



University of Wisconsin-Extension

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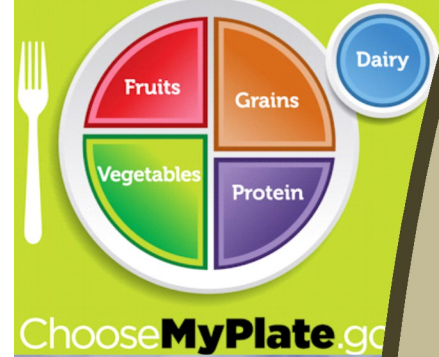
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# Dodge County Annual Report

# 2014

Tractor Safety  
Summer Camp  
WNEP  
Family Living  
4-H Youth Development  
Crops Soils  
Dairy Livestock  
People  
eParenting  
Workshops  
Financial Education  
Pesticide Applicator Training  
Information  
Soil Testing  
Conflict Management  
Sausage Making  
Master Gardeners  
Water Testing  
Leadership  
Producers  
Projects Fair  
Nutrition  
Community Development  
Youth Dairy Livestock



University of Wisconsin-Extension



# Dodge County Board of Supervisors

To The Honorable Dodge County Board of Supervisors





## Our Purpose to which we commit...

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

## The Vision of what we want to become...

*A thriving, well-known and sought-out educational resource that reflects the rich diversity of the state.*

### UW-Extension 2014 Education Committee

**Allen Behl**—District No. 19  
**Gerald Adelmeyer**—District No. 12  
**Ed Nelson**—District No. 4  
**Darrell Pollesch**—District No. 1  
**Annette Thompson**—  
Superintendent Dodge Land School

The Dodge County UW-Extension office is pleased to present our 2014 annual report. We are excited to highlight a special selection of educational programs from the many UW-Extension offers. You will find our descriptions are presented in a Public Value, Personal Impact, framework. We believe this approach is an effective method of illustrating the connectivity of our educational programs with the current and future prosperity of Dodge County.

UW-Extension Dodge County operates under the direction of the University of Wisconsin Extension Education Committee with authority under Chapter 59.87 of Wisconsin Statutes. Cooperative Extension's current county and locally-based Extension delivery system offers many advantages to families, youth, businesses and communities.

The office brings University of Wisconsin knowledge and resources directly to the people in Dodge County where they live and work. UW-Extension office staff are funded through a partnership of sixty percent (60%) University of Wisconsin and forty percent (40%) Dodge County.

If you would like more details about our programs and services, please stop by our office, call us, or contact one of your fellow Supervisors on the UW-Extension Education Committee.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hoffman  
Department Head



In 2014  
our office staff:

- Processed over 74 water test kits
- Sold over 942 publications
- Managed 8 meeting rooms with over 14,040 users
- Took over 2,225 registrations for 42 events
- Sent over 109 press releases

## Office Staff

The office staff are crucial to the success of the UWEX Dodge County office. They manage incoming phone calls, emails, and walk-in customers seeking information and registering for educator programs. They maintain databases, send out press releases, print program documents, manage social media, and create and edit promotional items.

Name	Title	% funded by county levy
Jeff Hoffman .....	Community Development / Dept. Head	40%
Marie Witzel.....	4H & Youth Development Agent	40%
Bonnie Borden.....	Dairy & Livestock Youth Educator (70%)	40%
Vacant.....	Crops & Soils Agent	40%
Elsie González .....	Dairy & Livestock Agent	30%
Pattie Carroll.....	Family Living Educator	40%
Alexus Butler .....	Dairy & Livestock Youth Summer Intern	40%
Whitney Rathke.....	4-H Summer Agent	100%
Deb Wiebelhaus .....	4-H & Youth Program Assistant (45%)	100%
Becky Gutzman .....	Nutrition Education Coordinator <sup>1</sup>	0%
Amanda Hilliard.....	Nutrition Education Educator	0%
Tracy Malterer .....	Administrative Secretary III	100%
Sheri Lotzer .....	Administrative Secretary III	100%
Deb Struve.....	Administrative Secretary III	100%

<sup>1</sup> Shared with Columbia County. Funded entirely by USDA and UW-Extension.



# The Values We Strive to Live By...Relationships

We foster positive relationships through honesty, open communication and accountability. We meet educational needs by creating linkages among cultural, economic and environmental contexts. We recognize and trust the essential and interconnected nature of all roles within Cooperative Extension.

During the year, one or more staff provided an educational program or connection between these organizations and the UW System.

Beaver Dam Unified School District  
Bethany School  
Columbus School District  
Dodgeland School District  
Herman School District #22  
Horicon Schools  
Hustisford School District  
Immanuel Lutheran School  
John Hustis Elementary School  
Lomira School District  
Mayville School District  
Moraine Park Technical College  
Neosho Joint 3 School District  
Saylesville School District  
School for Agriculture & Resource Education  
St .John’s Lutheran—Fox Lake  
St. John’s Lutheran School—Juneau  
St. John’s Lutheran School—Watertown  
St. John’s Lutheran School—Lomira  
St. Mary’s Catholic School  
St. Matthew’s Lutheran School  
St. Paul’s Lutheran School  
St. Stephen’s Lutheran School  
Theresa Learning Community  
Trinity/St Luke’s Lutheran School  
UW-School of Veterinary Medicine  
Watertown School District  
Waupun Area School District  
Dodge County FFA Chapters  
City of Beaver Dam  
City of Columbus  
City of Fox Lake  
City of Hartford  
City of Horicon  
City of Juneau  
City of Mayville  
City of Watertown  
City of Waupun  
Village of Brownsville  
Village of Clyman  
Village of Hustisford  
Village of Iron Ridge  
Village of Kekoskee  
Village of Lomira  
Village of Lowell  
Village of Neosho  
Village of Randolph  
Village of Reeseville  
Village of Theresa

Dodge County Farm Service Agency  
Aging & Disability Resource Center  
Clearview  
Dodge County Administrator  
Dodge County Clerk  
Dodge County Corporation Counsel  
Dodge County Finance  
Dodge County Human Resources Department  
Dodge County Human Services & Health Dept  
Dodge County Information Technology Dept  
Dodge County Public Health Department  
Dodge County Land Conservation  
Dodge County Land Resources & Parks  
Dodge County Restorative Justice  
Dodge County Sheriff’s Department  
Dodge County Highway Department  
Dodge County Local Emergency Planning  
Badgerland Financial—Beaver Dam  
Badgerland Financial—Fond du Lac  
Beaver Dam Agribusiness  
Beaver Dam Noon Kiwanis  
Clothes for Kids  
Discover Dodge-Land Resources & Parks Dept  
Dodge County 4-H Clubs  
Dodge County 4-H Leaders Association  
Dodge County Antique Power Club  
Dodge County Board of Supervisors  
Dodge County Dairy Herd Improvement Assoc.  
Dodge County Dairy Promotion Committee  
Dodge County Dairy Youth Advisory Committee  
Dodge County Fair Association  
Dodge County Farm Bureau  
Dodge County Farm Bureau Women  
Dodge County Forage Council  
Dodge County Holstein Breeders Association  
Dodge County Home & Community Education  
Dodge County Housing Authority  
Dodge County Master Gardener Association  
Dodge County Meat Animal Sale Committee  
Dodge County Pork Producers  
Dodge County Unit of Wisconsin Towns Assoc.  
Dodge/Fondy Corn Growers Association  
Green Valley Enterprises  
Marsh Haven Nature Center  
Parent Resource Place  
Beaver Dam Parks & Rec Department  
PAVE  
The Gathering Source  
United Migrant Opportunity Service (UMOS)



Watertown Agri-Business  
Watertown Family Center  
WI Dept of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection  
WI Pork Producers Association  
Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom  
Wisconsin Beef Council  
Wisconsin Corn Growers  
Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board  
Wisconsin Outdoor Alliance  
Wisconsin State Fair  
Wisconsin Women for Agriculture—Rock River Chapter  
Beaver Dam Community Food Pantry  
Dodge County Food Pantry  
St. Stephen Food Pantry  
Sacred Heart Parish  
Mayville Food Pantry  
Randolph Food Pantry  
Watertown Food Pantry  
Waupun Food Pantry  
Beaver Dam Community Library  
Fox Lake Library  
Juneau Public Library  
Lowell Library  
Hustisford Community Library  
Kid’s Care, Beaver Dam Community Hospital  
Pattycakes Daycare, LLC  
Pooh Corners Daycare  
Wee Care Child Care Center  
Willows Christian Child Care  
Community Coordinated Child Care Inc (4-C)  
Community Care Preschool  
All Star Academy  
Associated Bank  
Ballweg Equipment  
Brandon Meats  
Cedar Road Meats  
Country Meat Cutters  
Rural Mutual Insurance  
Waupun Equipment Company  
WBEV/WXRO  
WTKM Radio  
WWRS—TV Station  
WMDC  
WFDL (Waupun & Lomira Radio)

# Community Development Programs

Jeff Hoffman, Educator & Department Head

Postively Affecting Leaders & Adding Value to Organizations

## Household Hazardous Waste, Agricultural Chem-ical Collection

For two decades, the UW-Extension office has administered the Dodge County Clean Sweep program. Every other year, residents from throughout the county drop off their unwanted and dangerous poisons, chemicals, solvents, oil paint, and other unsafe items to Clean Sweep. In 2014, The Dodge County Clean Sweep program collected record amounts of dangerous household chemicals, while the Agricultural collection found higher numbers of Ag. producers participating, bringing in an average of 52.76 pounds of chemicals each. Again, in 2014, the Dodge County Sheriff’s Department was on hand to collect unwanted and unused pharmaceuticals.

It takes about \$60K to complete Dodge County’s Clean Sweep collection. Funding comes from local tax dollars, grants, and payments from a waste collection organization. The next Clean Sweep collection will be in 2016.



## Diversity of effort in 2014

### Water Quality Forum

In collaboration with the Land Conservation Department, Hoffman coordinated a Surface and Groundwater Educational Forum. The workshop was designed to educate residents about Dodge County’s current water conditions and educate participates on the requirements of maintaining a quality water supply.

### Dodge County Master Gardeners

Hoffman worked with the President of the Master Gardeners to coordinate the twelve-week training for horticulture enthusiasts. In addition, he facilitated the Dodge County ‘Ask a Master Gardener’ help line. Residents now have the ability to bring their tree, flower, plant, and grass problems and concerns to expert Master Gardeners in person.

### Organizational Conflict Trainings

Hoffman provided numerous workshops and trainings on understanding and managing interpersonal and organizational conflict to leadership groups and University of Wisconsin – Extension personnel.

### Community Planning / Downtown Development

Hoffman worked directly with the City of Fox Lake Administrator on plans to develop their downtown and enhance the commercial tax base.



## Private Well Testing Program

In a partnership with the UW-Extension Groundwater Center at the University of Wisconsin Steven’s Point, Hoffman educates county residents on the responsibilities of owning a private well and septic system. He encourages residents to get their well water tested and works with them to understand specific water and waste system concerns.

## Department Head

Hoffman completes the county responsibilities of a county Department Head. Like other departments in the county, UWEX is a fiscally responsible office, and a conscientious steward of Dodge County resources.

## Public Value:

The Clean Sweep program adds tremendous public value when one considers that thousands of pounds of hazardous chemicals are eliminated from entering our ground water supply, or hundreds of pounds of unwanted pharmaceuticals are being disposed of appropriately, therefore, not entering municipal wastewater treatment facilities, or leading to criminal activities.

## Personal Impact:

Individuals who participated clearly derive value by safely disposing of poisons, dangerous chemicals and other hazardous materials and from their home or farm.



# Dairy & Livestock Youth Programs

Bonnie Borden, Dairy & Livestock Youth Educator  
Helping Youth Understand Agricultural Issues

## Project Learning Tree - Early Childhood Training

Today’s youth are tomorrow’s adults! Helping youth think and consider the world around them is vital to Dodge County’s environmental future. Borden collaborated with Family Living Educator, Pattie Carroll, to offer “Project Learning Tree - Early Childhood Training” to help childhood providers gain required certification points through this course. The participants gained “hands on” knowledge to take back to their classrooms. Youth will experience environmental resources at a higher degree as they interact and participate in sensory based activities.



## Meat Animal Quality Assurance

Youth enrolled in the swine project and who hope to exhibit their hog at shows must have certification through the National Pork Board on the ten Good Production Practices. Wisconsin has developed a program to spread the education of these ten over a period of 3 years to make the lessons more interactive and inviting for youth. The lessons also include quality assurance programming for youth enrolled in the beef



and sheep projects, encouraging good decision making for all meat animal projects in animal care & management, health products, and handling. Borden offers the Meat Animal Quality Assurance (MAQA) class three times per year so that all youth enrolled in meat animal production might be able to have access to the training.



## Public Value:

Dodge County benefits when youth, who are given opportunities to learn and appreciate the environmental resources vital to the rich Dodge surroundings, become adults who are ready to protect these resources.

## Personal Impact:

Youth become aware that environmental resources are not to be taken for granted. They have power to help appreciate and protect.

## Public Value:

In 2013, after 10 years of MAQA trainings having been offered, the state MAQA work team asked counties who conducted MAQA trainings to survey the youth with a pre and post test. Borden also administered the evaluation in Dodge County. The survey used a four-point scale measuring youth perception of the extent to which their MAQA education experience contributed to growth in their ability and practices in the areas of Animal Care & Management, Animal Health Products, and Animal handling. Statewide, almost all questions showed increased knowledge of more than .50 after they attended MAQA educational sessions.

## Personal Impact:

Youth participants develop critical thinking and production skills in production of meat animals—headed to enter the food chain in Dodge County!

# Dairy & Livestock Programs

Elsie González, Dairy & Livestock Agent  
Helping Dairy producers be productive

## Dairy Modernization and Expansion

Building, modernizing or expanding facilities is a major capital investment that involves multiple aspects that need to be considered on the way such as permits, licenses, finances, manure management, facilities, employee management, animal well-being, farm safety, public perception, animal nutrition and reproduction. Throughout the year, UW-Extension offers multiple meetings, trainings, farm tours, and educational resources that will help build your dairy future and set you on the road of success.

## Farm Safety

Dairy farming is one of the most dangerous occupations, with higher injury and fatality rates compared to other agriculture sectors. With changes in the dairy industry, farm owners and managers are now responsible for managing safety programs for their farms and comply with many health and safety standards to maintain a safe working environment for dairy workers. Dodge County UW-Extension provides assistance and resources to help farm owners comply with occupational safety and health regulatory standards and employee training.

We offer trainings to dairy producers, managers, and consultants on

how to facilitate successful safety trainings for their employees such as Hazard Communication and Skid Steer Safety; and offer bilingual safety trainings for dairy farm employees. OSHA requires that employers train their employees about hazards in their workplace and how to protect themselves, and that training need to be conducted in a manner that employees can understand.



## Managing Dairy Employees Effectively

“The key to success in any business is to help other people be successful in their jobs.”

Developing the necessary skills to be a good manager is a critical aspect for the profitability of any business. UW-Extension offers a workshop to help dairy managers be successful in their jobs and effectively manage employees by learning communication, conflict management, trust and respect, and leadership.



## Public Value:

Dairy Modernization and Expansion Program will help protect and maintain clean waters and educate public about agriculture best management practices. Employee training programs have a direct impact on the safety, quality of life and performance of dairy farm workers.

## Personal Impact:

Dairy owners receive a variety of educational opportunities and materials to successfully make production and management decisions for their farms, manage employees, and maintain a safe and healthy environment. Dairy employees will learn to protect themselves from hazards and stay healthy.





# Crops & Soils Agricultural Programs

## Crops & Soils Education

### Helping AG producers be productive

#### Pesticide Applicator Training

The profitability of individual cash grain enterprises is closely linked to crop management decision-making and the use of cost-effective production practices. Economic efficiency is improved when growers have the knowledge to select from among available tools to address both crop challenges and opportunities effectively. Cooperative Extension is uniquely positioned to provide unbiased information to assist Wisconsin farmers in evaluating these tools and making choices appropriate to their individual operations and goals.

#### Tractor & Machinery Safety and Certification Course

As specified by state law, ANY youth under the age of 16 who operates a tractor or self-propelled equipment on the highway must successfully complete a Tractor and Machinery Safety course. Federal Child Labor Laws also require that youth ages 14 or 15 must successfully complete a Tractor Machinery Safety program if they are performing hazardous work for a farmer other than their parent/legal guardian. Dodge County UW-Extension staff, agriculture teachers and state specialists taught the program over a three-week period on the Saturdays of January. A tractor driving safety assessment exercise was held late April at the Dodge County Fairgrounds.



#### Public Value:

Surface and ground waters of Dodge County will remain uncontaminated by excess pesticide application.

#### Personal Impact:

Participants learn the importance of proper use and disposal of agricultural chemicals.

#### Public Value:

Agriculture remains as among the most hazardous industries in the United States. One third of all fatalities occurred to youth between the ages of 15 and 19. 36% of the fatalities involved machinery. This program has a direct impact on the safety and quality of life for our young farm workers.

#### Personal Impact:

Youth participants between the ages of 12 to 16 received a variety of information and training on the safe operation of tractors and machinery that they may encounter on crop or livestock farms.

# Family Living Programs

Pattie Carroll, Family Living Educator  
Strengthening Families and adding value to our Communities

#### eParenting®

Digital media has become an integral part of everyday life for families. eParenting® High-Tech Kids was created by Cooperative Extension Family Living county educators and state specialists as a 2-hour face to face strength-based curriculum to support positive parenting roles and incorporate digital parenting ideas and tips. Strong research, consultations with national experts and a survey of middle school parents formed the basis of the new curriculum. The primary goals of eParenting® High Tech Kids for parents of youth 9- to 14-years-old include: 1) helping parents understand the role that digital media can play in supporting their adolescents' growth and development; and 2) developing strategies using digital media that can enhance their parenting skills. eParenting® High-Tech Kids was adapted to an online blog-based delivery format. The two-hour workshop served as the foundation to develop additional platforms accessed digitally by the intended audience. Carroll and team developed 56 blog posts using the High Tech Kids content and established partnerships with middle schools in three counties. The partner schools sent posts directly to parents utilizing their e-mail system. In the spring of 2014, Carroll collaborated with the Dodgeland School District in Dodge County on the initial pilot project. To evaluate the school e-delivery of High Tech Kids, the

team recruited participants from the 2,084 parents of 5th to 8th graders in the four school districts who had received the link to High Tech Kids for a semester (16 weeks). At the end of the semester pilot, schools sent parents a link to a Qualtrics (online) questionnaire for parents to voluntarily provide feedback about the High-Tech Kids blog. Based on the questionnaire, after reading eParenting® High-Tech Kids, parents significantly increased their knowledge and attitudes regarding the role of digital media in parenting. The majority of parents (92%) said they used or intended to use at least one new idea from the blog posts. Most parents (87%) reported that they learned at least one new way to use digital media in parenting because of High-Tech Kids. The pilot blog project was peer reviewed, focus group tested and affirmed. Carroll and team created a new delivery method and added new educational content. Evaluation confirmed that parents and school administrators valued the project. Carroll shared her/team work at the FL/CRD Symposium, FL 4th Thursday scholarship sharing and through the UWS Virtual Technology Showcase. The Family Living program internal website contains all curriculum and support materials and is available to all UW-Extension staff.

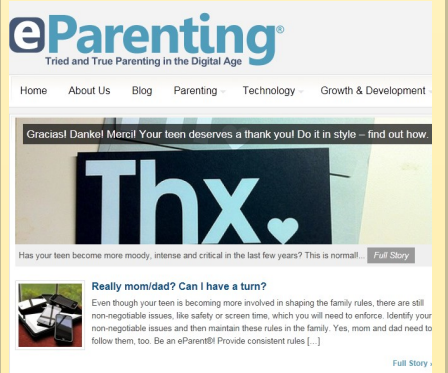


#### Public Value:

Digital media has become an integral part of everyday life for families. Helping parents understand how digital media can play a role in supporting their adolescents' growth and development and teaching parents how to develop strategies using digital media that can enhance their parenting skills provide parents with confidence for 21<sup>st</sup> century parenting.

#### Personal Impact:

Parents reported that after reading eParenting® High-Tech Kids, their understanding of, confidence in, and use of digital media in parenting increased.





# 4-H & Youth Development Programs

Marie Witzel, 4-H and Youth Development Agent  
Ellen Bohn, 4-H Program Assistant  
Supporting Young People

## Wisconsin 4-H Volunteer Leader Development

Youth development research documents that multi-year involvement in an on-going youth organization has the greatest positive impact on the lives of young people. The 4-H club provides youth essential elements of positive youth development of belonging, independence, generosity and mastery. Through participation in the 4-H club, youth build critical on-going relationships with adults, opportunities for leadership and citizenship, life skill development and increase their connection to peers and the community. It is vital that the 4-H club provide a “youth-centered” approach.

4-H Youth Development programs are delivered primarily through volunteers. Providing the essential orientation, training, support and recognition for 4-H volunteers is critical to the quality of the 4-H experience for youth. To help insure that Wisconsin 4-H volunteers possess the needed tools and resources, the Strengthening 4-H Clubs Work Team has re-researched and reviewed best practice programs.



**Outcome:** Adult and youth volunteers will be confident and well equipped with essential tools, resources and knowledge to teach and lead 4-H clubs and activities that strengthen the youth development experience. Volunteers will recognize the importance of engaging youth/adult partnerships in developing strong 4-H clubs and experiences.

**Goal:** Provide high quality, consistent educational instruction to 4-H youth and adult volunteers across Wisconsin to strengthen 4-H clubs and increase the quality of the 4-H club experience for youth.

**Project Description:** Each 4-H club is required to send representation to annual leader training as a partial fulfillment of their yearly charter requirements. One adult leader will be required to attend, with more participants encouraged to participate. Youth from the club are encouraged to attend.



## Public Value:

**Annual Leader Training:** This year the focus of retention was extremely helpful for the Dodge County 4-H Leaders. The visioning session held before the new educator started indicated a need to focus on youth engagement. Over 75% of the respondents shared that we need to remember to make 4-H fun and continue to think about ways to get new members and how to keep them from the first to second year (make sure we are welcoming to them). From comments on the evaluation form, leaders shared that it was “refreshing to talk about this”.

## Personal Impact:

Adults are learning what 4-H community clubs need to look like to attract members.

## Public Value:

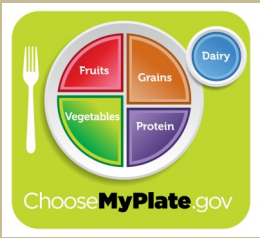
Forty-two youth attended the officer training workshop in September. The youth reported that they learned about team building in the opening session. Then they attended their specific officer duties to learn how to perform their role as an officer. Many of the youth reported that this workshop was helpful.

## Personal Impact:

Youth are learning skills to be the leaders of our future generations.

# Wisconsin Nutrition Education Programs/WNEP

Becky Gutzman, Nutrition Coordinator  
Building Healthier Communities



## Teaching at Food Pantries

In Dodge County, the mobile food pantry has been highly utilized, and in August, WNEP began teaching mini-lessons at these sites while participants are waiting in line. Staff from Second Harvest send a list of scheduled foods for the mobile pantry to the educator, who then teaches how to use the foods in healthy, low-cost meals or recipes, as well as health benefits of the selected foods. At subsequent visits, participants said they have used the recipes, and made new meals for their families. It was estimated that 90% of school-age children present with their parents at the mobile pantries are engaged in the mini-lessons. Children often ask questions during the lesson and encourage parents to take recipes to make at home.

## Eating Fruits & Vegetables

WNEP promotes eating more fruits and vegetables (F&V). By working with partners and others interested in health, we hope to make this a message heard often, and a behavior that is more common in our community.

F&V is the topic of lessons during the Senior Farmers Market Voucher (SFMNP) distribution. Mini-lessons at SFMNP often focus on safety of fresh produce or nutrition, and must be brief.

This year a follow-up lesson was planned about using summer produce, and senior apartments where a large number of SFMNP participants live, were recruited to host the lessons. All SFMNP participants received a list of the times and places that the lessons would be presented. Besides residents from those buildings, other seniors who learned about them at SFMNP came to the lessons.

“Using Summer Produce” was also taught to adults with disabilities in Dodge County. Participants learned recommendations for daily intake of F&V, and the importance of eating more vegetables. Participants discussed how to make easy, low cost meals using more vegetables. An easy stove-top frittata was demonstrated using seasonal vegetables that learners could obtain at pantries, farmers’ markets, or grocery stores. All the participants said they learned at least one meal idea they will make. Several weeks after the lesson, one participant followed up with the Educator at a mobile pantry lesson. She stated that she had used the frittata recipe several times, with different vegetables and had reduced her grocery costs significantly. She has been eating more vegetables since attending the lesson.

Eating more F&V is also a focus of our in-school lessons, and with new opportunities to reach parents with our Healthy & Homemade lessons as we add schools, incorporating F&V into family meals is another way to promote eating more F&V. During 5<sup>th</sup> grade lessons, students explored all the ways to get F&V in their communities, including farmers’ markets and food pantries, so that all people can access to healthy food.



## Public Value:

- Healthy diets rich in fruits and vegetables may reduce the risk of cancer and other chronic diseases, reducing future healthcare costs.
- Fruits and vegetables provide essential vitamins, minerals, fiber, and other nutrients that are important for good health.
- Most fruits and vegetables are naturally low in fat and calories, and are filling.

## Personal Impact:

726 youth, parents, and seniors in Dodge County learned about eating more fruits and vegetables during WNEP lessons in 2014.