



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
GREEN COUNTY

2021 Extension Green County Annual Report

The Wisconsin Idea in Action

Agriculture
4-H Youth Development
Community Development
Health & Well Being
Nutrition

Meet the Extension Green County Staff

Extension Green County staff are academic and faculty members contracted by UW-Madison to serve the needs of Green County and surrounding counties. County educators are responsible for conducting applied research and delivering researched-based information to county residents.



Gerilynn (Lynn) Perkins – *Area Extension Director* for Grant, Green, Iowa and Lafayette Counties.

Developing and directing Extension Educator Teams in Grant, Green, Iowa, and Lafayette Counties.



Jackie McCarville – *Associate Lecturer*– Institute of Agriculture, Agricultural Educator

Developing and teaching programs using research based information to strengthen the profitability and productivity of Green County farms and agri-businesses.



Ellen Andrews – *Associate Professor* - Institute of Positive Youth Development, 4-H Youth Development Educator

Creating opportunities for youth to develop life skills and become engaged citizens; training and supporting volunteers and community partnerships that provide positive youth development experiences.



Victoria Solomon – *Associate Professor*-Institute of Community Resource Development, Community Resource Development Educator

Supporting community leadership, organizational development, and civic engagement. Building capacity for economic development and natural resource protection.

Jayne Butts *Extension Office Manager* and **Lana Heins** *Extension Activity Assistant*
Major responsibilities: Assist in the promotion and coordination of Extension Green County programs.

The staff serves under the supervision of the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee. Those members are:
Erica Roth, Chair; Oscar Olson, Vice-Chair; Sue Nelson Secretary;
Arthur Carter; Dawn Sass.



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March 8, 2022

Dear Green County Board of Supervisors:

Attached is the 2021 annual report for the UW-Madison, Division of Extension Green County office. This report highlights some of the major educational programs conducted by the Extension educators in Green County in 2021. COVID-19 maintained a strong impact on our actions and presentation methods this year, however, educators have been creative and adapted to web-based programs to do virtual trainings, finding alternate engaging learning methods, and being present in a new way to keep interacting with program participants.

Extension Green County brings the Wisconsin Idea to Green County, using university resources to meet community needs. Extension Green County educators are contracted by UW-Madison to serve the residents of Green County. This partnership between UW-Madison and Green County assures responsiveness to local needs, reduces county costs, and provides an important link to UW resources. UW academic staff and faculty offer Green County residents research-based education designed to meet local needs in the areas of Agriculture, Health and Well Being, Nutrition, 4-H Youth Development, and Community Development.

Even with the impact of a pandemic, we continue to connect and work with many valuable partners. We take great pride in partnerships and collaborative efforts. To give you an idea of our outreach and partnerships, we have included a listing of the state and county organizations we have worked with over the years. We hope you enjoy reading this report.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Gerilynn Perkins'.

Gerilynn (Lynn) Perkins,
Area Extension Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria Solomon'.

Victoria Solomon,
Community Resource Development Educator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ellen Andrews'.

Ellen Andrews,
4-H Youth Development Educator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jackie McCarville'.

Jackie McCarville,
Agriculture Educator



2021 Agriculture Program Summary Report

Jackie McCarville
Extension Agriculture Educator



Agriculture Educational Programs:

- Green County Agriculture & Household Clean Sweep Collection
- Badger Dairy Insight -Statewide Webinars
- Heart of the Farm Coffee Chat –Statewide Webinars
- Farmer Stress and Mental Health —Virtual Summit

Youth and Other Programs:

- Advisor for Green County Fair Dairy Youth Recognition and Livestock Auctions
- Green County Fair Support for Dairy and Livestock Superintendents
- Beef, Sheep, and Goat modified Weigh-Ins for Youth Livestock Projects

County/State Administration:

- UW-Extension Dairy Team
- Clean Sweep Grant Applications and Reports to the WI Department of Agriculture
- Blackhawk Technical College Agriculture Advisory Board

Media Educational Outreach

- Monthly DHI Newsletter
- Monthly Radio Programs on Big Radio AM and “Farm Talk” Programs on WBGR FM Radio
- Programming promotion on Extension Green County Facebook page
- Recorded videos on factsheets for Beef x Dairy Cross calves
- Article in The Wisconsin Shopper (sent to 4600 Amish and Mennonite homes)
- Article in The Wisconsin Agriculturist
- Article in The Wisconsin State Farmer
- UW-Extension Green County Agriculture Web Site: <http://green.extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/>

2021 Program Impact Statements

Badger Dairy Insight and Heart of the Farm Coffee Chat:

Agriculture educators across the state decided to do virtual programming for much of 2021. Badger Dairy Insight is the webinar series that dairy educators hosted for 15 weeks over an 18-week period. The webinar series featured state specialists along with county educators on weekly presentations. Two of the presentations were offered with simultaneous interpretation in Spanish. We had over 500 registered participants for this series. Jackie McCarville gave a presentation called, “Keeping the calf kitchen clean: A look at cleanliness and sanitation.” She also presented on Preventing Injuries when Working with Cattle and moderated several sessions. Jackie also moderated, recorded, and helped transcribe several of the Coffee Chat webinars series for women in agriculture. These were held monthly during the winter, a couple during the summer, and started back up this winter. Jackie stepped up and is the lead for the 2022 Badger Dairy Insight series and has been working hard on scheduling and promoting the upcoming series.



2021 Program Impact Statements (continued)

Clean Sweep Hazardous Waste Collection:

UW-Extension secured \$8,564 in state grant funding to maintain a permanent Clean Sweep Hazardous waste collection program for Green County farmers and homeowners. Farmers and homeowners were able to safely dispose of 5,984 pounds of hazardous materials through a permanent collection program coordinated by this agent. The collected materials included 1,207 pounds of pesticides and poisons, 1,200 pounds of lead & oil based paints, 1,144 pounds of caustic materials and solvents, 441 pounds of aerosol cans, 36 pounds of reactives and 800 pounds of solvents/thinners. The collection was conducted by the Landfill Manager and employees. Grant funds, secured by Jackie McCarville, covered 90% of the total cost of the 2021 program except for in-kind labor. State grant funds of \$7,850 has been secured by Jackie to continue the program in 2022. The program has safely disposed of over 135,000 pounds of hazardous materials from Green County homes and farms over the past 10 years.

Extension Master Gardener Program:

There are approximately 25 UW-Extension Master Gardeners in the Green County Master Gardeners Association. Due to Covid-19, all volunteer hours were waived but members needed to get 10 educational hours in. The group successfully met throughout the year in person which required state approval for part of the year. They also held a plant sale while following Covid-19 guidance. The group is currently navigating structure changes coming from UW-Madison.

Green County Fair Dairy Youth and Meat Animal Auctions:

This educator serves as the advisor to the Green County Dairy Youth Recognition Auction and the Meat Animal Sale. After having a year off with no auctions, both groups came back with very successful auctions in 2021. The Meat Animal Sale made some changes in location and presentation to help buyers and auction families spread out. These changes were greatly appreciated by the buyers and will be implemented for future years.

Southern Wisconsin Meat Cooperative

A group of ladies have ventured into starting a meat cooperative serving Green, Lafayette, Iowa, Dane, Grant, and Rock counties. The group is hoping to help increase the meat processing capacity in the local area and help farmers maintain and grow their local businesses. Jackie along with the UW Center for Cooperatives have been helping the group navigate through the startup process. They have recently conducted a needs assessment that looks very promising. The group is currently in the process of placing an offer on a building in Argyle. They have filed articles of incorporation and are working on bylaws. They will soon be working on a fundraising campaign and opening the cooperative up for membership. They have been closely watching auctions to purchase equipment. The board has been meeting weekly for the last year and it's becoming a reality more and more each week.

Outreach to Underserved Audiences

Area 17 Agriculture Educators are writing articles for *The Wisconsin Shopper*. This magazine is distributed to 4600 Amish and Mennonite homes in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and other areas. Our articles are found on the inside back cover. We have also reached out to state specialists for articles to be included since the magazine is published every week.

Farm Succession Coordinator

Jackie is a certified Farm Succession Coordinator. The average age of farmers in the United States is 58 years old and many haven't thought about how they will pass their farms onto the next generation. There are also many that belong to the younger generation wondering how they transition into owning their family farms. Jackie has worked one-on-one with local farmers on their farm transition plans. Due to Covid-19, many of these meetings are held via zoom but they are still successful in moving forward on transitioning. Jackie also taught a session called, "10 Considerations for Farm Succession" to the UW Farm and Industry Short Course students. They had way more questions than she was expecting.



2021 Extension Program Summary Report

Victoria Solomon

Extension Community Resource Development Educator



Solomon gives Green County access to university research and knowledge in:

Community Leadership Development – Educational programming to develop community leadership and civic engagement across generations.

Facilitation & Organizational Development – Providing unbiased facilitation processes to community and organizational discussions.

Water Education – Bringing programming in drinking water quality to households and communities.

Select highlights of Solomon's work include:

Community Leadership Development

Green County Leaders (GCL) 2020-2021: A Year of Adaptability

GCL pivoted for the 2020-2021 year, providing educational opportunities free of cost to anyone who lives or works in Green County. As a result of this pivot, 177 unique individuals participated in the GCL 2020-2021 series sessions. This is over double the number of the largest educational session held in past leadership program formats.

The success of the May session on "Skills for Bridging the Divide" was significant. As a result of that session, people's negative stereotypes of people with different political perspectives from their own changed. Participants viewed people with opposite political perspectives as less hypocritical, selfish, and mean, and more open-minded, honest, and intelligent than before the session. This helped inform the development of the GCL 2021-2022 program on "Civil Leadership for Vibrant Communities."

Additionally, in spring 2021 there was a three-session series on "Leadership and Government" as an opportunity for community members to learn more about local and state government. Sixty-five unique individuals participated in that series. Participants shared that as a result of the sessions, 100% said they "have a deeper understanding of government" and "better understand how to participate in local government." Biggest learnings from the sessions included...

- "Pointers on how to speak with elected officials – or anyone else whom you want to make a point in order to persuade or change opinion."
- "The passion those serving the county, both as representatives and as paid staff, have for the community as a whole – inspiring to say the least!"
- "Always great to connect with state and federal officials. Learning about their priorities and thoughts on topics helps make us all better informed."

GCL 2021-2022: Civil Leadership for Vibrant Communities

A unique leadership program made possible by Green County Leaders partnering with Braver Angels, this engaging series is an opportunity for community leaders to hone civil leadership skills. This opportunity has 110 people from 32 Wisconsin counties signed up for the program; 23 of the participants are from Green County. Following the December session, participants of the Civil Leadership for Vibrant Communities program completed 4 sessions on building civil leadership skills. Fifty-nine percent of survey respondents indicated they have honed their civil leadership skills as a result of the fall sessions. Green County Leader alumni have shared this is a quality way for alumni to build leadership skills. Session evaluations show these workshops are effective in helping participants hone civil leadership skills.

Community Leadership Development (cont)

Elevando Wisconsin

Through conversations with Latino leaders from communities across Green County and Wisconsin, it has been clear that there is collective interest in the creation of a culturally relevant leadership development program. That sparked the creation of Elevando Wisconsin, a program designed to elevate personal and community leadership skills and build a network of leaders. The program is bilingual (Spanish/English). The first Elevando Wisconsin program cohort graduated in December 2021; five graduates are from Green County.

Facilitation & Organizational Development

In 2021, Solomon assisted a number of Green County organizations and coalitions. These included strategic planning efforts, facilitation, organizational development, and bilingual educational sessions. These programming efforts included:

- Monroe Public Library. Facilitating strategic action planning, including a bilingual community survey that received 389 responses.
- Green Haven Family Advocates. Facilitating organizational development sessions.
- Green County Multicultural Outreach Program (MCOP). Facilitating action planning sessions.
- Home of Our Own Facilitating strategic planning.
- Green County Community Health Improvement Plan. Facilitation assistance.
- Green County Broadband Meeting. Planning and hybrid facilitation.
- Green County Childcare Business Accelerator Program Bilingual facilitation.
- Brodhead Memorial Public Library Facilitating strategic planning.

Local Government

Green County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Solomon partnered with Green County Development Corporation to conduct a county-wide community survey for those who live or work in Green County to provide their perspective to help local officials make good decisions regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Solomon also developed decision-making scenarios for the Green County Finance and Auditing Committee regarding ARPA. Finance chose to create a Green County ARPA Ad-Hoc Committee to make recommendations regarding spending ARPA funds; Solomon will be facilitating that process in 2022.

Water Education

2021 Annual Drinking Water Testing Program

Partnered with the towns of Adams, New Glarus, Washington, and York to offer a drinking water testing program with an educational session for participants to ask follow-up questions, better understand their sample results, and their options to address possible concerns. One Hundred and forty-four wells were tested throughout the towns.

Groundwater Quality Trend Data Project

In April 2019 the Green County Board voted to move forward with the Livestock Facility Study Group's groundwater quality trend data work. The goal of this information is to better understand whether groundwater quality is getting better, worse, or staying the same. If it is changing, the information will be used to analyze where and what factors may be contributing to those changes. In 2021, test samples were submitted by 314 participants; 18% of wells tested higher than health standards on nitrates. A community educational session was held regarding the results; groundwater specialist Kevin Masarik also presented the results to the Green County Board and shared the website trend mapping tool that the team is developing.

2021 4-H Youth Development Program Summary Report



Ellen Andrews

Extension Green County 4-H Youth Development Educator



Over the last two years, we have all experienced unprecedented challenges due to the pandemic. Of particular concern are the opportunity gaps and mental health challenges that young people are experiencing. Research shows that participation in high quality 4-H youth development programs increases thriving in youth through social and emotional learning. 4-H can play a big role in helping youth develop a hopeful purpose, positive emotionality, an openness to challenge and more.

A recent survey of Green County 4-H older youth ages 13 and older (N=97) indicated that we continue to offer high quality 4-H programs in this county. In particular, 86.6% of youth in Green County said their 4-H programs gave them a moderate to high sense of belonging, while 81.4% felt their 4-H programs were a place where they worked in partnership with adults. Examples of the important things youth tell us they have learned in 4-H include...

"Being a positive role model for the future generations is going to help the world become better one person at a time."

"Helping people is rewarding and gives me a feeling of satisfaction."

"How to be a valuable leader and public speaker in 4-H from being challenged to overcome obstacles."

The following report features a variety of examples of how the Green County 4-H Youth Development program continues to work collaboratively with 4-H adult volunteers and community partners to provide educational programming that is accessible, inclusive and engaging.

Virtual 4-H Programs Spark Youth Interests

In the first several months of 2021, we offered six different multi-week 4-H programs conducted via Zoom. Four of them were age specific (Gr. K-2, 3-5 & 6-8) and two were topic specific (pie and rabbits). As we analyze the evaluation results, the vast majority of participants felt "welcomed and engaged" even in this virtual setting. This is important because, as documented in the 4-H Thriving Model, youth programs that follow quality program principles have the largest impact on youth development.

Evaluations also indicate what families liked best about these virtual 4-H programs was that they provided the "opportunity to explore something new" and gave them a "chance to further learn about a topic they are interested in." Most youth in responding families were able to identify how they will use the information or skills they learned through these workshops, including such examples as "learned how to measure and read instructions" and "I can do demonstrations for my 4-H meetings."

Over the last couple years, we have learned a lot about creating home-based and virtual 4-H programs. A majority of these programs have been planned, led and taught by 4-H staff. While it has been fun and extremely fulfilling to be in this direct teaching role and to be connecting with the youth, it is also not sustainable. What makes engaging over 500 4-H youth feasible and powerful is having an active base of over 160 adult 4-H volunteers and also many youth leaders. In 2021, we saw several new youth leaders and adult volunteers step up to plan and lead virtual 4-H project learning experiences. This is significant because the demand for virtual project meetings is likely not going away, therefore it is important that volunteers are developing this additional skill set for teaching virtually.



Developing 4-H Adult & Youth Leaders

4-H adult and youth leaders help shape the quality and opportunities of a member's club, project and county 4-H experiences. Youth in these roles also experience powerful leadership development opportunities. Throughout 2021, 4-H Youth Development Educator Ellen Andrews worked with both 4-H Educators from other counties and with Green County 4-H volunteers to continue to provide a variety of trainings, both in-person and virtually. These trainings further develop leadership skills of both youth and adults, and deepen their understanding of practices that promote positive youth development. Training opportunities included...

Virtual, four-county training for 4-H Club Officers helped participants identify best practices of a 4-H club meeting and better understand their individual roles.

Small group "Volunteer in Preparation" trainings, offered in-person and virtually, where new 4-H adult volunteers learn about the roles and responsibility of volunteers and how we work with youth.

Statewide annual volunteer leader training, held virtually with an in-person option, where youth and adults came together to focus on Youth-Adult Partnerships by building relationships, open communication and inclusive environments.

4-H Day Camps: An Important Opportunity to Reconnect

After an exciting week of County Fair in July, Green County 4-H took that energy and dove right into offering three-day camps for our 4-H members, grades 5K-2nd and 3rd-7th. These camps were a wonderful opportunity for youth and volunteers to reconnect with the 4-H program, while enjoying a variety of games, crafts and nature activities. We were even able to take advantage of location-specific opportunities like kayaking in Belleville and archery in Monticello.

Camping programs have been an important and growing part of the Green County 4-H program. Due to large graduating classes the last two years and having no in-person camp programs in 2020, we found ourselves in the position where we really need to rebuild our camping programs. This year's Day Camps were a great opportunity to begin training new and prospective youth staff for next year.



Youth are welcome to join 4-H at any time, but September and October are the two months when we really focus our energies on attracting new families and re-enrolled existing members. We believe that all youth in our community can benefit from the opportunities 4-H offers to learn life skills and explore their interests.

A key effort to promote this impactful program is "Explore 4-H Day," – an open house event in the fall at the Green County Fairgrounds, which featured ten hands-on project stations and a community service station. The event is promoted via social media and a bilingual brochure distributed to elementary students throughout the county. 2021 was our fourth year putting on this event, with over 50 youth and their parents attending this event to learn more about 4-H, as well as over 30 4-H adult and youth volunteers helping to lead activities and talk with prospective families.

Extension Green County Proudly Works with the Following Agencies & Groups...

Extension Green County assists a wide variety of groups and organizations through educational programming and collaborations. Some of these groups are listed below.

- Area Chambers of Commerce
- Area Childcare Centers & In-Home Providers
- Area Faith-Based Organizations
- Area Farm Fertilizer & Chemical Dealers
- Area Farm Implement Dealers
- Area Financial Institutions
- Area Public Libraries
- Area Optimist Groups
- Area School Districts
- Area Vo-Ag Instructors and FFA Chapters
- Better Brodhead
- Blackhawk Technical College
- Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin
- Dairy Herd Improvement Association
- Department of Natural Resources, State & Local
- Equity Livestock
- Family Promise of Green County
- Fowler Dental Clinic
- Green Cares Food Pantry
- Green County 4-H Adult & Junior Leaders Inc.
- Green County Ag Chest
- Green Co. Aging & Disability Resource Center
- Green Co. Assn for Home & Community Education
- Green County Beef Producers
- Green County Board of Supervisors
- Green County Dairy Youth Recognition Auction
- Green County Development Corporation
- Green County Early Head Start & Headstart
- Green County Emergency Management
- Green County Fair Association
- Green County Family YMCA
- Green County Farm Bureau
- Green County Master Gardeners Association
- Green County Health Department & WIC
- Green County Healthy Communities Coalition
- Green County Holstein Breeders
- Green County Housing & Homeless Prevention
- Green County Human Services
- Green County Landfill
- Green County Law Enforcement Agencies
- Green County FFA & 4-H Meat Animal Auction
- Green County Land and Water Conservation Dept
- Green County Milk Quality Council
- Green County Pork Producers
- Green County Probation & Parole
- Green County Sheep Producers
- Green County Tourism
- Green County Zoning Department
- Green Haven Family Advocates
- GUPPY, Inc.
- Healthy Kids Healthy County
- Home of Our Own
- Literacy Council of Green County
- Monroe Kiwanis
- Monroe Main Street
- Multi-Cultural Outreach Program
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Pleasant View Nursing Home
- SSM Health Monroe Hospital
- Southwest WI Regional Planning Commission
- Southwest WI Small Business Development Center
- Southwest WI Community Action Program
- Sugar River Watershed
- Town, Village and City Elected Officials & Staff
- United Way of Green County, Inc.
- USDA Farm Services Agency
- UW Platteville
- UW State Specialists
- WI Association of Agriculture Educators
- WI Association of County Extension Committees
- WI Cattlemen's Association
- WI Center for Agriculture Safety and Health
- WI Counties Association (WCA)
- WI Department of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection
- WI Early Childhood Association (WECA)
- WI Farmer's Union
- WI Humanities Council
- WI Towns Association
- World Dairy Expo
- Youth and Adult 4-H Volunteers and Members