



**Extension Eau Claire County  
Monthly Highlights**

July 2019

**Agriculture & Natural Resources**

**Agriculture**



**Mark Hagedorn**

Agriculture Agent

Specializing in Dairy Science & Farm  
Management

[mark.hagedorn@wisc.edu](mailto:mark.hagedorn@wisc.edu)

I have accepted an offer to be the new and first ever Dairy Outreach and Program Manager for Extension. The proposed start date will be effective August 1. My new duties include program leadership & coordination, partnership management, revenue generation, diversity and inclusion – working as an administrator with Extension agriculture educators and colleagues, and community partners.

Heidi Johnson w/Ag Institute, Catherine E. on the County level, John Leary w/ECC FTD Executive Committee in conjunction with the Wisconsin State FTD Board of Directors are working on the transitional plan to provide on-going leadership for Farm Technology Days, and in hiring a new agriculture educator. I will be prepared to share more on the commitment Extension has to Eau Claire County agriculture – farmers, growers, and the families they serve – at the Eau Claire Extension Education Committee Members on Wednesday, July 17.

In my new role I will continue to spend time in and with Eau Claire County producers and office staff. I also hope to have a limited continuing role with Farm Technology Days. Thank you for the opportunity to work and getting to know you all.



**Margaret Murphy**

Horticulture Agent

[margaret.murphy@wisc.edu](mailto:margaret.murphy@wisc.edu)

In June, I continued to relationship build with the Eau Claire County Master Gardeners. I attended their June board meeting and am currently working with them on describing and uploading their volunteer projects to our new online reporting system. This has been a good opportunity for me to better understand the wonderful work being done by the Master Gardeners.

Jeffers Community Garden is in full swing. We have 41 plots currently rented. A thank you to the City of Eau Claire Utilities for their quick response in fixing a few malfunctioning water spigots out at the gardens. I will be working with them to make sure the water pipes are winterized when our gardening season comes to a close.

Horticulture inquiries continue to come in from Eau Claire County. With the help of Andy, we are fielding questions across the board on trees, lawns, insects, flowers, vegetables and sapsucker damage. Some are disease related but we get a fair share of id requests together with questions on invasive species.

Concerning the horticulture program area needs assessment and relationship building in the county, I continue to reach out to people to learn more about county resources and potential partners as I prepare my plan of work.

### Community Development



**Joseph Malual**

Community Educator

[joseph.malual@wisc.edu](mailto:joseph.malual@wisc.edu)

During the month, I have enjoyed working with dedicated and passionate people in Eau Claire County to organize sustainable community food systems that support local farmers, increase access to fresh healthy food for all residents, and address environmental challenges. As indicated in previous monthly highlights, this is a part of Clear Vision larger community development effort that resonates with many people and organizations during the community needs assessment. With expertise in Sustainable Agriculture and Community-based Food systems, as well as strategic planning, my major role is to assist with organizing, resource access, and planning, including setting realistic measurable goals and evaluation mechanism to track progress. Related to agriculture, I have a great time presenting and talking with youth at the Wisconsin Farmer Union Camp about food systems and agriculture.

I took two weeks vacation after six months of intense needs assessment and relationship building in Dunn and Eau Claire Counties. I am back to work this week and will be preparing my plan of work for the three counties.

### Health & Well-Being

## FoodWise Education Program



**Sandy Tarter**

FoodWise Coordinator

[sandy.tarter@wisc.edu](mailto:sandy.tarter@wisc.edu)



**Joy Weisner**

FoodWise Educator

[joy.weisner@wisc.edu](mailto:joy.weisner@wisc.edu)



**Pamela Warren-Armstrong**

FoodWise Educator

[pamela.warren-armstrong@wisc.edu](mailto:pamela.warren-armstrong@wisc.edu)

Joy and Pamela are starting Week 3 in the Kids' Garden at North River Fronts Park partnering with the Boys & Girls Club. This week there are 26 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders working in the garden with Judy Mitchell, an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer. They are focusing on weeding along with harvesting strawberries, sugar snap peas, and lots of greens.

During small group rotations to the garden, the kids also participate in a fun nutrition activities, focusing on healthy habits. We always end the garden session with a tasting event. This week they will be exploring lots of different salad greens, pea pods, bok choy, green onions, and blueberry compote with greek yogurt!

Next week Joy and Pamela will be teaching at the Boys & Girls Club with the teens using lessons from Teen Cuisine.

Joy is finishing up a Teen Cuisine four week series at Western Dairyland Fresh Start, with young adults. She will be starting another Teen Cuisine four week series at the Extension Office with teens from Juvenile Detention 180 Program. This program focuses on healthy eating, kitchen skills and food safety along with preparing healthy snacks, applying what they are learning during the four week program.

Pamela is wrapping up a six week series this week at Affinity House, teaching 15 women about choosing healthy foods, focusing on fruits and vegetables, limiting added sugars, food safety and smart meal planning.



**Brook Berg**  
Human Development &  
Relationships Educator

[brook.berg@wisc.edu](mailto:brook.berg@wisc.edu)

It's so bittersweet to be writing my final monthly highlight. As of July 22, I will be moving on to a new position within UW-Madison, Division of Extension as the Family Engagement & Relationships Outreach Program Manager. Over the last 6 years in my role as Educator in Eau Claire County, I have had incredible opportunities to learn and grow, to meet incredible people and to be a part of amazing initiatives to help families thrive in our community. I have no doubt that the great work will continue to happen and I look forward to being a part of it in a new capacity.

So with that, my top 10 highlights of the last 6 years in Extension...

10. Providing safe sleep home visits to newborns and their family. If you know me, you know I LOVE babies!
9. Hosting many, many BRAIN conferences. So much learning and connecting!
8. Teaching in so many different settings, from rural schools, to online to treatment centers.
7. Watching my colleague get stuck behind a filing cabinet in her office and wearing a hazmat suit during office construction tie for seventh best. Laughing is good for the soul.
6. Creating the eParenting Little Ones curriculum.
5. Driving through the mountains of WV with my colleagues to get to a national conference.
4. Connecting our community around Mental Health.
3. Developing innovative ways to reach parents.
2. Achieving tenure as a faculty member.
1. You! All of you! My colleagues, partners, families, board members...you have all made the last six years absolutely wonderful.

All my best,  
Brook



**Rachel Hart-Brinson**  
 4-H Program Coordinator  
[rachel.hartbrinson@wisc.edu](mailto:rachel.hartbrinson@wisc.edu)

We are getting ready to host six youth and two chaperones/Extension staff from Adams County, Pennsylvania. Our youth traveled to Pennsylvania last year and it is our turn to host them and show them Wisconsin hospitality. I have been busy making sure we have plans established in case of emergency, shepherding background checks for hosts, and visiting homes in preparation for their arrival. They arrive July 14th and they have a packed agenda--Duluth, the Dells, Mall of America, and local highlights. Everyone is very excited to have their friends come and visit.

### Support Staff



**Kristi Peterson**  
 Office Coordinator  
[kristi.peterson@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:kristi.peterson@co.eau-claire.wi.us)

Summer is here, which means two things change in my world. I get to spend a little extra time with my family and I get to work on the upcoming budget. The new budget season is interesting and fun for me to work through. Learning how we can allocate everything that's needed with a limited supply is like putting together a puzzle. Start with the corner pieces and the middle will fill in as necessary.

Our office has been very busy with the Eau Claire County Fair right around the corner. The big event will arrive the last week in July.



**Andy Heren**  
 Administrative Specialist  
[andy.heren@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:andy.heren@co.eau-claire.wi.us)

All I can say is busy, busy, busy! This is my busiest time of the year as the Eau Claire County Fair approaches! I am just doing the final preparations of putting the department packets together for the superintendent, making sure certain office supplies are plentiful, and getting ready to have a great time at our fair!

The Eau Claire County Fair begins Wednesday, July 24 and end on Sunday, July 28. Come on out and see all the great exhibits and livestock from the youth of Eau Claire County 4-H and FFA, and Scouts.

**We're a part of UW-Madison! Click here to read about Extension's transition updates.**

Developments in the planning process can be found at <https://universityrelations.wisc.edu/extension/>