

EXTENSION DODGE COUNTY



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
DODGE COUNTY

ANNUAL REPORT

2018



Extension Volunteers

- 4H & Youth Development in Dodge County has 22,338 volunteer hours reported for 2018, worth a value of \$551,525.22.
- The Master Gardener Program in Dodge County started in 2004. Over 193 people have been trained since that time, and there are currently 31 certified Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) for 2019.
- In 2018, Dodge County Master Gardener Volunteers reported 2,839 hours of community service, worth a value of over \$68,148.



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EXTENSION IN DODGE COUNTY

Dodge County UW-Extension strives to improve the overall quality of life for Dodge County residents.

Our purpose is to teach, learn, lead and serve connecting Dodge County citizens with the University of Wisconsin and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.

Our educational programming includes the areas of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Human Development and Relationships and Positive Youth Development & 4-H.



Educator Highlights

668 4-H Youth

261 Adult Volunteers

79 Youth Leaders



Marie Witzel
4-H Youth



Development Educator

Volunteer in Preparation (VIP) Training New Family Orientation

VIP for UW-Extension Volunteers

Volunteer in Preparation training was held with new volunteers reporting:

- Most helpful: practicing and working together on solutions and examples, information on the role 4-H wants the volunteer to play, and doing the scenarios.
- Plan to use: referencing the templates for writing effective lesson plans after asking the youth what they want to learn, help with leading 4-H meeting, and letting the youth learn by experience.
- Comments: well presented. It was engaging and kept moving so we didn't get bored.

New Family Orientation

New Family Orientation is a program for new families at the administration center to learn about the 4-H program and what it has to offer the families.

- 41 people attended the program to learn about 4-H and what it has to offer.

- 100 percent said it was organized, gave clear explanations and useful information.

Respondents appreciated the time of the program and allowing time for families, along with time separate for parents to learn while youth had planned activities.

They indicated the most helpful was the information shared, and the question/answer time for adults.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Educator Highlights

131 Pesticide Applicator Trainees

42 Soil, Water & Nutrient Meeting Participants

185 HSHW Workshop Participants

59 Master Gardeners



Loretta Ortiz Ribbing, PhD. Crops and Soil Educator

Cover Crop Implementation

Cover crops provide many farm-level and social benefits including:

- reducing soil erosion
- water runoff from farm fields
- increasing soil health
- improving water quality

Ortiz-Ribbing's leadership building ownership and collaboration, empowered the first Producer Led Watershed group in Dodge County (Farmers for Healthy Soil-Healthy Water) and the Dodge Alliance (partnership between farmers, lake associations, Extension, and government agencies) to hold the second Healthy Soil-Healthy Water (HSHW) 2-Day Workshop, attended by 175 participants. Producers attending farm over 60,000 acres.

Program success was partly attributed to:

- Peer to peer education
- Farmers sharing methods of establishing cover crops
- 85% of participants said they would incorporate cover crop in their farming practices
- Notable cover crop speakers provided deeper understandings of soil health
- Dr. Ortiz-Ribbing discussed her on-farm research trials

A new cover crop cost-share incentive program, from Ortiz-Ribbing's successful DATCP Producer Led Watershed Grant (\$39,552.00 awarded) was also made available to producers.

Since the February workshop, 3 lake associations provided additional farmer cover crop cost-share funding, a successful spring field day (59 producers) was held, and Ortiz-Ribbing was asked to speak to producers in Ozaukee and Racine Counties.

CROPS & SOILS



Educator Highlights

155 Beef Quality Assurance Trainees

52 Tractor Safety Trainees

114 YQCA Youth Trainees

14 Dairy Talk Tuesday Participants



Amanda Young
Dairy & Livestock Educator

Farm Business Succession Series

To support the needs of the aging agricultural business owners, a three-part farm business succession series entitled “Cultivating Your Farm Business’s Future” was held in conjunction with Fond du Lac, and Washington counties. Each session focused on one part of a farm succession plan and included:

- Farm Succession Planning
- Estate Planning
- Retirement Planning

There were a total of ninety-one participants between the three workshops. As a result of attending the workshops, respondents indicated being more familiar with wills and trusts, more aware of the considerations involved with dividing the farms' assets, and some have strategies for better communication with family and farming partners about farm succession issues.

DAIRY & LIVESTOCK



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Educator Highlights

8 Schools

23 Classrooms

3 Food Pantries

8 Adult Learner Sites



Kimberly Lafler

FoodWise Nutrition Educator

Caitlin Richardson

FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator

FoodWise and Blue Zones

In addition to teaching students, adults and seniors how to make the healthy choice the easy choice- Caitlin Richardson, FoodWise Coordinator, and Kimberly Lafler, FoodWise Nutrition Educator, serve on the Food Environment Committee (FEC) of Blue Zones Project of Dodge County. Blue Zones, a national movement, focuses on improving the health and well being of Dodge County residents. The FEC works on creating policies for partnering organizations to help increase healthy food options and/or emphasize the available healthy choices. With FoodWise's focus on helping those that are lower income along with the knowledge that income is inversely related to the obesity rate, Richardson and Lafler motivated the committee to focus two policies geared towards lower-income individuals. As a result, two new policies were formed: one that is for schools to implement pieces of the Smarter Lunchrooms Movement and the other for food pantries to utilize the Safe and Healthy Food Pantry Project.

This was the first time the Blue Zones Project ever included a policy for food pantries throughout the nation. These policies will be incorporated into minimally four food pantries and school districts by 2019. Such policies help encourage and educate low-income residents of healthier options. This will in turn help to improve the likelihood of consumption of such foods which directly parallels to a decrease in obesity rates.

FOODWISE

Educator Highlights

109 Parenting Education Contacts

243 Family Serving Agency Contacts

90 Child Care Education Contacts

46 Financial Education Contacts

Reaching Parents via Technology

Social and emotional skills are essential to school and workforce success. They allow people to calm down when angry, make (and keep) friends, positively participate in community, and make fair and safe choices. Good communication, being able to express values, healthy processing of emotions, and working well with others are all part of positive social and emotional development. These skills help ensure school success, have fewer conduct problems, and develop a more positive sense of self.

Pattie Carroll and colleagues collaborated with the WI Department of Public Instruction to create Raising Caring Kids (RCK), a free email-based resource for schools to deliver to parents and caregivers of 1st-5th graders that offers ways to build children's social and emotional learning. RCK uses 16 short articles and 5 videos to teach different social and emotional learning skills to parents of 1st-5th graders.

Participating schools include:

- Beaver Dam Unified
- John Hustis, Lincoln Elementary
- Meadow View
- Waupun Area
- Herman Neosho Rubicon (HNR)



Pattie Carroll

Human Development & Relationships Educator

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & RELATIONSHIPS



2018 DODGE COUNTY UW-EXTENSION

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