



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
MARATHON COUNTY



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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# Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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# Horticulture

Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator

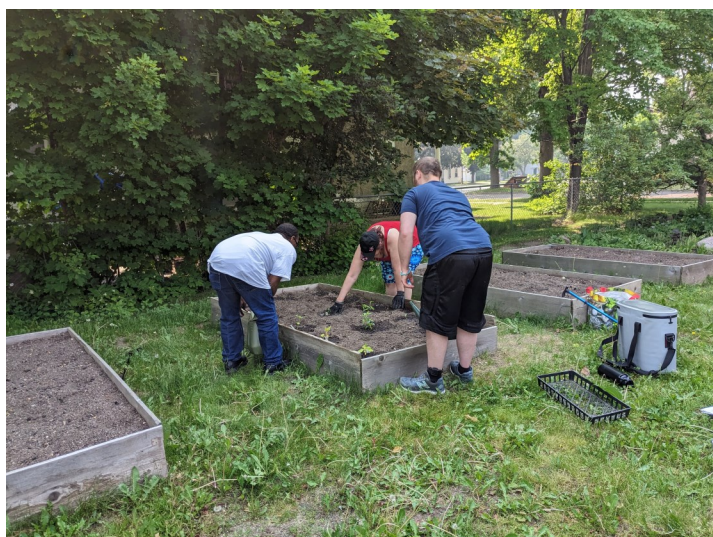


## Responding to Pollinator Decline and Pollution Due to Pesticide and Fertilizer Misuse

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

Marathon County residents have come to rely on their local Extension office to answer horticulture related diagnostic questions with research based answers in a timely manner. Questions come into the office either directly through phone calls, direct emails to Janell Wehr, horticulture educator ([janell.wehr@wisc.edu](mailto:janell.wehr@wisc.edu)), or the [UW-Madison Horticulture Program website](#). Inquiries also are processed through the Marathon County Master Gardeners, either directly via email or at one of the many events they attend (farmers markets, plant sales, and the Wisconsin Valley Fair). Support for the Master Gardeners includes identification and selection of volunteers, training and orientation to diagnostics, as well as providing continuous support to the volunteers.

By providing research based answers to gardening questions, residents see reduced time and money spent on efforts either have no impact, or worse, negative impacts in their lawns and gardens and the larger environment.



## BY THE NUMBERS

### Public Outreach

- 65 Programs

### Media Outreach

- 119 Posts
- 23,536 Engagements
- 3,849 New Visits to Website

### Outreach Partnerships

- Woodson YMCA–The Landing and Mosinee Aquatic Center
- ATTIC Correctional Services
- UWSP–Continuing Education
- Mosinee Community Education
- Marathon County Public Library–Wausau and Hatley Branches
- Marathon County 4-H
- The Women’s Community
- Wausau Funeral Care
- ADRC and Hmong American Center
- North Central Wisconsin Master Gardener Association
- NTC



# Horticulture

## Sowing Success

Sowing Success is a 12 week introductory course in horticulture. The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) course teaches participants how to link gardening practices and biology to prevent plant problems. Students learn how to select, grow, and maintain the health of plants, including lawns, woody and herbaceous ornamentals, fruits, and vegetables. Students learn how to apply the principles of IPM to pests, including insects, diseases, weeds, and wildlife. As they learn how to grow plants in a way that helps them plan for gardening success, they will prevent plant problems before they start and manage issues when they happen. They will leave the course with a combination of practical gardening skills to try plus the knowledge of why they work.



Sixteen students completed Sowing Success in fall 2023. Students prepared for each session by reading assigned chapters and watching videos hosted on the web. During the sessions, students worked through hands-on activities designed to reinforce the concepts introduced in the readings and video lectures. Pictured here, students are familiarizing themselves with all the information available on a fertilizer label. Marathon County Master Gardeners provide added support in mentoring students throughout the course.

Sowing Success is an approved learning opportunity for the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program in preparation to become a Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener. The Marathon County Master Gardener Association looks forward to adding these students next year.

## Inquiries About Horticulture

In 2023, at least 74 diagnostic questions in Marathon County were answered through the Extension office. Here are the trends from the inquiries:

- 25% of questions centered on trees and shrubs. This isn't surprising, since trees significantly add to property values. Many of these questions were centered on the drought in early summer 2023.
- 43% of questions centered on insects, diseases, and weeds, most were located in vegetable gardens. This is an area of opportunity to increase responsible use of pesticides and fertilizers.



# Horticulture

## Gardening to Support Community Wellbeing

Social isolation, the absence of social connections, is a key indicator of community strength, impacting individual and communal well-being. Strong social ties correlate with better mental and physical health. Socially isolated individuals face heightened risks like depression, anxiety, and poor physical health. According to the Marathon County 2022 LIFE Report, Marathon County residents feel less connected to their communities than in 2017, with the greatest growth of disconnection to organizations (clubs, churches, etc).





In an effort to combat social isolation and improve wellbeing, Extension partnered with local agencies, organizations, and businesses to meet the needs of the Marathon County residents.

- Spices for Life, a program hosted by Wausau Funeral Care, that partnered with two local grief counselors to share how gardening with herbs can improve optimism while supporting positive socialization.
- Two programs for Hmong elders at the ADRC senior dinner at the Hmong American Center. Hmong elders were introduced to low risk, low cost indoor gardening activities to support positive wellbeing and socialization.
- Three programs in partnership through the Women's Community Hmong domestic violence survivors support group in which participants learned propagation techniques through low risk, low cost activities, supporting positive wellbeing and socialization.
- Lifelong learning is beneficial for Marathon County's aging population, because it supports overall cognitive function, sense of accomplishment, and personal growth, and positive social engagement that combats social isolation, which is common in older adults while developing technology skills.
  - ◇ Monthly programming at the Woodson YMCA-The Landing, serving adults over 55. The topics of these 12 programs included workshops that increase gardening success while promoting positive socialization. Participants learned about composting, seed saving, container gardening, terrariums, raspberry cultivation, and more.
  - ◇ Two additional programs were hosted for the Woodson YMCA at the Mosinee Aquatic Center, targeting adults over 55.
  - ◇ Spring and fall programs serving adults over 55 through the UWSP Learning is Forever program (LIFE). During the spring program, participants learned about best practices in designing and maintaining container gardens. The fall program introduced participants to the biophilia hypothesis, and learned how incorporating elements of nature into their everyday lives supports mental health resilience.
- Gaining Ground Gardens is a weekly 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 on soft skills like working in groups. This was the third year of justice-involved programming partnership with Attic Services. This program runs April-October (weather dependent).






# Horticulture

## Media Outreach

-  Engaged in multiple WSAW and WAOW interviews.
-  Participated in a panel discussion for WNPR's Garden Talk with Larry Meiller.
-  The Extension Horticulture Program 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 2023, 119 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 3,674,168 people with 23536 engagements (combined total of link clicks, shares and comments). 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 4356 users on the website from Facebook posts and activities and acquired 3849 new users on the website.

## Youth Outreach

-  Partnered with the Wausau School District G2M program to provide a 5 week after school series for Lincoln School 2-3rd grade students. Through plant propagation activities, students cultivated science literacy skills.
-  Multiple area BSA Cub Scout packs participated in hands-on activity creating seed bombs to support pollinators.
-  Engaged with youth at four 4-H led activities, including agriculture literacy, chemistry, and plant growing techniques.







## 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



Engaged with 240 learners around nutrition education topics in a variety of settings, including early care and education centers, K-12 school settings, and senior nutrition centers.



Partnered with ADRC and The Women’s Community to expand nutrition education reach in English and Hmong, hosting 7 classes for Hmong elders and women. This education prompted healthy eating and offered culturally-relevant recipes and suggestions.



Worked with the Marathon County Hunger Coalition to glean over 5,000 pounds of local produce and establish a mobile food pantry serving neighborhoods and community members with limited income.



## BY THE NUMBERS

Whether people are healthy or not is affected by systems, policies, and environmental factors.

**6%** of county residents experience limited income and low access to a grocery store.

**9%** of county residents use SNAP benefits to purchase food for themselves and their families.





## Inspiring Collaborations

Julia Perock joined the FoodWise team as a Nutrition Educator in 2023 and provides nutrition lessons to 1st and 3rd grade students in the Wausau School District.





FoodWise nutrition education lessons provide hands-on and engaging activities to expose students to MyPlate and new foods. Youth learn about the food groups of MyPlate and taste samples of proteins, dairy, grains, fruits, and vegetables, and discuss healthy snack options.

Julia cultivated relationships with local food pantries and the Marathon County Hunger Coalition, providing nutrition education at mobile food pantries that serve low-income neighborhoods and programs. Julia is excited to support a healthy community for everyone in Marathon County!



## Multi-level Program Efforts

FoodWise provided leadership in the Marathon County Hunger Coalition in partnership with United Way, local food pantries, nonprofits, and service organizations. The Hunger Coalition impacts the food landscape in Marathon County by:

-  Purchasing 2,200 produce boxes from local farms for Marathon County food pantries including healthy recipes.
-  Starting a mobile food pantry to reach the community during hours when most pantries are inaccessible.
-  Utilizing Local Food Purchasing Assistance (LFPA) funding to procure food from local farms for food pantries.
-  Gleaning 5,650 pounds of local food from the Wausau Farmers Market for mobile food pantries and local food pantries.



# Agriculture

Heather Schlessor, Dairy Educator



## Importance of Dairy in Marathon County

Dairying remains paramount to the success of agriculture in Marathon County. Marathon County's 347 dairy operations housing 145,000 cattle and calves (National Agriculture Statistics Service, 2022) produce 3.6 billion pounds of milk annually (National Agriculture Statistics Service, 2022). Agriculture in Marathon County creates 11,021 jobs, generating \$71.4 million in sales, property, and income taxes. Total agricultural economic impact grew from \$2.7 billion to \$2.8 billion (Deller, 2014, 2017). The report reflects the importance of Agriculture and Dairy farming in Marathon County, providing jobs and tax revenue to improve infrastructure such as roads, schools, and other public services.

The dairy industry is dynamic, continuously developing new technologies and practices. To aid the Marathon County dairy farmers, this educator programs in Animal Welfare and Herd Health, Reproduction and Genetics, Manure Management, and Farm Stress.

## Animal Welfare and Herd Health

While we know that the calf is born with an immature immune system and that the absorption of maternal antibodies through the mother's colostrum (first milk) is vital to the calf's survival only, 21.8% of all operations surveyed in the 2017 National Animal Health Monitoring Systems report fed four or more quarts of colostrum at first feeding, which occurred on average within 3.6 hours after birth.

To determine the success of passive transfer on farms in Marathon County for retained heifer calves and non-retained animals (heifers, bull calves, and beef x dairy calves), we enlisted 15 farms in Marathon County for a colostrum management project. Passive transfer is the term used to describe the transfer of antibodies from the mother to the calf. A successful passive transfer indicates that the calf received an adequate quantity of immunoglobulins to fend off infection and disease while the calf's immune system developed. Blood from 1 – 7-day-old calves was collected, and serum total protein values were read. At the end of the one-year study period, each farm will be provided with a breakdown of its rate of passive transfer.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### Milk Quality Research Project

- 16 farms from Marathon County

### Colostrum Management Research Project

- 15 farms from Marathon County

### Artificial Insemination

- 30 Participants

### Women's Program

- 40 Participants

### COMET

- 69 Participants

### Manure Summit

- 116 Participants

### Repro Roadshow

- 37 Veterinarians

### Pesticide Applicator Testing

- 24 Farmers



## Reproduction and Genetics

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. A consequence of increased reproductive performance is a concurrent increase in replacement heifer inventories, which has driven down replacement heifer values. The result is that producers have an oversupply of heifers that they feed and care for, which have little or no financial value. To increase farm viability, farmers have changed their breeding philosophy. They are breeding the top animals to dairy and the bottom animals to beef semen (to create beef x dairy crosses, which have more value as meat animals). Beef semen sold to U.S. dairy farmers increased by 21% from 2021 to 2022, with 7.2 million units of beef semen used in 2021 (Geiger, 2022, Hoards Dairyman Intel). Due to increased fertility in cows, we have seen an increase in the use of sexed semen from 8% in 2015 to 21% in 2020. The use of conventional semen has fallen from 85% in 2017 to just 52% in 2020 for Holstein cows, but even more so in Jersey cows.

A workshop for 37 veterinarians was held. The goal of this workshop was to increase knowledge of the latest University research on the use of sexed semen and beef semen and how dairy professionals can practically apply these technologies to their clients' farms.

To aid dairy and beef farmers in breeding their own cattle, two artificial insemination trainings were held in 2023 with 20 participants from Marathon County. The post-training self-reported evaluation results indicate a positive 1.32-point average change in the participant's understanding of the topics discussed (1.91 points on average before participating in the training/3.23 points on average after). This was determined using a 4-point Likert scale, ranking excellent at 4 points and little/ no knowledge at 1 point. The highest average change (1.90 points, 1.6 before/3.5 after) in knowledge occurred in the reproductive tract and semen handling category. Participants were also given a pre and post-test to gauge their change in knowledge. Participants showed a 15% increase in knowledge after attending the course. Many participants indicated that they plan to put their new knowledge to work right away by breeding their cattle.

To enhance the instructional content of the artificial insemination course, two videos were created (Heat Detection Aids, and Semen Tank/ Semen Handling). The objective of the videos was to help visual learners reinforce the topics taught during the course.







## Manure Management to Protect Water and Soil

All dairy farms produce manure. Each dairy cow can produce 20-plus gallons of manure and urine each day. Managing manure and other dairy by-products has both economic and environmental implications for the farm and the local community. Dairy manure is a significant nutrient resource, a resource whose value is impacted by its collection, processing, storage, and application. Currently, 2% of dairy operator respondents use a sand separator, 1% use a digester, and 3% use a nutrient recovery system ([WI Dairy Producer Survey 2020](#)).

Since 2009, Extension has hosted the Midwest Manure Summit biannually to successfully meet industry needs. One hundred and sixteen people, including four farmers and six agricultural professionals from Marathon County, attended the 2023 Midwest Manure Summit.

Thirty-one participants completed a pre/ post evaluation. After attending the conference, 96% of respondents stated they plan to share, further research, and/or implement a practice or technology they learned.

- 85% indicated they would add innovative manure-hauling processes.
- 95% indicated they wanted to improve sustainability through manure management and technology.
- 81% indicated they wanted to improve dairy farm business viability.
- 89% indicated they planned to improve manure management.
- 85% plan to utilize data, technology, and automation.
- 74% plan to adopt alternative business practices, including value-added and diversified income.
- 88% of respondents indicated that the conference was a good or excellent use of their time.

Participants expressly indicated they planned to implement the addition of biochar, share information about manuresheds, and investigate becoming part of a methane recapture program. Participants indicated that the Manure Summit was useful to learn from successful operators. One respondent provided the following comment, "Informative educational opportunities NEED to continue to be sponsored by UW-Extension!"



# Agriculture

## Farm Stress

The ongoing economic conditions with milk and commodity pricing is taking a toll on dairy farm families and their rural communities. The associated chronic stress is also impacting mental and physical well-being, relationships, and decision-making. This educator is working to help farmers, families, businesses, and communities remain resilient by learning how to manage stress and be there for those that are going through a challenging time.

To help farm women think strategically about their farm business and other business opportunities available to them, a program was held where 23 Marathon County residents learned about strategic thinking/ diversification ideas.

Results from a 2021 focus group study conducted by this educator on causes of farm stress and reasons farmers do not seek help revealed that farmers want opportunities to socialize off the farm to help reduce stress. To that end, this educator partnered with the Marathon County Farm Bureau to offer Quarterly Card Parties. Five Farm couples participated in this event throughout 2023. Focus group participants also indicated Farm Succession as a stressor. In 2023, this educator worked one-on-one with two Marathon County farms to help them with the farm succession process. This educator also facilitated quarterly farm succession virtual meetings. The meetings provided an opportunity for four Marathon County farmers going through a farm succession to ask questions of their peers and experts in the field.

Lastly, Heather is trained as a Changing your Mental and Emotional Trajectory (COMET) trainer and held three trainings in 2023 for 60 Marathon County agriculture professionals and 9 Marathon County Farmers. COMET focuses on training the layperson in active listening and questioning techniques to help change the mental and emotional trajectory of a person who is under stress.



## Planning for Emergency Livestock Transport Response (PELTR) is a

UW Madison Division of Extension program for helping local responders prepare to efficiently respond and manage traffic incidents that involve livestock, including dairy cattle. Livestock transportation is a critical segment of the food supply system. It is also highly visible to the public with animals being transported between farms, points of sale and to processing facilities. Many first responders lack experience with roadway incidents involving livestock trailers.

Seven Marathon County EMS personnel participated in a hybrid PELTR courses. Course participants learned about the importance of determine holding facilities and supplies in advance. They also learned about how to handle cattle, the cut points in a trailer, and the importance of biosecurity.



# Natural Resources

Kris Tiles, Natural Resources Program Manager

Anna James, Natural Resources Educator



## Farm Profitability Conference

Natural Resources (NRE) organized the third 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 returned to an in-person event this year with 42 attendees.

## Producer-led Watershed Groups

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. The NRE facilitated discussions with members to review the group's strategic plan and the efforts made to meet outlined goals and objectives within the plan. Through this activity, the group was able to identify areas where they could be focusing on the next steps to meet their current strategic plan, and/or parts of the strategic plan that need to be updated to meet the group's future goals and objectives.

The efforts of producer-led watershed protection groups are generally focused on a local watershed ecosystem, but the importance of regional collaborations should not be overlooked. Producer members and conservation educators in the Wisconsin River basin recognized the importance for regional collaboration and decided to host a regional gathering for the 7 producer-led groups in the North Central area. During the gathering, 24 producers and collaborators participated in a guided question and answer session led by Anna James, to identify regional resources concerns, discuss successes and hardships, examine group needs, and talk about the statewide producer-led program. The regional gathering ultimately served as a space for groups to strengthen their relationships through candid conversations.

## Fenwood Creek Watershed

The NRE hosted an educational display for landowners within the Fenwood Creek Watershed community event where event attendees learned about the watershed approach and water resources by engaging in hands-on activities. Attendees also learned about the effects of non-point source pollution to groundwater and surface water resources. The goal of this display was to help landowners take an active role in a watershed restoration project by learning ways that they can reduce their impact to water resources while being good stewards of the land.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### Learn About Your Land (LAYL)

- 22 classes—291 attendees
- 1239 people receive monthly e-newsletter
- 1000 followers on Facebook
- 815 followers on Instagram

### Your Land, Your Legacy

- 27 participants representing 11 properties
- Canvas course that goes through the 8 steps of planning for family transition of woodland property







# Natural Resources

## Learn About Your Land Classes for Woodland Owners

22 individual classes were held in conjunction with 10 counties around the state. 291 individuals attended these classes, which occurred virtually and in-person. Seventy 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. 1239 people receive the newsletter (with a 61% open rate), and 1000 people follow the Facebook page. Additionally, we are building engagement on Instagram (815 followers).

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

## Outreach for Women Woodland Owners

The WI Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry (WDNR-Forestry) and The UW-Madison Division of Extension received a federal grant to conduct education, outreach and evaluation to women woodland owners across the state. The UW – Madison Division of Extension Educator is contracted to create educational outreach programming and facilitate the delivery of natural resource instruction to this target audience. A weekend retreat style event was organized and facilitated in May 2023 with The Aldo Leopold Foundation, WDNR Silviculturists and Forest Health Staff, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, and Extension Outreach Specialists. The Wisconsin Women’s Woodland Gathering had a total of 70 landowners and 11 resource professionals, for a total reach of 81 individuals.



## Additional Efforts in 2023

Drinking water sources near agricultural activity are susceptible to contamination from animal waste and farm chemicals, and these contaminants can pose health hazards to humans and livestock. This project seeks to incentivize well water testing for farmers that provide housing for workers by providing homeowner water testing packages at no cost that test for bacteria, nitrates, and water quality.





# Wisconsin 4-H

Holly Luerssen, 4-H Educator

Jasmine Carbajal, Bilingual 4-H Educator



## Educational Partnerships



**Growing Great Minds Earns WI 4-H's "Friend of 4-H Award" for Partnership:** In 2023, the Wausau School District's Growing Great Minds (G2M) program collaborated with Marathon County 4-H to offer engaging after school workshops for elementary students. Across four quarters, AmeriCorps/4-H Program Assistants conducted STEM-based activities at different schools, with 52 students participating in the Full STEAM Ahead program during winter and spring. Activities included exploring milk fat differences, extracting DNA from strawberries, and creating LED name tags. The current school year continues the STEM focus, emphasizing Wisconsin's diverse agriculture products. This fall, students delved into apple variations, learned about local soil structure, and explored the anatomy of popcorn kernels. Beyond education, the programs foster meaningful connections, strengthening bonds among students, staff, and peers. Youth evaluations indicate growing relationships, high engagement, and a solid understanding of program components. A G2M staff member praised the team's ability to connect with students, spark curiosity, and create an inclusive environment, leaving a lasting impact on participants in Wausau School District's Out-of-School Learning programs.

In spring 2023, Marathon County 4-H Educators nominated G2M for the "Wisconsin Friends of 4-H" Award. We highlighted G2M's alignment with 4-H's mission of offering hands-on learning in science, agriculture, leadership, and citizenship. Recognizing G2M with this award expresses gratitude for their collaborative efforts, providing a supportive and educational environment for youth in the community. Julie Bowen and other G2M representatives attended the WAE4-HYDP Annual Banquet to receive the award.



## BY THE NUMBERS

### Membership

Participation in Marathon County 2nd Largest Program in Wisconsin

~ 800 Youth Members

~ 225 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 - 436

Farm - 220

Towns & Cities and Suburbs (10-50,00) - 101

Suburbs & Cities over 50,000 - 25







# Wisconsin 4-H

## Local 4-H Programming



**Youth Organizations Join Forces:** A community-wide pinewood derby event in November 2023 was an opportunity for youth-serving organizations to join forces to provide a unique experience for Marathon County youth. In collaboration with Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Scouts BSA, and Girl Scouts, UW-Extension Marathon County was able to offer build nights before the main event where youth chose a derby car or truck and painted it the way they wanted. Over 70 local youth raced their cars. The goal was for youth and families to become aware of various local organizations that have various programs to offer while the youth had fun.



## Multi-Cultural Education

**Juntos in Abbotsford:** Abbotsford, Wisconsin is located between Marathon and Clark County lines. The Abbotsford School District is composed of a student body that is around 60% Latinx. In collaboration with Clark County Extension, the program Juntos was offered for the first time in Abbotsford in 2023 and it was a success! Juntos means “together” in Spanish and the goal of the program is to help Latinx students achieve academic success. The families that participated in the program were able to gain tools and resources to help their high school students make graduation and post-secondary education an achievable goal in their future. This partnership has also opened the door to more collaboration between the local school district and Marathon County 4-H.







# Wisconsin 4-H

2023



## 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.



# 5.7



## 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.



# 5.6



## 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.



# 5.6





# 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.



A large graphic showing the score 6.0 in a white circle with a blue border. Below it is a banner that reads "HELPING YOUTH THRIVE" with a 4-H clover logo, and "4-H THRIVING MODEL" below that.



## 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.



A large graphic showing the score 5.6 in a white circle with an orange border. Below it is a banner that reads "HELPING YOUTH THRIVE" with a 4-H clover logo, and "4-H THRIVING MODEL" below that.



## 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.



A large graphic showing the score 5.8 in a white circle with a blue border. Below it is a banner that reads "HELPING YOUTH THRIVE" with a 4-H clover logo, and "4-H THRIVING MODEL" below that.



# Extension

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