



NEWS FROM EXTENSION

UW-MADISON DIVISION OF EXTENSION WOOD COUNTY



2023 AgriVenture Farm Camp

by Anna James, Natural Resources Educator

AgriVenture Farm Camp has been held at Memory Lane Farm in Marshfield, WI since 2017. The camp inspires, supports, and encourages youth to explore the wonders of nature, agriculture, and animals. Camp is hosted over 6-sessions where youth rotate between program areas focused on gardening, natural resources, farm animals, woodworking, and arts and crafts. Memory Lane Farm, which has been recognized as a Wisconsin Century Farm, provides a space for youth to “get off the grid” for several hours a night, using their hands, heads, and hearts to problem solve, learn, and grow.

Natural Resources Educator, Anna James, lead the charge at the natural resources station by utilizing an outdoor classroom space to teach campers about symbiotic relationships. Campers learned to identify different types of symbiotic relationships such as mutualism, commensalism, and parasitism through hands on activities and guided exploration. The Good Buddies Game was a crowd favorite as it combined tag and hide ‘n seek to demonstrate symbiotic relationships around the world. During their second trip to the natural resources station, campers got to explore the woods and prairies of Memory Lane Farm by going on a Symbiotic Scavenger Hunt. Each group of campers worked together to spot symbiotic relationships in the local ecosystem, such as a bee pollinating a flower or a bird’s nest in a tree, to complete the scavenger hunt. After each session, campers reflected on what they learned by taking a couple of minutes to journal while on a wagon ride back to the farm.

The last evening of camp is reserved as Family Night, where campers and their families come to the farm to enjoy a meal with each other and volunteers. This evening also provides an opportunity for families to learn about each station while campers show off their creations, new skills, and what they’ve learned. Parents were surprised at the “big words” their children learned at the natural resources station, and how well their children could identify symbiotic relationships in their daily lives.

The 2023 AgriVenture Farm Camp was a success with 35 campers and almost as many volunteers – it truly does take a village! Anna enjoyed leading the natural resources station and is already planning next year’s topic and activities.

From Blossoms to Berries

by Allison Jonjak, Cranberry Outreach Specialist

As July bursts in, cranberries transition from their blossom phase to the early fruit phase. Honeybees leave the marshes with their keepers, while bumblebees and wild pollinators switch to vetch, dogbane, and other nearby pollen sources. Cranberry Outreach has kept pace with the growers, hosting Virtual Brown Bag Lunches on topics of dewpoint frosts, fungicides which might be labeled by the EPA in cranberry soon, and on-farm data tracking uses in June, as well as seasonal observations, new planting best practices for nutrition and canopy establishment, practical tank mixes, and the flea beetle life cycle in July. The Cranberry Crop Management Journal is being published on a regular schedule, and I would also like to highlight the release of our new Cranberry Back to Basics course.

CRANBERRY BACK TO BASICS COURSE

Welcome to the Cranberry Back to Basics Course, a modular self-paced training to walk you through basic production and integrated pest management (IPM) options in Wisconsin.

This course will provide a primer on cranberry production, hit on key aspects in fertility, water, insect, disease, weed and fruit quality management, and include some new hot topics for the industry. Each of the eight modules has a quick overview and several topics with a corresponding video with further details. You can go in the sequential order below or skip around to topics that interest you! (For a link to the complete playlist, see the last page.)



Why do we need a back to basics course for cranberries?



MODULE 1: IN-SEASON PRODUCTION

Cranberries are woody plants grown in beds. They bloom in late June or early July and need pollinators to help transfer pollen between flowers. Cranberry fruit is then formed and harvested about 75 to 100 days after pollination. This section focuses on irrigation, fertilization and crop management to ensure proper fruit quality.



1. Why is in-season production management important?

In-season management is essential to maximize fruit quality and yield. An overview of the practices that optimize fruit quality will be found in this section.



1 of 6

Scan or click the QR code **OR** click the photo in the PDF to watch the video

This course ([accessible here](#) or scan the QR code) is enabling new hires who don't have cranberry backgrounds to receive instant, on-demand training on some of the most important agronomic concepts. This course will help cranberry operations who hire new staff to have a straightforward, science-based, and immediately applicable training as part of their onboarding.

The course is also available for long-term employees and cranberry growers who want to update their information, and learn some of the reasons behind established practices so that they can innovate more effectively.

August sees our Cranberry Summer Field Day hosted at the Wisconsin Cranberry Research Station in Millston on August 9, and anyone in the area is welcome to drop in. Extension runs the Mini Clinic on the Marsh, allowing growers and industry supporters to see first-hand and interact with UW-Madison researchers, discussing the ongoing research being conducted.

AMERICORPS POSITION AVAILABLE

EXTENSION WOOD COUNTY



Start September 2023

- ▶ Expand 4-H programs
- ▶ Work with amazing youth, volunteers and families
- ▶ Create new partnerships
- ▶ Grow professionally
- ▶ Make a difference
- ▶ Approximately 20 hours/week
- ▶ One year commitment
- ▶ 15K Living Allocation
- ▶ Over \$4000 Education Award



**Application Deadline:
July 20**

For more information, contact
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715-421-8439



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Upcoming Extension Programs

- **4-H Cardboard Camp 2023** | July 24-27
- **4-H Foodie Thursdays** | Extension Wood County | July 20th & 27th 9-11am
- **4-H Charcoal Drawing with Charcoal Expressions** | Marshfield | August 8th
- **Cranberry Summer Field Day** | Millston | Wednesday, August 9th

- [Extension @ FOCUS: Nutrition | Tuesday, July 18th - 3:00-4:00pm](#)
- [Extension @ FOCUS : Financial | Tuesday, July 25th - 3:00-4:00pm](#)
- [Rent Smart | McMillan Library | Friday, August 4th - 9:30am-12:30pm](#)
- [Rent Smart | Everett Roehl Library | Friday, August 11th - 9:30am-12:30pm](#)
- [Sowing Success: Evidence-Based Gardening Essentials | McMillan Library | 12 Sessions - September-November - 5:00-7:00pm](#)
- [Clean Sweep | Saratoga Town Hall | Saturday, September 9th - 8am-12pm](#)

wood.extension.wisc.edu - 715-421-8440

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