




**Extension Eau Claire County
Monthly Highlights**

October 2019

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Agriculture

<p>Agriculture Agent</p>	<p>This position is currently vacant and in the process of being hired.</p> <p>We are again hosting the 2019 Soil, Water, and Nutrient Management Meeting on Thursday, December 5, at the Lake Hallie Eagles Club. All the information can be found on our website. https://eauclaire.extension.wisc.edu/</p>
 <p>Margaret Murphy Horticulture Agent margaret.murphy@wisc.edu</p>	<p>My Cohort group continues to meet offering great onboarding training. Currently, we are working on developing our plan of work, as mine is due within the next two months, I am finding the training very helpful.</p> <p>The deadline for reporting Master Gardener volunteer hours was October 1st. Eau Claire County Master Gardeners were successful at uploading their volunteer hours into our new online reporting system. A preliminary look shows that they reported approximately 3,282 hours of volunteer service resulting in 8,388 reported contacts with the public. The number of volunteer hours are equivalent to over \$81,000 worth of horticultural work/support in Eau Claire County (using the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time in Wisconsin of \$24.69 per hour, from Independent Sector). I'll be working with the Master Gardeners to write our annual impact report due in November.</p> <p>Horticulture diagnostic questions continue to come in. Current inquiries have included questions on blight in the garden, branch dieback in trees, insect issues and apple concerns. I am also working with a few community gardens to get them cleaned up and closed for the season.</p>

Community Development



Joseph Malual
Community Educator
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As the results of the community needs assessment I have conducted, my two major areas of programming are:

1. Developing community-based food system in Chippewa Valley

The combined concerns of declining of family farms, environmental concerns associated with consolidation of farms/CAFOs, disparities in access to healthy food/food insecurity, and chronic diseases indicate the needs for community food systems that enhance income for farmers and improve local economy, environment, and ultimately the health of the residents. The needs for organizing community food systems to address complex issues was also identified in 2019 Clear Visioning session.

My role in the development of the community food systems will include:

- Providing content expertise and facilitation for visioning and strategic planning.
- Assisting in mobilizing resources including exploring and applying for grants at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Leveraging research-based knowledge and best practices within and outside UW-Madison.
- Responding to other needs as necessary

2. Community capacity building through research, strategic planning, and program evaluation

For community organization, county government, and businesses, to effectively address current and emerging needs, access to information/data is critical for decision making and program priorities. For example, asking the right questions, envisioning the future, and planning to achieve results requires capacity building in terms of strategic planning and program evaluation.

My role in community capacity building will include:

- Conducting research and collecting data for decision making and planning Facilitation of organizational development, including the development of vision, mission, and action plan to address identified needs
- Development indicators to measure progress and impact
- Respond to other needs as necessary

I am excited to move forward with implementing my plan of work and continue to build relationships with communities and leaders in the county.



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FY20 agreements have been signed by 40 area agencies and partners for our 880 planned area events. Our partners are excited and express appreciation to have the nutrition education programming for their participants. The matrix of which educators will cover which events was mapped out and is currently well underway.

We were asked to be a pilot area to trial a new Cooking Matters for Families curricula. We are planning to hold two events in Eau Claire County. More information to come this fall.

Sandy participated in the Farm City Day shepherding a group of students from station to station. It was so fun to see the youth learning about farm operations, tractor and electrical safety, petting cute calves..and oh those farm smells!

October 1st is the start of our new grant year and the nutrition educators are off to a great start. Pamela and Joy are travelling to Menomonie to teach at River Heights Elementary in 1st grade and 3rd grade as well as Menomonie Head Start and W2/FSet at the Job Center.

They have also started a 7-week nutrition series at Flynn Elementary for 1st graders and 5th graders and at Longfellow Elementary with 3rd graders. Joy also started teaching a nutrition series for 2nd graders in an After School program at Longfellow Elementary.

All of the lessons include a great review of Healthy Habits, exploring the food groups, taste testing fruits and vegetables, and the older students learn to read a Nutrition Facts label along with identifying the nutrients in food that keeps them healthy.

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 have been busy planning for and promoting the National 4-H Week events. The big highlights are the National Youth Science Day kickoff on the 9th and our 4-H Discovery Days on the 12th at the Eau Claire Public Library. On Tuesday I gave an interview with WQOW TV to talk about the 4-H fundraiser for the Older Youth Council at Culver's and mentioned the Discovery Day. We have about 10 youth signed up to display their projects. It's exciting!

I am also in the season of Charters. Charters are the official agreement between the clubs or a project that make it part of my programming. Charters contain the educational plan for the year, some goals on expanding access, and the basic financial reports from the year before that have been reviewed by someone not associated with the club. I have been building the groundwork to Charter two projects that have been related to the 4-H programming, but not officially Chartered--the Livestock and Dairy Projects. There was an official vote to Charter at the Livestock meeting on October 7 and there will be a Dairy Project meeting on October 15.

I am also preparing to host a "Winter Camp" for Junior High-school age kids in December. We just held counselor interviews and will begin training and planning for that in the next month.

Support Staff



Kristi Peterson

Office Coordinator

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I have continued to grow in my knowledge regarding social media and sharing the great things that Eau Claire County Extension provides. My efficiency has improved greatly with each additional experience.

Even though it seems very far away the inquiries regarding Farm Technology Days have ramped up. July 2020 will be here before we know it!

I enjoy helping and coordinating many things in my office each day that keeps me occupied.

