



Extension's Early History

1862 - President Lincoln signs the **Morrill Act** establishing the nation's land grant universities and broadens UW's academic scope beyond the liberal arts.



1904 - UW President Charles Van Hise details the Wisconsin Idea, saying he'd "never be content until the beneficent influence of the university reaches every family in the state"



History of Extension

Extension's Early History

1912 - First county agent, E. L. Luther, hired as a county agriculturist in Oneida County

1914 - The Smith-Lever Act passes creating the Cooperative Extension Service, establishing relationships between counties, states, and the USDA and makes federal funds available for Extension. The first 4-H State Program Leader appointed in WI.

1915 - 12 county agents are hired across Wisconsin, funded 50% by the UW and 50% by the county as part of a partnership agreement.

1917: In response to World War I, USDA funds total support for Emergency Food Agents to encourage accelerated food production through victory gardens, poultry production, and improved milk and crop production to meet wartime demand. 27 new agents hired in WI.



History of Extension

https://extension.wisc.edu/about-us/history/

Collaboration with UW-Madison

Extension Educators translate research from specialists and faculty at UW-Madison into practical solutions for local needs. Extension delivers a statewide network of outreach that can support campus research needs.







Statewide Network

Extension has deep local ties that develop regional and statewide networks able to respond to emerging issues. Working in and with communities allows Extension to connect research and resources directly to affected populations and areas.





The Role of the Extension Committee

Dane County Ordinance - Chapter 7.20 (3)

The university extension committee shall be composed of at least five (5), but no more than nine (9), supervisor members appointed by the county board chairperson. At least two members of the university extension committee shall be members of the land conservation committee. The committee shall function as the agriculture and extension education committee in accordance with WI State Statute and within the limits of funding appropriated by the county board, shall have the powers set forth in said statute.

WI State Statute - Sec 59.87

A university extension program is authorized, under the direction and supervision of the county committee on agriculture and extension education, cooperating with the university extension of the University of Wisconsin, and within the limits of funds provided by the board and cooperating state and federal agencies, to make available the necessary facilities and conduct programs.

Agriculture

The Agriculture Institute works to achieve better results through research and outreach supporting livestock management, crops and soils, farm management and horticulture.

We work hand-in-hand with farmers, businesses and communities to build stronger, more diverse farm and food systems. Whether on the farm or in the field, we're working together to develop sustainable solutions that drive economic growth and keep our state's thriving agriculture tradition strong.













Agriculture

Horticulture

The Horticulture Program provides research-based horticulture information to Wisconsinites so they can make gardening decisions that keep their plants healthy while protecting the environment. We provide research and evidence-based horticulture management education, resources and decision-making tools to home gardeners and commercial horticulture practitioners.





Community Development

The Community Development Institute delivers educational programming that supports individuals, communities and organizations in realizing their fullest potential.

With programs dedicated to building leadership capacity, strategic planning, training local government officials, economic development and community food systems, the Institute promotes civic engagement and social responsibility and empowers citizens to become leaders of transformative change.





A Community Development

Health & Well-Being

The Health & Well-Being Institute works to catalyze positive change in Wisconsin families through evidence-based programs focused on nutrition, food security, food safety, chronic disease prevention, mental health, substance abuse and health insurance literacy.



Rooted in both urban and rural communities, we work together to help solve the state's most pressing well-being needs and to ensure that all Wisco live stronger, healthier lives.













X Health & Well-Being

Human Development & Relationships

The Human Development & Relationships Institute supports families and communities through programming that encourages growth and understanding in the digital age

We provide positive and powerful training and tools that strengthen family bonds and enhance financial competence on topics such as:

- Parenting Family relationships Child development
- Aging Housing Financial security



👬 Human Development & Relationships







