



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
IOWA COUNTY

**Extension Iowa County
June/July 2025 Report**

Agriculture

Kim Kester, Regional Livestock Educator

Jackie McCarville, Regional Dairy Educator

Jordyn Sattler, Regional Crops & Soils Educator



The Extension Agriculture Institute is your connection to the latest University of Wisconsin-Madison research. Our five program areas; Agriculture Water Quality, Crops and Soils, Dairy and Livestock, Farm Management, and Horticulture, are here to educate and respond to the needs of the agriculture community while providing resources that promote economic and environmental sustainability in Wisconsin. We apply research to challenges facing communities and businesses.

- A field day for forage growers, dairy producers, agency staff and agriculture consultants where participants learned about ongoing forage research projects, were updated on upcoming technologies, and engaged with Extension specialists and educators on a variety of forage focused topics. The goal of the event was to share relevant data, management recommendations and novel forage technologies to improve forage production on Wisconsin farms.
- Planning for a spreadsheet tool for dairy producers and consultants. The goal is to help producers understand the value of managing inventory and to be able to use the spreadsheet to account for loss and varying qualities of feed, and storage methods so that they can better plan and manage feed inventories. Feed is the largest expense on a dairy farm, accounting for about half of all input costs.
- An in-field presentation for forage producers and associated agronomy professionals where participants observed several different management systems for establishing alfalfa including planting alfalfa into a cereal rye cover crop and learned best management practices for making those systems successful. Through this effort, participants may consider trying new practices that could increase total forage yield in the first year, as well as better protect soil from erosion during a critical time.
- A demonstration for forage producers and related ag professionals where I demonstrated how to use the UW Alfalfa Cutting Tool and explained how it can be used to help make fall harvest decisions and plan full season cutting schedules. Through this activity, participants gained more exposure to the tool and will be more comfortable utilizing it to guide their alfalfa management for minimized risk.
- A webinar, one session part of Badger Dairy Insight, for dairy farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned about updates to Heifer synchronization protocols to promote increased heifer pregnancy rates.
- A field day for farmers, crop consultants, and other supportive industries who are involved in forage production where participants engaged with specialists and current research trials related to carryover herbicide concerns when establishing alfalfa, alfalfa seeding management systems, cover crop allelopathy, weed control options for pastures, and the UW Alfalfa Cutting Tool for fall cutting decisions. Through this effort, participants have more awareness and technical knowledge of management techniques that can improve their forage yield and quality, as well as benefit soil health and conservation.



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- 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. This article talked about grazing dairy cattle and how to prevent heat stress while out on pasture.
- 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.
- A hybrid Foundational Crop Scout training that blends a series of webinar trainings with in person field days for entry-level crop scouts, crop growers and consultants where participants learn the basic skills necessary to scout field crops including corn, soybeans and alfalfa. Through this training series, we will provide "just in time" training to crop scouts as they begin work in the busy growing season.
- A webinar, one session part of Badger Dairy Insight, for dairy farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned about Bovine Leukemia Virus, the impact on profitability and herd health, and how to manage it.
- 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.
- Planning for and managing a trial evaluating different management strategies for new seeding alfalfa. The goal is to better understand how rye can be used as a companion crop for new seeding alfalfa and the impact it would have on preventing soil erosion and first year forage yield. Results will help alfalfa producers compare options and implement practices that will benefit their farm.
- A monthly radio spot for livestock 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.
- An article in the Wisconsin Agriculturist magazine about mineral delivery methods for beef herds that will improve animal performance and profitability.



Jordyn speaking with producers at field day



Bucket pheromone trap containing army worms moths



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Community Development

Barry Hottmann, Community Development Educator



The Extension Institute of Community Development provides educational programming to assist leaders, communities, and organizations realize their fullest potential. We work with communities to build the vitality that enhances their quality of life and enriches the lives of their residents. We educate in leadership development, organizational development, food systems, community economic development, local government education and much more. In short, the Community Development Institute plants and cultivates the seeds for thriving communities and organizations.

- Planning for programming utilizing the First Impressions framework in collaboration with the City of Columbus and the City of Dodgeville. The work will help each community develop a better understanding of what their community looks like through the lens of others, gain perspective of what other communities are doing to make their "first impression", and inspire both communities to engage in actions that will make improvements to their own communities.
- Planning for specific community development programming for towns, villages, and cities in Iowa County in collaboration with county government, regional economic development entities, and many state partners (including UW Extension). The work introduces municipalities to tools, resources, and methods to help guide their decision making, so that their communities will have opportunities for growth and development in the future.
- Planning for an entrepreneurial networking event for new and existing business owners, where attendees connected with their entrepreneurial peers, community leaders and resources, and learned about a new grant program designed to support their ventures. Through this effort, entrepreneurs gained valuable insights, expanded their networks, and accessed critical funding opportunities, driving local innovation and economic development. Would you like me to refine this further or add specific details?

Health and Well-Being

Maggie Milcarek, FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator

Julia Harman, FoodWise Nutrition Educator



The Extension Institute for Health & Well-Being works to catalyze positive change in Wisconsin communities to promote health and well-being. Our research-based programs are focused on food and nutrition security, chronic disease prevention, mental health promotion, substance use prevention, and access to health care. Rooted in both urban and rural communities, we're working together to help solve the state's most pressing well-being needs and to ensure that all Wisconsinites have the opportunity to live stronger, healthier lives.

- An outreach event held in partnership with ADRC Iowa County at the Dodgeville Senior Meal Site. FoodWise staff offered recipes, food safety and nutrition tips and information on shopping using food assistance benefits at Farmers Markets to people receiving Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers. The goal of this effort was to distribute and increase use of the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers; encourage healthy eating habits and promote the purchase of local produce at farmers markets.
- Planning for nutrition education at four food garden sites in the four-county area. Planning for nutrition education at LCIC Food Pantry in Livingston, Family Promise Housing in Monroe, Riverview Apartments in Blanchardville, and Dodgevilla apartments in Dodgeville. The goal of this effort is to provide education and resources about selecting, preparing, storing and preserving fresh fruit and vegetables and encourage people to eat produce from the food gardens.



Information materials distributed at senior meal site



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Positive Youth Development

Dan Brandt, 4-H Youth Development Educator



The Extension Institute of Positive Youth Development prepares the youth of today to become the effective, empathetic adults of tomorrow. Our research-based youth enrichment programs like teens in governance build youth and adult capacity and partnerships that help both sides grow. 4-H clubs, camps and afterschool programs give young people the hands-on experiences they need to develop an understanding of themselves and the world.

- A summer 4-H camp at Upham Woods for youth in grades 3–7, where campers explored nature, developed leadership skills, and formed lasting friendships through hands-on outdoor activities. Through this program, youth-built resilience, teamwork skills, and a sense of belonging in a safe, supportive environment.
- A one-day Cloverbud Day for Iowa County youth in grades K–2, where participants explored farm-themed activities, crafts, and games. Through this experience, young learners developed fine motor skills, confidence in group settings, and a sense of belonging in the 4-H community.
- A 4-H Exploration Day for Iowa County youth, where participants engaged in hands-on learning across a variety of workshops. Through this event, youth gained exposure to new skills, discovered personal interests, and connected with peers in a positive, educational setting.
- In preparation for the 4-H Summer Camp at Upham Woods, our team collaboratively developed a comprehensive camp schedule and coordinated logistics to support a safe, engaging, and educational experience for youth participants. This planning process involved aligning activities with 4-H's positive youth development goals, ensuring smooth operations and meaningful learning opportunities. Our efforts contribute to creating a supportive environment where campers can build life skills, confidence, and lasting connections.
- A training development initiative for youth-serving staff and volunteers, where we created a unified annual training covering Mandated Reporter and Sexual Misconduct & Clery Crimes content. Through this effort, we aim to strengthen awareness, compliance, and youth safety across all programs.
- Planning & Training for 4-H Summer Camp 2025 for Counselors, Chaperones and Youth Attendees in collaboration with Iowa, Waupaca and Portage counties. The goal is to plan the logistics and details of summer camp, prepare and deliver counselor training, develop plans and policies to mitigate risk and to market camp registration so that we can deliver a successful, fun and educational camp experience in June with staff and counselors that are prepared to assist.
- Feeding Friends is a community-based organization in Dodgeville, WI, focused on addressing food insecurity by providing free meals to individuals and families in need. It operates as a volunteer-driven initiative, typically partnering with local churches, businesses, and civic organizations to prepare and serve meals.



2025 Iowa, Portage, and Waupaca Summer Camp



2025 Exploration Day

2025 Cloverbud Day

