

DUNN COUNTY 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



Making a Difference in Dunn County

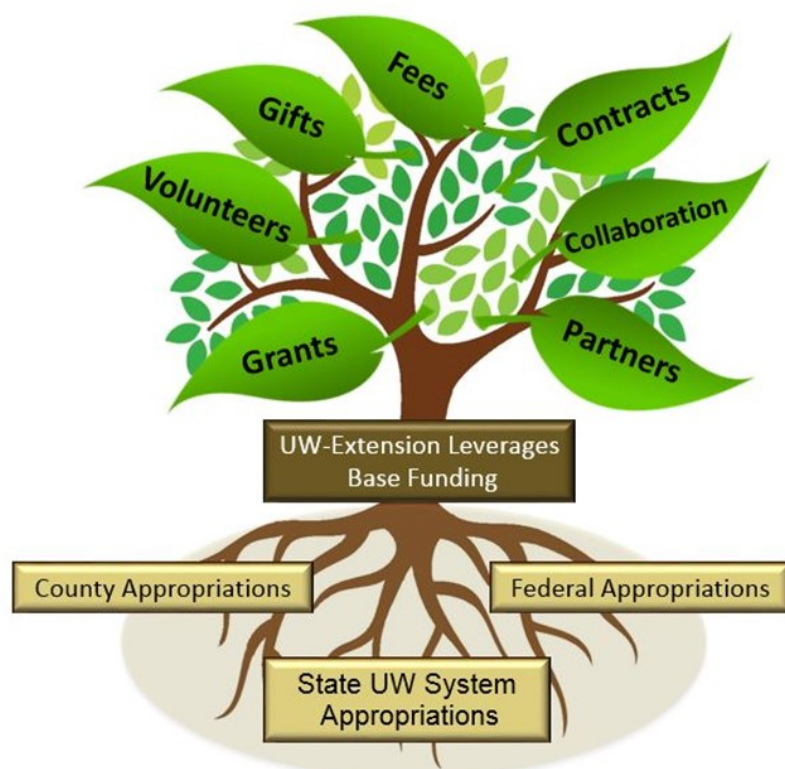
The **PURPOSE** to which we commit...We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.

The **VISION** of what we want to become...A thriving, well-known and sought-out educational resource that reflects the rich diversity of the state

The **VALUES** we strive to live by...Community, Discovery, Inclusiveness, Relationships, and Respect

“When families work well, individuals are more healthy, cohesive, productive and self-sufficient. Thus, the need for costly public services is reduced and the likelihood of many positive contributions are increased...across the lifespan.”

- Constituent



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What does UW-Extension mean to you? Your family? Your community? In tough economic times like we are facing today, you have been asked to take a hard look at what the county and the state can offer, and what those offerings mean to you and your community. As you work to build a flourishing, healthy community, UW-Extension is here providing you a robust partnership to help you reach your goals. Like a growing tree, UW-Extension draws upon its roots to provide the thick, strong branches that add the leaves of support and enrichment to Dunn County Constituents, as shown in the diagram above. In the 2014 Annual Dunn County UW-Extension Report, we look forward to highlighting the support and enrichment we have provided to make Dunn County a thriving, healthy community—all #becauseofUWEX.

Mission of UW- Extension

Through the University of Wisconsin-Extension, all Wisconsin people can access university resources and engage in lifelong learning, wherever they live and work. Fundamental to this mission are UW-Extension's partnerships with the 26 UW campuses, the county and tribal governments, and other public and private organizations. Fulfilling the promise of [the Wisconsin Idea](#), UW-Extension extends the boundaries of the university to the boundaries of the state and helps the university establish mutually beneficial connections with all its stakeholders.

For millions of Wisconsin individuals, families, businesses and communities, UW-Extension is the doorway to their public university, enabling them to:

- Achieve personal growth, professional success and organizational effectiveness through formal and informal learning;
- Address the changing needs of the state and society by applying relevant university research; [and](#)
- Gain greater access to educational, cultural and civic resources through the use of technologies.

In addition, UW-Extension supports the University of Wisconsin System mission by:

- Providing strong leadership for the university's statewide public service mission;
- Integrating a scholarly approach to outreach across many academic disciplines; and
- Addressing the specific educational needs of under-served, disadvantaged and non-traditional students.

Approved by UW Board of Regents Sept. 10, 2004.

THE WISCONSIN IDEA

Characterized by the expression "The boundaries of the University are the boundaries of the State."

To us, this means the UW serves the needs of the state.

Cooperative Extension embodies this concept in its everyday work with the people of Wisconsin and Dunn County.

"This project definitely has a place in today's rural areas and if at all possible, should be offered again in Western Wisconsin. I learned more in this project that a full college course would have provided."

- Participant in Annie's Project

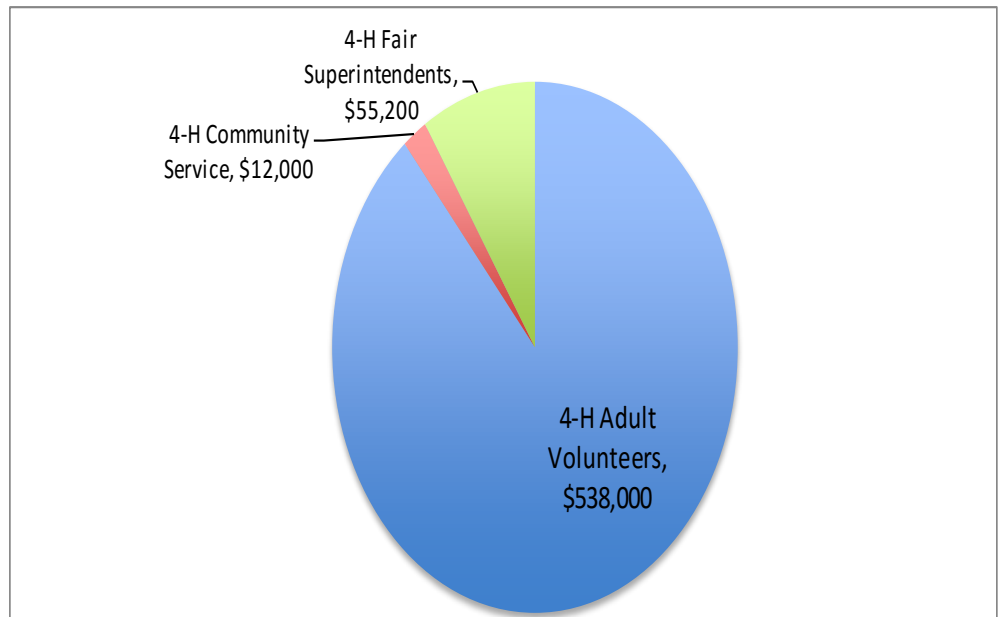
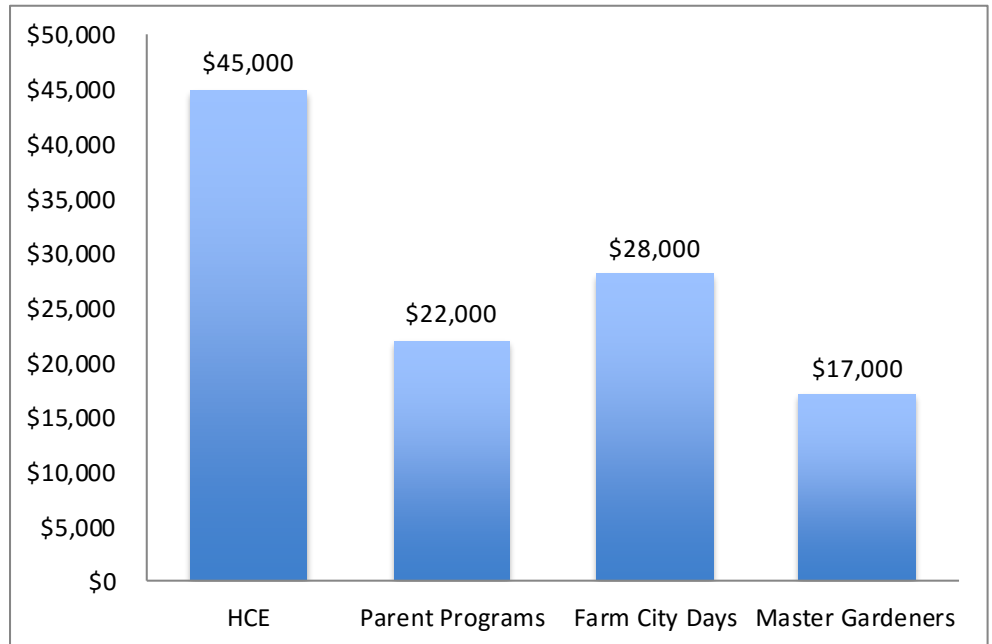
The Added Value of UWEX

The work of UW-Extension can be far-reaching because of our work to empower local volunteers. Dunn County UWEX meaningfully engages volunteers to deliver high-quality educational programs, and has for a very long time, giving them the tools and confidence to extend the outreach of our programming. This investment in volunteers allows us to be good stewards of our state and county resources—creating greater citizenship engagement and increasing the work we can accomplish within Dunn County. Each volunteer is provided training in order to ensure the quality of the service they provide, increasing their commitment and their impact.

Each hour a volunteer serves is worth **\$23.00** in Wisconsin, according to Independent Sector, an organization that studies volunteer contributions to organizations. The graphs on this page represent the added value that our work with volunteers and the hours our volunteers provide to Dunn County. The added value of volunteers helps us to provide more on less. If you would like to learn more about our volunteers or what they do, please let us know!

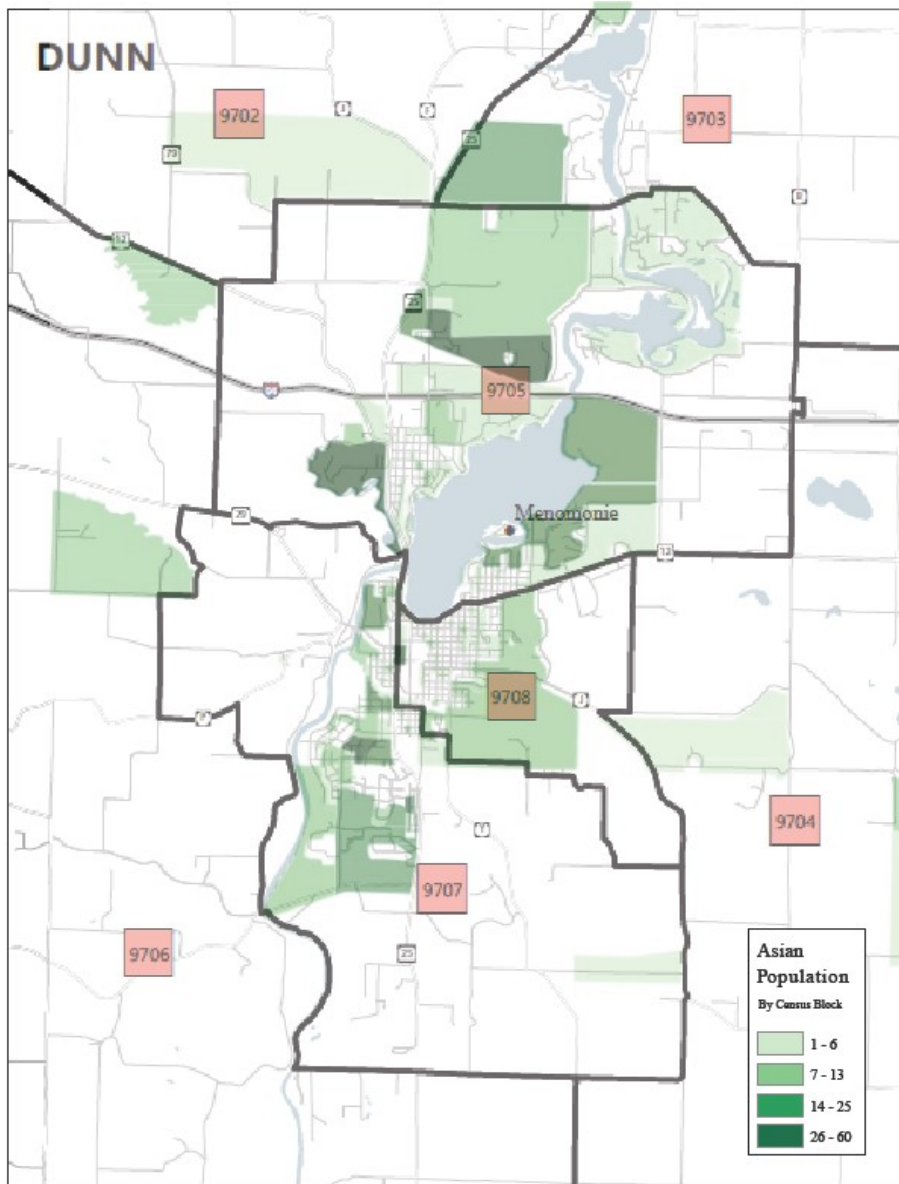
Total volunteer value to Dunn County: \$717,200

For every \$1 invested in Dunn UWEX yields \$4.21



“Working with UW-Extension and volunteering my time to help bring important information to parents has been a fantastic experience!”

- Love and Logic Presenter



The constituents of Dunn County have diverse goals and needs, all of which we strive to help them meet. Knowing that our community members come from different walks of life, we work with the Applied Population Lab to determine who is here in Dunn County, where they are living, and begin to understand their specific needs.

Through that work, we discovered that Dunn County has many Hmong community members. The above map shows where the Dunn County Hmong constituents live, a tool we have used to help us know where and how some of our programming outreach to these community members will better be placed. During our annual presentation to the County Board, we will talk more about the population of Dunn County and

We look to the future and care deeply about quality of life and sustainability for families, organizations, businesses, communities and local government in Dunn County. Whether it be economic, human or environmental, we work to help Dunn County thrive!

We bring our expertise and resources to local issues for the purpose of improving lives and increasing capacity to address and solve complex problems.

We know from research that when adults and youth participate in educational programs, they are able to manage change, stress, conflict and crisis more effectively. They also become better at innovation and problem-solving. This increases resilience and improves important family functions of nurturing, protecting, supporting, and caregiving.

“I think reaching any of the Hmong population really comes from becoming one of them. It’s the true essence of compassion, where you come along side someone and try to experience what they are experiencing.”

- Toua Vang, Community Member

Collaboration... By the Numbers

30 - Dunn County UWEX supports 30 Community Clubs: 16 Community 4-H Clubs, 11 HCE Chapters, and Dunn County Beekeepers, Master Gardener Volunteers & Master Food Preservers

25 - UWEX educators have collaborated with 25 community agencies: Bridge to Hope, House of Hope, Catholic Charities, Churches, Children's Service Society, Eau Claire Family Resource Center, Head Start, Stepping Stones, Workforce Resource, Arbor Place, Positive Alternatives, United Way, Red Cross, West CAP, Mayo Health Systems, Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Menomonie, UW-Stout, Chippewa Valley Technical College, Dunn County Farm Bureau and Young Farmer Agriculturist, Main Street Menomonie & School Districts.

22 - UWEX educators collaborated with 22 County entities: W2, 8 Senior Meal Sites, WIC, Public Health, Immunization Clinics, CJCC, Juvenile Justice Subcommittee, Birth-3, Diversion Court, Energy Assistance, The Fair Board, Human Services Department of Children and Families, Fish & Game, Land and Water Conservation and the Economic Development Corporation.

12 - UWEX educators led or participated in 12 community committees: Dunn County Soil and Water Health Partnership, Western Wisconsin Ag Lenders, Chippewa Valley Farm-City Day, Dunn County Dairy Promotion Committee, CVTC Farm Production Management Program Advisory Committee, Emergency Food & Shelter Collaborative, Resiliency Committee, Truancy Prevention, Dunn County Health Watch, Dunn County Partnership for Youth's teams, including: Parent Education and Resource, Community Forum, Environmental & Youth in Action.

Dunn County UW-Extension strives to build the lasting relationships within the community to make sure the resources dedicated to the quality of life community members are responsibly used. The survey that we sent out asking for your feedback was just one way we work toward that goal, and we thank you for your responses. We use the feedback we gain from community members and fellow county colleagues to tailor our responses and determine the relationships that can draw upon or built to best meet community needs. In your responses to our survey, you told us that you want to learn more about the population makeup of your constituents. These relationships have also told us that there are needs in the county system that we can help meet, such as Jason Hausler's work to provide Technology Education to Dunn County Employees. If you see a need in the county-- both for the community constituents and county employees we want to know about it. We invite you to come and share a cup of coffee with us to talk about the needs of your constituents.

"I can always count on UW-Extension to be at the table and step up to help our community."

- An agency partner



4-H Youth Development: Jason Hausler and Cindy Bourget

The purpose of Dunn County 4-H Youth Development is to provide real life experiences for youth through a fun and practical, learn-by-doing educational program, while providing opportunities for parents and other interested adults to work with youth in their development. This is done through the traditional 4-H community club program, after school partnerships and other various community youth programs. 4-H Youth Development is an informal educational program through which parents, and other interested adults, help young people develop the confidence, social skills, and decision-making abilities to lead a richer, fuller life and to be responsible citizens.



Family Living: Kristen Bruder

Family Living Programs provides leadership to promote education, resources and partnerships that create an environment where families and their communities can thrive. Today's diverse families form the foundation of these strong Wisconsin communities. By responding to the challenges facing today's families with evidence-informed programs and practices, as well as local knowledge, Kristen is helping to create an environment where families have the information, skills and assets they need to improve their quality of life and contribute to the Dunn County Community.



Agriculture and Natural Resources Specializing in Economic Development: Katie Wantoch

Katie Wantoch and her work as an Agricultural Agent with UW-Extension aims to make Wisconsin agriculture strong and competitive while conserving and protecting natural resources. Education about agriculture, horticulture and natural resources protects our economy, our food supply, our natural environment and our future. Katie helps those in Dunn County use research and knowledge to solve problems and take advantage of new opportunities. She work with clientele to balance farm profitability and production of high quality food, horticultural crops, fiber, and plant material with protection of the natural environment.



Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program: Sandy Tarter and Karen Fritz

WNEP teaches limited-income families, youth, and adults about food and nutrition. Sandy and Karen help residents to choose healthful diets, purchase and prepare foods, handle it safely, and become more food secure through stretching their food dollars. WNEP is a grant funded program.



Outreach Assistant: Kelsey Vang

Kelsey joined our team in August of 2014 to strengthen efforts to reach new audiences. Kelsey's work focused on rural and underserved populations throughout the county. Her work has yielded new relationships with community members who had limited knowledge about UW-Extension resources.



Your Dunn County UW-Extension Team! Come visit us!