

# 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

**OUTAGAMIE COUNTY**  
**University of Wisconsin**  
**Cooperative Extension**

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## OUR MISSION

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Deliver research based information to improve the quality of life for families in the areas of agriculture, community, family, and youth development. UW-Extension extends the knowledge and resources of the University of Wisconsin to people where they live and work.

# Collaboration, Cooperation and Extension Education

**Mission:** “To strengthen people’s ability to identify and solve community problems through education, citizen participation, group process and unbiased information.”

## Community Economic Development

To paraphrase a TV ad, UW-Extension “doesn’t do economic development, it makes economic development better.” In 2006, “making it better” translated into:

- Reorganization of Little Chute Business Association into Advance Little Chute, Inc. A broadened mission, greater participation, and more specific projects are the result. A UW-Extension supported study of retail/service markets was launched, to include identifying the trade area, profiling consumers and surveying business owners.



- Facilitation of Envision New London. A citizen/government visioning process, Economic Development Corporation, led by UW-Extension and Waupaca County EDC created a consensus view of the city’s desired future economy.
- Support of Regional Collaboration. Programs of Fox Cities Economic Development Partnership and Greater Outagamie County Economic Development Corporation were aided by UW-Extension and the County Planning Department.

## Natural Resources & Planning

UW-Extension works with governments and citizens to preserve and enhance the quality of life desired by county residents. Efforts in 2006 included:

1. Energy Self-Reliance Initiative. An initial June forum attracted individuals and groups who later formed Energy Coalition for a Sustainable Fox Valley. UW-Extension facilitated goal-writing, action-planning, and issue definition. The result is a citizen-based movement to conserve energy and find renewable energy supply alternatives.
2. Rural Land Use Education. UW-Extension provided research results to Greenville in revision of its conservation subdivision ordinance. A local listening session on the state’s Working Lands Initiative has generated wider interest in preserving farmland and in creating land-based economic opportunities for rural land.



3. UW-Extension participation in Land Conservation Department’s “Conservation Field Days” helped 300 middle school students understand how groundwater quality is affected by land use.

## Organizational Development

UW-Extension helps nonprofit groups and governments use organizational processes that make them more efficient and effective. In 2006, UW-Extension facilitated group processes resulting in organizational improvements with:

- International Paper Hall of Fame/Paper Discovery Center
- Friends of Mosquito Hill Nature Center
- Outagamie County Master Gardeners Association
- Advance Little Chute, Inc.
- Outagamie County department heads and managers. This effort consisted of a workshop on writing better objectives and identifying meaningful outcomes. The goal was to improve clarity and accountability of departmental budget submissions.



## 4-H Community Clubs

Each year the community 4-H clubs plan a program that includes education, recreation and community service. The 4-H pledge focuses on the importance of community service and recognizing responsibility for the welfare of others. 4-H helps young people focus on developing concern for others and taking action to demonstrate that concern. Service forges bonds between youth and the community and doing something valued by others raises feelings of self-worth and competence. 4-H club officers write and submit community service grant applications to receive funds from the County 4-H Leaders Association. Some examples of grants this year include sponsoring a child, adopting a family, raising funds for phone cards for soldiers in Iraq, building bears for the Children's Hospital, hygiene kits for the Emergency Shelter, and caring for the Living Gardens at a nursing home.

### In 2006...

- 5,453 youth participated in 4-H youth development programs
- 137 youth were in Cloverbuds (Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)
- 777 youth were in community 4-H clubs (3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades)
- 1,556 youth were in Adventures in Dairyland
- 2,983 youth were in other special interest camps and programs
- 154 youth leaders assisted with 4-H youth programs
- 448 adult volunteers assisted with 4-H youth programs



### Afterschool Volunteer Training

UW-Extension, in partnership with the Appleton School District, designed and provided training for Afterschool Volunteers. Participants learned techniques for effectively tutoring and mentoring elementary school aged youth. Thirty-six students and 19 adults from Appleton schools, other afterschool programs and 4-H participated. Plans are currently being made to repeat the training in February for new volunteers.

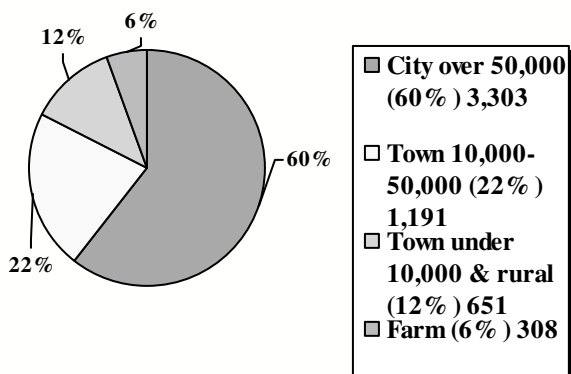
### 4-H Camp: More Than Just Fun & Games

4-H camp provides a fun, hands-on environment for youth to build and strengthen valuable life skills, including self-esteem, social skills, independence, leadership skills and willingness to try new things. In June, 97 youth in third through eighth grade participated in a four-day camp at Camp Bird. Camp is also a very valuable educational experience for teen counselors, who participate in over ten hours of training as counselors. Fifteen youth leaders gained experience in planning and organizing programs, as well as improved their abilities to offer high quality care, education and developmental experiences for youth.

### 4-H Adult Volunteers

Volunteers are key to providing 4-H programs for youth. All volunteers complete an application and background checks are done. Orientation includes philosophy of 4-H youth development, the volunteer's role, how to work with youth, and safe practices for youth and volunteers.

**Youth Participation by Residence**



# Building Family Strengths

### **Collaborative Work with Outagamie County Agencies**

Over the course of the past five years there has been an increased approach to working with other Outagamie County Departments. Interdepartmental work can sometimes be confusing but it is critical that we realize there is a unique role that UW-Extension can provide with research and education. We provide elements that may not be otherwise provided or available at a low-cost fee to county taxpayers. The following items outline how we work in a team approach with a variety of departments bringing the research, knowledge, and resources of the University to people where they live and work.

### **Children Caught in the Middle**

Annually, more than 340 individuals participate in the “Children Caught in the Middle” program that is co-taught by the Family Court Mediators and the Family Living Educator. The class is held the second Thursday of every month from 1:00 –3:30 p.m. UW-Extension co-teaches with the family mediators and provides parenting information on how to recognize stress and how to co-parent in changing times. We have conducted on-going end of session evaluations and that information has assisted us in updating and changing the class to better meet the needs of families.

### **Understanding Diversity in Outagamie County**

Civil Rights training is a requirement for many Outagamie County employees. Human Resources is responsible for organizing the workshops. This past year, the Family Living Educator was a trainer for four workshops on understanding the demographics of the county population and how to work effectively with a variety of clientele. More than 80 county employees participated in this training.

### **Money Management**

One of the educational topics that the Volunteers in Offenders Services (VIOS) program and the State Probation and Parole have asked for is money management. Working with Family Living staff from Winnebago County, we have developed a class workbook utilizing Extension research based materials. The two-part class includes basic money management topics and has been taught three times in 2006. In 2007, we plan to offer the class at the County Administration Office and will include clientele from VIOS, Probation and Parole, and the Day Reporting Center.

### **Bridging Hmong American**

UW-Extension continues to work with Time Warner Cable to produce the cable TV show. This past year we produced 14 programs. Some of the programs we produced included, “Disaster Planning”; “Understanding Criminal Law”; “W-2 and Food Share Program”; “USDA Rural Development” as well as a variety of programs on nutrition and food safety. We have worked with county departments and other agencies to develop the programs in the Hmong language. The show airs in Winnebago, Outagamie and Brown counties.



### **Budget Planning**

The Community Development Educator and Family Living Educator worked with the County Executive office and the Finance Director to design and execute a workshop used in the 2007 budget preparations on writing objectives and outcomes. Some of the materials used were part of a state curriculum that the Family Living educator assisted in developing.

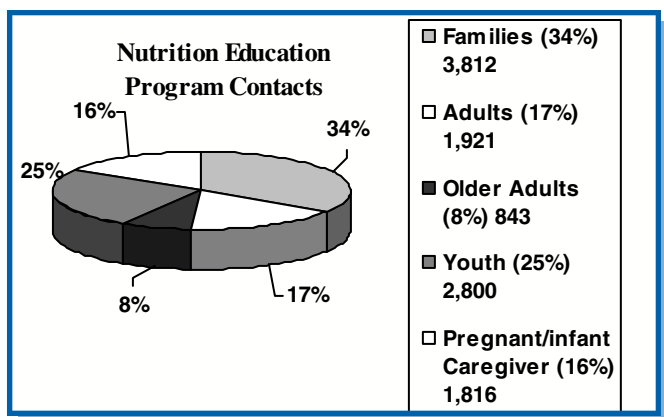
### **Creating Healthy Kids Coalition**

Creating Healthy Kids: Coalition for Activity and Nutrition is a partnership of over 30 community organizations/agencies from Calumet, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties that is working to improve health of children by decreasing obesity and improving nutrition and physical activity. UW-Extension’s contributions have included facilitating strategic planning and providing leadership and resources to the coalition’s two work groups on healthy beverage choice and physical activity. The coalition’s collaborative efforts are made possible because of the sharing of resources and the expertise of the committee members. In 2006, the curriculum “Healthy Movement and Active Play” was created by this team. It was field tested at eight childcare sites and an updated version is in the process of being finalized. The intent of the curriculum is to help childcare providers foster increased physical activity and improve eating habits in young children and their families.

# Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program

The Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP) began in 1992. The mission is to provide practical nutrition, food safety, and food security information to food stamp and low income individuals and families. The program is grant-funded through the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service and provides service to Calumet, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties.

**Total Tri-County Educational Contacts = 11,192**



## Senior Dining

Calumet, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties made 843 contacts with older adults on a variety of nutrition topics at low-income housing units, food pantries, and senior meal sites. The Outagamie County Aging Services Department was a key partner in this effort. The tri-county WNEP project joined 16 other counties to evaluate programs at Senior Dining Sites. Educators across Wisconsin collected comments from older adult learners at 47 dining centers and collected questionnaires from dining center managers at 82 dining centers. Of 82 dining center managers responding, 87% said they had observed behavior change. Comments from older adults support these findings. Additional key outcomes from the data are that older adults are sharing what they learn with others, seeking additional information, and receiving reinforcement of their existing knowledge and positive behaviors. Participant comments include: "I learned so much today. I thought I knew all about whole grains." "I use canola oil and olive oil for baking and cooking now. I used to use only butter", and "I didn't always wash fruit with skins I didn't eat, like watermelon; I didn't know I was supposed to—now I will." WNEP educators provided nutrition education to adults at Outagamie County Nutrition Program meal sites at the Freedom Town Hall; Golden Ventures, Kaukauna; Greenville Safety Building; Oneida Heights Apartments, Appleton; and Randall Court Apartments, Appleton.

## Stepping Up to A Healthy Lifestyle: Fiber Fitness

The 2001 Surgeon General's Report called for action to fight overweight and obesity. Overweight and obesity are more common in lower-income families than higher income families. In Outagamie County, 32% of adults are overweight and 20% are obese. Parental obesity is a strong predictor of children being overweight as adults. In a Center for Disease Control Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance study of low-income children in the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program in Wisconsin, 10% were overweight compared to 11% in the U.S. In Outagamie County, 14% were overweight.

The UW-Extension Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP) in Calumet/Outagamie/Winnebago counties joined the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Network campaign beginning in 2004. The purpose of the program is to educate parents on physical activity and nutrition and on the importance of acting as positive role models for their children. WNEP, in the tri-County areas, partnered with WIC and Head Start targeting food stamp eligible caregivers of children.

In 2006, educators taught 623 learners at WIC check pick-up sites in seven locations including: Bear Creek, Kaukauna, and Appleton (Outagamie); Chilton and Appleton (Calumet); and Neenah and Oshkosh (Winnebago). Educators taught parents, grandparents, and guardians of young children, pregnant women and caretakers of infants about the importance of eating good sources of fiber such as whole grain breads, crackers and cereals, or cooked beans like pinto or kidney beans using the "Stepping Up To a Healthy Lifestyle" educational materials. The learners were taught one-on-one and in small group settings on WIC check pick-up days. After the lesson, 73% (456) said they would try to eat good sources of fiber more often; while 26% (163) said they would try to eat good sources of fiber sometimes. The remaining learners, 1% (four) said they would not try new sources of fiber. After the lesson, 80% (497) said they will more often stand up straight and walk tall when physically active while 19% (116) said they would do this some of the time. Again, 1% (six) of the participants would not make a change when physically active.

The program has been a successful collaboration with county partners concerned about the health of low-income families and their children. This partnership in the past three years (2004-2006) has successfully educated 3,389 WIC and Head Start participants on the importance of nutrition and physical activity for themselves and their families.

## Dairy Worker Skills

Successful completion of Dairy Worker Skills Module IV, Herdsmanship, was accomplished in 2006. The last section of Herdsmanship training was Fresh Cow Exams. This DVD features Dr. Sheila McGuirk from the University of Madison School of Veterinary Medicine. In May, the Fresh Cow Exam training was given at Neighborhood Dairy with veterinarians from Valley Vet Clinic providing hands-on training after the DVD was shown. Twenty people completed the evaluations with more than a two-point improvement on a seven-point scale for deciding which cow to examine, observations to make, additional tests to conduct, correct diagnosis, accurate record keeping, and ability to check for displaced abomasums. All of the participants would recommend the training to other employees.



Module III, Calf Management, was available and sold at World Dairy Expo for the first time this year. Fourteen Module III, Calf Management, CDs were sold by the Babcock Institute at the show. Also sold were 73 CDs and eight binders of all the modules. In the Outagamie County Extension office, we have distributed the following educational materials: 89 binders and CD sets, 19 CDs, 15 binders, 63 laminated calf protocol card sets, and 32 DVDs of Fresh Cow Exams. Distribution is mostly in the upper Midwest states with some to eastern states and five foreign countries. Although we have had second printings on two of the modules, the Dairy Team subgroup working on Dairy Worker Skills feels we can sell more training material if the products were distributed by a firm that specializes in selling like materials. Since the beginning of the Dairy Worker Skills training, approximately 500 employees have been trained in skills specific to dairy farm work in Eastern Wisconsin.

## Earless Corn Silage

Over the last several years, dairy producers and custom heifer raisers have been encouraged to raise heifers to weigh over 1,300 pounds and calve at 24 months of age. In reaching this goal, many producers have confined heifers more and increased the energy, especially corn silage, in the diet. Thus, heifers reach the appropriate weight but some have calved with excessive fat cover and experienced increased dystocia and metabolic problems associated with this extra fat. There is also increased fat deposit in the mammary tissue of young heifers which reduces milk production in the future.

With this in mind, four plots of long season corn hybrids were planted in this area to see if corn could be grown without ears; thus reducing both starch content and TDN (total digestible nutrients). This would allow heifer rations to be formulated to maintain gain but reduce fat deposits in heifers. Of the different hybrids grown and sampled, only two hybrids tested below 62% TDN and under 10% starch. This is just the beginning of research to determine the feasibility of earless corn silage to improve heifer rations and reduce costs of raising heifers. Next year, more plots and increased acreage for demonstrations are being planned. More research needs to be done with not only plots and lab analysis but also experimental trials at research stations and farmer demonstrations of growing and feeding.



# Crops, Soils and Horticulture

## Forage Yields & Quality



Unseasonable and sometimes extreme weather was the story from the beginning of 2006 until the end. We experienced a prolonged January thaw that brought the alfalfa out of dormancy for much of the month. April saw soil temperatures measuring in the mid-50's, followed by a sudden and very severe drop in temperatures below the freezing point during May. The below normal cold, combined with heavy rains, led to problems with seedling emergence in the cornfields known as "inhibitional chilling." Many cornfields exhibited uneven growth all season long as these conditions were followed by a moderate drought for much of the season. Alfalfa Scissor Clip was conducted during the last three weeks of May to help producers determine the optimum time to begin alfalfa harvest. Timely updates reporting the Relative Feed Values in area fields kept local farmers informed as to when they should begin cutting to harvest the highest quality crop. This is important because even marginal increases in alfalfa quality can lead to greater milk production and feed efficiency. Nearly 30,000 acres of corn is harvested as silage each year in Outagamie County. As silage moisture drops below 60%, digestibility decreases dramatically. The hot, dry weather that was prevalent all summer long only increased the variability that was already present in the 2006 corn crop. As a service to farmers, the Outagamie County Forage Council hosted silage drydowns at four different sites in late August and September. Over 60 producers submitted samples for testing and were better informed about when to harvest as a result of their participation.

## Research and Demonstration Plots

University research sites and county extension demonstration plots are used extensively to show clientele the latest in varieties and techniques.

## Nutrient Management

In 2005, the Crops and Soils Agent continued efforts to help producers develop Nutrient Management Plans by conducting kitchen table meetings over the winter months. The meetings resulted in a plan to implement for the coming growing season. Producers are asked to assess current practices and to identify where they could improve efficiencies and become better stewards of the land. There are no out-of-pocket costs to producers as a part of this program as costs are fully covered through the Multi-Agency Land and Water Education Grant that was awarded to the crops and soils program over the past two years.

## Master Gardener Association

The Outagamie County Master Gardener Association had a big year in 2006. In March they co-hosted the Annual State Master Gardener Conference in Appleton with the Waupaca and Winnebago Master Gardener Associations. This conference set a new attendance record with more than 450 members present from across the state. The local organization also had a tremendous plant sale that used proceeds to support volunteer efforts in the community. In 2006, 121 members became certified/re-certified and a new class of 30 completed the Master Gardener coursework in April. Members volunteered a grand total of 6,968 hours of time to the community during 2006. This volunteer time included: 200 hours of youth education, 490 hours of community education, and 6,277 hours of support services. They also increased their own horticultural knowledge by participating in 1,810 hours of continuing education making them an even greater resource for the community. Master Gardeners also supported the Community Garden Projects by teaching participants about growing practices.



# UW- EXTENSION STAFF

## Agents/Educators/Coordinators

### Ellen Andrews

4-H Youth & Family Program Coordinator

### Jeanne Baum

4-H Youth Development Agent

### David Bayer

Seasonal Horticulture Assistant

### Susan Bongert\*

Nutrition Educator

### Karen Dickrell

Family Living Educator/Department Head

### Kevin Jarek

Crops, Soils & Horticulture Agent

### Darlene Kramer\*

Family Nutrition Coordinator

### Zen Miller

Dairy/Livestock Agent

### James Resick

Community Development Educator

### Maria Shoemaker\*

Nutrition Educator

### Kristine Soper\*

Nutrition Educator

### Marcia Spaulding

4-H Program Assistant

### Bao Thao-Vang\*

Nutrition Educator

### Kathy Weiner

Seasonal Horticulture Assistant

\*Serves Calumet/Outagamie/Winnebago Counties

## Located with UW-Extension

### Susan Richardson

Community Garden Coordinator  
Program of Goodwill NCW

## Support Staff

Joan Behle, CD/4-H Youth

Sherri Fassbender, CD/4-H Youth

Terry Hampton, Special Projects

Vicki Handschke, 4-H Youth

Mary Lou Senf, Administration/Family Living

Denise VanderZanden, Agriculture

## County Administration

Toby Paltzer, County Executive

Sherri McNamara, Executive Assistant

Cliff Sanderfoot, County Board Chair

## Extension Education Committee (2006)

James McDaniel, Chair

Carl Anthony, Vice Chair

Ralph Thern, Secretary

Nicholas Hofacker, Member

Charles Kramer, Member

## 2006 Program Accomplishments

Consultation, Telephone Calls, Office/Residence Conferences	18,294
Educational Meetings Held	1,263
Attendance	24,411
Instructional Letters	972
Number Distributed	12,692
Newsletters	46
Number Distributed	7,645
News Releases	62
Publications Distributed	14,691
Radio Programs	49
Satellites/Wisline	211
TV Shows/Spots	42

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