



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MARATHON COUNTY



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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UW-MADISON EXTENSION

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES *with* THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Agriculture & Horticulture »

Our network of researchers, outreach specialists, and local educators are on the leading edge of creating practical solutions for livestock and crop production in addition to farm and labor management. We provide customized guidance, business planning assistance, and industry knowledge for what today's agricultural operators are facing.

Community & Economic Development »

Businesses, governments, and organizations succeed through development from Extension educators and specialists. We provide education for elected officials to understand their roles and responsibilities in helping communities thrive. We offer businesses the direct technical assistance and connection to support structures they need to help them succeed. Our rural entrepreneurship program identifies ways for businesses to overcome challenges and take advantage of unique opportunities.

Health & Well-Being »

We're supporting positive change for families through physical and mental health programs in addition to structural improvements needed to make the healthy choice the easy choice. Our physical fitness classes and mental health training equips people with the tools they need to lead healthy, active lives. We provide public health resources and tools for community action. We provide guidance on systems changes for food security and food access.

Families & Finances »

Reinforcing family connections, financial knowledge, and strong relationships is at the heart of Extension's programming. We support learning and emotional bonding by building literacy skills in justice-involved families. We guide community and individual development across lifespans. We teach financial security through rent planning and budget management.

Natural Resources & Conservation »

We work at the crossroads of communities, natural resources, and agriculture to protect our environmental assets and guide resource management. We support individual and regional water-well testing along with education to address safe drinking water. We educate farmers, businesses, and communities on safe practices to ensure access to plentiful, sustainably managed sources of food, water, and energy.

Positive Youth Development & 4-H »

Community-led 4-H programs deliver quality activities and leadership opportunities that are leading to engaged, energized, and informed young people across the state. 4-H is a movement — in Wisconsin, 98% of our 4-H members are inspired to make positive changes in their communities. They're developing leadership skills, building connections, and finding what topics spark their interest.



Horticulture

Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator



Therapeutic Horticulture

The mental health crisis refers to the widespread burden of mental health problems and disorders that affect people, families, and communities around the world. These issues can significantly impact quality of life and lead to negative outcomes such as social isolation, difficulties functioning at work or school, and even an increased risk of premature death. There are various factors contributing to the crisis, including stigma surrounding mental illness, inadequate access to mental health care and support, and a lack of awareness about the importance of mental health and available resources. The COVID-19 pandemic has also exacerbated the mental health crisis, causing increased stress, anxiety, and other mental health problems for many people due to disruptions in daily life. Therapeutic gardening involves using gardening and plant-based activities as a form of treatment or rehabilitation for those with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities or challenges. Research shows that therapeutic gardening can improve mental health and well-being, reduce stress and anxiety, and provide a sense of purpose and accomplishment. It can also offer social support and opportunities for social interaction and connection with others. By providing access to therapeutic gardening programs, communities can address the mental health crisis and support individuals struggling with mental health issues.

Lifelong learning is beneficial for Marathon County's aging population because it supports overall cognitive function, sense of accomplishment and personal growth, positive social engagement that combats social isolation that is common in older adults and develops technology skills.



BY THE NUMBERS

Public Outreach Programs

- 150+ participants
- 20+ programs

Service Hours

- 240 hours reported to ATTIC Services by Gaining Grounds participants

Media Outreach

- 102 Posts
- 1,037,221 People Reached
- 10,772 Engagements
- 13,365 New Visits to Website

Outreach Partnerships

- The Landing
- ATTIC Correctional Services
- Learning is ForEver – UWSP
- Mosinee Community Education
- Marathon County Public Library
- Marathon County 4-H
- DNR



Horticulture

Therapeutic Gardening Program

Gaining Ground Garden is a therapeutic horticulture program that serves justice-involved individuals with court mandated community service hours and individuals within the drug court program. Participants gained basic horticulture skills that can translate into green industry vocations, while working through the UW-Madison Extension Health and Well-being Institute Behavioral Health Program curriculum, Highlights of Taking Care of You (adapted for justice involved audiences). The HTCY curriculum introduced participants to emotional regulation skills which they practiced while working in the gardens.



Participants shared that they were able to use these skills in difficult situations outside of Gaining Ground program time, in particular, responding rather than reacting during group therapy discussions. One participant shared how he looked

forward to caring for plants. "It's going to give me something to look forward to. Knowing that it's growing because I'm taking care of it. I'm going to remember my hands patting down the soil. It's going to give me something to think about, help me keep my mind off other things."

Projects in the 2022 growing season included maintaining the Extension Teaching Garden at 212 River Drive. The Gaining Ground crew also worked at the women's sober living home at 1311 3rd St, adding raised beds for vegetables, strawberries, and raspberries, a perennial herb garden, and improving the perennial beds in the landscape. Beds were also added to the ATTIC Services facilities for cut flower production in 2023. Participants reported 240 hours of community service through the Gaining Ground program in 2022.







Horticulture

Outreach Collaborations


Marathon County is facing environmental challenges including pollinator decline and environmental contamination & pollution due to overuse of horticulture chemicals. Proper pest management techniques can lead to less fertilizer and pesticide use leading to reduced likelihood for environmental contamination and pollution.

Public Outreach

 **Romaine Calm and Garden On** was a 12-session gardening series, designed to give beginning gardeners on a budget the skills they need to successfully grow fresh vegetables. Experienced gardeners also gained new perspectives to add to their toolkit of knowledge. This program was hosted by the Marathon County Library - Wausau Branch. 157 participants over 24 classes.

 **Mosinee Community Education** - Monthly evening programs to support environmental stewardship and community engagement. September-December.

 **Longfellow Neighborhood** - talk on sustainable lawns.

 **Answering Horticulture Inquiries** - using IPM framework which emphasize reducing chemical applications to when only necessary and general plant health.

- Coordinate Marathon County Diagnostic Team, composed of Master Gardener Volunteers. Support the volunteers through selection, orientation, training.
- Participated in the Wisconsin Horticulture Update, a series of weekly meetings for Master Gardener Volunteers to connect with county-based educators and state specialists to help ensure research-based guidance is provided to residents with gardening questions.
- At least 80 inquiries from Marathon County residents in 2022.
- Taught 12 week in person introductory horticulture course to potential Marathon County Master Gardener Volunteers. 7 participants.







Horticulture

Media Outreach

-  Media outreach through interviews for WAOW, Wausau City Pages, WPR Garden Talk with Larry Meillor, and WDLB in Marshfield.
-  The state level Social Media Team works together to provide timely and relevant information to gardeners through engaging and educational social media posts, using the Extension Horticulture Facebook and Instagram channels. The team also evaluates this effort using data from Meta and Google Analytics. Over the course of 2022, 102 posts were made to Facebook and Instagram to educate the public about timely and relevant horticulture topics throughout the year. Posts include educational information and links to articles on the Horticulture Topic Hub and upcoming events such as statewide webinars, classes, and activities (i.e., Pollinator Week).
-  Overall, from Facebook Meta Analytics, Facebook posts on the Extension Horticulture page reached 1,037,221 people with 10,772 engagements (combined total of link clicks, shares and comments). This is a significant increase from the previous year where there was little activity on the Extension Horticulture Facebook page. The majority of Facebook posts directed people to the Extension Horticulture Topic Hub website. Additionally, posts may direct people to other university-based information. Using Google Analytics for the Horticulture Topic Hub website, we had 15,696 users on the website from Facebook posts and activities and acquired 13,365 new users on the website.

Youth Outreach

-  Marathon County 4-H summer day camp for K-3. Marathon County youth in grades K-3 participated in a day camp and engaged in hands-on activities to learn about pollinators and the importance of them in our everyday lives.
-  Marathon County 4-H winter day camp. Youth engaged in African violet propagation workshops.



Health & Well-Being

Mallory McGivern, FoodWise Administrator



Healthy Choices, Healthy Lives

FoodWise is federally funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). We advance healthy eating habits, active lifestyles, and healthy community environments for Wisconsin residents with limited incomes through nutrition education at the individual, community, and systems levels.

Community Impacts



Delivered nutrition education to 574 learners in a variety of settings (early care and education centers, K-12 school settings, food pantries, etc..).



“Share the Harvest” partnership with the Wausau Farmers Market gleaned over 4,000lbs of produce to be donated to local food pantries and residents at Riverview Towers subsidized housing.



FoodWise team volunteered with Marathon County Hunger Coalition members to harvest carrots donated from Red Door Family Farm. Over 1,000 lbs. of carrots were donated to The Neighbors' Place.



BY THE NUMBERS

38% of the population lives in census tracts that are low income & have low access to healthy foods.

32% of adults have obesity.

9% of individuals are food insecure.

19% of households receive SNAP benefits.






Health & Well-Being

Farmers Market Access


The Central Wisconsin farmers market promotion workgroup has completed the first year of research at 6 different Farmers Markets in Central Wisconsin, including Wausau, Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids, Marshfield, Waupaca and Rome. This \$200K, 2-year planning grant is engaged in researching and developing business plans that will support FoodShare/EBT access and improve both farmers profits and improve access for limited-resource audiences. The grant also hired a full-time Farmers Market Regional Coordinator as well as paid local interns from UWSP and UW-Madison to engage in research.

Culture and Nutrition

Gaonou Thao is a Nutrition Educator in Marathon County and teaches in a variety of settings in her community. In 2022, Gaonou worked to reach Hmong audiences with culturally relevant nutrition education surrounding whole grain options.

 Many Hmong households utilize white rice at mealtime, so Gaonou held many educational events about whole grains to follow MyPlate's recommendations of consuming half of your daily grains as whole grains.

 Community partners included the Hmong American Center, CAP Services, ADRC, the Women's Community and the Marathon County Hunger Coalition.

 After tasting different varieties of whole grains, such as quinoa, many participants stated that they were interested in swapping it with white rice in their meals to increase their intake of whole grains.





Agriculture

Heather Schlessner, Dairy Educator



Agriculture in Wisconsin

Wisconsin is home to 1.27 million cows. The dairy industry contributes \$45.6 billion annually to Wisconsin's economy. The feed mills, dairy equipment manufacturers and technicians, veterinarians, construction companies, genetics companies, milk haulers, dairy plants, and dairy software companies create a wave of economic impact that rolls across the entire state.

Dairying remains paramount to the success of agriculture in Wisconsin. Wisconsin's nearly 6,500 dairy operations ([DATCP](#)) housing 1.28 million dairy cows ([DATCP](#)) produce 30.73 billion pounds of milk annually ([WI Agriculture Statistics Service](#), 2020). A report from Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin shows milk production creates 154,000 jobs and \$1.26 billion in state and local taxes are generated.

The report titled "[The Contribution of Agriculture to the Wisconsin Economy](#)" is based on the most recent data available (2017) and updates research conducted every five years by UW—Madison under the direction of Professor Steven Deller at the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics and Extension's Center for Community Economic Development. Total agricultural economic impact grew from \$88.3 billion to \$104.8 billion with dairy's impact growing to \$45.6 billion. The report reflects the importance of dairy in Wisconsin providing jobs and tax revenue to improve infrastructure such as roads, schools, and other public services.

"It is clear that agriculture - and particularly dairy - plays a critical role in Wisconsin's economy," says Deller, adding, "To put this in perspective, dairy's economic impact is twice that of another key growing industry, Wisconsin tourism. It also shows dairy is Wisconsin's signature industry and is central to our state's identity."

Dairy endured a five-year recession from 2015 to 2020, followed by two years of recovery/expected recovery. According to Mark Stephenson, UW-Madison Division of Extension, Director of Dairy Policy Analysis, [inflation in the dairy industry](#) has significantly increased input prices of virtually every aspect of the dairy, especially feed production. Milk prices are projected to be strong, however inputs will remain a focus of dairy farm viability.

The dairy industry is a dynamic industry, with new technologies and practices continuously being developed, allowing farmers to manage income and expenses with an ever-changing market. Dairy farmers face serious challenges to remain competitive, while maintaining farm economic viability, through productivity and efficiency, and environmental sustainability, while prioritizing wellbeing/welfare and food safety.

BY THE NUMBERS

Private Pesticide Applicator Training

85 attendees

Dairy and Beef Wellbeing Virtual Conference

16 attendees

Artificial Insemination

21 attendees

Planning Emergency Livestock Transportation Response (PELTR)

21 attendees

Badger Dairy Insights Virtual

398 attendees





Agriculture

Planning Emergency Livestock Transportation Response (PELTR) Training

The purpose of this training is to increase the effectiveness of emergency planning and the preparedness of local emergency response agencies. Heather Schlessor worked with a team of extension educators to conduct three PELTR trainings around the state in 2022. 21 emergency

responders enrolled in the program and participated in two tabletop roadside incident exercises, and a walk-through and discussion of a multi-deck livestock trailer that is pulled by a semi-tractor. The post-training self-reported evaluation results were based on the 5-point Likert scale. The after session evaluation indicated a positive 1.35-point average change in the participants understanding of the topics discussed. The highest average change was 1.53 points, (2.55 before/4.07 after) occurring in their increased knowledge about how the design of livestock trailers may impact livestock extrication from a wrecked trailer. Take home messages from the participants include, "I had no idea trailers could be segmented even for cattle or hogs. From outside, I had seen the levels but never made a 'floor plan' so seeing the options was extremely eye opening."



Along with the PELTR courses held this year Heather Schlessor partnered with the District 8 Farm Bureau to offer a training to thirteen Emergency Medical Personnel to learn about basic animal behaviors and how to handle livestock in an emergencies. Participants learned how to corral loose cattle back to a holding pen. Practice moving cattle allows them to know how to react to emergency situations involving cattle. The post-training self-reported evaluation results were based on the 5-point Likert scale. The after session evaluation indicated a positive 1.25-point average change in the participants understanding of the topics discussed. The highest average change was 1.82 points, (1.45 before/3.27 after) occurring in their increased knowledge about how to handle swine. Take home messages from participants included, "the line of site for hogs is very low." "Although an emergency like this can arise, slow things down and remain calm with animals. Scene can be chaotic, and it is pivotal to work with farmers and handler to safely and quickly resolve the emergency together."

Farm Stress

Statewide Farm Stress Summit for agricultural professionals, health care workers, and mental health care workers. The goal of the Summit was to bring Community Partners together that are working with health care providers and Farmers 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. This effort resulted in the creation of a [statewide resource map](#).





Reproductive Management

Over the past two decades, a reproduction revolution has occurred in the dairy industry that has led to dramatic increases in reproductive performance in high-producing cows including fertility programs and the high fertility of the cow. A consequence of increased reproductive performance was a concurrent increase in replacement heifer inventories which drove down replacement heifer values. Due to this increase in heifer inventory and a decrease in their subsequent value, producers have turned to breeding low producing cows to beef semen (creating beef x dairy crosses which have more value as meat animals). Beef semen has increased from 4% usage in 2017 to up to 27% in 2020 (P. Fricke, AgSource Data 2020). Beef semen sold to U.S. dairy farmers is up 21% over last year's 7.2 million units (Geiger, 2022, Hoards Dairyman Intel). These beef x dairy crossbred animals create a challenge for the finisher because of their phenotypic variability. To determine if there are phenotypic markers that can be utilized in 120 day old calves to predict future "beefiness", Heather Schlessler assisted with data collection of 91 animals on three farms.

Heather Schlessler worked with Taylor County Extension educator to teach the Artificial Insemination program as a hybrid course for convenience of the participants and to mitigate COVID concerns by limiting in-person contact time. Four hours of classroom time were taught over ZOOM for two evening sessions. Five hours of in-person activities were taught during two half-day sessions. Twenty-one individuals earned their certificate of completion while using the curriculum that is available in both English and Spanish. An 11% increase between Pre- and Post-tests of the material indicates successful student learning. Participants rated the value of the topics as 4.45 out of a possible 5 points. Written comments about the course included: "This class is great; worth every penny!"

Heather was selected to present about the Wisconsin based AI program at the October Chad Reid National Association of County Agricultural Agents Western Regional Professional Improvement Conference in Tucson, AZ. Heather discussed the impacts of the Wisconsin based artificial insemination program and shared how other educators could replicate the program in their state.

Heather has worked on creating instructional videos for dairy and beef farmers to aid in their artificial insemination programs. Videos completed in 2022 include, [reproductive anatomy of a dairy cow](#) and [pregnancy detection using calf bumping](#).





Agriculture

Additional Efforts in 2022



National Association of County Agricultural Agents conference was for Extension educators across the United States. Heather Schlessler and a colleague presented their bovine artificial insemination programming at the October 2022 Chad Reid National Association of County Agriculture Agents (NACAA) Western Regional Professional Improvement Conference in Tucson, AZ. Sixty-seven registered educators from 14 states participated in the conference and received the information about our WI program for teaching bovine artificial insemination. Educators discussed our program and compared ours to their artificial insemination programs, noting the similarities and differences. This feedback provides potential improvements for our course to improve breeding efforts for our Wisconsin producers. We both gained experience with presenting to a national audience of our peers.



Extension Central News is a newsletter for farmers and agribusiness professionals. Heather regularly contributes to this publication. Articles are focused on Dairy, Livestock, Crops and Soil, and Farm Management. The purpose of this effort is to work collaboratively to provide timely education for improving agricultural production with multiple county farmers and stakeholders. Each issue of Extension Central News reaches 4,152 county stakeholders. The newsletter is sent out quarterly.



Badger Dairy Insights is an online meeting series for farmers and dairy industry professionals. Participants learn the latest research and applications regarding: Calf care, Dairy Data Projects, Silage quality, the ins and outs of Cocktail Forage mixes for dairy rations, Managing heifer maturity pre and post breeding, and the randomness of reproduction. The goal of this effort was to increase knowledge of the latest UW-Madison research, and how farmers can implement changes to management practices. This effort reached 398 people across the state of Wisconsin.





Natural Resources

Kris Tiles, Natural Resources Program Manager



Farm Profitability Conference

Natural Resources (NRE) organized the second Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo, to encourage profitable farming by building resiliency, diversifying farming operations, reducing inputs and increasing farmers' return on investment. The event was provided as a series of in-depth webinar topics. Overall, five topics were presented and the YouTube videos have over 1,800 views. <https://www.youtube.com/@centralwifarmprofitability9483>

Agronomist-Focused Regenerative Agricultural Workshop

The community-led watershed group, EPPIC (Eau Pleine Partnership for Integrated Conservation), conducts educational programming about agricultural Best Management Practices as part of their overall mission to improve water resources in the Big Eau Pleine. Extension assists with program planning and provides resources as needed. This was the first time addressing an agronomist audience. Sharing this information with EPPIC board members and partnering educators will increase the understanding of this audience's educational needs and will assist future program planning directed toward this audience.



Fenwood Creek Community Agricultural/Natural Resources Needs Assessment Survey

This project engaged a needs assessment survey for communities within Fenwood Creek Watershed in collaboration with Marathon County Conservation Planning and Zoning, EPPIC, U-W Stevens Point Wausau Campus, and UniverCity. Extension served as an advisor for survey development, dissemination, and data collection/analysis. This data will be utilized to guide future programming around conservation Best Management Practices.

BY THE NUMBERS

Farm Profitability Conference

5 topics—over 1,800 views on YouTube

Learn About Your Land (LAYL)

15 classes—262 attendees

1060 people receive monthly e-newsletter

856 followers on Facebook

741 followers on Instagram





Natural Resources

Learn About Your Land Classes for Woodland Owners









15 individual classes were held in conjunction with 6 counties around the state. 262 individuals attended these classes, which occurred virtually and in-person. Eighty-one percent of attendees reported that they had not attended an educational event about their woodlands in the past 5 years. In cooperation with DNR, all attendees were referred for a free walk-through and stewardship plan with a forester. Additional support for LAYL attendees included monthly blog posts, bi-weekly Facebook posts, and a monthly e-newsletter. 1060 people receive the newsletter (with a 51% open rate), and 856 people follow the Facebook page. Additionally, we are building engagement on Instagram (741 followers) and Twitter.

<http://www.woodlandinfo.org/>

Your Land, Your Legacy- Our first asynchronous succession planning class for woodland owners occurred in spring of 2022 with 14 participants representing 7 properties piloting the Canvas course. Evaluations are in progress and will be used to inform class changes, with a second cohort starting in 2023.



Additional Efforts in 2022

-  NREs built capacity of producer-led groups to improve water quality in key watersheds.
-  NREs conducted outreach events for producers and other agriculture professionals that encouraged use of conservation practices to build soil health and improve water quality.
-  NREs created a maple syrup program to support growth of syrup producers and sustainable management of maple in the state.
-  NREs facilitated sessions at the statewide 2022 Producer-led Conference where groups regionally shared their successes and challenges in order to learn from each other.
-  An NRE participated in the planning and evaluation of the Cover Crop Conference.
-  Radio presentations on Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids stations about various conservation practices, resiliency in agricultural systems, and aquatic ecosystems.
-  A Wisconsin River clean-up event for Marathon County high schoolers, where Extension and other natural resource organizations provided water-focused, interactive learning stations to increase understanding of water resource concerns among members of the audience.
-  Planning for soil health events for South Central and North Central Region farmers and conservation staff in collaboration with The Farmers of Mill Creek, Farmers for Tomorrow, Central Wisconsin Farmers Collaborative, Eau Pleine Partnership for Integrated Conservation, Sauk Soil and Water Improvement Group, the Farmers of Lemonweir Valley, Producers of Lake Redstone, Farmers of the Roche-A-Cri, and the Lake Wisconsin Farmer Watershed Council. This effort resulted in handouts outlining producer-led group details and cost-share information.



Wisconsin 4-H

Holly Luerssen, 4-H Educator

Jasmine Carbajal, 4-H Educator



Multi-Cultural Education



Day of the Dead: A multi-organizational partnership was created between Hawthorn Hills Elementary School, Hmong Hispanic Communication Network, and Extension Marathon County to celebrate the holiday Day of the Dead during the school's monthly family night. Extension played a critical role not only with the promotional booth they set up, but also by contributing to the educational sessions. Marathon County 4-H contributed three interactive and fun stations to the event: a presentation that focused on the history of Day of the Dead and key components of the holiday, hands-on sugar skull painting, and the making of marigold flowers with tissue paper and pipe cleaners. The Extension booth had an interactive wheel where participants won a prize and learned about the various programs in Extension. The event was able to help with exposure of our services, and recruit future 4-H families in Marathon County. A total of 140 marathon county families attended and participated in the event.

Educational Partnerships



4-H Foodie was held on October 18th, 2022, in partnership with Edgar High School's Family and Consumer Science teacher, Mrs. Federwitz. Youth learned about the importance of reading a recipe, basic knife skills when cutting vegetables, and used naan bread to make a chicken flatbread. 4-H Foodie is a space that helps youth in Marathon County in 3rd grade and up build confidence when cooking in the kitchen and allows them to try new foods. Participants also learn to work in a team and meet new youth around them. 70% of youth on Oct. 18th reported meeting someone new at the session. One student stated that their favorite thing about the event was "making a new friend". Some other quotes related to the participant's favorite part of the class include: "My favorite thing was learning about a new type of bread...", "The ability to make it yourself", and "Making the food". This type of program also helps the Marathon County 4-H program with recruitment as the 4-H associate educator, Jasmine, received an email the next day from a parent that saw the pictures on social media and wondered how her own youth can join 4-H and participate in future 4-H programs.

BY THE NUMBERS

Membership

Participation in Marathon County 4th Largest Program in Wisconsin

~ 787 Youth Members

~ 238 Adult Volunteers

Top Projects

- Photography
- Foods and Nutrition
- Expressive Arts
- Cake Decorating
- Dairy
- Swine
- Rabbits
- Lego
- Woodworking
- Vegetables

Youth By Residence


- Towns Under 10,000 - 427
- Farm - 218
- Towns & Cities and Suburbs (10-50,00) - 97
- Suburbs & Cities over 50,000 - 25







Wisconsin 4-H

Local 4-H Programming

 **4-H Discovery Stations at the Wisconsin Valley Fair** was held on August 2-7, 2023. The 4-H Educators and 4-H Program Assistants provided 3-4 activity stations held 3 times each day to expose fair visitors to 4-H programs. Stations rotated so youth who came back each time had a different experience. Hands-on programs included string art, exploring geodes, making homemade butter, recognizing animal scat, learning about breeds of rabbits, and more. Over 700 youth participated in the Discovery Stations.

 **AmeriCorps 4-H Program Assistants** provided important programming in nontraditional ways over the last year. Our partnership with AmeriCorps has helped to provide additional programs which ignited a spark during the summer and fall of 2022. In turn the 4-H Educators provide professional development for the assistants which include diversity & inclusion, leadership, building safe spaces, curriculum building, and work-life balance.

- During the summer of 2022, three college students made 1200 connections through programs at Grow Great Minds Summer School Enrichment sites. Additionally, they held a Kids Summer Day camp attended by 31 5K-3rd grade youth and other 4-H programs. Each Summer Program Assistant provided 450 hours of service.
- During the fall and early winter of 2022, one college student created multiple educational connections through 4-H programs like Clover KaBoom, multiple 4-H Foodie classes, the day long 4-H Flake Out camp, and representing 4-H at After School programs. This AmeriCorps 4-H Program assistant will fill 1200 hours of service before August 12, 2023.

 **4-H Flake Out** day camp was held over winter break for youth in 5K-7th grade. The day-long program included 5 morning sessions and 4 afternoon sessions. Youth rotate to each hands-on session focused on a variety of programs from propagating African violets to making charcuterie boards to learning how to show model horses. Each participant participated in a service learning project making dog toys for the local humane society out of old t-shirts. Thirty youth attended the event. 81% of youth noted they learned something new. One youth noted he liked all the stations because he learned something new at every station. Another liking the Mystery Challenge event because she noted it hurt her brain.





Wisconsin 4-H

2022



Marathon County 4-H Measured

Program Quality Overall Score

Each component of the model was assessed on a scale of 1-7, 7 meaning outstanding program quality. Scores between 4.9 - 6.1 represents a high-quality program.



5.8



Marathon County 4-H Measured

Youth Sparks

The Youth Sparks outcome measures how 4-H community club programs give youth opportunities to explore topics they are interested in learning about, passionate about, and engaged with, like 4-H projects.

Each component of the model was assessed on a scale of 1-7, 7 meaning outstanding program quality.



5.3



Marathon County 4-H Measured

Challenging Growth

The Challenging Growth outcome assesses the extent to which adults in the 4-H program help youth to see new possibilities, push them to reach higher, and hold them accountable.

Each component of the model was assessed on a scale of 1-7, 7 meaning outstanding program quality.



5.8





Wisconsin 4-H

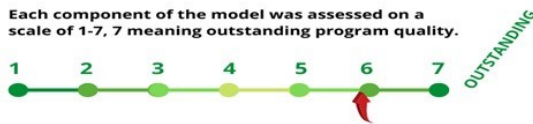


Marathon County 4-H Measured

Youth Belonging

This outcome evaluates how safe, welcomed, and supported youth feel in 4-H programs.

Each component of the model was assessed on a scale of 1-7, 7 meaning outstanding program quality.



5.9

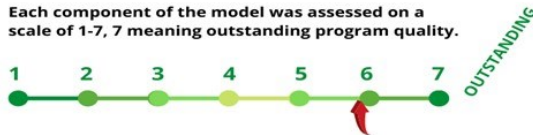


Marathon County 4-H Measured

Caring Adults

This outcome illustrates how youth feel the adults in their 4-H programs care about them and invest time in their 4-H experiences.

Each component of the model was assessed on a scale of 1-7, 7 meaning outstanding program quality.



5.9

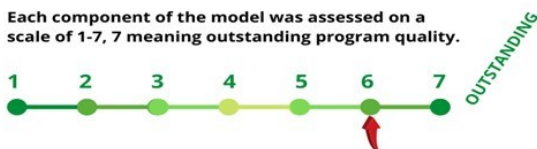


Marathon County 4-H Measured

Youth-Adult Partnerships

This outcome calculates how youth feel about adult volunteers working with them and if they feel respected, listened to, and have their ideas taken seriously.

Each component of the model was assessed on a scale of 1-7, 7 meaning outstanding program quality.



6.0





Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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