Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
GREEN COUNTY

Extension Green County

February 2026 Educator Report

Regional Crops & Soils Educator
Jordyn Sattler
Regional Dairy Educator
Jackie McCarville
Regional Livestock Educator
Casey Lobdell

Badger Dairy Insight

A webinar for dairy farmers and ag professionals that focused on an in-depth look at high-oleic soybeans and their role in both crop production and dairy nutrition. The purpose of this webinar was to provide participants with unbiased, evidence -based research about high oleic soybeans. (McCarville)

Biosecurity for Your Farm

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. An article written about biosecurity practices was submitted by the dairy educator. (McCarville)

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals—Green and Lafayette Counties

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

Alfalfa Stand Evaluation and Seeding Decisions Article—WI Agriculturist

An article for the agricultural community where forage producers learned how to evaluate their alfalfa stands for winterkill and shared information to take into consideration when seeding a new alfalfa field. Through this article, producers will understand thresholds at which their alfalfa may not be productive enough, evaluate their stand in a timely manner, and take appropriate precautions when choosing and seeding their next alfalfa field. (Sattler)

Field Management of High Oleic Soybeans for Feed Article

An article for dairy producers who are interested in growing their own high oleic soybeans for use in dairy rations that details management considerations to think about throughout the growing season to ensure they are adequately prepared and will produce a quality feed component. (Sattler)

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Community Development Educator

Victoria Solomon

Green County Leaders: Leadership & Healthy Communities

The January Green County Leaders session focused on Leadership and Public Engagement. Participants started the day in the Green County courthouse learning about county government. This included learning about the election process, county board, and county departments. Participants also learned about city government and school boards. From there, participants toured the new Monroe High School. This was a unique tour, as construction is under way. Participants then went to the Green County Justice Center for lunch and afternoon workshops. Lunch was provided by Fuerza Hispana; this was Fuerza Hispana's first contract. Green County Leader participants tried new food and provided testimonials and feedback. Participants also had an engaging session on ethics. After that, they learned about the Sheriff's Department, toured the jail, and learned more about the new facilities.

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:

- "Reto noter que Monroe está presentando un cambio una nueva era donde están invirtiendo en infraestructura, educación, y que nuestros representantes están trabajando puro. Monroe es un lugar que trabaja en fortalecer seguridad, recursos escolares, y tiene gran representantes cívicos enfocados en el crecimiento de la ciudad."
- "Monroe is presenting a change to a new era where they are investing in infrastructure, education, and our representatives are working purely. Monroe is a place that works to strengthen security, school resources, and has great civic representatives focused on the city."
- "Eye-opening the amount of departments and committees local government and boards have in order to provide for the community. Need more people to be involved."
- "Need to volunteer on boards to ensure that the community continues to move forward. Very impressed with all the tours we had today! Very eye-opening."
- "Local leaders have a lot on their plates."
- "Nice to hear from committee members and leaders of the area. The high school is very cool, appreciate being able to tour it. First time in jail, don't plan on going back! Excited for them to have a new space in the works."
- "Local government needs people to get involved and contribute. We take great care in Green County to ensure fair elections, and provide essential services for citizens." "New money to the jail system isn't always bad."
- "Green County Jail still treats inmates as people rather than just people arrested."
- "Investing in community infrastructure can and should be a point of pride for a small town."
- "Importance of awareness of Green County Board activities. Role of education in supporting the future wellness of the community."

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

- "This was a great session!"
- "All of the tours were great!"
- "I loved the tours! It's so interesting to be able to see actual spaces and talk to people firsthand. Very valuable parts of the day!"

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4-H Youth Development Educator

Ellen Andrews

4-H Shooting Sports Programs: Growing & Refining

The focus of all 4-H programs is the development of youth as individuals and as responsible and productive citizens. The Green County 4-H Shooting Sports Program is an excellent example of youth developing both content and life skills. Youth learn marksmanship, the safe and responsible use of shooting sports equipment, the principles of hunting and conservation ethics. The activities of the program and the support of caring adult leaders also provide young people with opportunities to develop self-control, responsibility, goal setting, resiliency, and more.

While the Green County 4-H Shooting Sports project has been a strong program with a wide variety disciplines for many years, our gun disciplines have long suffered from a low retention rate of participants, which means less skills development and less positive youth development.

To address this concern, our 4-H Shooting Sports volunteers identified several opportunities to improve the program, in order to provide the youth a better-quality experience. The volunteers started by finding indoor locations for Air Rifle, Air Pistol and .22 Rifle practices. No longer do kids in those disciplines have to shoot in the rain or cold, but it also allows the clinics to be scheduled over a longer period of time, making it more feasible for volunteers. For the beginning disciplines of the air sports, the volunteers also separated the clinic and fair shoot, allowing more time for instruction and practice. The volunteers worked with community partners to raise the funds necessary to add BB Guns as a new discipline to the Air Rifle program. The BB Guns are physically a lot easier for the younger 4-H Shooting Sports members (Gr. 3-5) to handle, and therefore youth tend to experience a lot more success and develop more self-confidence. Finally, the volunteers added an additional safety orientation for all first year 4-H Air Rifle and BB Gun participants. Finally, the Extension staff has started providing key logistical support, from managing line sign-ups to creating color coded labels, that streamline processes and provide volunteers with greater capacity to focus on safety and instruction at the clinics.

The Green County 4-H Shooting Sports program is growing and thriving because of the dedication of volunteers, community partners, staff and families. Providing a more developmentally appropriate experience for our younger youth has resulted in a better retention of participants and greater engagement in other shooting sports disciplines. The changes made have results in an over 185% increase in participation in our gun disciplines since 2022, and over 80% increase in our archery discipline. We have made great improvements in our member retention, with an over 255% increase in older youth participating in our more advanced gun disciplines. All this is made possible thanks to the dedication of a growing group of 4-H adult volunteers, who have each completed national training and state 4-H certification in one or more shooting sports disciplines. These volunteers not only teach youth the safety and technical skills needed, but the serve as role models and caring adults, who encourage and challenge the youth to grow. In the last two weeks, for our BB Gun, Air Rifle and Air Pistol disciplines, we had 11 adult leaders put in nearly 200 hours leading shooting sports clinics, and this does not include the countless hours of planning, set-up and teardown. 4-H staff and volunteers continue to worked together to recruit more adult volunteers to become trained as shooting sports leaders, which is necessary to maintain and grow our program capacity.

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Human Development & Relationships Educator

Bob Wiegel

Money as You Grow 12/20/26

Starting financial education for children as early as 3 years old can help build not only strong money management skills but also executive functioning abilities like problem solving and decision making. Research shows that parents and caregivers have the most influence on their children's financial capability. Many parents are eager to build a good financial literacy foundation for their kids but also report lacking the time, tools, and confidence to teach financial skills. Many children's books exist that teach basic money and personal finance concepts. UW-Madison Extension colleagues have written reading guides for 35 of these books to provide parents, teachers, and other caregivers with discussion questions and activities that they can do with children to help reinforce the books' messages. The reading guides can all be found on the Money as You Grow site: https://finances.extension.wisc.edu/programs/money-as-you-grow/. Money as you Grow discussions and activities are based on the ideas of:

- Families reading and planning together
- Having positive discussions about money
- Using play and fun activities to help young children learn good money habits
- Empowering parents to talk to children about money and household ideas
- Encouraging family money management
- Improving family literacy

By reading the Money as You Grow books together, discussing the reading guide questions, and doing the suggested activities, families and groups in caregiving settings are able to gain skills around setting goals, prioritizing needs and wants, solving problems, making decisions, earning, spending, saving, sharing, borrowing, self-control, follow-through, staying true to yourself, and flexibility.

Re-Entry Ready Winter 2026

Employment has been shown to have a positive impact on reducing recidivism rates as well as the positive impact when financial literacy education is combined with steady employment. These increases in financial well-being and resulting self-sufficiency may add to an individual's chances of avoiding recidivism and ensuring personal stability in the long-term. To help those impacted by the legal system to successfully reintegrate into Wisconsin communities and escape the cycle of recidivism Extension created two related resources: the Reentry Ready: Focus on Finances curriculum and the Reentry Ready website. The curriculum features eight modules that cover these topics: choosing financial products and services, tracking income and benefits, paying bills, saving, budgeting and getting through the month, dealing with debt, understanding credit, protecting your money, insurance, and retirement. The website includes resources on how to find housing, get their drivers license renewed or acquire another form of ID, find work, file taxes, open a bank account, apply for public benefits, find free or affordable medical care, and many other topics. It also features 14 county-specific resource guides (with more being added once or twice a year). The site also includes a downloadable action tracker that allows participants to plan the steps they'll take to manage their finances. Anticipated outcomes of this program include participants being able to set and make a plan to achieve financial goals, create and follow a spending plan, access and understand their credit report, make a plan to pay off debts, open a bank/credit union account, and find stable housing. Among participants who completed evaluations in 2025, 92% said the course helped them learn a lot about how to track the money they have coming in and going out and 90% said they learned how to prioritize bills when their expenses are larger than their income and savings. After participating in Reentry Ready: Focus on Finances, one participant stated, "I feel more educated in handling my finances, the obstacles with my debts and collections as well as budgeting my monthly expenses."