



Regional Crops & Soils Educator

Jordyn Sattler

Regional Dairy Educator

Jackie McCarville

Regional Livestock Educator

Casey Lobdell

Southwest Wisconsin Grazing Network

Planning and developing the Southwest Wisconsin Grazing Network in collaboration with local Land Conservation Departments and other grazing groups. The goal is to establish a network of farmers who are interested in pasture and grazing management to share experiences and information to improve grazing efforts throughout the region. (Sattler)

Alfalfa Weevils Persist in 2nd Crop Alfalfa Article - MFA Clippings

An article for alfalfa producers across the Midwest where readers learned about alfalfa weevil identification, when and how to evaluate their damage, economic thresholds, and treatment options if necessary. Producers will use this information to make educated decisions in their fields to protect and maintain high-quality forage. (Sattler)

Farm Technology Days Planning

Planning for an event that includes in-person demonstrations and interactive tabletop discussions during Farm Technology Days for beef producers – 6 sessions. These activities aim to help participants gain awareness of management practices that influence the economic viability of their farms, including better understanding the impact of meat quality and yield grade on final saleable product. Other topics include animal health product handling and biosecurity. (Lobdell)

Beef and beef x dairy feedlot enterprise budget spreadsheet

Developing an enterprise budget spreadsheet for beef producers to project a cost of production to finish beef animals over multiple production phases. The goal is for farmers to determine their cost of production to make informed management decisions for finishing cattle. (Lobdell & McCarville)

Milk Value Based on Components Spreadsheet

A spreadsheet tool was created for dairy farmers and advisors to estimate differences in milk values based on changes in milk or component yields. The purpose of this tool is to provide users with tools to identify economic impacts of management or feeding decisions that may influence milk or component yields. (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)



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
GREEN COUNTY

Extension Green County

July 2026 Educator Report



4-H Youth Development Educator

Ellen Andrews

4-H Youth Showcase Talents

Five years ago, a 4-H youth came forward with the dream of starting an event to showcase members' interests and talents in the performing arts. In pursuit of this dream, the youth was instrumental in creating a truly youth-led, adult-supported countywide 4-H Performing Arts Committee and 4-H Talent Show.

Flash forward five years, the team of youth leaders who first led the talent shows have all graduated and moved on to college. This year's youth leadership team is a young, excited group of middle school students. These youth grew up participating in this annual event, and now stepped up to see this event continue.

Andrews, as the 4-H Educator, along with a team of adult volunteers and supportive parents, served as important sounding boards and sources of counsel, for the youth through the planning process. As a result, the committee successfully hosted their 5th annual 4-H Talent Show on May 29th at the Monroe Band Shell. The event offered members of all ages and interests an opportunity to practice their public performance skills, while sharing their instrumental, vocal, and magic talents. The youth on the committee also learned and practiced skills in planning, teamwork, audio equipment, public speaking, and more.



Partnerships Open Doors to 4-H Membership

4-H is a positive youth development program, providing opportunities for youth to learn life skills like decision-making, problem solving, and making healthy choices. Through hands-on, project-based education, youth explore new interests and have memorable learning experiences. 4-H has a strong history in Green County, but with that history can come a misconception that 4-H is only for farm kids. As an Extension program, we want to help to break down this misconception and open the door for as many youth to benefit from 4-H as possible.

Extension Green County started the Summer 4-H Club program model with the YMCA in 2024, as a way to engage a group of youth who have typically never been in 4-H. This summer, now in our 3rd year of this partnership, the Green County 4-H Summer Intern, Mimi, along with support from Ellen Andrews, are leading 3 summer 4-H clubs at the YMCA and engaging approximately 80 youth. The 4-H clubs that will meet seven times over the summer.



As part of these 4-H club meetings throughout the summer, youth meet a variety of 4-H youth leaders and adult leaders, who are sharing their time and talents with these new 4-H members. The youth are also experiencing a variety of topic interests and participating in hands-on learning, which often results in some sort of project or exhibit. Every child in our summer 4-H clubs will have the opportunity to select one item they made through 4-H to talk to a volunteer 4-H "judge" about and have displayed in our 4-H promotional booth at the County Fair. While these clubs are running only through the end of the summer, youth in the clubs are full 4-H members and have the same opportunities to participate in 4-H as year-long members. The youth chose creative names for their 4-H club, can attend 4-H camps, and experience the skill-building, learning, leadership, and growth opportunities provided by the 4-H program.



Human Development & Relationships Educator

Bob Wiegel

Financial Coaching-Family Promise 6/26

Extension's financial coaching program provides one-on-one support that helps residents create their own plans to manage expenses, pay off debts, save money for emergencies, and 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 to develop and implement plans to resolve their financial challenges. The three main categories of outcomes anticipated through financial coaching are that participants will:

- Learn about local resources they didn't have in the past, e.g. how to apply for FoodShare benefits
- Learn about Extension resources they didn't know of in the past, e.g. spending plan worksheets
- Learn financial management steps that they didn't know before, e.g. steps to improve their credit.

In 2025, Wisconsin residents who received our financial coaching reported many positive changes. 94% identified specific and measurable financial goals and 69.5% feel empowered to tackle financial challenges independently, suggesting that these residents can now more successfully navigate banking and other financial services.

Planning AHEAD- Summer 26

Proactive planning for end-of-life decisions and care can prevent financial and emotional burdens. 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 2025, 99.5% learned enough in the course to move forward with planning and 99.5% will tell a friend or family member about something important they learned during this program. Also, in a 4-month follow-up survey 95% said they are either done with their plans, actively working on them, or committed to completing their plans (compared to 46% before the course).

Focus on Fathers parenting program 2026

Despite recent advances in research on fathers' roles and unique contributions within families, fathers remain underserved in family-based programming (Panter-Brick et al., 2014). This is due to barriers originating from community partners, cultural norms, legal structures, and fathers' abilities or desires to participate. Yet, fathers' contributions to child and family well-being are critical. Children with more engaged fathers exhibit higher academic achievement, better psychological outcomes, and fewer challenging or delinquent behaviors (e.g., Allen and Lo, 2012; Lee and Schoppe-Sullivan, 2017).

Fathers' engagement is particularly vital for vulnerable children, such as those from single-parent and low-income households (e.g., Choi and Pyun, 2014).

After data analysis from a statewide fatherhood needs assessment, Extension faculty, specialists, and educators learned that fathers are interested in direct parenting education and opportunities to connect with and learn from other fathers. As a response, a team created the Focus on Fathers parenting program.