



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON

DIVISION OF EXTENSION RACINE COUNTY

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Racine County Service Center



1072 Milwaukee Avenue
Burlington, WI 53105



(262) 767-2929



(262) 767-8775

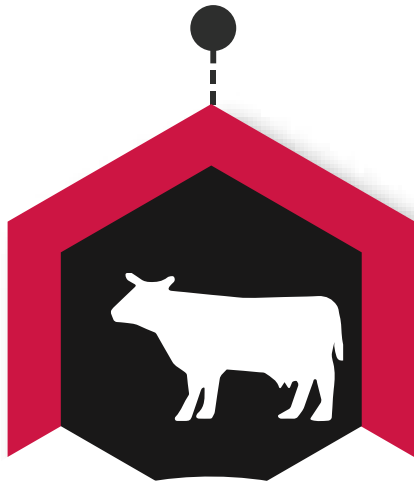


RacineCountyUWExtension



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AGRICULTURE



**COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**



**POSITIVE YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT**



**TRANSFORMING
LIVES AND
COMMUNITIES**



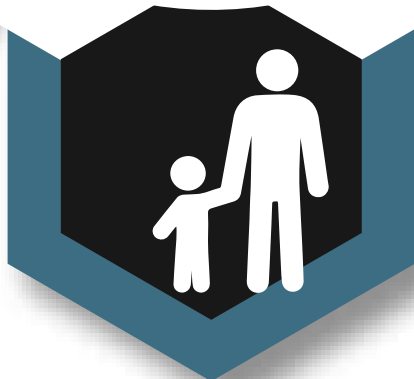
Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



NATURAL RESOURCES



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS

AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE

Supporting Wisconsin's agriculture and horticulture industries whether on the farm or in the garden. Our educators and researchers help solve challenges that producers, homeowners, and industry professionals face.

Farmer and Rural Landowner Education/Outreach

Extension Racine County co-hosted several events with local partners to educate farmers, rural landowners, and the public on topics related to prairie restoration efforts, soil health and conservation practices, pesticide applicator training, new farm enterprises, and farm succession programming.



Produce Safety Education and On-Farm Readiness Reviews

Extension Racine County collaborated on a statewide program to deliver produce safety training to over 100 Wisconsin growers. Agriculture educator helped conduct four on-farm readiness reviews to prepare local growers for future produce safety audits.

Youth Education

Local area youth participated in the annual youth tractor safety program. All passed the written and driving test, certifying them to operate machinery on public roads and on farms not owned by their parents/guardians. Over 200 youth who show and sell livestock participated in Youth for the Quality Care of Animals Program training.

Farm Fresh Atlas™

The Farm Fresh Atlas™ of Southeastern Wisconsin is a free local food guide coordinated in part by Extension that helps consumers access healthy, local food produced by local farmers.

Spring Into Gardening

The 13th Annual Spring into Gardening conference in 2019 hosted 12 different garden sessions from basic lawn care to growing best tomatoes and a key note topic on "Garden Trends" by Melinda Meyers. Nearly 74% of participants strongly agree that the overall conference was very informative.

Plant Health Advising

In 2019, the Master Gardener program volunteers and Extension educators developed a new system to better serve consumers with plant health diagnostics/advising offices in Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine Counties. Volunteers were able to answer inquiries Monday through Saturday during the growing season using a common hotline number, email address, and website.

Master Gardener Volunteer Program

Training volunteers to help educate the public about gardening and natural resources and develop community-based outreach programs.



90

Residents attended the annual prairie walk

22

Farmers took part in pesticide applicator training

215

Youth trained in farm safety and meat quality assurance

25,000

Farm Fresh Atlases distributed

2019 Highlights:

84

Master Gardener
Volunteers reported

3,917

Hours of volunteer
services

\$94,003

Estimated value of
volunteer services

1,084

Hours of continuing
education reported

5,835

Individuals reached
with outreach

160

Racine County
residents sought
horticulture
diagnostic services

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & RELATIONSHIPS

Providing the tools Wisconsinites need to thrive as well-rounded, capable individuals and families. We support families in caring for each other in ways that promote growth and understanding.

Early Care and Education Workshops

Extension coordinated five workshops for early care and education providers. Attendees earned Registry Credit and gained knowledge and skills on topics related to social emotional development, nutrition, and trauma informed care practices.



Positive Solutions Training

Four, 6-week parenting programs were offered in partnership with Racine Unified School District and Burlington Area School District. Parents/guardians learn methods to support children's social-emotional learning.

Parent Education and Resources

Extension provided a variety of educational workshops for families with children ages birth to 18 throughout Racine County. Workshop topics included fostering problem-solving skills in children, parenting styles, block play, and more.



Workshops for Parents Who Are Incarcerated

Partnered with Racine County Jail, Youthful Offender Correctional Facility, and Racine Correctional Institution to conduct programs to support parents in maintaining relationships with their children and providing literacy opportunities for their children.

- **Parenting Education** - Workshops focused on supporting parents in teaching their children social emotional skills.
- **Making Reading Memories** - Parents learned about early literacy and interactive reading, are recorded reading stories that are shared with their children.
- **Letters Home** - A series on letter writing provided parents a method of connecting with their children.



Child Support and Family Court FAQ

Extension partnered with Racine Kenosha Community Action Agency to offer a workshop for 41 caseworkers, other professionals, and volunteers who work with families. A panel of experts explained the processes within child support and family court and provided updates on laws impacting families.

Racine County Nonprofits Network and Share Resources

A total of 147 nonprofit professionals gathered at the Annual Networking Breakfasts to gain knowledge of community resources and learn about local initiatives regarding "Smart Counties, Smart Cities, Smart Communities, and Smart Families".

2019 Highlights:

1,526
Total learners

665
Books distributed to children who have parents involved in the justice system

746
Parents/caregivers received parenting education

137
Early care and education providers attended trainings

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Supporting positive youth development using research-based youth enrichment programs to prepare youth for success in Wisconsin and beyond.

Babysitter Training

The cost of the American Red Cross Babysitter's Training course has been identified as a barrier to participation for youth. Extension Educators offered two Babysitter's Training classes to a total of twenty-two youth between the ages of 11 and 15 at no cost to participants.



Youth in Governance

Ten youth representing seven area high schools served on Racine County Board Committees. Board Supervisors mentored youth representatives during their one-year term of service, during which youth brought their community issues and concerns. In addition, they developed their confidence, civic engagement level, and leadership skills. At the end of their term, the group completed a project that focused on the consequences of vaping among teens. Participants revealed that they are able to talk knowledgeably about local issues, be a resource to people in Racine County, participate in group discussion with adults, see issues from multiple perspectives, and are prepared for future leadership opportunities.



Well Connected Communities Initiative Grant

The Well Connected Communities Initiative Grant funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on cultivating wellness and a culture of health in Racine County. The goal is to collaborate with youth and adults in Racine County to expand our potential to promote health and wellness by centering on youth voice and addressing policy, systems, and environmental changes.

Racine County 4-H

4-H allows young people to share, grow, and learn together from various projects under the guidance of their families and other leaders. Other opportunities include:

- ▶ **Youth-Adult Partnerships:** Youth were empowered to have a voice and be heard within Racine County 4-H by enhancing Youth-Adult Partnerships. Youth and adults contribute to monthly Board of Directors meetings where decisions are made regarding programs and opportunities available to 4-H youth.
- ▶ **Camps:** Youth participate in camps as campers and as camp counselors. Junior Leaders plan camp themes, activities, and learning opportunities with support from adult volunteers.
 - ▶ **Adventure camp:** Youth in grades 6-8 went camping, rock climbing, and kayaking at Devil's Lake State Park.
 - ▶ **Base Camp:** Youth in grades 3-5 went to Holiday Home in Williams Bay for swimming, fishing, archery, team building activities and made new friends while at camp.
 - ▶ **Day Camp:** Youth in grades K-2 had the opportunity to meet Deputy Friendly and got a hands-on activity with the Kansasville Fire Department and their smokehouse at Old Settlers Park.

20,000
Hours of experiential learning opportunities

1,024
Youth programming participants

288
Adult volunteers

150
Youth volunteer leaders assisted on projects

274
Youth participated in leadership camps

13
Clubs in Racine County

FOODWISE NUTRITION EDUCATION

Empowering families and communities with the tools and guidance needed to adopt positive health behaviors.

Kenosha/Racine FoodWise

An interactive nutrition, cooking, and food safety education program available in English and Spanish for learners of all ages who have low and limited incomes. We partner with 96 community organizations and businesses to reach this population which has disparately higher rates of negative health outcomes related to diet.

Developing strong partnerships is a continuous goal of the FoodWise nutrition education team. New partnerships in 2019 included several collaborations with the Racine Unified School District to teach teens and new lessons with the NorthPointe Ministries group.

Policy, Systems, and Environments Promoting Access to Healthy Food

In an effort to promote access to healthy food in Racine County, the FoodWise program took on the following initiatives in 2019:

- ▶ Began teaching teens by piloting the "Teen Cuisine" series at 21st Century Preparatory School and Park High School and collaborating with Racine Unified School District (RUSD) and Gateway Technical College introduce Horlick High School's Culinary Academy to commercial kitchens at the Homeless Assistance Leadership Organization (HALO)
- ▶ Increased education with all RUSD 5th graders in the Teaching Garden at the Racine County Food Bank (RCFB). Received nearly \$2,000 for Master Gardeners to improve that site, which donated 547 lbs of produce to food pantries
- ▶ Promoted the Mobile Market in collaboration with Hunger Task Force, the City of Racine, and Piggly Wiggly to increase access to healthy foods in under-served neighborhoods



21,961
Direct educational contacts

7,284
Learners

96
Community partners that serve low and limited income individuals and families



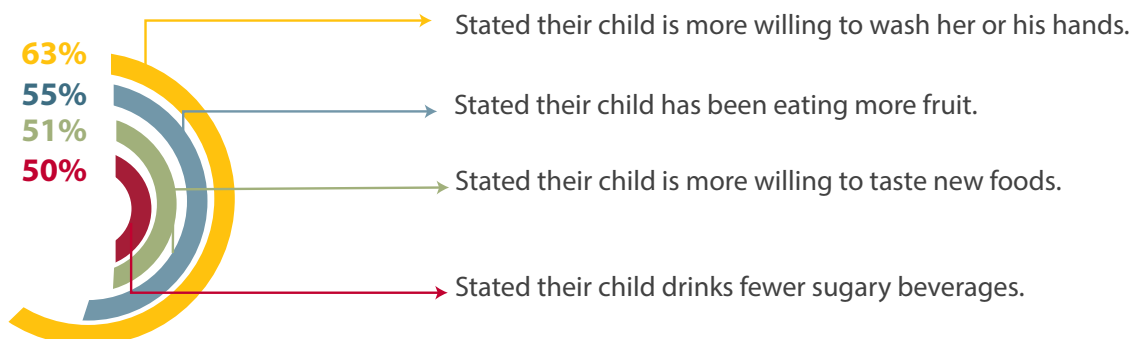
Growing Together Wisconsin

Nutrition Educators connected leadership members of RUSD, the Racine County Food Bank (RCFB), and Master Gardener Volunteers to create a new learning and teaching opportunity at the Teaching Garden, located at the RCFB. As a result, over 700 RUSD 5th grade learners received nutrition education in the Teaching Garden.

Parent Surveys Validate Strong Results of Youth Nutrition Education

The FoodWise team added parent surveys to the evaluation toolkit in 2019. 253 parents responded to the survey, the majority of which (108, or 42.2%) were parents of early childhood education students (K-12).

2019 Survey Results:



STAFF DIRECTORY

Racine County Service Center: 1072 Milwaukee Avenue, Burlington, WI 53105

FoodWise Office: 1220 Mound Avenue, Racine, WI 53404



Racine: (262) 767-2929 FoodWise: (262) 635-6824



(262) 767-8775



racine.extension.wisc.edu

Administrative and support staff



Beverlee Baker
Area Extension Director
beverlee.baker@wisc.edu
(262) 210-6165



Theresa Odell
Administrative Support Staff
theresa.odell@racinecounty.com
(262) 767-2929

4-H Youth Development



Pam Larson
Positive Youth Development
Extension Educator
pamela.larson@wisc.edu
(262) 767-2960



Beth Mattson
4-H Program Educator
beth.mattson@wisc.edu
(262) 767-2915

Agriculture



Leigh Presley
Agriculture
Extension Educator
leigh.presley@wisc.edu
(262) 857-1948

Community Development



Amy Greil
Community Development
Extension Educator
amy.greil@wisc.edu
(262) 857-1935



Christine Wasielewski
Community Development
Extension Educator
christine.wasielewski@wisc.edu
(262) 857-1947

Family Living



Sarah Hawks
Family and Community
Extension Educator
sarah.hawks@wisc.edu
(262) 767-2929



Pam Wedig-Kirsch
School Readiness/ Family
Resiliency
Extension Educator
pam.wedig-kirsch@wisc.edu
(262) 767-2918

Horticulture



Vijai Pandian
Horticulture
Outreach Specialist
vijaikumar.pandian@wisc.edu
(262) 857-1945

FoodWise



Teresa Ward
Foodwise
Nutrition Administrator
teresa.ward@wisc.edu
(262) 635-6825



Rebecca Garcia
Foodwise
Office Operations Assistant
rebecca.garcia@wisc.edu
(262) 635-6824



Rebeca Alonso
Foodwise
Bilingual Nutrition Educator
rebeca.alonso@wisc.edu
(262) 635-6824



Nicole Sicuro-Leipski
Foodwise
Nutrition Educator
nicole.leipski@wisc.edu
(262) 635-6824



Amy Macemon
Foodwise
Nutrition Educator
amy.macemon@wisc.edu
(262) 635-6836



Fabiola Diaz Negrete
Foodwise
Bilingual Nutrition Educator
fabiola.diaznegrete@wisc.edu
(262) 635-6824



Alana Perez-Valliere
Foodwise
Nutrition Educator
alana.perezvalliere@wisc.edu
(262) 635-6831



Nesrine Ismaili
Foodwise
Nutrition Educator
nesrine.hajdariismaili@wisc.edu
(262) 635-6831



Jillian Frideres
Foodwise
Nutrition Educator
jillian.frideres@wisc.edu
(262) 635-6824

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Fostering leadership and community engagement by educating elected officials to training the next generation of local leaders. Extension is committed to empowering citizens to make positive, transformative change in their communities.

Workforce Development Among Under/Unemployed

Community Development Educators connected with over 40 post-prison re-entry agencies and more than 10 regional employers in outreach and education to reduce employment barriers.

Employee Engagement Survey

An Extension Racine County team worked closely with Racine County Human Resources to develop, conduct and analyze a comprehensive employee engagement survey to determine strategies enhancing professional development offerings and addressing employee concerns (595 respondents).

Re-entry Resource Fair

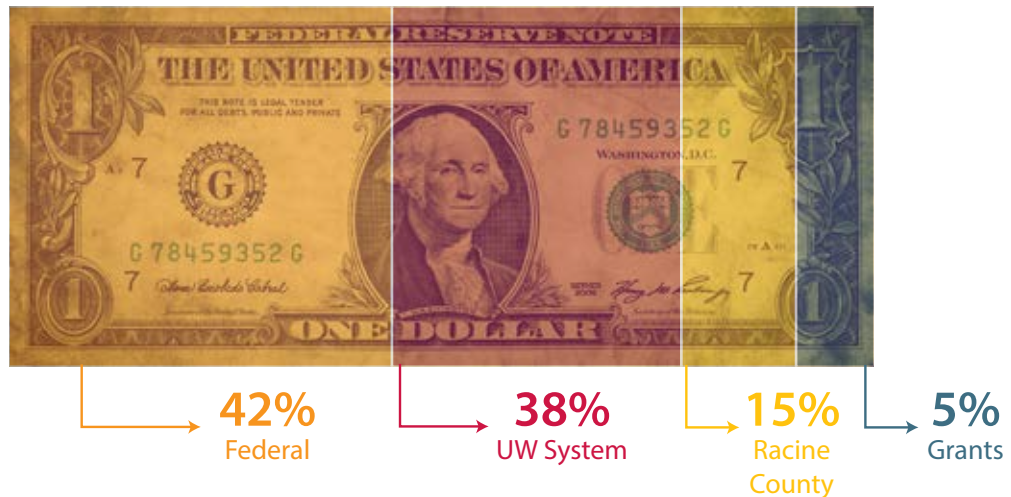
Extension educators organized a series of specialized resource fairs at a local correctional facility to raise awareness and access to services upon release from incarceration. Extension distributed employment, training and certification opportunities and other supportive services at the event.



INVESTING IN EXTENSION RACINE COUNTY

Three partners provide core funding for Extension Racine County programming and education efforts: (1) the University of Wisconsin system; (2) Racine County Government; and (3) the United States Department of Agriculture.

The funding percentages are based on the UW-Madison Extension state budget.



Beyond the core investment from county, state and federal funding, the Extension Racine County team leverages other funds to support Extension programs in Racine County. These include:

\$327,380
Federal FoodWise grant funding

\$108,233
Other local, state and federal grants and donations

