.
- Youth in 6th Grade – This year I enjoyed being a club officer because I got to be more involved in my club and 4-H. I also enjoyed being able to give back to my community by doing community service.
- Youth in 8th Grade – I enjoyed sharing an interest in 4-H and the fair with multiple people in my club. The friendships and connections made with the club this year made it worth it in my eyes to step up and be a leader for everyone's needs. I enjoyed spending time and learning more every month with my club members.

Many youth leaders and adult leaders helped to review Record Books over the course of multiple days in September. Youth who received awards for the Record Book reflection and record keeping efforts will be recognized in a 4-H Awards Ceremony on November 15th.

#### **4-H Financial Reviews: Accountability and Improvement**

4-H Clubs and Groups that have a checking and/or savings account must annually complete and submit the Annual Financial Report and supporting documents to the 4-H Program Educator by September 1. This process allows the 4-H Club or Group to qualify for federal tax-exempt status under the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents General Exemption Number (GEN) for Wisconsin 4-H Clubs and Groups. At the county level, Andrews works with a committee of 4-H volunteers to conduct a financial audit of a third of the 4-H clubs and all county 4-H groups each year. The audit checks and verifies the 4-H account activities and financial practices, in efforts of preventing misunderstandings and mishandlings, and protects the leaders and youth involved. Following the audit process, Andrews provides written feedback to each club, and identifies any improvements necessary for the next fiscal year. If significant improvements are needed, offers individual coaching, and identifies specific action steps and timelines by which those action steps need to be taken, in order to ensure success during the next audit process.





## Human Development & Relationships Educator

### Bob Wiegel

#### Rent Smart Planning

The average American tenant is “cost-burdened” (paying 30% or more of income toward rent) for the first time in United States history. According to the 2022 State of Home Affordability in Wisconsin report, many renters don't earn enough to afford the average rental unit. The shortage of homes relative to demand (for both rentals and those for purchase) is -52,615. The lack of affordable housing availability makes it difficult for a community to attract and retain workers. Extension's Rent Smart course provides participants with knowledge and skills that can help them find and keep safe and affordable housing that meets their needs. The six-session course features lessons on: Determining rent budget, Researching property and landlord, Application process, Understanding responsibilities, Communication skills, and Rental agreements. The Rent Smart program also offers a train-the-trainer course for community service providers so that they can use the curriculum to help their clients meet their housing needs. When residents have reliable housing that they can afford and landlords have responsible tenants, communities benefit through having a stable workforce. Starting planning for Rent smart in Green and Lafayette Counties starting in mid to late September. Meeting with county leaders and residents to determine need and best time and location.

#### Planning for 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 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. 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 course is typically delivered in seven hour-long weekly sessions. 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).

#### Financial Coaching

According to the 2020 US Census, 10.8% of Wisconsinites live in poverty. As of 2023, 23% of residents live below the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) threshold, meaning their incomes are above the federal poverty level but they don't earn enough to meet their basic needs (2023 United for ALICE report, United Way). Data from the 2021 FINRA Financial Capability survey shows that 17% of WI residents spent more than their income in the past year. Extension's financial coaching program provides one-on-one support that helps residents create their own plans to manage expenses, pay off debts, and save money for emergencies and to reach their goals. Participants can meet with Extension educators trained to provide coaching using the A4 model--Alliance, Agenda, Awareness, Action. Participants can meet with their coach as many times as needed, and will learn about local resources they didn't have in the past, learn about Extension resources they didn't know of in the past, and learn financial management steps that they didn't know before. These positive outcomes extend beyond the coaching clients themselves. Clients reported that a total of 449 family members benefited from the positive changes that came from financial coaching. Wiegel completed the Financial Coaching course and is in discussions with county leaders to start providing Financial Coaching for county residents.



### **FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator**

**Maggie Milcarek**

### **FoodWise Nutrition Educator**

**Julia Harman**

#### **Monthly Radio Spot**

A monthly nutrition education radio spot for WEKZ 95.5 in Green County for August and September. The topic featured in August was hydration. We provided information on the importance of staying hydrated in the summer months and all year round and tips for keeping hydrated. For September we focused on food waste. We provided information on reducing food waste, using leftovers and food safety. The purpose of this effort is to provide nutrition education, inform the public of the FoodWise program, and promote Extension as a resource in the community.

#### **Winding Down FoodWise Program**

FoodWise staff are reaching out to current partners in Area 17 to share and deliver curricula, nutrition and garden education materials, StrongBodies equipment, and cooking supplies that could be used by partners to continue nutrition education work after the FoodWise program ends in the four counties on October 1st. Partners we are reaching out to include: SWCAP Head Start, Family Promise of Green County, Juda School District, Soul Food, LCIC Food Pantry, and ADRC.