



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MARATHON COUNTY

January 2023 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

- A series of six afterschool programs for 2nd-5th graders at the Franklin Elementary where they explored STEM topics through hands-on activities. The purpose of this program is to increase teamwork, problem solving and critical thinking skills.
- A series of hands-on activities for youth where they can explore project areas in 4-H in order to practice their skills or to learn something new. The goal is to ensure youth have the opportunities to explore, learn, and connect with people, to learn new skills, and to have a sense of belonging.
- Planning for the new 4-H Flake Out. A reimaged annual project discovery day program for youth, where they will learn and practice new skills. The purpose of this effort is to broaden participants experiences, increase project skills, and encourage youth and adult partnerships.
- A hands-on educational activity where Marathon County youth in 9th grade and older from DC Everest High School learned about the history of tamales cooked and tried sweet tamales in order to increase their cultural awareness and kitchen skills while practicing their Spanish language skills.
- A hands-on educational activity where Marathon County youth in 3rd grade and older learned about the history of tamales and lotería in Mexican culture and they cooked and tried sweet tamales in order to increase their cultural awareness and kitchen skills.
- An interactive educational session where Marathon County 4-H youth in kindergarten through 13th grade learned about painting ceramic ornaments and the glazing process in order to increase and expand their painting knowledge and develop their art spark.
- VIP training for new 4-H volunteers where they learn about Extension, risk management, 4-H policy, and ways to work with youth to become effective, informed, and engaged 4-H volunteers working with 4-H members.
- A monthly publication for families new to 4-H, where youth and adults received regular resources to understand 4-H and the opportunities that exist in order to feel connected to Extension programs and the 4-H community.
- In-person event for youth where they learn about different breeds and disciplines in the horse project using model horses. Youth expand their knowledge on equine performance classes by using model horses that represent specific breeds and performances.

Agriculture

Heather Schlessor, Dairy Agent

- Creating instructional videos for dairy and beef farmers to aid in artificial insemination programs used on their farms. The objectives of the videos are to help visual learners by reinforcing the topics taught during the Artificial Insemination Course that aims to improve success of artificial insemination programs on dairy and beef farms.

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MARATHON COUNTY

January 2023 Report

- Planning farmer biosecurity preparedness with Wisconsin Department of Ag Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) emergency services and animal health officials to improve economic sustainability for dairy and livestock producers following a foreign animal disease event.
- Planning for a dairy/ livestock production meeting for women farmers. The goal of this effort is to educate women farmers on various production methods, so that they can keep their farms profitable or implement new enterprises to keep their farm profitable.
- Planning for a regional summit for agricultural professionals, health care workers, and mental health care workers in collaboration with various community partners depending on the region of the state. The goal of this effort is to bring health care workers, mental health care workers, and agricultural professionals together to discuss resources and potential gaps in providing care to farmers relating to farm stress so that we can identify what gaps exist and how to fill these gaps with resources from across the state.
- A training for emergency response personnel in the Planning for Emergency Livestock Transportation Response (PELTR) course where they learned how to respond to incidents involving livestock trailers. The purpose of this program is to increase the effectiveness of emergency planning and the preparedness of local emergency response agencies.
- A statewide webinar series (Badger Dairy Insight) for dairy farmers, employees, industry representatives promoting the latest research based information.
- Planning for the bi-annual 2023 Midwest Manure Summit conference for farmers, consultants, engineers, and other agribusiness industry professionals. The goal of this effort is to show innovation, research, and solutions in handling dairy manure in an environmentally and financially sustainable manner so that farmers can protect the environment and community.
- 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 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.

FoodWise

Mallory McGivern, FoodWise Administrator
Gaonou Thao, FoodWise Educator

- A 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.
- A 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 their intake of fruits, vegetables and whole grains and increase their willingness to try or prepare new foods.



Horticulture

Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator

- An in person horticulture course where Marathon County Master Gardener Volunteer Trainees learn the fundamental principles of integrated pest management based gardening. The goal of this course is 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 online course for consumer audiences (home gardeners) where participants learned fundamental knowledge of Wisconsin horticulture with an emphasis in Integrated Pest Management. The goal is to increase decision-making and problem-solving skills, improve the productivity / health of gardens and landscapes, and to implement gardening practices that have a positive impact on the environment.
- 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.

Natural Resources

Kris Tiles, NRI Program Manager

- An evaluation of a DNR Non-point source grant funded program in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources, which is intended to inform DNR on how the grant program could be improved through changes in grantee interactions with grant program staff and resources, and potential structural changes.

Upcoming Programs

- 4-H Programming – Information at marathon.extension.wisc.edu/projects/programs/
- Strong Bodies – Virtual Strong Bodies Winter 2023 Session – register at <https://go.wisc.edu/Onik0z>
- FoodWise Healthy Eating Series – Contact Gaonou Thao at gaonou.thao@wisc.edu



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MARATHON COUNTY

January 2023 Report

Jeremy Solin
Area Extension Director

Janell Wehr
Horticulture Educator

Kathy Johnson
*Administrative
Assistant*

Heather Schlessler
Dairy Agent

Mallory McGivern
FoodWise Administrator

Holly Luerssen
4-H Program Educator

Gaonou Thao
FoodWise Educator

Jasmine Carbajal
4-H Associate Educator

Kris Tiles
NRI Program Manager