Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
GREEN COUNTY

Extension Green County

June 2026 Educator Report

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

2026 Alfalfa Harvest Quality Project

A series of alfalfa measurements including PEAQ stick measurements, scissor clips, and alfalfa weevil sweeps that will help to better understand optimum alfalfa harvest across Wisconsin. The results of this study will help forage growers to determine what techniques can best predict optimum forage harvest timing to improve first cutting forage quality for livestock. (Lobdell, McCarville, & Sattler)

Animal Accident Training for Green County Emergency Personnel

An in-person demonstration with Green County Emergency Personnel to understand how to handle animal accidents involving trucks and trailers or pot load trailers. By attending this training, emergency personnel learned about how animals react and move, along with seeing the inside of cattle trailers and how to easily remove animals from them. (Lobdell & McCarville)

Gard Day at the Farm

An on-farm educational event for 4th graders to learn about the importance of agriculture. The Regional Crops & Soils Educator presented various soil practices that decrease erosion and runoff to improve soil conservation. The Regional Dairy Educator created Tabmoo which is a game that provides 3 clues around something dairy related (nutrition, milk quality, ,etc.). Youth listened to the clues and tried to guess what the word was. McCarville then further discussed the importance of that word to a dairy farm. (McCarville & Sattler)

Crop Scout Field Day

A field day for beginning crop scouts and early career agricultural professionals, where participants learned crop scouting methodologies and pest management identification and techniques to better understand the role and responsibilities of crop scouting, which is the first step of an integrated pest management (IPM) plan and is integral to making decisions for crop productivity and profitability. (Sattler)

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Green County Leaders-April Session

At the April Green County Leaders session participants learned about the importance of agriculture and land stewardship in Green County. The day started at Kuhn North America. Jordyn, Jackie, and Casey provided a very well-received overview of agriculture and the food system. From there, participants learned from a local cheesemaker about cheesemaking. Participants also toured Kuhn North America, learning more about the variety of businesses in Green County supporting agriculture. This also emphasized learnings about entrepreneurial leadership and the value of having local businesses with international connections. (Sattler, McCarville, Lobdell)

Progressive Forage Article-Forage Quality

An article was written and will be published in the June 2026 edition of Progressive Forage Magazine that provides readers with practical information on how to use standard forage reports to evaluate feed quality beyond using the RFV and RFQ metric. When evaluating forage quality, many farmers primarily use the relative feed quality (RFP) and relative feed value (RFV) metric. However, these metrics only provide an overview of a forage's quality and do not reflect many important aspects of forage quality. This article addresses this knowledge gap by providing information on how to evaluate feed quality beyond RFV and RFQ. (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)

Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program 2026 Trial Preparation

Preparing for and implementing trials in the nitrogen optimization pilot program in collaboration with local farmers. This project aims to evaluate optimum economic and agronomic nitrogen rates for soils in Green County and bring attention to potential leachable nitrogen when applied above optimum nitrogen rates. Identifying optimum rates will improve grower adoption of rate recommendations and reduce the amount of nitrogen being lost to the environment, as well as improve farm economics from more efficient nitrogen use. (Sattler)

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Community Development Educator

Victoria Solomon

Green County Leaders: Graduation

The Green County Leaders 2025-2026 class graduated in May.

Evaluations show the program has had the following impacts on participants:

- 93% find Green County Leaders has helped them be more effective in their current employment.
    - "Learned professional skills and strategies that are already proving to be effective when utilized."
- 96% find Green County Leaders has helped them be more effective in their personal life.
    - "Time to reflect on how I show up and how I want to show up. Also, learning how I can engage to better the community."
- 100% expanded their professional networks as a result of participating in the Green County Leaders program.
    - "There are so many great people in the program that I know I can go to for help or as a resource now."
- 100% feel more connected to Green County as a result of participating in Green County Leaders.
    - "I have a better understanding of so many organizations here and I feel more valued and like I belong here due to feeling empowered to get involved and have a voice in our community."
- 100% feel more comfortable in Green County as a result of participating in Green County Leaders.
    - "I feel more included in projects that can change peoples' lives."
- 81% are more likely to stay in Green County as a result of participating in Green County Leaders.
    - "I feel as though I've found a community I can grow with."

Additionally, as a result of their participation in GCL:

- 77% (20/26) have become involved in a community issue
- 67% (18/27) volunteered in a way they would not have otherwise
- 30% (8/27) have joined a new committee or board
- 26% (7/27) have communicated directly with an elected official outside of a GCL session
- 26% (7/27) have considered running for elected office

Participants also take part in a team project and other activities to hone leadership skills and community impact. This year's community projects included:

- A Library of Things: A Community Resource for Green County increased the diverse supplies available for checkout at the Brodhead Memorial Public Library.
- Cheese Country Trailhead Beautification / Informational Kiosk created a trailhead on the Cheese Country Trail.
- Family Promise Children & Adult Safe Zone / Playground created a safe outdoor space for the families (adults and children) staying with Family Promise at the new Family Promise Center.
- "Fuerza Latina" Hispanic Market created a market / support for Latino entrepreneurs.
- Green County Smiles increased 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 established foundational efforts to create a botanical garden in Green County, including the space and nonprofit structure.
- Temporary Animal Care Network worked to create a network of homes available to temporarily house an animal for a person in a short-term crisis / change, such as extended hospital stay, sudden change in living situation, family emergency, domestic abuse, fire or natural disaster, military deployment, etc.

More information, along with testimonials, is being gathered and will be put into a programmatic report.

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Green County Board Onboarding

The Green County Board onboarding process involved two workshops and two tours. The first workshop included general information about being a county board member as well as information about upcoming issues and opportunities in the next county board term. The two tours were of the Jail and the Highway, given the significance of the construction projects currently under way. The second workshop focused on county board members learning more about the different county departments.

As a result of these workshops and tours...

- 87% (13/15) have an increased understanding of Green County government.
- 87% (13/15) learned more about Green County departments.
- 87% (13/15) met someone they didn't know before.
- 73% (11/15) will use the resources shared to learn more.
- 67% (10/15) feel more comfortable in their role as a county board member.

Other comments about the onboarding process included:

- "Thank you so much for prioritizing the onboarding of new members. It's important. Thank you!"
- "This training was the most valuable to date."
- "Firsthand interactions with employees and their workplaces were eye-opening."

Creating Community Change in Southwestern Wisconsin

Communities across Wisconsin continue to experience polarization, reduced civic engagement, and challenges in finding common ground around local issues. Recognizing these pressures - and the need for practical tools that help communities build trust, strengthen relationships, and move toward shared goals - Extension is collaborating with Prosperity Southwest and the Community Foundation of Southwestern Wisconsin to create a regional, research-informed program. This program will involve community members learning how to navigate differences, invest locally, and cultivate the skills needed to create sustainable community change. The May meeting involved community members coming together to further discuss programmatic format, curriculum, and steps forward.

Presentation to Monroe Morning Optimists

Solomon, along with Olivia Otte, Executive Director of Green County Development Corporation (GCDC), presented to the Monroe Morning Optimists about Green County Leaders. This included why the program exists and the impact the program has on individuals, communities, and individuals.

Green County Dairy Cluster Report and Action Plan

A study to better understand the dairy economic cluster in Green County. Results from this study will help economic and dairy cluster entities take action to support the dairy industry and related industries move forward.

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4-H Youth Development Educator

Ellen Andrews

4-H in the Great Outdoors

The Green County 4-H Junior & Adult Leaders Executive Board set a goal of continuing for a second year an educational event where youth could learn about 3 or more project areas. Youth members of the board felt that an outdoor event with self-paced station to explore might be a great way to engage more youth in project learning. A few youth and adult board members stepped up to organize and recruit presenters for this "4-H in the Great Outdoors" event, which was held in early May at Cadiz Spring State Recreation Area.

Thanks to the Next Generation 4-H Club helping with the Cadiz Spring work day that morning, the DNR waived admission for this afternoon event. 4-H Educator, Andrews, and the Extension Office provided educational resources and support in promoting the event. Youth and adult leaders collaborated to offer eight different hands-on outdoor learning stations, as a method of exploring a variety of nature related interest areas. New this year, 4-H collaborated with Upper Sugar River Watershed Association to offer a station where youth and parent got to see and learn about invasive species in our Cadiz Springs lakes. This year 20 youth participated in this event.

In a post-event evaluation, most families indicated that they really enjoyed the event, with the most popular stations included fishing, paracord bracelet making, and cooking pudgy pies.

Parents provided lots of positive feedback, including:

- "My youngest got to try fishing, something we don't do and he loved it. It was a great opportunity for my family to get involved in the 4-H program."
- "It was very educational, but also fun."
- "Was able to get out of the house and learn some new things."

Families had great suggestions for how we can continue to strengthen the event, and numerous families indicated a willingness to get involved in helping to make this or a similar event possible again next year.

Health Kids Day with the YMCA

It can be challenging to improve community awareness of 4-H, particularly with busy parents, who do not have a background with 4-H. Collaborating with other community organizations with work youth is one valuable method of improving 4-H visibility among young families. Green County 4-H accepted an invite by Green County Family YMCA to participate in their Health Kids Day on Saturday, May 16. 4-H Educator, Ellen Andrews, planned an interactive booth focused on wildlife, with animal hides that the kids could touch and identify, and an animal tracks stamping activity that the kids could try. The booth also featured information about the upcoming 4-H Camping programs. The booth was really well received by kids, parents and YMCA staff. While the interest cards did not produce any immediate results, it was valuable for 4-H to be seen in this space amongst other youth and community organizations. 4-H's participation in this event was also very much appreciated by the YMCA, who is an important 4-H program collaborator throughout the summer months.

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Human Development & Relationships Educator

Bob Wiegel

Money as You Grow Builds Early Financial Skills for Youth

Bob Wiegel, Human Development and Relationships Educator with UW–Madison Division of Extension, recently partnered with Family Promise of Green County to deliver *Money as You Grow, a youth-focused financial literacy program designed to introduce basic money management concepts in an engaging, age-appropriate way.*

The session began with a read-aloud of the children's book *What Can You Buy?,* which helped participants explore the concept of money as a tool for making choices. Youth were encouraged to actively engage during the story by responding to guided questions and posing their own. This interactive discussion allowed participants to connect the story to their own experiences and begin thinking critically about spending decisions.

Following the reading, participants took part in hands-on learning activities that reinforced foundational financial skills. Youth practiced counting money and identifying coins, building confidence in recognizing and using currency. The group also discussed the importance of saving and making thoughtful spending choices, helping participants understand how small decisions can impact their financial future.

To conclude the session, each participant painted and decorated their own piggy bank to take home. This creative activity served as both a fun conclusion and a tangible reminder of the importance of saving. By combining storytelling, discussion, and experiential learning, the program created a supportive environment for youth to begin developing lifelong financial habits.

This program supports Extension's mission of promoting financial capability by equipping young people with the knowledge and skills needed to make informed financial decisions. Early exposure to financial concepts helps build a strong foundation for future economic well-being and encourages positive money behaviors from a young age.

Increasing Community Awareness of Scam and Identity Theft Prevention at Cultural Arts Fair

At the invitation of Cultural Arts Fair organizers, I delivered an educational presentation on **Scam and Identity Theft Prevention** to community members attending the event. The session was designed to increase awareness, build practical skills, and encourage preventative behaviors.

Educational methods included:

- Interactive discussion with participants
- Use of real-world examples of common scams
- Emphasis on practical, easy-to-apply prevention strategies

Key content areas included:

- **Common Scam Types:** Imposter scams, phishing emails/texts, prize scams, and tech support fraud
- **Warning Signs:** Urgent language, unsolicited contact, requests for personal or financial information, and nontraditional payment methods

Prevention Strategies:

- Pause and verify before acting
- Protect sensitive information
- Independently confirm requests
- Use strong passwords and multi-factor authentication
- Monitor financial accounts and credit reports

Participants were also encouraged to trust their instincts and seek assistance when unsure of a situation.