



NEWS FROM EXTENSION

UW-MADISON DIVISION OF EXTENSION WINNEBAGO COUNTY



The Outdoor Learning Center

Extension Winnebago County's Outdoor Learning Center is well underway with its first year! With its new sign, and blooming plants, we're excited to offer great programs for youth and young adults to learn about gardening, plant care, and how it can improve our mental and physical health. The produce harvested is donated to great causes like the [Day By Day Warming Shelter](#).

Stop by to check it out, or visit us at the Coughlin Center ([625 E County Rd Y, Oshkosh](#)) to learn more about [Extension Winnebago County's](#) programming, and see our display case showing off the Outdoor Learning Center!



Human Development & Relationships

Are you a renter or a landlord? Do you understand the specific rights that each party has under Wisconsin rental codes and statutes? Common areas of misunderstanding include rental

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tenants and landlords in understanding the legal limits and requirements concerning application fees and eviction notices. You can find both documents on Extension Winnebago County's website [here](#).

Extension also offers **Rent Smart**, a tenant education series, to assist renters in developing strong relationships with landlords and understand the rights and responsibilities of being a good tenant.

Rent Smart focuses on the knowledge and skills essential for a successful renting experience. **Rent Smart** is designed to help those individuals who have little to no rental experience and those who have had difficulty obtaining rental housing. Successful participants will learn new skills to build positive relationships with landlords and neighbors, gain confidence in their ability to find and maintain affordable housing, understand the application and screening processes used by landlords, and learn the responsibilities and rights of tenants and landlords.

Recent **Rent Smart** participants were asked to name the most important new idea they learned in the program. Their responses included:

- That it is absolutely necessary to pay my rent on time
- Be honest and upfront with the landlord
- What is and isn't legal when it comes to landlord and tenant right

Rent Smart classes are offered online via Zoom and are free of charge!

See the [schedule and register](#) for online **Rent Smart** classes!

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Crops & Soil

The Midwest Forage Association (MFA) and Outagamie Forage Council would like to invite you to attend the **Regional Twilight Meeting on Thursday, August 15** at J-Springs Dairy near Appleton. Our hosts have transitioned from a traditional tie stall barn to a new free stall barn equipped with a Lely Automatic (Robotic) Milking System. An early bird tour of the new facilities

and milking system will begin at 5 p.m. Attendees will enjoy a free catered meal beginning at 6 p.m. Speakers will begin at 7 p.m. Agri-Logic Consulting has been contracted by the USDA to conduct a listening session and use your input in the development a new Alfalfa Revenue Insurance. This is your opportunity to have a direct say in shaping how the new coverage will be administered. [Full schedule](#)

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FoodWise

Did you know that 19.5% of children in Wisconsin face food insecurity? Food Justice will provide information and resources on this topic, and help visitors learn how YOU can be part of the solution.



Please take some time over the next month and a half to visit the newest exhibit at the

Waupaca Area Public Library: Food

Justice. This exhibit brings attention to the four pillars of food security: opportunities for economic security, robust federal food and nutrition programs, strong emergency food network, and a vibrant, accessible, and affordable food system. This exhibit brings to life the hardships that residents of Waupaca County and the surrounding areas are facing.

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Visit the [FoodWise website](#) for more information!

Community Development

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Do you want to grow your leadership skills while serving your community?

Elevando is a leadership development program with proven success in building leadership capacity and pathways. Participants prepare for leadership roles, creating a network of active, effective leaders across Wisconsin. Now recruiting in Outagamie & Winnebago counties and greater Northeast Wisconsin for the Fall cohort!



- All sessions are held virtually, via Zoom.
- All sessions are multilingual, in Spanish and English.
- \$300 fee, but tuition assistance is available.
- Apply by August 31.

[Learn more or apply for Elevando Wisconsin Fall 2024.](#)

Other Community Development Events

- [Grant Writing Basics Virtual Workshop](#): September 11, 9-11am (or) September 17, 6-8pm | Join Mia and her colleagues and learn basic grant writing skills!
- [EoC Spotlight Replays](#): Thursdays at 6:30pm on Facebook Live or Youtube
- ["Life After Farming... What's Next for You and Your Land?"](#): 2-part webinar - Part 1 on August 14 at 11:30am | Part 2 on September 12 at 11:30am

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Want to learn about more Extension statewide news and educational opportunities? Subscribe to the [Community Economic Development newsletter here!](#)



4-H Camps

Cloverbud Camp 2024 was a success! The weather (lots of recent rain and high temperatures) caused us to move to the Coughlin Center for the day, but we still enjoyed lots of time outside playing games, doing a counselor hunt, and going for a nature walk. We enjoyed cooling off in the air-conditioned building for snacks and lunch, stories, project learning, crafts and camp songs. Thank you to the 28 terrific cloverbuds who joined us, the 6 incredible youth counselors who helped run the activities, and the other 3 amazing adult chaperones who volunteered their time to keep everything running smoothly and safely. **Barnyard Olympics 2024** was awesome!

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Horticulture

Combatting Summer Plant Diseases with Learning Opportunities

This summer has been particularly challenging for gardeners due to the warm temperatures fostering the spread of plant diseases. To help you navigate these issues and improve your gardening skills, the UW-Madison Division of Extension offers a range of free, educational webinars and learning modules. These programs are designed to provide you with the latest research-based information and practical tips to keep your garden thriving.



Upcoming Webinars

August 19: [Horticulture Highlight: Q & A with the Experts](#) (Registration required)

Online from 1-2pm - Join us for this month's session of "Ask the Experts" to have your questions answered by our seasoned panel of experts. Don't miss your chance to ask about trees and shrubs, garden vegetables and ornamentals, and lawn care.

August 28: [Hosta Diseases](#) (Registration required)

Online from 6:30-8:30pm - Learn about common diseases of hostas. This presentation will include information on how to identify these diseases, as well as information on how to manage them.

September 11: [Seasonal Secrets: Fall Bulb Planting](#) (Registration required)

Online from 12-1pm - Fall is a great time to plant bulbs for spring beauty. You'll learn essential tips on how to select the perfect bulbs, correctly plant them, and protect new plantings. Join us and transform your garden into a springtime spectacle!

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Health & Well-Being

Block play isn't just child's play—it's a fundamental tool for shaping future innovators. As children stack, balance, and engineer with blocks, they're not just building towers; they're constructing a solid foundation in STEM skills. Through hands-on exploration, problem-solving, and collaboration, block play cultivates creativity, spatial reasoning, and engineering principles, setting the stage for a lifetime of curiosity and discovery in **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM!)**.

Our [Block Party program](#) provides blocks for young learners to play, innovate, and learn. At

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of blocks we have available, please click [here!](#)

Our partnerships have allowed us to purchase and provide everything you need to host this event. All we ask you to bring is:

- Committed staff/volunteers to facilitate play (all materials/training provided)
- Space for as many (or as few) block stations as you choose (up to 10)
- 1 ½ – 2 hours set aside for your event

Interested in hosting a free (to you and participants) block play session? Extension Winnebago County has resources available! Contact me to learn how to bring block play to your organization or classroom.

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