

Healthy Choices Healthy Lives

FoodWise is federally funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). With local strengths, we support healthy eating habits, active lifestyles and healthy community environments for Wisconsin residents experiencing limited incomes through nutrition education at the individual, community and systems levels.



St. Croix County Landscape

Whether people are healthy or not is affected by systems, policies, and environmental factors.

1,995

county residents experience limited income and low access to a grocery store[^]



5%

of county residents use SNAP benefits to purchase food for themselves and their families.*



Achieving More Together

UW-Madison Division of Extension works alongside the people of Wisconsin throughout urban and rural communities to deliver practical educational programs where people live and work. In St. Croix County, FoodWise partners with after-school programs, Head Start programs, housing sites, and food pantries to help make the healthy choice the easy choice in our communities.

Community

Impacts in 2023

Engaged with 217 learners around nutrition education topics in a variety of settings, including early care and education centers, after school programs, and housing sites.

Partnered with 7 food pantries and 6 community partner organizations to build an emergency food network, reaching community members with printed food resource lists in English & Spanish to promote access to adequate food.

Worked with Somerset Community Food Pantry to establish a Safe and Healthy Food Pantry where the healthy choice is the easy choice.

[^]County Health Rankings

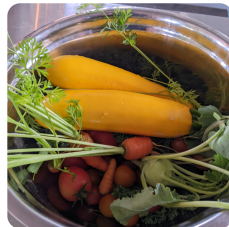
* WI Dept of Administration and WI Dept of Health Services

Inspiring Collaborations



After years of partnering with YMCA youth programming, we developed a new partnership with Camp St. Croix in 2023. Though not directly associated with the local YMCA, Camp St. Croix is a YMCA day camp that contains a small farm. Through this new partnership we brought youth from the YMCA to the camp farm for a series of lessons using the Teen Cuisine curriculum. Farm staff introduced the youth to where foods come from using their garden and livestock. FoodWise staff then led nutrition and cooking sessions using farm products.

As one partner said, "What a cool experience for these young people..."



One youth participant reported, "I have made all the recipes at home for my family and they loved them."

Connect With Us

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Multi-level Program Efforts

Since 2017, Katie Bartko, FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator, has maintained the St. Croix County Food Resource Directory. These directories provide guidance on local resources that support access to food to supplement policy, systems, and environment (PSE) work in the emergency food sector as well as direct education efforts.

After updating these resources twice a year and getting them translated into Spanish, Bartko emails them to a list of partners, prints copies, and posts it to the local UW-Madison Division of Extension websites. There were requests for over 400 printed copies from partners in the last year.

A phone call in the fall of 2023 highlighted the importance of this resource. A partner trying to help a local family find resources found the food resource directories on our website and called me to ask for more help. She said "I knew I could depend on FoodWise. I knew I could talk to someone there and get information." And about the food resource directories, she said, "Resources by the county are so nice. Really nicely done."