



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MARATHON COUNTY

July 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 Luerssen, 4-H Program Educator

Jasmine Carbajal, 4-H Associate Educator

- A hands-on educational activity where the goal was to gather youth in Marathon County to teach them about different rockets and participants also made straw rockets.
- A hands-on educational session in Marathon County for youth interested in learning about 4-H and exploring their sparks. The goal was for participants to explore their creativity through painting a small canvas and learn to make art with food.
- A travel experience (Discover WI) for 4H youth and adult advisors where they learned about Wisconsin's rich cultural and historical leadership as they traveled to Southeastern Wisconsin. Additionally, youth grew skills in independence, voice, and flexibility.
- Partnership with North Central Community Action Program and the Marathon County 4-H Leaders Federation to create a 4-H Program Assistant for 4-H programs. Two 4-H Program Assistants will provide a variety of programs through Growing Great Minds, Marathon County Library, summer camps, travel experiences, and traditional 4-H. The purpose of this effort is to improve program effectiveness and community outreach in the Marathon County 4-H program.
- Partnership with MCHS Public Health AmeriCorps Community Corps program and the Marathon County 4-H Leaders Federation to create a 4-H Program Assistant for 4-H programs. 4-H Program Assistants will provide a variety of programs through Growing Great Minds, Marathon County Library, and traditional 4-H. The purpose of this effort is to improve program effectiveness in the Marathon County 4-H program.



Agriculture

Heather Schlessor, Dairy Agent

- A research-based educational article for dairy farmers and agri-business professionals, where participants will learn about handling reproductive hormones and injection placement. The goal of this effort is to increase knowledge of best practices for worker safety, and injection placement according to quality assurance guidelines.
- A research-based educational article for dairy and beef farmers and agri-business professionals, where participants will learn about the different methods and timing for determining pregnancy status in cattle.

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The goal of this effort is to increase knowledge of the different options available, and the importance of implementing at least one method into their herd management.

- Planning for development of factsheets/articles, longer publications, and videos on nutrition, genetics, & reproduction topics. The goal of this effort is to increase farmer, nutritionist, veterinarian, and other agribusiness professionals understanding of management of these topics to help improve farm sustainability and economic viability.

FoodWise

Mallory McGivern, FoodWise Administrator

Michelle Van Krey, Healthy Communities Coordinator

- Shared leadership in the Marathon County Hunger Coalition, where emphasis is placed on expanding healthy food access and developing new projects and partnerships that will empower Marathon County families through education and shared resources. The coalition's goal is to increase access to healthy foods in order to achieve health equity for all county residents.
- FoodWise team visited the Community Partners Campus to better understand community needs and services provided by the nonprofit campus, as well as collaboration opportunities for direct education and policy, systems, and environmental changes.



Horticulture

Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator

- A community of practice for horticulture educators where we explore strategies and resources to expand horticulture education and outreach to underrepresented audiences. The goal of participating in this group is to dig into ways we can locally continue to grow and enhance our horticulture programs to reach more diverse audiences.
- Planning for the creation of a repository of existing horticultural resources in multiple languages for home/community gardeners of all abilities. The goal of this effort is to make this repository accessible on the Horticulture Topic Hub.
- Developing informal learning communities utilizing the Horticulture Program's social media for all Wisconsin gardeners, including underserved populations. The goal of this effort is to provide accurate, practical and up-to-date information to the public primarily through the topic hub in order to bolster educational outreach efforts in support of addressing the Horticulture Program objectives.



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Natural Resources

Kris Tiles, NRI Program Manager

Anna James, Regional Natural Resources Educator

- A Participation in the advisory panel of a local producer-led watershed group for farmers, conservationists, and community members of the Big Eau Pleine watershed, by assisting with planning and facilitating activities geared toward increasing the awareness and adoption of conservation and ultimately water quality of the Big Eau Pleine and Wisconsin River watersheds.
- A regional gathering for producer members and collaborators of producer-led watershed protection groups in the North Central Region, where participants get to connect, collaborate, and have candid conversations about being in a producer-led watershed group. The goal of the gathering is to strengthen relationships between groups, identify regional conservation concerns, and discuss the desires of each group.

Additional Extension Outreach Programming Occurring in Marathon County

- Participating on the steering team of a collaborative of local farmers and agricultural professionals called a "learning hub," based in a specific geography referred to as the Cloverbelt, focused on increasing grass-based agriculture in the region mainly by the implementation of grazing dairy heifers.
- Participated in pasture walks held in various locations around the state through the 2022 growing season. The goal of these events is to highlight specific methods and solutions that farmers can implement to improve their success in grazing.
- Coordinate the Grazing Management Team at the Marshfield Agricultural Research Station. The goal is to facilitate monthly meetings to make sure all research station staff and scientists are working toward the same goals, and to ensure success of the grazing program at the station.
- Planning for a small ruminant management program for goat producers, typically members of plain faith communities so that they may improve their production practices, profitability and sustainability of their goat management programs.



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Upcoming Programs

- **4-H Programming** – Information at marathon.extension.wisc.edu/projects/programs/
- **StrongBodies** – StrongBodies Summer 2023 Session – Register at <https://go.wisc.edu/12rqa3>
- **Horticultural Programs** – Information at <https://marathon.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/programs/>

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