

**Extension Eau Claire County**  
**Monthly Highlights**  
September 2019

**Agriculture & Natural Resources**

**Agriculture**

Agriculture Agent

This position is currently vacant. Please visit <https://jobs.hr.wisc.edu/en-us/job/502813/extension-educator> if you are interested in applying.



**Margaret Murphy**

Horticulture Agent

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I recently went to Madison for my first face-to-face cohort meeting as part of my new hire onboarding. We covered a number of great topics including an introduction to mapping. We worked with demographic maps of our counties as a hands-on exercise. I feel this technology will come in very handy in helping me and my programs to expand access in the counties I serve. The meeting, on a whole, left my head swirling a bit with all the resources available to us to help us serve our clients well. We will be continuing our cohort training with several Zoom meetings over the next few months.

I participated in Farm City Days as a volunteer. It was a fun day being out and about with hundreds of kids and learning about the dairy farm industry. I made a couple of contacts that are interested in discussing how Master Garden Volunteers may participate at the upcoming Farm Technology Days in 2020.

Eau Claire County Master Gardeners cooked up a mouth-watering smorgasbord for their first annual Munch N Learn event that took place in the Teaching Garden located outside the Eau Claire County Extension Office. The public was invited to come over and enjoy garden-fresh bounty plus, learn about the Master Gardener program and the various gardening techniques utilized at the Teaching Garden.



Horticulture inquiries are beginning to wind down. I am still receiving questions on fall webworms. Click [here](#) if you'd like a fact sheet on them.

## Community Development



**Joseph Malual**

Community Educator

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It has been a busy month with programming and professional development that involves traveling to Madison, Kenosha-Racine and Appleton to participate in a workshop on workforce development including employment program for individuals with conviction records. Catherine and I attended the workshop and learned about Foxconn project and its potential economic impact. This has implication for Eau Claire since Foxconn is in the process of starting an innovation center here.

In terms of programming, I continue to work with the Community Food System team and conducted a series of planning meetings, including conceptualizing and working on a Charter Statement as required by Clear Vision. We are also reviewing potential grants to support the development of community food systems in Eau Claire County. In support of local food systems, I collaborated with colleagues in Madison and submitted an application for USDA Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Veteran grant to conduct a needs assessment and support Hmong farmers in Eau Claire and other Counties. The plan is to employ and include a Hmong second generation in this research project.

I have officially joined the Broadband Committee and we had our first meeting where we selected our chair and reviewed the direction of the project. This is an exciting project and I look forward to contributing toward its success.

## Health & Well-Being



**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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September is busy with FY20 planning. Sandy, Pamela, and Joy are connecting with our partners to sign agreements and schedule events.

Sandy is planning the Hunger Prevention Coalition meeting this month to be held on September 17, 1:00 p.m. at The Community Table.

Sandy is on an EC Resource Directory Workgroup with community partners. This group is reviewing the multiple community resources, both hardcopy and electronic, that exist and discuss the benefits or possibility of having more user-friendly online resources.  
<https://eauclaire.extension.wisc.edu/family-living/resource-directories/>

The Eau Claire Downtown Farmers' Market is included in a statewide Farmers Market digital media campaign funded by FoodWise. It runs from July 31 to Sept 15. The mission is to inform eligible audiences 18-65+ that FoodShare benefits can be used at the local farmers market. The ads are running daily on Facebook and YouTube. The goal is to increase usage of Quest cards in specific communities. Performance metrics on total impressions, click-through rates, view time, and unique reach will be gathered.

All FoodWise staff attended a regional FoodWise training in Merrill. This included discussion on FY20 program delivery models, evaluations, classroom management, end of year reporting, and new curriculum Cooking with Families workshop.

Joy is currently teaching a series of nutrition lessons with adults who are Foodshare/W2 recipients and are enrolled in the Real Careers program at the Workforce Resource Center. She is also working with LSS: Affinity House delivering nutrition lessons to women who are in an addiction treatment program. Both adult series are taught using "Healthy Cents" curriculum (University of Maryland Extension) which combines nutrition education and food resource management. These lessons encourage participants to make healthy food choices on a limited budget.

## Human Development & Relationships

Human Development & Relationships

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/>

## Positive Youth Development



**Rachel Hart-Brinson**

4-H Program Coordinator

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I said goodbye to my intern, Helen Black at the end of August. She completed some promotional materials for me, including our trifold for tabling at events. Take a look at our new bookmark and informational guide out on the counter in the office. I am excited to share them with folks in the community.

This is Record Book Review season. I updated some forms and files on the website in preparation for that and now have stacks of binders in my office that will be looked at by Awards Committee later this month. In the future, I plan to have an "Awards Process Review Committee," but first things first.

National 4-H Week is October 6-12. I have planned activities throughout the week, culminating in a "Discovery Day" held at the Eau Claire Library. I will be posting flyers at libraries and other kid-frequented places around town.

I continue meeting with multiple stakeholders to discuss roles and responsibilities for the planning and execution of the Eau Claire County Fair.

## Support Staff



**Kristi Peterson**

Office Coordinator

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This month I continue to learn and grow with my position at Extension. I have had the pleasure of learning a bit of graphic design as well as some tips and tricks for social media. Check out our page at <https://www.facebook.com/extensioneauclairecounty> #EauClaireCounty #Extension #Newskills

The office has all joined to organize our office space. We will continue to do so until we can feel organized and this will become a routine we'll perform yearly.



**Andy Heren**

Administrative Specialist

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With the post-fair report in the books, my workload has lightened a bit. I am now working on preparations for the 4-H Awards banquet in November. I am also looking ahead to the Soil, Water, and Nutrient Management meeting that will be held in December in Eau Claire. I used to work with Mark on this. He is still lending a hand since we don't have our Agriculture Educator position filled yet.

Always so much to do at Extension!

**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/>