

DUNN COUNTY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Making a Difference in Dunn County

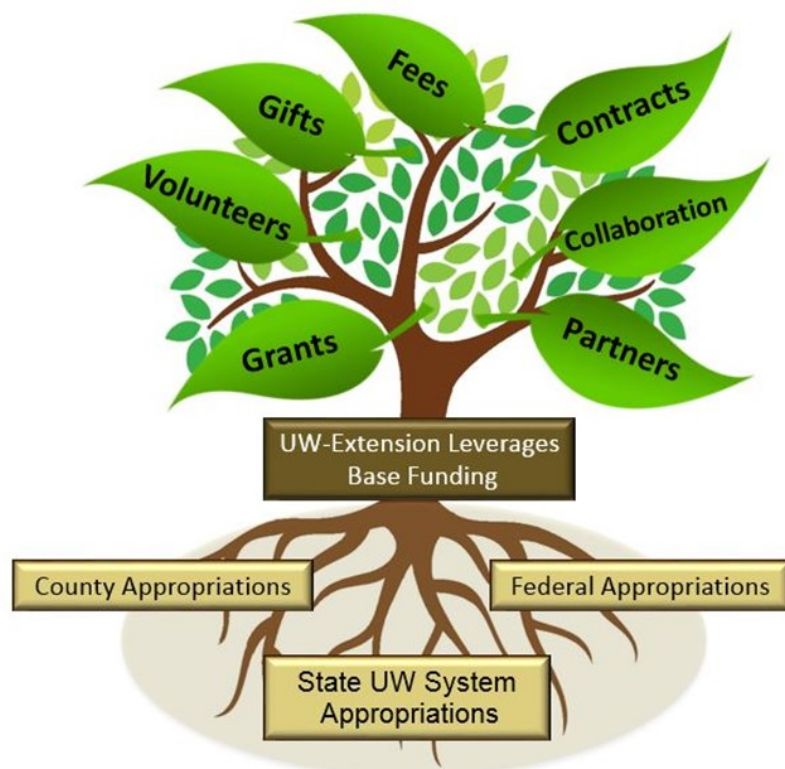
The **PURPOSE** to which we commit...We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.

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.



4-H Youth Development: Jason Hausler

The purpose of Dunn County 4-H Youth Development Program 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 contributing, responsible citizens. In 2015, Dunn County 4-H experienced many great successes. Some highlights include the Dunn County 4-H Dairy Judging Team winning nationals and the 4-H Shooting Sports program expanding their efforts to serve more than 100 members throughout the year. Continuing to make the best better is what 4-H is all about.



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. In 2015, Kristen reached over 379 parents and professionals in parenting programs including the Love and Logic program. Kristen also worked with state colleagues to develop on-line programming and partnered with the school districts of Elk Mound, Menomonie, Chippewa Falls, Bloomer, and Eau Claire to bring parents pertinent information about their child in a digital format.



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 (WNEP):

Karen Fritz and Sandy Tarter

WNEP brings in \$89,500 federal funds to reach low-income, underserved Dunn County residents. We use evidence-based curricula to teach youth, families, and adults about nutrition, My Plate, food safety, stretching food dollars, processed/fast food facts, local resources, and have interactive food preparation or tasting experiences focused on easy and nutritious foods. In 2015, WNEP staff made a total of 2884 direct teaching contacts with 1408 learners. Many elementary students reported tasting the vegetables/fruits we offered for the first time. Post lessons, the majority of students and parents indicated positive behavioral changes in eating and feeding their families. WNEP keeps the Dunn County resource guide updated for agencies. We also work with local coalitions/committees to enhance policy, systems, and environmental changes to make the healthy choice an easier choice.

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 is an excellent program to hone and develop your leadership awareness skills. Every sophomore and junior in Dunn County should participate."

- Discovering Leadership Participant

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: \$819,710

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

Home Community Education: \$45,000

Parent Education Programs: \$22,000

Farm City Days: \$28,000

Master Gardeners: \$17,000

4-H Community Service: \$65,550

4-H Fair Superintendents, \$46,000

4-H Adult Volunteers: \$596,160

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

- Love and Logic Presenter

Collaboration... By the Numbers

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

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, CJCC, Juvenile Justice Sub-Committee, 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.

14 - UWEX educators led or participated in 14 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, Nutrition Action Team, Resiliency Committee, Truancy Prevention, Dunn County Health Watch, Dunn County Partnership for Youth's teams, including: Parent Education and Resource, Community Forum, Environmental and Youth in Action, Community Needs Survey Team, Red Cedar River Water Quality Partnership

Dunn County UW-Extension strives to build the lasting relationships within the community to make sure the resources dedicated to the quality of life for community members are responsibly used.

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

- An agency partner

Governor Walker's approved 2015 budget included significant cuts to state funding to the University of Wisconsin system, including UW-Extension, as well as to our state partners. Thus, the state's 2015-2017 biennial budget reduced University of Wisconsin System funding by \$250 million. Cooperative Extension's portion of the cut is \$3.6 million per year—8.3% of its ongoing state funding.

Though state funding cuts prompted this project, the *nEXT Generation* project is not simply about reducing budgets. It's a chance to modernize UW-Extension and ultimately make it stronger. UW-Extension will embark on monumental changes in both organizational structure and delivery of educational priorities that will best serve our current and future audiences.

As an organization, Cooperative Extension needs to build a new infrastructure that can continue the division's essential work and future growth. The new structure needs to be flexible and sustainable enough to allow strategic hiring, as well as plans to improve educational programming, delivery and growth.

Priorities for *nEXT Generation* draw on recommendations developed during fall 2015 and on extensive feedback from Wisconsin county leaders, Cooperative Extension and UW System colleagues, agriculture groups and other stakeholders.

UW-Extension Chancellor Cathy Sandeen announced these priorities in February 2016:

- Structuring county and area jobs to let educators and researchers focus on education and research rather than administrative tasks.
- Keeping a Cooperative Extension office in every county while establishing multi-county areas that consolidate administration.
- Staffing each area to reflect the specific circumstances and needs of its component counties, recognizing that there's no one-size-fits-all approach.
- Respecting different levels of county investment, ensuring that each county receives services proportionate to its funding.
- Maintaining single-county areas in counties with populations over 250,000, but connecting these counties to share ideas and resources.
- Developing a statewide network for Cooperative Extension offices in tribal nations.
- Prioritizing state specialist positions and reducing supply and equipment expenses to meet budget targets for campus-based programs.
- Gradually and collaboratively establish greater flexibility in appointments for state specialists—faculty experts typically affiliated with UW System campuses—to better address emerging needs.
- Integrating technology into program delivery, educational products and administration.
- Promoting opportunities to generate new revenue.
- Aligning administrative functions to best support products and services to tribal, county and campus partners.

The nEXT Generation project will take place in two phases:

1. Planning phase to map out the desired future state of Cooperative Extension. County Extension Committees, the public, and UW-Extension staff have been invited to participate in this phase.
2. Implementation phase to implement the changes across the organization.

The project is currently focused on the Planning Phase.