



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MARATHON COUNTY

September 2022 Report

*We teach, learn, lead, and serve,
connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with
them in transforming lives and communities.*

4-H – Positive Youth Development

Holly Luerksen, 4-H Program Educator

Jasmine Carbajal, 4-H Associate Educator

Welcome Back Kate! Kate Loucks is our new AmeriCorps Marathon County 4-H Program Assistant. Kate is a sophomore at UW Green Bay and a member of Collegiate 4-H. As a 4-H Program Assistant, she will be providing 4-H programs on the weekends and during vacations. She will also support virtual 4-H programs. Kate will be with us through August 2023.



You may remember Kate as she was one of our 2022 Summer Program Assistants. She enjoyed working with 4-H Camps, traveling with several 4-H experiences, and the Discover 4-H Activity Stations at Fair. We look forward to seeing what new programs Kate will bring to Marathon County 4-H. Please join us in welcoming Kate back to the 4-H/Extension staff.

- 2022-23 Enrollment is currently open for youth members and adult volunteers. Educators are supporting club recruitment by creating interest flyers and banners, providing 4-H merchandise for open houses, and project engagement materials.
- Planning fall educational programs is underway. Programs will feature options for the whole family as well as for select age groups or interest areas.
- Educators are meeting with community partners to understand how we can support community based programs such as after school events, Hmong & Hispanic Network, Marathon City Latinx, and more.
- Club reporting of Annual Financial Reports is underway. 4-H club leaders submit a review of the previous fiscal year's finances. Educators review them. Then, Administrative Assistant completes the reporting process by completing the IRS e-postcard and uploading all documents to the Wisconsin 4-H SharePoint site.
- Onboarding and supporting a new AmeriCorps 4-H Program Assistant who will be focusing on weekend programs, projects in a box, and some in school 4-H programs throughout the school year.
- A bi-weekly email newsletter for 4-H families where they learn about local, state, and national program opportunities and project resources. This effort is designed to increase communication while efficiently utilizing resources.



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Agriculture

Heather Schlessner, Dairy Agent

- Planning for an animal handling program for EMS personnel in collaboration with District 8 Farm Bureau. The goal of this effort is to train EMS personnel how to handle various livestock animals effectively, so that they do not get injured when responding to a call involving Livestock.
- Planning for a survey of QuickBooks users in collaboration with other educators that are part of the North Central Extension Risk Management Education grant. The goal of this effort is to identify what areas of training are needed in QuickBooks, so those producers can have a better financial understanding of their farming operations.
- Planning for an Artificial Insemination course for dairy and beef producers. The goal of this effort is to provide cattle producers with the skills they need to breed cattle so that they can breed their own cattle and are not dependent on breeding companies.
- Planning for bi-annual Midwest Manure Summit for farmers, managers, agronomists, engineers, nutrient management consultants, manure haulers, consultants, and other agri-business professionals. The goal of this effort is to teach individuals the latest, unbiased, university-based research on manure handling technologies, so that they can improve environmental sustainability and increase farm business viability.
- Preparation and submission of a grant to study the success or failure of passive immunity in young calves, specifically comparing the care of replacement dairy heifer calves to their male and crossbred counterparts destined for the beef market.

FoodWise

Mallory McGivern, FoodWise Administrator
Gaonou Thao, FoodWise Educator

Welcome to our new FoodWise Administrator Mallory McGivern. Mallory is serving as the FoodWise Nutrition Administrator for Clark, Marathon, Portage, and Wood Counties. She will work with Area 7 Nutrition Educators and community partners to provide direct education to help to make the healthy choice, the easy choice. She graduated from UW-Stevens Point with a BS in Sociology and has a passion for health, food security and food equity. She is thrilled to join the team!



- Monthly nutrition/food demo series for Hmong women participating in a domestic abuse support group where participants taste new foods and learn healthy ways to prepare them. The purpose of this program is to improve the quality of their families' diet and increase their ability to manage their food resources.
- Monthly nutrition/food demonstration for adults with limited incomes where participants learn to improve the quality of their families' diet and increase their ability to manage their food resources. The goal of the lessons is for participants to increase eating more fruits, vegetables and whole grains and increase their willingness to try or prepare new foods.



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Horticulture

Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator

- An in person horticulture course where Marathon County Master Gardener Volunteer Trainees learn the fundamental principles of IPM based gardening to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments.
- A therapeutic horticulture program (Gaining Ground Garden) for Marathon County residents with court mandated community service hours, where participants learned gardening skills to increase the use of positive self-management practices (self-care and wellbeing activities).
- A class for members of the Mosinee community where participants learned indoor gardening best practices to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments.
- A class for community members aged 55+, where participants learned indoor gardening best practices to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments.
- A presentation for Marathon County Master Gardener Volunteers, where members learned techniques for selecting and saving seeds from their harvest. The goal of this effort was to address environmental contamination and pollution due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments.
- An interactive web based class for novice gardeners with limited resources, where participants learned proper garden sanitation, harvest, and storage techniques. This effort was designed to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments.
- An interactive web based class for novice gardeners with limited resources, where participants learned UW-Madison Extension resources available to Wisconsin gardeners. This effort was designed to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments.
- A social media outreach campaign for consumer gardeners in Wisconsin, where Facebook and Instagram users engaged with Extension resources, including the UW-Madison Extension Horticulture Topic Hub publications and YouTube videos. This effort is designed to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution (due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments).
- Planning for a multi county educational program series for community gardeners. The goal of this effort is to increase gardeners' knowledge, promote best gardening practices and provide university based resources to community gardeners, which improves the health and productivity of their garden plots.



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Upcoming Programs

- 4-H Open Enrollment – Contact Holly Luerssen at holly.luerssen@wisc.edu
- FoodWise Healthy Eating Series – Contact Gaonou Thao at gaonou.thao@wisc.edu
- Fall into Winter Gardening Mini Series - Join the UW-Madison Division of Extension Horticulture Program for the Fall into Winter Gardening series of webinars. Learn how to get your landscape ready for winter, protect young trees from damage, and take care of your festive houseplants. <https://bit.ly/3rdVqly>

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