



NEWS FROM EXTENSION

UW-MADISON DIVISION OF EXTENSION WOOD COUNTY



Wood County 4-H Update

by Laura Huber, 4-H Program Educator

Wood County 4-H is going strong with over 580 youth members! Thankfully, the program has over 115 adult volunteers to support those youth and ensure that they have a great

4-H experience.

Building a high-quality 4-H program takes a lot of work and dedication on the part of those volunteers. What's more, volunteers need to keep up with an ever-changing world. Policies and procedures change and so do kids and families. What doesn't change is the need for opportunities that allow youth to develop the skills that will lead to a lifetime of success.

So often, we only think of the youth of 4-H. In 2023, Laura Huber, Wood County 4-H Program Educator, decided to shift the focus to the adult volunteers of 4-H. Together with Holly Luerssen of Marathon County 4-H, she planned a volunteer retreat – just for 4-H volunteers!

“Learn by Doing” is the 4-H slogan, and that was just what we did at the 4-H Volunteer Retreat at Mead Wildlife Area's Visitor Center on 4 March. Volunteers learned about great new curriculum resources and actively participated in lessons from those resources. They learned how to propagate spider plants (horticulture), break a geode (geology), build a simple circuit (electricity), investigate a crime (forensics), made a brown sugar foot scrub (self care), experimented with watercolors (art), and so much more!

This was the first event of its kind in Wood and Marathon County 4-H programs. Afterward, Huber and Luerssen led a state-wide program for other 4-H staff to share their program and what they learned from the experience.



Power of Ag

by Matt Lippert, Agriculture Educator

Students got to “kick the tires” of possible careers in agriculture during the Power of Ag program hosted at H & S Manufacturing.

Power of Ag is funded for several years through a grant from the 2018 Wood County Farm Technology Days. Ten school districts, 400 students and twenty businesses attended the event. Extension is a partner with Farm Technology Days, and the MACCI Agri-Business Committee organized the event.

Students also visited about possible careers at Mid-State Technical College and UW-Stevens Point @ Marshfield Campus.

The Agri-businesses at H & S had many exciting career opportunities for the students. The students also were able to see live robotic demonstrations on the fabricating floor at H & S and simulated farm equipment operating experiences.

Involvement was encouraged with activities where the students questioned the businesses to win prizes. Some businesses were offering job shadowing, internships, and part positions available immediately.

Upcoming Extension Programs

- **4-H Foodie: Pastalicious** | Auburndale High School | May 24th, 6-7pm
- **WI 4-H Area Animal Science Days** | Wood County - June 9th
- **4-H Summer Camp: Mooving Beyond the Farm** | June 12th-14th
- **Extension @ FOCUS: Container Gardening** | Tuesday, June 6th, 3-4pm
- **Extension @ FOCUS: Nutrition** | Tuesday, June 13th, 3-4pm
- **Extension @ FOCUS: Financial** | Tuesday, June 20th, 3-4pm
- **Planning AHEAD** | McMillan Library | June 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21 & 27 - 9:30-11am
- **Rent Smart** | McMillan Library | Friday, June 2nd, 9:30am-12:30pm
- **Rent Smart** | Everett Roehl Library | Friday, June 9th, 9:30-12:30pm
- **4-H Foodie Thursdays** | Extension Office | July 6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th, 9-11am
- **Wood County Clean Sweep** | Saratoga Town Hall | September 9th, 8am-12pm

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