

Working together,
we've transformed
lives and our
community for
over 102 years.



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
LINCOLN COUNTY

FAQ

Extension Lincoln County

What is Extension Lincoln County?

It is a partnership between the county and the University of Wisconsin. Extension Lincoln County has existed for over 102 years. The first "agent" was for 4-H.

Why is this program provided through a partnership between the county and Extension?

The partnership requires that both the university and the county fund Extension educator positions. The county also provides office space, tech support and office personnel.

- County funding allows the programs and educators to be a part of the county, providing immediate response to the needs of the residents and to build relationships with the other county programs, businesses and non-profits to best serve the people of the county.
- University funding provides access to the full scope of the University of Wisconsin's resources directly to the people of the county, this includes research, programming from across the state and country, and relationships with and access to specialists that would not normally be available to the public.
- If one party decides to leave this arrangement, the other does not have the resources or capacity to continue the operation on its own.

How many Wisconsin counties have a partnership with Extension?

Extension exists in 71 of 72 counties, with each of those counties having this same partnership with Extension.

What is the University's monetary contribution to the partnership with Extension?

The university's approximate investment in Lincoln County Extension will be \$260,000 in 2023 (includes the FoodWise Nutrition Education Grant). This total comes from the University's support of educator positions, which are funded 55% by the university and 45% county (this is a conservative estimate).

What other funding does a partnership with Extension bring to the county?

Approximately \$60,000 in donations/grants were provided to Extension for programming in 2021.

What non-monetary benefits does the partnership with Extension bring to the county?

- Volunteer hours – more than 2400 volunteer hours are attributed to the 4-H program yearly.
- Community service projects – 4-H clubs complete numerous projects throughout the county each year.
- The individual health and well-being improvements from the Extension programs.

How does the current County Budget proposal affect the partnership with Extension?

- The county's 2023 tax levy budget for Extension is just over \$208,000.
- On Sept. 9th, Lincoln County Finance Committee passed a proposal to eliminate all of Extension from the 2023 county budget.
- If this proposal passes the full county board, the partnership with the Extension will end and the office will close. Meaning, all programs by or administered through the Extension will end. In addition, three university educators will be displaced, along with the county program assistant who manages the office, helps implement the programs and assists the public with questions and resources.

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Programs and Outcomes Extension Lincoln County

What programs will be lost if the county chooses to end the partnership with Extension?

Primary programs that will be lost if the county chooses to eliminate its partnership with Extension:

- mental health education/awareness for youth and adults
- 4-H (including educator and office support for volunteers/members)
- StrongBodies strength training program for mid-life to older adults
- organizational development assistance for nonprofits, businesses, and government entities
- crops and soils research and farmer support
- nutrition education for youth and adults

What are the positive outcomes from this partnership with Extension?

Extension programs work to:

- grow youth leaders who are civically engaged and community minded
- promote stronger ties within the community and between neighbors
- educate youth and adults to identify mental health problems in their peers, including suicidal tendencies, helping to create a more resilient population and prevent tragedies
- help improve crop yields establishing more financially stable agricultural businesses
- develop responsible farm nutrient management practices, leading to a better environment
- teach, to youth and adults, the importance of nutrition and how to eat right on a budget, improving the health of the community
- provide the opportunity for StrongBodies participants to become healthier and stronger, allowing them to remain independent
- connect residents to a network of Extension educators in order to provide solid, research-based answers to their gardening, agriculture, food safety, and other questions
- create, support, and coordinate 4-H programs and membership
- grow relationships between people and organizations both within and outside of the county
- help establish and grow community based programs to improve the quality of life

Quick Funding Facts:

In 2022, the University of Wisconsin will contribute an estimated \$122,000 in direct funding for staff.

Additionally, the FoodWise Nutrition Education Program will bring in \$76,000 in federal grant dollars to Lincoln County.



Based on the 2019 actual leveraged dollars, another approximately \$325,000 is projected to be leveraged in 2022 (volunteer times, grants, and donations) to carry out local programming.



For \$1 the county invests in Extension in Lincoln County, \$5 is returned through staff and university leveraged donations, grants, fees, contracts and volunteer time annually.



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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.