

UW Extension

Racine County Cooperative Extension



Program Areas

Agriculture and Natural Resources

*-Promoting sustainable
agricultural practices*

Horticulture

*-Teaching safe and
proper gardening
practices for a beautiful
and healthy environment*

Family Living

*-Creating strong families
that serve as the
foundation for
community life*

Nutrition

*-Promoting healthy,
well-nourished families
as they learn to
manage food dollars,
plan nutritious meals
and serve food that is
safe to eat*

4-H Youth

Development

*-Empowering youth to
reach their full potential
while working and
learning in partnership
with caring adults*

2005 Annual Report

The Racine County Cooperative Extension Office brings University of Wisconsin knowledge and resources to you where you need them most - where you live and work.

Racine County UW-Extension educators are trained to recognize everyday local issues and rapidly changing community needs. Maximizing limited resources, we develop low cost, high impact educational programs and bring resources of the University to the local level.

In 2005, the Racine County UW-Extension educators made 37,393 contacts with residents sharing information that effects their families, homes or businesses.

In Racine County we offer educational programs through three program areas: Agriculture and Horticulture; Family Living and Nutrition; and, 4-H Youth Development. This report highlights some of the new and major accomplishments in 2005 by Racine County's University of Wisconsin Extension educators.

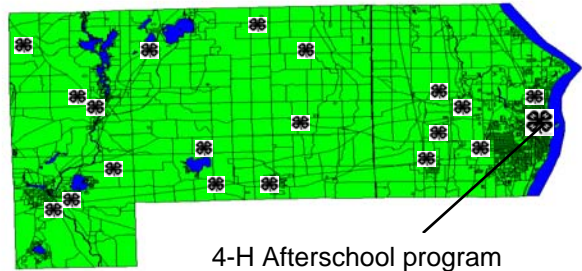
UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development Programs in Racine County

Racine County UW-Extension's Youth Development program, gives young people a chance to gain self-confidence, learn new skills, and contribute to their communities. They create real world experiences that teach leadership and citizenship skills.

Racine County has a very strong network of community clubs. The map shows the location of each club site.

- Total membership of youth in county is 1,147
- Total adult volunteer membership is 321
- 6 of the 17 community clubs are east of the Interstate.
- Over 740 families
- 4th largest 4-H program in the state

Community 4-H Club LOCATIONS



4-H Afterschool program at Racine Unified School District sites

Racine County 4-H Celebrates its 90th Anniversary

In 2005, the 4-H program celebrated its 90th year. With over 7 million 4-H members in the United States, 4-H is the largest out-of-school youth program.

Many 4-H programs are available: club settings, after school programs, 4-H camp, and other educational programs. 4-H programs always center around three areas, leadership, citizenship, and life skills.

Leadership

Through 4-H, youth acquire incredible skills to become effective leaders. They learn how to stand up in front of an audience and make a speech or presentation and how to conduct a meeting. Examples -

- Club/county officers
- Camp counselors
- Volunteer leadership training

Citizenship

In 4-H, citizenship is the opportunity to learn how we can make our world better. Youth learn they can change their world and make a difference. Examples -

- Adult/youth shared leadership on boards and communities
- Community service projects
- Opportunities to explore future careers

Life Skills

Educational experiences that help young people develop life and job skills such as communication, decision-making, and problem solving. Youth learn skills by -

- Participating in one of over eighty 4-H projects
- Participating in special club, county and state 4-H experiences.

4-H Afterschool Shining Brightly within the Lighted School House Program



Janes Elementary Afterschool 4-H program

In 2004-05, for the first time since its organization, the Lighted School House program contracted out the organization of after school enrichment activities.

The Racine YMCA assumed the responsibility of organizing and staffing after school experiences. They in turn developed a partnership with Racine County UW-Extension to develop 4-H programming at each

of twelve sites. The sites included nine elementary and three middle schools.

In the 2005-06 school year Racine County UW-Extension contracted directly with Lighted School House. 4-H Afterschool programs were provided at five Racine Unified elementary schools. Program support came from 4-H Afterschool

coordinator, Beth Kitzrow and VISTA staff Jennifer Callewaert. UW-Extension's 4-H Youth Development Educator Tom Riese and 4-H Faculty Assistant, Ann Voge, taught orientation sessions for the on-site 4-H Afterschool staff. The program presented hands on learning experiences in sciences, communications and food sources to over 400 youth.

UW-Extension Horticulture Programs in Racine County

Racine County UW-Extension's Horticulture programs provide research and educational support for the rapidly expanding horticulture industry in Wisconsin.

We train and support the Master Gardener Volunteer program. Racine has a very strong program with 150 certified Master Gardener volunteers.

In 2005 the Master Gardeners provided 7200 hours of volunteer service. This volunteer effort is worth \$110,952 based on the number of hours contributed to the community multiplied by the estimated dollar value of volunteer time (Source: Independent Sector).

Some of the horticulture programs operating in the county include the following:

- Vocational Skills Training for Adults with Disabilities
- Commercial and Consumer Diagnostics
- Support of Farmers' Markets
- Racine Unified "PLUTO Science Program"
- Southern Oaks School
- Racine Zoo
- Pioneer Cabin Vintage Garden
- Community Gardens



Green Works: A New Program to Help Disabled Adults Get Employment in the Green Industry

As the county budget moved forward in the fall of 2004, Master Gardener volunteers became involved participants in the process. Through the process they learned there is a dire need to provide vocational services for adults with disabilities in our county. Subsequently, the Master Gardener volunteers started working with Horticulture Educator, Dr. Patti Nagai, in designing an innovative green industry vocational training program.

Dr. Patti Nagai partnered with Racine County Human Services, Terri Friedrich of Innovative Support Services, and Master Gardener volunteers. A program was devised to train volunteers as mentors, or job coaches. A second program was planned to train adults with disabilities to do basic horticultural tasks. A participant application form was designed with input from all the partners and then distributed to adults with disabilities on the waiting list.



Master Gardener volunteers training Green Works participants on various greenhouse job tasks



Nagai and Friedrich contacted eight local horticulture operations and conducted interviews at six locations. All six green industry businesses signed on as partners in the pilot program to help with either

training of Master Gardener volunteers, training of adults with disabilities, and/or potential employment of adults with disabilities once they are trained.

Horticulture Diagnostic Outreach Program Established

In 2005, UW-Extension, with funding from a USDA Urban Horticulture Extension Grant, established satellite plant health diagnostic clinics around the county. The goal of these outreach sites was to serve more residents by extending into the community.

In Racine County the outreach sites for 2005 were the Racine Farmers' Market, Burlington Garden Center, Stein Garden and Gifts in Racine, and the Racine County Fair. Master Gardener Plant Health Advisor volunteers as well as UW-Extension employees staffed these outreach sites.

Consumers were able to bring in samples of diseased plants or insects, pictures, or just describe their problem on the spot. With the knowledge of the trained Master Gardener Plant Health Advisors and UW-Extension staff, consumers were able to get answers and UW-Extension Garden Fact Sheets right away.



Plant Health Advisors at the Farmers' Market

UW-Extension Agriculture Programs in Racine County

UW-Extension's Agriculture and Natural Resource programs provide local decision-makers and landowners with the knowledge, tools and skills to make wise choices about the use of their agricultural land resources.

There are three main areas of focus in Racine County.

The three areas and some of the types of programs designed specifically for our county are as follows:

Rural Landownership

- Workshops and conferences
- Ties to the Land - newsletter to farmers and landowners in Kenosha/Racine Counties

- Bi-State Horse workshops (collaboration with Illinois Extension and Walworth County)

- Pesticide Applicator Training

Youth Programming

- Tractor Safety
- Pork Quality Assurance Training

Direct Marketing

- Collaborator on SWFFN (Southeast Wisconsin Farm and Food Network) - connecting chefs and farmers
- Farm Fresh Atlas
- Annual FarmDirect conference

Program Reaches New Rural Landowners



"The Prairie Walk" program participants learning about the costs and work associated with establishing and maintaining prairies.

Many new rural landowners are without the skills or awareness of the wide variety of best management practices or the resources and programs available to them.

Partners from a variety of private and public agencies including UW Extension, Land Conservation, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Seno Center and the Kenosha/Racine Land

Trust came together in 2005 to work on the issue. Subsequently, a new program was developed, "An Acre or More" where all of the information offered was aimed at new landowners.

An additional program, "The Prairie Walk," was also offered. Its purpose was to give participants a realistic view of the costs and work involved in starting and maintaining prairies.

As a result of these efforts, landowners are becoming aware of the wide variety of methods to manage their land, as well as the organizations available to assist them. They are also being educated on zoning ordinances that could effect the way in which they manage their property. They are being made aware of state and federal cost-share programs that could potentially benefit them.

Youth Tractor Safety Class Expanded to Accommodate More Students



Youth participating in the Tractor Safety Class

Youth who work on farms and use agricultural implements continue to be at great risk of injury or death. Additionally, youth in urbanizing counties have the increased risk of traveling farther from field to field and encountering more traffic with drivers who have little to no understanding of farming or how to co-exist with farm machinery on public roads.

Kenosha, Racine and Walworth Counties have been coordinating for many years to offer a Youth Tractor Safety Program. This program meets the mandatory state statutes requiring that all youth between the ages of 12-16 who intend to drive tractors on public roads, do so only after participating in a safety program. Due to overwhelming interest the program needed to be expanded in 2005.

One of the strengths of this program is the number of partners involved. UW Extension partners with Burlington High School, local farmers and implement dealers. This year, CNH Case New Holland staff assisted with the driving portion of the training. We were also able to utilize graduates of the program, who returned to assist with the class.

UW-Extension Family Living Programs in Racine County

Educators connect family and community needs with research-based education through the following three areas, with program highlights described below.

Families & Communities

Strong families serve as the foundation for community life. Programs focus on strengthening family relationships, child development and the community institutions that promote

family well-being.

- ABC Project – Acting to Build Our Children’s Future
- Touchpoints Project – early childhood social/emotional development
- Children’s Health Passport
- Family Smart/Kid Friendly – parent/family workshops
- Early Care & Education Training Project

- Family Resource Directory and Quick List for Families

Family Nutrition

UW-Extension’s Racine Kenosha Nutrition Education Program helps create healthy families where families learn how to:

- Plan nutritious snacks and meals
- Purchase, prepare and serve safe food
- Stretch the food dollar

Family Economics

Family financial literacy is a critical element of thriving families, where families and children learn about tools including the community resources available to them.

- Money Conference
- Helping Children Become Money Smart
- Burlington Household Food Security Project
- Getting Ahead Resource Building

Burlington Community Members Plan Early Childhood System

It is surprising that kindergarten teachers report that only two-thirds of the children entering their classroom are prepared for school success. Burlington area teachers rated self-regulation or self-control, and following simple directions as very important for school success, yet some children struggled in these areas.

In 2004, the ABC Project began because the

Burlington community wanted to ensure that all young children have all of the foundational health, family and learning experiences they need to enter school healthy and ready to succeed.

A group of planning sponsors from seven organizations worked with UW-Extension in Racine and Walworth counties to convene a planning team of community members.

This planning team of volunteers designed a community system based on local data and trends, early childhood research, a variety of stakeholder input, and hard work. The ABC (All Burlington Children Healthy & Ready for School) Network is slated to begin in August 2006. One of the first goals will be to establish a 501c3 organization to broker resources within the community and outside the community to fulfill the ABC Project purpose.

Bev Baker, Family Living Educator served as planning coordinator, with Tina Ginner, Early Care and Education Training Coordinator, and Jenny Wehmeier, Walworth County Family Living Educator also working on this community project. Community members invested a great deal of time and energy to make a difference for all Burlington children.

Children’s Health Passports Help Families Stay Organized

In 1997 Racine County became a part of the Brazelton Touchpoints Network in Boston (www.touchpoints.org). Over the years the local Touchpoints Team has worked with numerous family-serving organizations to utilize the Touchpoints Approach with families, with Bev Baker, Family Living Educator, serving as team coordinator.

Team member Dr. Michelle Snyderman, an All Saints Health Care pediatrician, noticed how families struggled to keep important information organized, especially families with English as their second language. The Touchpoints Team developed the Children’s Health Passport incorporating the Touchpoints Approach of continuity of

care. Families now have a place to keep their contact information, health summary of each visit, and immunization records.

The passport has been a huge success with annual distribution to about 2000 infants and their families beginning in 2001 through All Saints Health Care System. In June 2005 a survey of 51 parents (a random sample representing

patients of all 12 providers in the pediatric department), 96% found the passport helpful, and 92% brought the passport to at least half of their well-child visits. The passport is funded through United Way of Racine County, with All Saints Health Care System agreeing to add the printing costs to their 2007 budget.

Nutrition Programs Increase Healthy Habits and Family Relationships

Nutrition educator, Fabiola Diaz, developed a six-week nutrition course in partnership with the Racine Family Literacy Program. The bilingual program helped families not only learn about nutrition, but also improve their English.



Racine Family Literacy Program participants learning new recipes

Besides learning about food safety, economical food shopping, and a healthy diet, parents joined Fabiola in the kitchen to learn new recipes. Richard Marciniak, Racine Family Literacy Program Coordinator, noted how Fabiola brought in recipes that Hispanic families normally would not have tried, including the traditional greens of African Americans.

On the first and last day, students completed entry/exit "food recall" reports on their diets to evaluate changes. Twenty-four participants received certificates for completing the UW-Extension course.

Through the Family Smart/Kid Friendly Partnership, "Families in Kitchen" was developed for western Racine County families struggling to make ends meet. Parenting Resource

Facilitator, Barbara Stoffel-Emde, partnered with Nutrition Educator, Ester Rorig, and Love Inc.'s Children Resource Coordinator, Linda Breuer.

Children and their families experienced healthy food choice activities and sing-a-longs, prepared and sampled a new recipe each week, and took a 10-minute brisk walk set to music emphasizing the importance of exercise. Families learned about proper hand, food and utensil washing, and parenting tips.

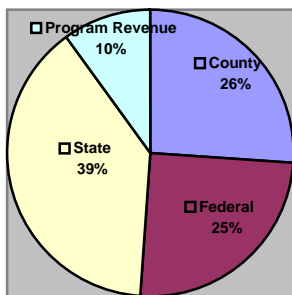
Family Smart/Kid Friendly Partnership is a collaborative of Love Inc., Racine County Human Services Department, United Way of Racine County, Racine County Human Services Department, and Racine County UW-Extension.

Nutrition Education Program Partners

- City of Racine Health Department
- City of Racine Parks & Recreation Department
- City of Racine Community Policing
- Chatham House Transitional Living
- Crossroads Transitional Living
- Racine County Human Services Department Work Force Development Center
- Burlington Area School District
- Racine Unified School District
- First Choice Pre-Apprentice Program
- Veteran's Assistance Program
- Southern Oaks Girls School
- LOVE, Inc.
- Transitional Living Center, Inc.
- HALO
- Racine Area Food Bank
- Professional Services Group

Racine County UWEX Shared Funding

The Racine County UW-Extension office is one of 72 county offices statewide, staffed by professional educators. Funding for Racine County UW-Extension comes from three partners: the University



2005 Funding for UW-Extension

of Wisconsin-Extension, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Racine County government. Additional program support and funding comes from volunteers, local organizations, grants and revenue generated through program fees.

The counties of Wisconsin contribute about 26% of the funds needed for the statewide Cooperative Extension program. This investment is leveraged to the utmost through shared funding from local, state, federal and other partners.

In 2005, the Racine County tax levy of \$252,900 leveraged an immediate return of \$157,388 in State and Federal funds for educators' salaries. In total, this investment brought direct funding valued at over \$528,000 to the Racine County UW-Extension educational efforts. In addition, \$384,528 was made available via program revenue and local matching "in-kind" contributions.

A major portion of these funds, are a result of the Racine Kenosha Nutrition Education program. This effort brought in \$475,673 of federal funds, and \$374,128 of local matching funding.

This shared investment improves the quality of life for Racine County residents. As a growing community, Racine County will realize the long-term return from this investment for generations to come.

**Racine County
UW-Extension**
14200 Washington Ave.
Sturtevant, WI 53177
Phone: 262-886-8460
TTY: 1-800-947-3529
Fax: 262-886-8489

<http://racine.uwex.edu>