

Extension Eau Claire County Monthly Highlights

August 2019

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Agriculture

Agriculture Agent

This position is currently vacant. Please contact the Extension office if you have agriculture questions and we will coordinate information for you. In the meantime, please check out our statewide agriculture resources here <https://anre.uwex.edu/> and our statewide dairy resources here <https://anre.uwex.edu/teams/dairy/>



Margaret Murphy

Horticulture Agent

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I have been learning the new Master Gardener Online Reporting System, which launched this year. Part of my responsibility was to upload projects that the Master Gardeners are working on for their volunteer service hours. The Eau Claire Master Gardeners are busy with many projects of which a few are mentioned here:

- **Ready Set Grow** their annual education program offered in spring
- **Farmers' Market Ask a Master Gardener Booth**
- **Beaver Creek Reserve** where they plan, plant, maintain garden and provide education on native plants and pollinators
- **Youth Garden at North Riverside Park** - I visited the youth garden and it was an amazing time with Master Gardener Judy presenting a program on roots and stems to the kids and Foodwise Educator Pam taking garden bounty and creating a delicious and simple vegetable stir fry for the kids.
- **Teaching Garden at the County Extension Office** - There is a Munch and Learn at the Teaching Garden on Tuesday, August 27 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please join us for great food and to learn techniques on how to garden in small spaces.

I am scheduled to meet with the Eau Claire Master Gardeners in September to go over any questions regarding the new system.

I am also busy with horticulture inquiries, which are very diverse with questions about plant IDs, trees, tomatoes, invasive species, plants that cause a rash or burns, soil sampling and insects such as Japanese beetles, sawfly larva and the tussock caterpillar. Related to the inquiries on plants that cause rashes, I wrote a short article for the Senior Review on poison ivy and stinging nettles that came out in their August issue.

Community Development	
 <p>Joseph Malual Community Educator joseph.malual@wisc.edu</p>	<p>I have been organizing information collected during the needs assessment and continue to work on my Plank of Work. However, I am already working with teams, community members, and organizations to build programming capacity for effective service delivery. For example, I continue to work with individuals and organizations to develop a vibrant community based food systems in Eau Claire County as part of the Clear Vision needs assessment. Related to community-based food systems work, I recently co-authored a three-year USDA grant for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Veteran Ranchers to conduct a needs assessment and work with Hmong farmers in Eau Claire and Manitowoc Counties to expand and sustain Hmong agricultural practices and improve income and local economy.</p> <p>Another interesting project I have been working on is building organizational capacity for young Hmong professionals in Chippewa Valley and beyond to provide leadership and vision for Hmong children families to thrive and fully participate in communities they live, work, and play. My role is to facilitate strategic planning for the team to develop vision, mission, and strategic goals. This has been a great opportunity to learn about Hmong in Eau Claire while helping this second generation to pursue their dreams. Thank you to Catherine Emannuelle for making this connection as this is also one of Extension mandates to extent University resources to minorities and underserved populations in the Counties.</p> <p>There are other exciting developments, including working with Dunn, Chippewa, Eau Claire Counties, and UW-Eau Claire exploring collaborative systems to improve recovery and social integration for individuals and families involved in the criminal justice systems from the Hope and Healing framework and perspectives.</p>
Human Development & Relationships	
Human Development & Relationships	<p>This position is currently vacant. Please contact the Extension office if you have human development and relationships questions and we will coordinate information for you. In the meantime, please check out our statewide human development and relationships resources here https://extension.wisc.edu/family/</p>

FoodWise



Sandy Tarter

FoodWise Coordinator

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Joy Weisner

FoodWise Educator

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Pamela Warren-Armstrong

FoodWise Educator

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Sandy, Pamela, and Joy attended the Health and Wellbeing Institute summer meeting in late July. FoodWise is a branded program under this institute and we were well represented. We met our new FoodWise Program Manager Kathryn Boryc Smock along with specialists associated with our institute and program managers across the other institutes. The Health and Well-Being Institute also includes Behavioral Health and Healthy Eating & Active Living program areas.

Operationalizing health equity and understanding social determinants of health as both relate to Institute programming was discussed. We also explored the Institute vision for future, how FoodWise can work alongside the Institute educators, and what we are seeing as community needs and trends.

We also attended a Food Smarts training. This is a new USDA approved adult curriculum that spans feeding the family from infant to teens, setting goals, kitchen safety, cooking for one, creating balanced meals, choosing whole foods and healthy fats, eating out, being a smart consumer and reading labels, etc. Much of this is what we have been teaching but in a new format.

Positive Youth Development



Rachel Hart-Brinson

4-H Program Coordinator

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The fair was a big success this year. It helped that the weather was gorgeous and attendance seemed good. The numbers of exhibitors might have been down slightly, but there were some beautiful animals in the barns and high quality exhibits in the Expo building. And, now that I have experienced the uniqueness of Eau Claire County's Fair, I am better able to participate in conversations regarding alignment of roles and responsibilities with Extension's mission of education. These conversations started before I joined Extension and are continuing. This will be an on-going process and I look forward to working with the Fair Committee and other stakeholders to ensure that the Eau Claire County Fair is successful for years to come.

In other updates, I am working with my summer intern, Helen Black, to finish up her tasks before she leaves for college next week. She has helped create a beautiful new promotional/informational flyer, a promotional bookmark, and organize a day camp that will be held in Altoona this week.

Support Staff



Kristi Peterson

Office Coordinator

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I have been working with our team to clean and organize our office space. We have numerous storage areas including the basement that needed a bit of tidying and getting caught up to date. This process is not yet complete but we have a great start.

I have also been working to transition our staff members that have taken on a new adventure within Extension.

With the end of the EC County Fair, my portion of the busy season starts with payments and finalizing budget items.



Andy Heren

Administrative Specialist

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I am still totalling the premium amounts from the fair to get the worksheets and computer to balance. Then that will be part of the fair report for the state.

I am also working on the August/September issue of the 4-H newsletter, the *Clover Leaves*, which will be coming out soon. The big August mailing has been sent to all the club leaders.

Each month I help the Master Gardeners by sending out a press release and reminder postcards to the members about the monthly educational meetings, which are open to the public. I also try to help Margaret by fielding some of the horticulture questions that come into our office.

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/>