



Extension Eau Claire County

Monthly Highlights

January 2020

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Agriculture



Lyssa Seefeldt

Agriculture Educator

lyssa.seefeldt@wisc.edu

The first month on the job has been a blur! I have been meeting and networking with all kinds of groups in the county- the Farm Technology Days committee, Livestock committee for the fair, and the Extension committee.

I have been helping Greg Leonard and Amanda Peters from Land Conservation with Nutrient Management classes, helping farmers get their information into the SNAP+ program which helps farmers make the best use of their on-farm nutrients, as well as make informed commercial fertilizer purchases.

I have also been continuing the WAXX radio slot on Friday mornings to help get agriculture information out to the community.



Margaret Murphy

Horticulture Agent

margaret.murphy@wisc.edu

The past month has been relatively quiet. I received a few questions about tree and shrub pruning and landscaping advice for 2020. I met with the horticultural working group about reviewing available horticulture publications to place in our horticulture content hub. There are over 500 publications to review so we are taking the same approach as one would take to eat an elephant "one bite at a time".

I met with Don Wortham of Polk County Extension who is well-versed in using Google Maps and he will be working with me to take a look at the current volunteer effort of Master Gardener Volunteers and to explore areas where future projects may be needed.

I am excited about the upcoming 2020 gardening season. The Eau Claire County Master Gardeners are starting the season off with their annual garden seminar, Ready, Set, Grow... on February 1st at the Chippewa Valley Technical College, 620 W Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire. I will be delivering the opening remarks along with a presentation on Gardening Trends in 2020. See the [brochure](#) to view all the talks at the seminar.

Community Development



Joseph Malual

Community Educator

joseph.malual@wisc.edu

December was a little quiet as people were busy with the holidays and took a vacation myself. However, I still worked with the Local Food First (Community Food Systems) team in planning and seeking grants to launch our planned activities. We are strategizing to working on the Buy Local Buy Wisconsin grant to be submitted by the end of January. I continued to provide capacity building for the new Hmong Americans Leadership and Economic Development group to achieve their goals and objectives. I look forward to more programming in 2020!

Health & Well-Being



Sandy Tarter

FoodWise Coordinator

sandy.tarter@wisc.edu

In addition to heart-warming holiday gatherings in Dunn, Chippewa, & Eau Claire offices, December brought about year end reporting for FoodWise. As data from all three counties was prepared for a conversation with our new FoodWise State Director- Kathryn Borc-Smock, it was also heart-warming to be reminded of all the great programming and impacts our nutrition educators are making. Here are some of the highlights:

Learners (unduplicated): Eau Claire-1,467, Area-2,555

Total direct ed contacts: Eau Claire-8,370, Area-12,863

Partners for direct ed: Eau Claire-10, Area-32

Total number of events: Eau Claire-543, Area-870



Joy Weisner

FoodWise Educator

joy.weisner@wisc.edu

Sandy served on the Search and Screen Committee for the Eau Claire Human Development and Relationship Educator position. Preliminary and final interviews were completed in December/early January. We had outstanding final candidates and look forward to working with our new colleague.

Staff joined in multiple FoodWise Curriculum and UW-Madison webinars. We look forward to piloting a Cooking Matters class for families in Augusta this February and April. We will collaborate with Augusta Elementary's Partnership Coordinator for these events. We hope to get at least six families to sign up!



Pamela Warren-Armstrong

FoodWise Educator

pamela.warren-armstrong@wisc.edu

Towards the end of January, Pamela and Joy will be teaching at ECASD Prairie Ridge Early Learning Program. They will teach a four week nutrition series from a curricula titled "Color Me Healthy". Each lesson focuses on exploring fruits and vegetables along with a fun song about moving our bodies! There are nine classrooms with AM & PM sessions that will benefit from our lessons.

Pamela & Joy will also wrap up our seven week nutrition series with 5th graders at Longfellow Elementary, at the end of January.

Human Development & Relationships

Human Development &
Relationships Educator



Positive Youth Development



Rachel Hart-Brinson

4-H Program Coordinator

rachel.hartbrinson@wisc.edu

January is a relatively quiet month for me, programming-wise. I will be evaluating winter camp, facilitating an awards process review, and participating in several colleague training. There are trainings scheduled for building a better Leaders Association Board, summer programming, and writing plans of work. I will also be attending an in-person meeting of our new colleague cohort.

I am also preparing to take the Continuing Education Course, "Achieving the Extension Mission through Volunteers" through University of Minnesota Continuing Education program.

Programming in February includes a Foods Revue workshop and the Speaking and Performing Arts Festival.

Support Staff



Kristi Peterson

Office Coordinator

kristin.peterson@co.eau-claire.wi.us

With the new year comes a lot of new things to check off the list. Year end processing of financials, creating new files, reminders, and numerous meetings.

The conversion to UW-Madison provides continual changes including all new signs, posters, brochures and many others. Policies continue to become more clear which also brings change.

Each day is filled with details, questions and problem solving to make the office run smoothly and allow each educator to be their best.



Andy Heren

Administrative Specialist

andy.heren@co.eau-claire.wi.us

The year 2020 started as all years at Extension: Busy, busy, busy!
Eau Claire County Extension hosted the annual Agronomy Update Meeting and will be hosting the CAFO Update Meeting on February 12 at Metropolis Conference Center..

I handle the registrations for the upcoming Master Gardener Winter Garden Seminar, which is Saturday, February 1, at CVTC.

We are also currently working on switching the Eau Claire County Fair Entry process to an online version, so I am filling any spare time entering the information from the fair book into the new program.

See? Busy, busy, busy!

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/>