Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
GREEN COUNTY

Extension Green County

November 2026 Educator Report





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

Milk Components for Cheese Success, Oct. BDI

A webinar for dairy farmers and advisors that discussed the importance of milk composition for cheese production and related strategies to feed and manage dairy cattle for component production. The purpose of this webinar was to provide participants with background knowledge of why milk processors care about milk composition and how they can influence it on their farms to meet farm and processor goals. (McCarville)

Virtual Fencing & Cover Crops Pasture Walk



A pasture walk for farmers interested in utilizing virtual fencing for grazing livestock. The purpose of this event was to provide producers who are grazing livestock with important information regarding equipment needed, animal behavior expectations, and cover crop options that can be utilized for grazing. As a result, producers now view their row crop acres as underutilized potential for additional forage and may consider interseeding cover crops and virtual fencing as a tool to maximize forage and land-use efficiency. (Sattler)

Badger Dairy Insight - Setting Transition Cows Up for Success

A Badger Dairy Insight webinar for dairy producers and veterinarians, where Dr. Creutzinger discussed current transition cow management practices in the Midwest and opportunities to reduce physiological and behavioral stress during the transition period to improve cow health, welfare, and success in the dairy herd. (McCarville)

Manure Spill Response Demonstration



A live action field demonstration where dairy farmers/employees, manure applicators, first responders (fire departments) and county Land and Water Conservation staff learned about manure spill response to both prevent and to better prepare to respond to manure spills and releases. (Sattler)

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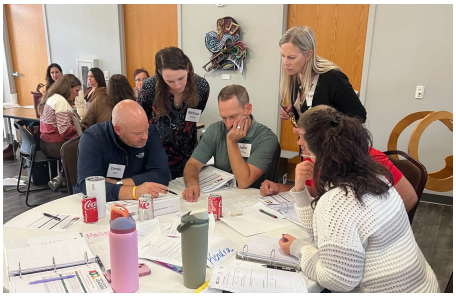
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Community Development Educator

Victoria Solomon

GCL Sept 30: Creative Leadership







The second Green County Leaders session focused on creative leadership. The session started at the Monroe Arts Center learning about a framework to better understand community assets, the Monroe Arts Center, and reflection on legacy. Participants also chose community projects.

The project teams are: Brodhead Library Indoor Playground, Bike Trail, Green County Teen Outdoor/Indoor Connection Space, Composting and Waste Management, Green County Kids' Market, and Dugout Improvement.

Participants connected as teams to identify ways to build their teams to move projects forward. They went to the Monroe Theatre Guild to learn about that organization and ways to get involved. Then, participants built interpersonal agility skills with teambuilding activities.

In response to the question asking what important lessons, ideas, or perspectives they will take away from the program, participants shared:

- "Green County has so many assets. Community projects are very impactful."
- "We only grow if we put ourselves in uncomfortable situations."
- "How lucky I am to live here."
- "Communication is more than words."

GCL Oct 14: Relational Leadership & Networking

This session of Green County Leaders (GCL) was held at the Belleville Public Library in Belleville, where participants were welcomed by the village admin. Morgan McArthur taught about asking powerful questions and active listening as an opportunity to connect, and effective presentations. Dr. Danielle Hairston-Green taught about storytelling for leadership. Blake Roberts and Olivia Otte taught about how to conduct relational network mapping.

In response to the question "What were the 2-3 important lessons, ideas, or perspectives that you will take away from this session?" participants shared:

- "Listen to ask questions, everyone has a story worth telling."
- "Conversations are key drivers for relationship building (and storytelling)."
- "Don't be afraid of failure - see them as teaching moments."

Participants also included the comments:

- "GCL - A place to experience stuff! Try stuff!"
- "I really enjoyed connecting and learning more about my fellow GCL's. The vulnerability is refreshing and grow our relationships in this course."

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Data Center Educational Sessions



Data centers and their development in several cities in Wisconsin have created much controversy and questions for both the general public and local units of government. Green County passed a Data Center Moratorium in July 2026. Solomon connected with the Green County Zoning Committee regarding the moratorium timeline and process and collaborated to provide educational sessions on data centers. These educational sessions were designed as a way for community members and local government officials to learn more about data centers. Programs were completely open to all community members. The sessions included opportunities for anyone to ask any question on data centers.

Solomon worked with Karl Green, Community Planning Specialist, and Kellie Pederson, Bayfield County CDI educator, to develop a presentation formed around local government responses to the various concerns of Green County residents. Karl Green gave the presentations during the sessions and Solomon facilitated the Q & A portions of the sessions. Green County Admin and Zoning staff were available, as was the City of Monroe Admin, to also respond to questions as appropriately.

32 community members attended the session in Albany and 40 attended the session in Monroe.

As a result of the session...

- 90% of attendees have an increased understanding of what local government entities in Wisconsin can do regarding data centers (37/ 41).
- 81% of attendees have an increased understanding of data centers (35/41).

Additional comments included:

- "Thank you for giving us unbiased information."
- "Karl did an outstanding job! Can't speak highly enough about the presentation."
- "Very informative and helpful presentation."
- "Thank you so much. This issue has been a concern and now I feel I'm aware of more tools to navigate this issue."

Additionally, participants shared their perspectives on data centers. These perspectives were then shared with participants as well as the Green County Zoning Committee members.

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4-H Youth Development Educator

Ellen Andrews

National 4-H Week Promotional Campaign

Fall enrollment season is a critical time to connect youth and families with 4-H opportunities. While 4-H has a long history in Green County, many community members are not fully aware of the breadth of experiences available beyond traditional perceptions of the program. Increasing visibility and helping families understand how 4-H supports youth development, belonging, leadership, and skill-building remains an ongoing need. National 4-H Week provided an opportunity to showcase the impact of 4-H and engage prospective families in meaningful ways.

Green County 4-H implemented a multi-faceted promotional campaign to increase awareness and encourage enrollment. New Green County 4-H banners were installed in each of the county's eight communities, and more than 50 yard signs were distributed to families throughout the county. Media packets were developed for each of the four local newspapers, featuring multiple news releases tailored to individual communities with local photos and club information.

The centerpiece of the campaign was a free 4-H Open House designed for prospective and new families. The event was promoted through social media, a radio interview, and a bilingual brochure distributed to elementary students countywide. Attendees explored hands-on project experiences while learning about 4-H enrollment, clubs, and opportunities. More than 30 current 4-H members and volunteers collaborated to lead 12 interactive project stations representing animals, arts, nature, and mechanical science projects.

These efforts significantly increased the visibility of 4-H throughout Green County and created multiple opportunities for families to learn about the program. The Open House welcomed 35 youth and their parents from nine different communities, providing direct exposure to the diverse experiences available through 4-H. Families were able to interact with current members and volunteers, ask questions, and experience hands-on learning before making enrollment decisions.

The event also provided valuable leadership and service opportunities for current 4-H youth and adult volunteers. By sharing their knowledge and experiences, volunteers served as ambassadors for the program while developing communication, teamwork, and leadership skills. Collectively, these efforts helped strengthen community awareness of 4-H and expand access to positive youth development opportunities, supporting the long-term goal of helping more young people gain the skills, confidence, and connections needed to thrive and contribute to their communities.







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Human Development & Relationships Educator

Bob Wiegel

Financial Coaching- Green County Jail- 10/26

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 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 Also, 71% say that they have increased hope, confidence, or motivation since participating in financial coaching.

Financial Tips for Seniors- HCE- 10/14/26

Data from the FINRA Financial Capability survey shows that 23% of WI residents spent more than their income in the past year. Wisconsinites answered questions on the basic financial literacy quiz correctly just 52% of the time. These lessons are to support educators' ability to meet requests from local partners for one-time financial education classes and to provide educators with a menu of lessons they can proactively suggest to them. Increase and/or maintain partnerships with local organizations through structured, research-based financial education classes that provide just-in-time information on topics like record keeping, saving on groceries, and preventing identity theft. Through these classes, participants improve their ability to make financial decisions, achieve their goals, and effectively manage their money.



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. 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.