

Agriculture & Horticulture



Positive Youth Development



Natural Resources



Human Development & Relationships



Community Development



Health & Well-Being



Extension Racine County

University of Wisconsin-Madison

2020

Racine County Service Center

1072 Milwaukee Avenue | Burlington, WI 53105



(262) 767-2929



(262) 767-8775



@RacineCountyUWExtension



racine.extension.wisc.edu



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
KENOSHA COUNTY



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AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE

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.

Agricultural Chemical Waste Collection

Extension Racine County co-hosted a collection and disposal of agricultural chemical waste event for Kenosha and Racine Counties. Active farmers, agricultural land owners, nursery, orchard, or greenhouse operators were invited to bring up to 200 pounds of agricultural chemical waste free of charge. This event is offered every two years.

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. 67 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 14th Annual Spring into Gardening conference in 2020 was hosted online due to the COVID-19 Pandemic for Kenosha and Racine County residents. Two presentations were offered on “Growing Fruit Trees,” and “Best Landscape Trees.”

Urban Forestry Training

The 2020 Urban Forestry workshop was hosted online for free in 2020. This four-week workshop series provided training for urban forestry clientele on current trends and research based information regarding – tree selection, quality trees, community tree management and using gravel beds for nursery stock.

Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Short Course Program

The Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Short Course is for landscape professionals to learn up-to-date science-based information to help increase the economic and environmental sustainability of landscapes in their care.

The 2020 Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Short Course program was held in Milwaukee and hosted 140 participants. Spanish interpretation was offered. The topic presented was “Alternatives to Maples”.

2020 Highlights

20,000

Copies of Farm Fresh Atlas distributed

2,581

Pounds of agrochemical waste collected

67

Youth certified in meat and animal quality assurance

19

Farm/tractor safety training and certification

761

Consumer inquiries for the Plant Health Advising Program

175

Participants in Spring into Gardening Online Conference

140

Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Short Course participants



Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Short Course, 2020

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS

Early Care and Education Workshops

Extension coordinated 13 workshops for early care and education providers. Attendees earned Registry credits and gained knowledge on social emotional development, nutrition, and trauma informed care principles.

Parent Education and Resources

Extension hosted 23 parenting workshops to help parents and caregivers build knowledge and skills about child development, early learning and literacy, emotion coaching, positive parenting techniques, and coping with parental stress.

Positive Solutions Workshops

Four workshop series (6-weeks each) were conducted for parents/caregivers on children's social emotional learning to help strengthen families. Workshops were adapted to a virtual platform to make them easily accessible for families during the pandemic.

Rent Smart

Rent Smart helps tenants understand their rights and responsibilities to have a successful rental experience. Extension partnered with Lakeside Curative Services (LCS) to offer the program to adults who have independent living as a goal; and also adapted Rent Smart to a virtual platform to expand access to the program statewide during the pandemic.

Resources for Justice Involved Families

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 foster early literacy.

- Making Reading Memories recorded reading program reaching 15 parents and 30 children.
- Child Support & Family Court information session was attended by 14 parents.
- Outreach at the Racine County Jail during Sunday visits supported 27 parents/caregivers and children.
- Letter writing and phone conversation tips were developed and distributed to help parents and families stay connected during the pandemic.

Partnerships and Capacity Building

Extension partnered with community and government agencies to support virtual networking meetings and educational events during the pandemic.

- Partnered with the United Way of Racine County and Higher Expectations for Racine County to host four virtual screenings of the documentary, "No Small Matter," reaching 480 individuals.
- Hosted two Racine County Resource Network meetings with 124 attendees from community-based organizations.
- Hosted the Western Racine County Networking Event attended by 45 participants from family-serving agencies.
- Child Support & Family Court program reached 17 caseworkers and other professionals.



Positive Solutions, Winter 2020



Rent Smart at Lakeside Curative Services

2020 Highlights

217

Early Care and Education providers attended training for Registry Credit

359

Parents/caregivers received parenting education

649

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

37

Individuals learned how to have a successful rental experience

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Youth in Governance

Ten youth representing seven area high schools served on five Racine County Board Committees. Board Supervisors mentored youth representatives during their one-year term of service, during which youth shared 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 Essentials of Voter Registration and provided recommendations for the Supervised Visitation Room at the Dennis Kornwolf Service Center. The youth presented a summary of their completed projects to the County Board.



Youth in Governance Members, 2020

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. This is a collaboration among the Collaborative for Children's Mental Health, Horlick High School HOSA members and staff mentors, and Extension Racine County.

Career Readiness Workshops

Youth Development Extension Educator created and delivered career readiness workshops attended by 17 youth in grades 7-12 that focused on cover letter writing, creating a resume, and interview tips and tricks.

Juntos Program

Juntos (pronounced "Who-n-toes") means "Together" in Spanish and works to unite community partners to provide Latino 8th-12th grade students and their parents with knowledge, skills, and resources to prevent youth from dropping out of school and to encourage families to work together to gain access to college. Racine County Extension Educators are active in statewide efforts to raise awareness of the Juntos Program by hosting a meeting for 20 partners statewide and conducting a virtual Juntos High School Family workshop series with 9 families attending each session for a total of 54 contacts. Racine County partner organizations and families participated in both learning opportunities. Extension Educators from Wisconsin joined the Juntos National Convening to learn strategies to expand efforts to reach Latino families in Racine County and Wisconsin.



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. In an effort to keep all participants safe during the COVID pandemic, Extension offered various virtual learning sessions for current youth members, adult volunteers, and for the public to recruit members. 4-H trainings were conducted for:

- Day Camp Counselor
- Extension Volunteer in Preparation
- County-wide Officers
- County-wide Annual Leaders
- 4-H Board of Directors

2020 Highlights

1,001

Youth programming participants

280

Adult volunteers

55

Youth participants in "Camp in a Box" Program

31

Youth participated in virtual learning sessions

12

Virtual learning sessions offered in lieu of Open House

13

Clubs in Racine County

FOODWISE NUTRITION EDUCATION

Racine County experienced a 19% increase in Food Share participation (adults and children) during the pandemic.

Racine/Kenosha 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 team. New partnerships in 2020 included teaching nutrition and food budgeting to justice-involved young men (pre-pandemic) who reduced their consumption of sugar sweetened beverages 175%, increased fruit and vegetable consumption and physical activity, improved proficiency reading nutrient fact labels, and shared this information with their families.

Emergency Food Resources

FoodWise staff coordinated, published, and maintained daily updates of rapidly changing "Emergency Food Resources" and "Food Pantry Best Practices" in Racine and Kenosha Counties. Major partners such as food pantries and Racine Unified School District began reporting frequent changes in food distribution systems to our team as we became the trusted source of current information for food pantry and meal program distribution updates.

In addition to maintaining a list of up-to-date emergency food resources, staff published and communicated ongoing Department of Health Services (DHS) best practices for food pantries during COVID-19.

Continuing Education

To provide education with COVID in mind, the staff moved 8 curricula online in collaboration with colleague teams across the state, receiving accolades for the program's level of supporting other county's programming.



2020 Highlights

3,964

Learners of all ages

7,411

Teaching Contacts

52+

Community partners



FoodWise educator preparing for online programming

Amy and her team provided an incredible service by linking to community service providers for the families in our area during a time when the providers were struggling to keep up with the constant regulation changes from the local health departments, USDA, or other agencies, and meet the demands for meals in our community.

- Cheryl Herman
RUSD Food Service Coordinator

FoodWise is funded by the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

PARTNER TESTIMONIALS

Racine United School District's Early Learning Program

"I have been privileged to work in a supportive role with members of the UW-Extension, so I know first-hand the high-quality programming provided for families. I believe that UW-Extension serves an important role in our learning community."

- Jan Clum



YWCA of Southeastern Wisconsin (Racine)

"We value our partnership with Extension because the educator hosts her sessions with such care and knowledge. The educator has a great understanding of what our group's needs are and allows the women to interact and share in a safe environment."

- Christina Scarbalis and Meline Grigorian



John XXIII Educational Center

"We value our partnership with Extension because they provide programs that support our students and their parents as they continue their academic journey."

- Br. Mike Kadow



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.



\$327,380
Federal FoodWise grant funding

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

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:



STAFF DIRECTORY



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



(262) 767-8775



racine.extension.wisc.edu

Administrative and support staff



Teresa Ward
Area Extension Director
teresa.ward@wisc.edu
(262) 635-6825



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

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



FoodWise
Nutrition Administrator



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

FoodWise (cont.)



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



Area Extension Director Retires - Bev Baker, the Area Extension Director for Kenosha and Racine Counties, retired in May 2021. While Bev began her career with Extension in Green County in 1990, she spent a majority of her career in Racine County. During her 27 years with Extension Racine County, Bev touched many lives by working with families, communities, and policymakers to improve family well-being in the areas of child development, family development, and family economics.

Thank you, Bev, for your service and dedication to Racine County.