

Monthly Highlights

January 2021

Agriculture



Lyssa Seefeldt

Agriculture Educator

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We are currently getting into our winter programming in the agriculture institute. Farmers have many options to choose from when it comes to virtual learning for the next few months. The [Badger Dairy Insight series](#) is continuing strong with weekly programs on all things dairy. Livestock farmers also [have many options](#) with sheep and goat focused programs and beef centered content.

As part of the Badger Dairy Insight series, we have mini workgroups completing specific themes. One I have been helping with is focused on safe farm practices for workers. One of the first meetings we completed for the Badger Dairy Insight was on safe skid loader use. This particular meeting was our trial run in having a dual language (English and Spanish) Zoom, and I was the person responsible for capturing the Spanish audio track to allow this particular content to be more accessible to Spanish speaking farm workers. One of the unique things about this feature in Zoom is while recording the Spanish track, I was only able to listen to the interpreter. We learned a few things on the way and will be modifying our next safety-focused program accordingly when we again run a dual-language Zoom. I have also scheduled a set of days to capture some local input as to what kind of dairy and livestock information local farmers, agribusiness service providers, and other county residents would like to see from Extension. I would invite you to join me on one of the following days if you would like to provide feedback.

- January 22, 10 am – 12 pm
- February 4, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm
- February 6, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

You can use this [zoom link to access any of the meetings](#) as it is set up to work for all of them to keep it simple. If you have questions about joining the zoom, or are having trouble accessing the zoom, please email me at: lyssa.seefeldt@wisc.edu.



Margaret Murphy

Horticulture Agent

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With the end of 2020, I am busy making plans for the upcoming growing season. I remain optimistic that we will be able to do some hands-on gardening this summer but will be prepared to keep people engaged if we can't. Areas of focus this year include continued outreach & support to the public with yard & garden inquiries; continued support to Master Gardener Volunteers and the development of a mentorship program for new volunteers; review horticulture/master gardener information on county websites to update as needed and create a more uniform layout; continue to develop program ideas for youth gardening programs and for home gardeners and working with community garden participants to help with soil prep, vegetable growing tips, garden pests & produce donations.

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteers (ECAMGV) have done a great job in 2020 to conquer Zoom and other virtual platforms to allow for new approaches in education. They have successfully transitioned their in-person annual garden seminar to a virtual platform and have embraced partnering with other counties in the western region to create a robust program called Growing Together 2021 Western Wisconsin Spring Garden Seminar. Seminar topics were chosen based on inquiries received over the 2020 growing season and include soil preparation for vegetable gardening, plant design strategies for privacy in the backyard, how to properly plant and care for trees and shrubs, and native plants for the Northern Wisconsin Area. Visit www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/ for more information.

Despite the restrictions we faced with in-person programming in 2020, ECAMGVs continued to work on several of their volunteer projects and will do the same if no contact gardening continues into the gardening season. I'm anticipating another very busy year as people will probably be staying close to home again. Happy New Year!

Health & Well-Being



Sandy Tarter
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Pamela Warren-Armstrong
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The FoodWise Program is off to a great start in 2021!

Joy and Pamela just started an Adult Nutrition Series offered through Workforce Resource. They are teaching the 4 week series through Zoom, and offering a morning class and another in the afternoon each Wednesday during the month of January. The classes focus on stretching food dollars, while participants reflect on their own needs and wants while meal planning and food shopping. A spending plan will be introduced in week 2 along with some family goal setting. The classes are offered to participants in Eau Claire, Dunn and Chippewa Counties.

They are also teaching a series of lessons via Microsoft Teams to 1st graders at Lakeshore Elementary and they just kicked off the first week of a new session of Strong Bodies, leading the exercises and teaching short nutrition lessons on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. This new series will continue through March 25th.

Human Development & Relationships



Yia Lor
Human Development & Relationships Educator
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The theme of December was connection and collaboration!

I have been working with the Eau Claire County Triple P team and also the Extension Triple P team to plan for winter and spring offerings. The ECASD and I are co-facilitating a Seminar through the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library in February, and you can register through the library's [website](#). I will also be facilitating a statewide Seminars series with educators in Dunn and Pierce counties in February. Registration can be found [here](#).

The Child Poverty Coalition met to review our power map and how we want to move forward with our mission going into the new year. We have been discussing bringing Aces Connection to our area where we can provide more education around ACEs and resilience. An exciting opportunity for our team!

One fun activity I helped with was the [Eau Claire Reads for Kids](#) project through the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library. Check out our videos as we share our love of reading with kids in the Valley.

Another exciting update is the programming area Family Engagement & Relationships is now on [Instagram](#)! Come follow us as we share tips and resources on raising children.

This January, I look forward to making more connections and collaborating!

Positive Youth Development



Rachel Hart-Brinson
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With the end of the year, I focused on getting reports finalized and into our reporting system for 2020. I then started working on planning programming for the new year.

Colleagues from Areas 5, 6, and 9 are collaborating on some virtual mini camps. I took the lead on planning the Arts and Crafts virtual mini camp that will explore 4 different mediums--clay, paper, textile, and paint. I am excited to offer the opportunity to multiple counties late February-mid-March.

Area 6 colleagues and I are planning a virtual Speaking and Demonstration Contest for late February. This will be performed over zoom for the first time.

Area 6 colleagues and I are also planning a follow up to our very successful "Discover 4-H" boxes that we did back in the fall. We will do a 5-week series in April.

I have started working on creating three curricula--making paper snowflakes, making corn tortillas, and beginning weaving.

I continue to work with the Eau Claire County Fair on establishing roles and responsibilities that align with the educational roles of Extension.

Community Development

Community Development

The Community Development Educator position is currently vacant. Updates shared at the 2021 budget discussions with the committee. Please contact Catherine Emmanuelle with any questions catherine.emmanuelle@wisc.edu 715-450-0823. For information on Extension's Community Development efforts see [here](#), and how Extension is responding to COVID-related work supported by Community Development Educators, see [here](#).

Support Staff



Kristi Peterson
Office Coordinator
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I continue to work from home, and during the snowy days it has been amazing.

I have been very busy cleaning up our website, specifically with our committee documents. With the new platform, I received some training and have been working to get previous files organized and up to date.

I have also been very busy working with clean up for end of year budget items, tracking and organizing.

2021 feels like it is going to be a fresh new start. Happy new year to all.



Andy Heren
Administrative Specialist
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As of late I have been working with Lyssa getting some information out regarding Pesticide Applicator Training, the Agronomy Update Meeting, and the CAFO Update Meeting.

I have been working with Yia on making corrections to the Positive Parenting Program booklets and adding more information to our Extension website.

I have been serving as weight room manager for Pamela and Joy as their new recruits to the Strong Bones Program come by for hand and ankle weights.

I have been assisting Rachel with different 4-H program tasks. I am also working with the Fair Committee updating the Fair Entry program the 4-Hers, FFA members, and others will use to enter their fair projects.

Area Extension Director



Catherine Emmanuelle

Area 6 Extension Director

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I hope your holidays were safe and peaceful. Our educators continue to do a blend of work from the office and work from home, with a continuation of mostly virtual programming to meet the needs of our local communities.

Over in our Extension Dunn County Team, we continue to work with our state Extension data experts to revamp our monthly highlights and our internal system of recording our educational efforts. Once we have the new system in place, it will help to streamline educator's reporting efforts and still provide our stakeholders with meaningful impacts of Extension programming. In the meantime, you will continue to receive the highlights on this format that you are familiar with. Wishing you a good start to the New Year!