



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## **Extension Eau Claire County**

### **Monthly Highlights**

November 2019

#### **Agriculture & Natural Resources**

##### **Agriculture**

Agriculture Agent



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

We are currently in the process of hiring this position.



**Margaret Murphy**

Horticulture Agent

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In October, horticulture educators throughout the state came together to discuss collective impacts and outcomes for the consumer horticulture program area. Our goal was to identify and integrate 2 to 4 horticulture program shared outcomes that will set horticulture priorities, while being relevant to local outreach and planning efforts. It was an exciting meeting and we will continue the discussion at the All Institute Annual meeting this November.

I have been working with Eau Claire County Master Gardeners on their annual impact report to the state. At the end of 2019, 51 Master Gardener Volunteers reported 3,310 hours of volunteer service for an estimated value of \$79,438. They also reported 1,226 hours of continuing education, and reached 8,366 individuals with various outreach projects. Click [here](#) to see the full report.

I have been invited to participate in the Chippewa Valley Technical College Horticulture Advisory Committee this fall. Lastly, I am preparing my Plan of Work.

#### **Community Development**



**Joseph Malual**

Community Educator

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I continued to work with small-scale farmers, local organizations, and community members in developing sustainable community food systems in Eau Claire County. We are making steady progress and completed our Charter Statement required by Clear Vision. We researching best practices in the state and across the county to help develop the project. In terms of organizational development, I am working with the newly formed Hmong American Leadership and Economic Development Inc. to complete their strategic planning and launch the organization.

## Health & Well-Being



**Sandy Tarter**

FoodWise Coordinator

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Sandy attended the first-ever “State of the Chippewa Valley” lead by United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley at Marshfield Medical Center — Eau Claire. Over 80 people from community organizations, public health and local government were invited to learn more about measures of the area’s poverty. The poverty rate for all of Eau Claire County and the southern half of Chippewa County was 14.4% in 2017, according to the latest Wisconsin Poverty Report released in June by the UW-Madison Institute for Research on Poverty. Our area along with Milwaukee (17.2% poverty rate) is well over the state poverty rate of 10.2% and ranked highest across the state. In 2018, United Way released their ALICE report-“Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed” individuals whose earnings are below a modest budget for housing, transportation, child care, groceries and health care. Eau Claire County ALICE rate is 28% as compared to the state average of 25%. When combining the poverty and ALICE rates, 42.4% of Eau Claire County’s residents are struggling to make ends meet.



**Joy Weisner**

FoodWise Nutrition Educator

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In October and November, Sandy joined many of the FoodWise events across all three counties to work with educators, meet more partner staff, and connect with participants. She also attended the 4-H Awards Banquet to thank the many 4-H families that staff the Farmers Market EBT/Market Match sales table.



**Pamela Warren-Armstrong**

FoodWise Nutrition Educator

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It has been an action packed fall for Joy and Pamela! They are wrapping up a seven week Nutrition Series at Flynn Elementary for 1st grade and 5th grade and 3rd grade at Longfellow. The nutrition series at River Heights Elementary and Head Start in Menomonie were very successful as well. Joy taught an Adult nutrition series at the Menomonie Job Center and Pamela will start a new series at the Eau Claire Job Center at the end of this month. December will include visits to 5th grade Longfellow, 3rd grade Lakeshore, and an Adult nutrition series at Affinity House.

FoodWise is part of a pilot program called COOKING MATTERS. On December 11th, in Augusta we will be hosting a Cooking Matter Session. The families will make a snack together and the adults will prepare a meal, along with receiving free groceries to make the recipe at home. The session also includes tips on how to organize your pantry, meal planning and involving kids in the kitchen. We are very excited to partner with Jen Willms, Augusta Partnership Coordinator and the August Area School District for this program.

## Human Development & Relationships

Human Development &  
Relationships Educator



We are currently in the process of hiring this position.

### Positive Youth Development



**Rachel Hart-Brinson**

4-H Program Coordinator

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I keep thinking that things will slow down a bit, but that has not proven to be the case. We had our Awards Banquet on November 2nd and it was an opportunity to honor youth's achievements across the county. Thank you to the crew who took this on for the first time this year.

I have also been working with a group of young people through the TechChangeMakers program. This is a grant-funded program through the National 4-H Foundation. State 4-H programs applied to be part of the grant and Eau Claire County signed onto the program. The grant money was provided by Microsoft and is aimed at addressing disparities in technology access and knowledge. We are planning events to introduce new technology to young people and to the elderly. We held our first event on November 14 in conjunction with a "4-H Night at the Children's Museum" event. Four TechChangemakers engaged young attendees in building snap circuits, circuit robots, programming Dot Robots, and manipulating Sphero Balls. We have other events planned at Meadowview Elementary, Augusta Library, and Good Shepherd Nursing Homes with more events to be completed by the end of May.

The 4-H Night at the Children's Museum was a success. We had over 10 families show up for play, technology engagement, or making apple muffins and veggie snacks. Both the Children's Museum and our participant volunteers felt it was a worthwhile partnership and we hope to do it again.

4-H's fiscal year is July 1-June 30. That means that our tax filing date is November 15. That is also the date that the Charter documents are to be uploaded to the state website.

And, the All Institute Meeting is next week in Madison. I will be presenting a poster on "Using a Collaborative Approach to Develop Marketing Materials." I look forward to getting feedback and to participating in my first All Institute Meeting.

## Support Staff



**Kristi Peterson**

Office Coordinator

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This month has been busy with meetings, planning and organizing as well as meeting with educators individually. With the end of the year approaching quickly we have been working with each educator to find out what needs we can help with as well as how to organize effectively in 2020.

I also obtained a goal around professional development and completed an emotional intelligence educational opportunity.



**Andy Heren**

Administrative Specialist

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The beginning of November brings the annual 4-H Awards Banquet. I was so busy with the making of certificates, ordering awards, etc., that it was nice that night to enjoy the banquet and see the kids and leaders accept their awards. I left with a great feeling seeing all those kids and thought of their accomplishments. 4-H is such a great program! It's not just about showing at the fair. It's about growing as a person, developing skills, including leadership skills, and preparing yourself for a great future.

This month I am looking at the approaching Soil, Water & Nutrient Management Meeting December 5 at the Lake Hallie Eagles Club. (Registration information is on our website)

Looking farther ahead we have the Agronomy Update at the Eagles Club on January 10.

**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/>