



MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE **AMENDED** AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 3:00pm**

Meeting Location: **Courthouse Assembly Room, Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI 54403**

Committee Members: Rick Seefeldt, Chair; Becky Buch, Vice-Chair; Bobby Niemeyer, Crystal Bushman
Kim Ungerer, David Baker, Tom Rosenberg

Marathon County Mission Statement: Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business. (Last updated: 12-20-05)

Committee Mission Statement: Provide the leadership for implementation of the Strategic Plan, monitoring outcomes, reviewing, and recommending to the County Board all policies related to educational and economic development initiatives of Marathon County.

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the **telephone conference beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:**

Phone#: 1-408-418-9388 Access Code: 146 235 4571

When you enter the telephone conference, **PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!**

The meeting will also be broadcasted on Public Access or at <https://tinyurl.com/MarathonCountyBoard>

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment (15 Minutes)** (Any person who wishes to address the committee during the "Public Comment" portion of the meetings, must provide his or her name, address, and the topic he or she wishes to present to the Marathon County Clerk, or chair of the committee, no later than five minutes before the start of the meeting. All comments must be germane to a topic within the jurisdiction of the committee.)
4. **Approval of the December 7, 2023, Extension, Education and Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes**
5. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination**
6. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution, or Policy**
 - A. Marathon County's Role in Providing Affordable High-Quality External Childcare
 1. Childcare Resolution
7. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
 - A. Manure Digester Producer for County Consideration
 - B. MCDEVCO'S Monthly Report
 - C. Library Monthly Report
 - D. UW - Extension Monthly Report
 - E. UWSP - Wausau Report
8. **Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements and Future Agenda Items**
 - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion.
 - B. Next meeting: Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 3:00pm
9. **Adjournment**

*Any Person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 261.1500 or email countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us one business day before the meeting.

Please take note that a quorum of members of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors and/or any of its subordinate bodies may be present at this meeting at the above date and time to gather information. The County Board of Supervisors and any other committee other than the Extension, Education, and Economic Development Committee will not hold formal meetings at this time. No action or vote will be taken by the board or any committee other than EEED. This notice is provided in accordance with *State ex rel. Badke v. Greendale Village Bd.*, 173 Wis.2d 553,494 N.W.2d 408 (1993).

SIGNED _____ s/s Rick Seefeldt
Presiding Officer or Designee

EMAILED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and other Media Groups

EMAILED BY: _____

DATE & TIME: _____

NOTICE POSTED AT THE COURTHOUSE

BY: _____

DATE & TIME: _____



MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA WITH MINUTES

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 3:00pm**

Meeting Location: **Courthouse Assembly Room, Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI 54403**

Rick Seefeldt	Present
Becky Buch	Present
David Baker	WebEx
Bobby Niemeyer	Absent
Tom Rosenberg	Present
Kim Ungerer	Present
Crystal Bushman	WebEx

Staff Present: Lance Leonhard, Michael Puerner, Chris Holman, Jeremy Solin, Leah Giordano, Miranda Gentry-Siegel

Others Present: Kimm Weber, Supervisor Lemmer

[Meeting Recording](#)

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Chair Seefeldt called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment:** None
4. **Approval of the November 2, 2023, Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes** – (0:01.00)
Motion by Rosenberg, Second by Buch to approve the minutes. Motion carried on voice vote, unanimously.
5. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination:** None
6. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution, or Policy**
 - A. Marathon County's Role in Providing Affordable Housing
 1. 2023 Housing Resolution – (0:01.40)
Motion made by Rosenberg, second by Buch to forward the amended Resolution to the full County Board. Motion carried.
 - B. Consideration of Initial Resolution Digester Project – (0:14.25)
Motion made by Rosenberg, second by Bushman to except the initial Digester Resolution and present to the whole County Board. Motion carried.
7. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
 - A. MCDEVCO's Monthly Report - (0:26.45)
 - B. Library Monthly Report – (0:36.45)
 - C. UW – Extension Monthly Report – (0:48.12)
 - D. UWSP – Wausau Report – (:51.50)
8. **Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements and Future Agenda Items** – (0:53.38)
 - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion.
 - B. Next meeting: Thursday, January 4, 2023, at 3:00pm
9. **Adjournment**
Motion by Rosenberg, Second by Buch to adjourn. Motion Carried on voice vote, unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by Kelley Blume

Substitute Amendment
RESOLUTION # R-55-23
Marathon County Government's Role in Providing Affordable
High-Quality External Child Care

WHEREAS, a shortage of affordable, high quality child care is directly impacting Marathon County families and indirectly impacting Marathon County businesses through workforce shortages; and

WHEREAS, the EEED committee has been tasked with preparing recommendations for Marathon County Government's role in supporting affordable high-quality childcare, with input from non-EEED Supervisors and other Marathon County Stakeholders, per Marathon County's Strategic Plan Objective 10.3, Outcome Measure 3, and

WHEREAS, there has been a significant reduction in the number of Licensed Child Care Facilities and Certified Child Care Providers in the state. In Marathon County there are only 72 licensed facilities and 8 Certified Child Care providers listed in the Department of Children and Families database

WHEREAS, there are a number of factors that impact the availability of childcare to residents including the lack of child care workers and facilities, low wages for child care workers and government regulations

WHEREAS, the Marathon County Department of Social Services is the local certification agency for certifying family care providers, and

WHEREAS, the federal and state government have provided \$10,641,766 of taxpayer funded subsidies to Marathon County child care providers since May 2020^{vi}, and

WHEREAS, state government has been an active player in assisting individuals in accessing child care services with the state providing financial child care assistance to lower income families through Wisconsin Shares, with a state wide total of more than \$300,000,000.00 provided over the last 12 months to more than 17,500 Wisconsin families to assist in providing child care to more than 31,000 children^v, and

WHEREAS, family child care providers must be either certified or licensed to be eligible to accept Wisconsin Shares funding, and

WHEREAS, child care availability is critical to addressing issues associated with work force development. Several counties in Wisconsin have joined in public/private partnerships to identify solutions to address this issue.

WHEREAS, recognizing the need for public private partnerships the Wisconsin Legislature is considering AB 660 which creates an income and franchise tax credit for businesses that operate a child care program for their employees' children.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is not the role of Marathon County Government to subsidize the operational costs of external child care using taxpayer funds. However, the county may have a role to play in fostering efforts through public private partnerships and the county should be a participant in ongoing efforts to remove barriers and facilitate opportunities to expand child care opportunities in the county.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County encourages the state through the Department of Family Services and the Legislature to review policies and regulations impacting the availability of child care.

EXTENSION, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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MCDEVCO, Inc. – December 2023 Report

GAP FINANCING

MCDEVCO continues to work with businesses throughout Marathon County to provide *GAP* financing.

POWTS REVOLVING LOAN FUND

MCDEVCO is now accepting applications!

COVID-19 GRANTS

MCDEVCO administrated the Marathon County Microbusiness Grant.

- Total Amount of \$5,000.00 Grants Disbursed: 47
- Total Amount Disbursed to Marathon County Businesses: \$235,000.00

ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT

2023 PROGRAMMING:

- **March 14, 2023:** Business Start Up Information Session hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **March 28, 2023:** MCDEVCO *GAP* Financing Information Session for Financial Institutions.
- **March 29, 2023:** MCDEVCO led an entrepreneurship segment with the DC Everest Youth Entrepreneurs.
- **April 4, 2023 & April 11, 2023:** Strategic Planning Workshop hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **April 20, 2023:** MCDEVCO was present at the Chamber Expo.
- **April 26, 2023:** MCDEVCO was present at the CWIMMA Expo.
- **May 9, 2023:** *GAP* Financing Information Session was held for EEC Tenants looking to grow and evolve their business.
- **May 15, 2023:** MCDEVCO attended a Strategic Doing Workshop and led a table discussion surrounding Brainpower and Talent Development in our Region.
- **May 16, 2023:** Business Networking hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **May 23, 2023:** MCDEVCO partnered with the DC Everest Youth Entrepreneurs for a class visit.
- **June 13, 2023:** Business Start Up Information Session hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **June 21 & 28, 2023:** Quickbooks for Business hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **July 19, 2023:** Law Clinic hosted by MCDEVCO in partnership with UW Madison Law & Entrepreneurship Clinic.
- **July 24 & 31, 2023:** Marketing Workshop hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **September 12, 2023 through December 5, 2023:** *GEARS* Certificate of Entrepreneurial Excellence.
- **October 10, 2023:** Business Start Up Information Session hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **November 17, 2023:** Women's Conference – Inside Out Leadership Summit

Municipalities

MCDEVCO hosts quarterly municipality meetings.

EEC Management

Occupancy Update:

- November 2023 Occupancy: 88%

Kimm Weber, Executive Director - MCDEVCO

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

Now is the time for you to start planning the business you want to grow and succeed.



TUESDAYS:
APRIL 4 & 11, 2023



6:00-7:30PM



MCDEVCO, Inc.
Entrepreneurial & Education Center
100 N 72nd Avenue, Wausau, WI

Scholarships Available

www.mcdevco.org
715.298.0084



TIM MCKEOUGH
Q Up Success



BUSINESS NETWORKING



Tuesday, May 16, 2023
6:00 - 7:30PM

MCDEVCO, Inc.
Entrepreneurial & Education Center
100 N 72nd Avenue, Wausau, WI

715.298.0084

www.mcdevco.org

Scholarships Available



Amy Plier
Wausau Container Corp
Co-Founder



QuickBooks Online Workshop

MCDEVCO, Inc.
Entrepreneurial & Education Center
100 N 72nd Avenue, Wausau, WI

Wednesdays, June 21 & 28, 2023
6:00-8:00PM

715.298.0084
www.mcdevco.org



Instructor
Sydney Fritzel, CPA
Owner - Summit Tax & Accounting



Marketing Workshop

Tara Schessler

Sales Manager - WAOW TV 9

Mondays, July 24 & 31, 2023

MCDEVCO, Inc.
Entrepreneurial & Education Center
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www.mcdevco.org
715.298.0084



MCDEVCO, Inc.
 Entrepreneurial & Education Center
 100 N 72nd Avenue
 Wausau, WI 54401





GEARS Certificate of Entrepreneurial Excellence

Tuesdays, September 12 - December 5, 2023
 6:00-8:00PM - 22 Hours of Focused Management Skills

Join us for this 12-week leadership program and learn the skills, tools, and strategies to get your new venture off to a great start or to grow your existing business.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



BUSINESS LAW BASICS


UW Law & Entrepreneurship Clinic Supervising Attorney Jeff Glazer will present on Business Law Basics and Intellectual Property. Q & A to follow.

10:00-11:00AM - Presentation and Q & A

11:00AM to 3:00PM - Eight (8) 30-minute time slots available by appointment.

Wednesday, July 19, 2023
 Entrepreneurial & Education Center
 100 N 72nd Avenue, Wausau, WI 54401

Register Online
[www.mcdevco.org / Events & Programs](http://www.mcdevco.org/Events&Programs)
 715.298.0084




INSIDE-OUT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Keynote Speaker
Stephanie Perkins

Friday, November 17, 2023
 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

\$75 - Lunch Included
 Scholarships Available

REGISTER NOW

MCDEVCO, Inc.
 Entrepreneurial & Education Center
 100 N 72nd Avenue
 Wausau, WI 54401
 715.298.0084
www.mcdevco.org

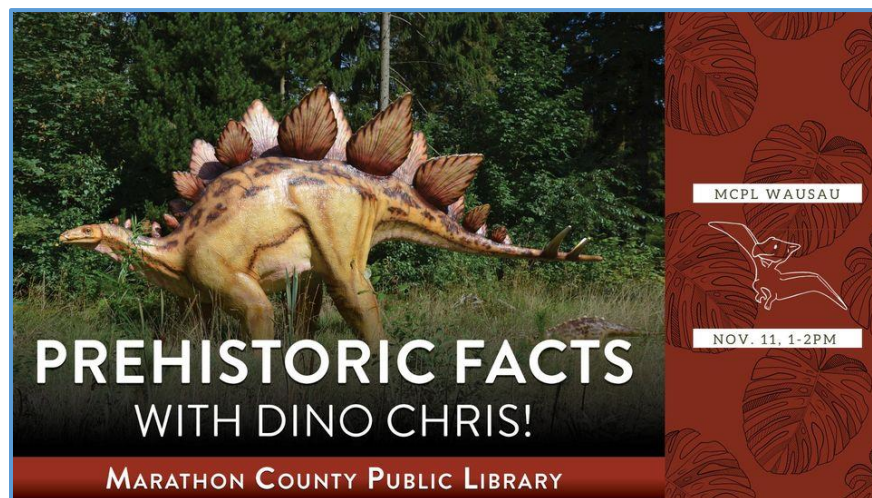


Monthly Summary of the Marathon County Public Library for the Marathon County Extension, Education, and Economic Development Committee

For January 4, 2024 EEEDC Meeting

Library Services

In November, the Youth Services department celebrated DINOvember—a month long celebration of all things dinosaurs! Maria designed a dinosaur scavenger hunt, Rose installed a dinosaur-themed Early Literacy Center, and staff took dinosaur-themed photos for the library's social media accounts. Programming highlights from November include: A Family Glow Night featuring glow-in-the-dark stories and activities, LEGO Clubs, a 4H Foodie collaboration, a DIY 3D sculptures event, and our monthly Pokémon Club. LENA wrapped up with a total of six families graduating from two MCPL groups.



Additionally, we welcomed two groups of refugees from the New Beginnings program and shared library resources with both. The Youth Services team also made time for outreach this month. Taylor attended the Head Start Resource Fair and met with staff from the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum. Moving forward, we are excited to collaborate with the Leigh Yawkey to host the Art Cluster in February; due to staffing challenges, the Wausau School District is unable to organize the program in 2024. Thanks to our partnership with the Leigh Yawkey, student artwork will continue to be displayed in the library! Taylor and Rose attended the Children's Imaginarium open house, making connections and brainstorming future collaborations. Youth staff continued to work on county-wide solar eclipse programming for April,

a YALL (Young Adult Library Learners) group, teen programming in the spring, and booked SLP performers for summer.

Adult Services staff worked hard supporting our strategic planning initiatives, organizing programming for 2024, and finishing up 2023 projects this month. Allycia, Ben, and Chad have been hard at work marketing and promoting the community strategic plan survey and Q&A boards that went up at all MCPL locations this month. The survey can be found on our website, social media accounts, and was included in MCPL's latest e-newsletter! Chad has been diligently approving a fantastic slate of programs for all MCPL locations in 2024—our patrons can look forward to an exciting year of programming for all ages! Adult Services also has several projects nearing completion: Jailin is finishing up an extensive obituary index that will be sure to aid researchers, Jordan and Julie's historical newspaper cataloging project is almost complete, Kate is hard at work doing end-of-year weeding projects and purchasing library materials, and Kathy continues to support the team to finish up various projects. Programming highlights for the month of November include: Arts & Crafts with Adaptive Communities, Let's Talk! Social Hour, Movie Night, a popular Ancestry program hosted by Julie K. at our Rothschild branch, gardening classes with Extension Marathon County, and History Speaks—The Gettysburg Address with the Marathon County Historical Society.

We have seen an uptick in behavior issues in the library from our adult patrons. Both teams attended a refresher meeting to go over our Behavior in the Library policy and guidelines for enforcing that policy.

-Katelyn S, Library Services Manager

Branches

Our most exciting news of the month involves the move to our new building at 203 Alfred St in Athens! The move was scheduled for November 6-10, and went off without any major glitches. We sent the moving company home on Wednesday, two days earlier than expected. The Athens staff had moving assistance from MCPL staff members from Wausau, Spencer, Stratford, Mosinee, Hatley, and Rothschild. It was a true effort of our core value, Shared Purpose. The new library opened the doors to the public on Monday, November 13, 2023 welcoming many community members and their children.



In other exciting news, the Rothschild branch received a new self-check machine in mid-November. It is working very well and the patrons are pleased with the experience.

We held a lot of high quality adult programming at many of our branches in November. In Edgar and Stratford, a local health and life insurance agent gave helpful presentations on Medicare, Medicaid, and Long Term Care. Additional presentations are scheduled for the next few weeks. In Mosinee, the Marathon County Historical Society presented a fascinating program about the Mock Communist Takeover in Mosinee of 1950. In Rothschild, Julie K., the adult reference librarian, joined us on November 16th to teach a class about using Ancestry at the library. In Spencer, "Have you seen my keys?" was presented by Julie St. Pierre from the Alzheimer's Association of Wisconsin. This was a very informative program talking about signs of Alzheimer's, knowing the difference between Alzheimer's and forgetfulness in a person, and first steps to take when you see signs of Alzheimer's.

Each branch is also hosting pieces from the *Cultural Threads: Expressing Identity through Traditional Clothing* art exhibit. The exhibit features a collection of dolls with handmade, authentic, traditional clothing. The outfits represent different cultures found in North Central Wisconsin.

Stephanie, Library Business Specialist, made visits to multiple locations to assess furniture, give feedback on branch layouts, and discuss refurbishment.

Hatley served as a water collection site for the County Water Department on November 8th, 13th, and 15th.

Laura from Rothschild and Kitty from Athens attended the SOAR meeting on 11/28. All branches are participating in the Dream Big strategic planning process by hosting Community Q&A Boards.

-Laura W, Branch Team Lead



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MARATHON COUNTY

December 2023 Report

*We teach, learn, lead, and serve,
connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with
them in transforming lives and communities.*

4-H – Positive Youth Development

Holly Luerssen, 4-H Program Educator

Jasmine Carbajal, 4-H Associate Educator

- A Planning for a presentation at the Tri-State Camp Conference in collaboration with three other colleagues all a part of the WI 4-H Camp Work Team. The goal of this effort is to share with other 4-H and Camp professionals about some of the great work being done in Wisconsin 4-H so that Wisconsin 4-H can continue to work towards becoming the premier youth development organization in the state and a leader among national 4-H programs.
- A hands-on educational activity with youth in 3rd grade and older learned the basics of crocheting. The goal of this session was for youth to learn and practice a new skill and experience a project that can be done in 4-H.
- A hands-on educational activity where Marathon County youth in 3rd grade and older learned about MyPlate and learned about healthy snacks. The goal of the activity was for youth to try something new and to make bean dip and yogurt parfaits.
- A hands-on activity for Marathon County youth in elementary school where they made Thanksgiving stickers. The goal of this program was to teach a new skill to youth and their families.
- Community event in Marathon County where youth and families were able to learn about Day of the Dead, participate in activities that were culturally relevant, and experience a live mariachi. The goal of the event was to expose the Marathon County community to a celebration from another country.
- The Winter Camp planning team meets bi-weekly to create a meaningful experience for older youth who will attend the upcoming 2024 Winter Camp.
- The 4-H Christmas Painting Party was held to help youth build painting skills and engage in a little holiday spirit. The event was held at Clay Corner Studio and attended by 19 youth from 5K-12th grade.
- The December Clover Kaboom program for youth in 5K-2nd grade provided youth an opportunity to build relations, engage in new activities, and have holiday fun.
- Discover 4-H: Trinity is a once a month 4-H program that enters a local elementary school and provides traditional 4-H education to grades 1, 4, and 6. The 4-H staff prepares hands on WI AgriScience lessons for 62 students including farm to table, pumpkin farms, cranberry farms, and evergreens.
- Partnership with MCHS Public Health AmeriCorps Community Corps program, the Marathon County 4-H Leaders Federation, and Wisconsin Juntos program to create the 4-H Program Assistant for 4-H programs. Two 4-H Program Assistants will provide a variety of programs through Growing Great Minds, Marathon County Library, camps, travel experiences, and traditional 4-H. The purpose of this effort is to improve program effectiveness and community outreach in the Marathon County 4-H program.



- New Family 4-H Newsletter is a monthly publication that is intended for and distributed to new 4-H families. The publication is intended to bridge the gap that 1st year 4-H community club families experience, especially those who are a first generation 4-H family (meaning no one else in their family has been in 4-H) and help them to understand common experiences across 4-H. The 4-H newsletter addresses the issues from both an adult and youth perspective.

Agriculture

Heather Schlessor, Dairy Agent

- A live, on-line meeting series, for farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned the latest research and applications regarding effective animal handling and the impact that plays on efficiency on the farm. The goal of this effort was to increase knowledge of the latest UW-Madison research and provide a comprehensive understanding of effective dairy animal handling, grouping strategies and their impact on efficiency in the parlor and beyond.
- Planning for the 2024 Dairy Reproduction Roadshow, an in person educational program for dairy producers and dairy industry professionals, where they will learn the latest research based recommendations for managing dairy herd reproduction.
- Planning an in-person meeting for women in agriculture in collaboration with other agriculture educators. This effort aims to teach women about various dairy-related topics in an environment where they feel comfortable asking questions so that they can learn without fear of intimidation.
- Coordinating a Planning for Emergency Livestock Transportation Response (PELTR) hybrid training in collaboration with Waukesha County and the Humane Animal Welfare Society (HAWS) of Waukesha for area and statewide emergency response personnel to learn about responding to roadside incidents involving livestock trailers. The purpose of this program is to increase the effectiveness of emergency planning and the preparedness of local emergency response agencies.
- A field study data collection in collaboration with Colorado State University to better understand the practices and challenges associated with transportation of pre-weaned dairy heifer, dairy bull, and beef x dairy calves from the source (dairy farms), hauler, and receiver (calf raiser). Results from this study will help dairy farmers, managers, haulers, calf raisers, and the dairy community in adopting practices and improving transportation welfare to improve farm business viability and food safety.
- Planning and creating videos for agriculturists including youth involved in livestock production where they will learn biosecurity principles in collaboration with the WI Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection (DATCP). The goal of this project is to help livestock producers increase their understanding of biosecurity practices that will help them achieve and/or maintain economic viability.
- Planning for development of factsheets/articles, longer publications, and videos on nutrition, genetics, & reproduction topics. The goal of this effort is to increase farmers, nutritionist, veterinarian, and other agribusiness professionals understanding of management of these topics to help improve farm sustainability and economic viability.



- A study to better understand the prevalence of Prototheca Bovis Mastitis on dairy farms in Wisconsin. Results from this study will help Extension Educators provide tailored education to the farmers of Wisconsin on this type of mastitis.

FoodWise

Mallory McGivern, FoodWise Administrator

Michelle Van Krey, Healthy Communities Coordinator

Julia Perock, FoodWise Educator

- Planning with partners in Clark, Marathon, Portage and Wood Counties to build a new platform that directly focuses on food access mapping for those with limited incomes. The goal of this effort is to provide current, reliable food access information for all community stakeholders in Central Wisconsin and the state.
- Shared leadership in the Marathon County Hunger Coalition, where emphasis is placed on expanding healthy food access and developing new projects and partnerships that will empower Marathon County families through education and shared resources. The coalition's goal is to increase access to healthy foods to achieve health equity for all county residents.
- A quarterly nutrition education series in Marathon County utilizing the Feeding for Healthy Eating curriculum for adults with young children as part of the Children's Wisconsin LEAP (Learning Essentials about Parenting) program where they learn about incorporating healthy eating habits into the family routine, including family meals, and eating more fruits and vegetables. The goal of this effort is to encourage healthy eating behaviors at home.

Horticulture

Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator

- An in person horticulture course where Marathon County residents and potential Master Gardener Trainees learn the fundamental principles of IPM based gardening to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments.
- A community of practice for horticulture educators where we explore strategies and resources to expand horticulture education and outreach to underrepresented audiences. The goal of participating in this group is to dig into ways we can locally continue to grow and enhance our horticulture programs to reach more diverse audiences.
- Planning for the creation of a repository of existing horticultural resources in multiple languages for home/community gardeners of all abilities. The goal of this effort is to make this repository accessible on the Horticulture Topic Hub.



- Developing informal learning communities utilizing the Horticulture Program's social media for all Wisconsin gardeners, including underserved populations. The goal of this effort is to provide accurate, practical, and up-to-date information to the public primarily through the topic hub in order to bolster educational outreach efforts in support of addressing the Horticulture Program objectives.

Natural Resources

Kris Tiles, NRI Program Manager

Anna James, Regional Natural Resources Educator

- A facilitated discussion with members of the Eau Pleine Partnership for Integrated Conservation, a producer-led watershed protection group, where participants discussed the group's strategic plan, logic model, and membership structure. Through this activity, the group was able to identify needs within their internal structure and current logic model.
- Participation in the advisory panel of a local producer-led watershed group for farmers, conservationists, and community members of the Big Eau Pleine watershed, by assisting with planning and facilitating activities geared toward increasing the awareness and adoption of conservation and ultimately water quality of the Big Eau Pleine and Wisconsin River watersheds.

Additional Extension Outreach Programming Occurring in Marathon County

- Program planning for Dean's Innovation Grant award to provide well water testing to farmers with employee housing to test water quality for underserved audiences. The goal of this program is to incentivize water testing for farms to ensure drinking water is safe for human consumption.
- An online program (Money Matters) for participants who want to improve their financial knowledge, where they complete 1-12 modules on different financial topics. The goal of the Money Matters modules is to increase participants' knowledge on topics such as credit scores and reports, making a spending plan, what to do when you can't pay your bills, and identifying financial strengths so that participants can apply these skills in the future.
- In 2023 the Healthy Grown program enhanced its innovative educational approach, expanded certification, and identified new research efforts which resulted in direct farmer engagement and on-farm BMP adoption outcomes.
- A study to learn about how much neonicotinoid pesticides from seed treatments and from field applications leach into groundwater in areas of sandy soil. Results will help WDNR regulate this class of pesticides to protect water supplies statewide and agricultural producers to design farm management practices to mitigate pesticide impacts.



- Plans for a dairy open house on a robotic dairy farm are being developed to address the high level of interest by dairy producers to embrace this cow management, production enhancing and labor saving technology.
- A pasture walk on an organic dairy farm was held for local dairy producers to learn about sustainable practices in pasture management and the management of pasture grazed dairy cows and replacements.
- Participating on the steering team of a collaborative of local farmers and agricultural professionals called a "learning hub," based in a specific geography referred to as the Cloverbelt, focused on increasing grass-based agriculture in the region mainly by the implementation of grazing dairy heifers.
- Coordinate the Grazing Management Team at the Marshfield Agricultural Research Station. The goal is to facilitate monthly meetings to make sure all research station staff and scientists are working toward the same goals, and to ensure success of the grazing program at the station.

Upcoming Programs

- **4-H Programming** – Information at marathon.extension.wisc.edu/projects/programs/
- **Horticultural Programs** – Information at <https://marathon.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/programs/>

Jeremy Solin <i>Area Extension Director</i>	Janell Wehr <i>Horticulture Educator</i>	Kris Tiles <i>NRI Program Manager</i>
Heather Schlessler <i>Dairy Agent</i>	Mallory McGivern <i>FoodWise Administrator</i>	Kathy Johnson <i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Holly Luerssen <i>4-H Program Educator</i>	Julia Perock <i>FoodWise Educator</i>	
Jasmine Carbajal <i>4-H Associate Educator</i>	Michelle Van Krey <i>Healthy Community Coordinator</i>	



Wausau UW-Stevens Point

Report to the Extension, Education, and Economic Development Committee January 2024

1. **Congratulations to our December 2023 graduates!** Commencement was held on December 16th on the Stevens Point campus. Several of our AAS graduates walked during the ceremony. We wish all of our December graduates well on the next phase of their college journey.
2. **Enrollment** –We wish a warm welcome to our new first-year and transfer students starting on the Wausau campus in Spring 2024. We’re still taking applications for Spring 2024 and are making progress with Fall 2024 applications. We are thrilled to have Samuel Scarpaci on board as our Recruitment Coordinator for the Wausau and Marshfield campuses.
3. **Continuing Education:** UWSP’s Continuing Education department will run the 39th annual [Good Ideas Conference](#) on the Wausau campus this January 9th-11th. Registration remains open through January 2nd.
 - a. Please access our continuing education website for professional development and personal enrichment opportunities.
<https://www3.uwsp.edu/conted/Pages/Professional-Development.aspx>
4. **Degree Programs Offered** – Below is a list of the degree programs we currently offer on the Wausau campus.
 - a. Associate Degrees
Associate of Arts and Sciences Degree
Human Services
Leadership and Project Mgt
Pre-Engineering
 - b. Bachelors programs
B.S. in Business Administration
B.S. in Nursing (full degree and completion options available)
B.S. in Organizational Leadership
B.S. in Multidisciplinary Studies
B.S. in Multidisciplinary Studies—Technology Management Emphasis
Engineering (UW-Platteville Partnership)
 - c. Master’s Degrees
Masters of Business Administration in Applied Leadership and Decision-Making
Physician Assistant Program (UW-Madison Partnership)

Social Work (UW-Green Bay Partnership)
Submitted by Miranda Gentry-Siegel, Interim Director of Campus Operations