

Positive Youth Development

An oral history and art project for Eau Claire County 4-H members in partnership with the Heartbeat Center where young people will practice interviewing skills, creative writing, and create an artistic representation of their interviewee. This is designed to engage young people with members of their community while developing critical thinking skills and creativity.

An Introduction to Fiber Arts for 2nd-4th graders where we explored the basics of weaving and made our own stuffie. The purpose of this program is to increase the confidence of participants while they design and make art.

An Aerospace and Model Rocket Program for 2nd-4th graders that allowed them the opportunity to practice fine motor skills while building two model rockets. This program partnership with the Eau Claire Area School District broadened the visibility of the 4-H program as well as allowed an opportunity for young people to learn about, build, and launch model rockets.

A summer day camp series for youth campers and counselors, where they came together for four days of making new friends, learning new things, and brushing up on rusty social skills. This effort was designed to offer families a traditional camp, minus the overnight, so that youth just emerging from the social isolation of the pandemic could enjoy a fun summer activity without the safety concerns of an overnight, while leadership opportunities were provided for older youth.

An Introduction to Baking class for 2nd-4th graders where young people learned basic skills of baking and kitchen skills. The goal of this program is to promote the 4-H program as well as allow young people the opportunity to grow in their confidence in the kitchen.

Horticulture

Master Gardener Volunteer Mentorship Program for new volunteers where established volunteers help familiarize them with local volunteer service projects and help acclimate them as they begin their volunteer service. This effort is designed to increase volunteer retention and their involvement with community horticulture projects.

Planning and redeveloping an online course about Wisconsin horticulture for consumer audiences (home gardeners) and those interested in becoming a Master Gardener Volunteer. This effort is designed to increase learners' decision-making and problem-solving skills to improve the productivity

and health of gardens and landscapes, while also expanding access to new underserved audience members.

Agriculture

Creating the Planning for Emergency Livestock Transportation Response (PELTR) Canvas Course to increase economic sustainability of a local area's emergency plan for roadside incidents involving livestock trailers.

A virtual workshop (Heart of the Farm) for farm women where they learned about value added production of dairy products through direct marketing. The purpose of this program is to improve farm sustainability and profitability.

A newsletter for farmers, ag professionals, and local media where they are provided timely articles and information on Extension resources.

Development of educational displays for the Dairy and Livestock education stations at Farm Technology Days. The goal of this effort is to increase producers' knowledge in mitigating heat stress, and to improve beef / dairy calf care, farm biosecurity, and meat animal yields.

Planning for the 2021 Bi-Annual Midwest Manure Summit Virtual Conference for farmers, consultants, engineers, and other agribusiness industry professionals. The goal of this effort is to show innovation, research, and solutions in handling dairy manure in an environmentally and financially sustainable manner so that farmers can protect the environment and community.

A newsletter for farmers, ag professionals, and local media where they are provided timely articles and information on Extension resources.

Development/revisions of the bilingual Dairy Workers Training Skills modules for dairy employees where they will learn principles of and how to do each task on the farm. This effort is designed to support them in doing their daily tasks more confidently and efficiently while maintaining employee safety and animal welfare.

Health & Well-Being

Planning a nutrition education series with families to inspire them to make healthy, affordable food choices while meal planning, shopping, and cooking at home.

Implemented the Chippewa Valley Summer Activity Passport program with support of three local coalitions encouraging families to get out and enjoy multiple local resources. This effort supports physical activity, stress reduction, and increased fresh fruit and vegetables intake as action steps towards better health in chronic disease prevention.

Summer nutrition education series in community gardens to teach youth nutrition, food safety, and have the experience of tasting their harvest. This will encourage youth to try more vegetables and decrease the risk of food-borne illness.

Human Development & Relationships

"I wanted to share how much I enjoyed the program and that I learned so many tips to use in the coming years. My son is 9 months old so I have some time before he starts asking questions, but I will be getting books and toys to help teach him now. This has helped to alleviate some of my anxiety surrounding this topic. Thank you!"

-JoAnna B., Participant in "Let's Talk about Race: Race-Conscious Parenting with Children" Program



Race-Conscious Parenting is...



Explicit



Brave



Frequent

Planning and development of parenting and early literacy programming in partnership with the library, school districts, and local laundromats. This effort is designed to create playful, literacy-rich spaces for families and offer resources around positive parenting. Resources will be available in English, Spanish, and HMoob.



Planning and development of a new initiative for families in collaboration with the Children's Museum of Eau Claire and the

BRAIN team. This effort is designed to further the knowledge of how early childhood experiences impact lifelong learning and health.

Planning and development of parenting and early literacy programming (in English, Spanish, and HMoob) in partnership with the library and local grocery stores. This effort is designed to create playful, literacy-rich spaces for families and offer resources around positive parenting.

Planning and development of outdoor reading experience using children's literature in collaboration with the library. This effort is designed to connect children and families to stories that follow the library's anti-racist pledge, featuring people of color, and encourage healthy movement and exercise along bike and walking trails.

Planning and development of literacy resources in HMoob and Spanish for children and families in collaboration with local literacy coalition and national program (Clinton Foundation). This effort is designed to expand on the current initiative in the community around early literacy and increase accessibility of materials.

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.

Planning and development of a grant application for resources to create laundromat libraries for families in collaboration with the library. This effort is designed to collaborate around funding opportunities to provide books, crates, and parenting resources in laundromats.

Catherine Emmanuelle

*Area Extension
Director*

Margaret Murphy

*Horticulture Outreach
Specialist*

Yia Lor

*Human Development & Relationships
Educator*

Pamela Warren-Armstrong

*FoodWise Nutrition
Educator*

Rachel Hart-Brinson

*4-H Program
Educator*

Lyssa Seefeldt

*Agriculture
Educator*

Joy Weisner

*FoodWise Nutrition
Educator*

Sandy Tarter

*FoodWise Nutrition
Coordinator*

Staff Highlights



Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Outreach Specialist

In June, FoodWise Educator, Nancy Fastner, and I began a 10-week class with the Boys and Girls Club in Chippewa Falls. The program is based on the highly successful program ongoing in Eau Claire County. Current feedback is that the kids are thoroughly enjoying the class. The hope is to implement a similar program in Dunn County for 2022.

Together with several Extension colleagues, I attended a garden day hosted by the Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association in conjunction with UWEC-Youth Leadership Camp at Jeffers Community Garden. I gave a brief talk about the benefits and importance of community gardens.

I have been working with Master Gardener Volunteers throughout my

service area in putting together educational materials and display containers for [Farm Technology Days](#), July 20-22, 2021.



Lyssa Seefeldt | Agriculture Educator

In June we kicked off our summer Heart of the Farm coffee chat series featuring Joellen Heiman of the Weber Farm Store. Joellen shared information on starting a store tied to your farm business, decision-making about what products to select for development, marketing, and some family history tied to her business.

I have been spending some time getting our educational area and materials ready for [Farm Technology Days](#) which is July 20-22, 2021.



Yia Lor | Human Development & Relationships

June started off with finishing a Triple P Seminar series that I facilitated with Extension colleagues. We will hold another series in August to support families heading back into another school year. Registration can be found [here](#).

I also piloted a new program called "Let's Talk about Race: Race-Conscious Parenting with Children" in partnership with Margaret Leonard from Dotters Books. We also had three Extension State Specialists join us for this conversation. Though we promoted the program primarily in Eau Claire County, we had almost fifty registrants across 13 counties and 4 states! We offered a pre-recorded program for those who could not attend, and you can view it [here](#).

I will be out of the office most of July to help care for a family member. During this time, I will not be programming but encourage folks to check out the [Family Resource Center for Triple P offerings](#) and [Practicing the Pause](#), a virtual self-care program facilitated by Extension educators across the state.



Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Educator

June has been busy!!! We had a successful summer day camp series in place of our usual overnight camp. I decided I would be extremely pleased with 40 enrollees and that's what we got. We had 12 enthusiastic young people join us as counselors. This was a development opportunity for them just as much as it was an opportunity for fun for the participants.

I also developed and ran several programs through the Eau Claire Area School District partnership. (See above for more details on the specific programs.) I have programmed with over 100 young people so far and it is reaching new audiences as only 3 of them had ever heard of 4-H. Plus, we worked on the life skills of problem solving, following instructions, attention to detail, and more.

Community Development Educator

We are excited to have a verbal accepted offer. Area Extension Director Catherine Emmanuelle will give an update with our UW-Extension Committee and County Administrator when the announcement is public. Next month, we hope to fill in this section with a brief bio of our newest colleague, who will be an incredible member to our team and communities.

Extension Eau Claire County

June 2021 Report



Sandy Tarter | FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator
Joy Weisner | FoodWise Nutrition Educator
Pamela Warren-Armstrong | FoodWise Nutrition Educator

For FoodWise Nutrition Educators, Joy & Pamela, June means Kid's Gardens! Last year all garden events were cancelled due to Covid. We were more than ready to get back to the North River Fronts Park Kid's Garden to work with the youth from the Boys & Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley! We provide summer nutrition education/garden information sessions four days a week for six weeks (2 weeks in June, July, & August). Working in collaboration with Boys and Girls Club staff, Extension Horticulture Outreach Specialist, Master Gardeners, and community gardens to plan activities in alliance with Covid19 processes so that youth can gain knowledge in how plants grow while learning about nutrition and tasting their harvest.

Pamela & Joy are also planning a four-week nutrition education series, "Cooking Matters" at the Eau Claire Job Center in August and one in September for folks signed up in the F-SET/W2 program.

Market Match is going strong with record sales to date. We have verbal confirmations from corporate sponsors that should thankfully cover our season. Sandy is working with Prof. Eric Jamelske to conduct surveys with participants again this year. This will give us valuable information in efforts to help understand benefits and any roadblocks to using this program. Prof. Jamelske also funded a Market Match informational flyer sent home to each FoodShare household in EC County.

Chippewa Valley Summer Activity Passport: We have 54 participants who have uploaded photos from their outings in our communities. Each week there will be winners drawn who will receive prizes such as Bocce Ball Set, Ladder Toss, Lawn Darts, Kubk Set, etc.

<https://RB.GY/ZVK94K>

Kristi Peterson | Office Coordinator

This month has been transitioned focused. I have been able to aid staff to the office in person as well as in their programming. It is so great to see faces off a screen.

We have seen an increase in Farm Technology Days inquiries and look forward to the event July 20-22.



Budget season is in full swing, and we continue to perfect the details.

Andy Heren | Administrative Specialist II

July came up awful fast! I have been fielding questions for Farm Technology days, which is July 20-22.

I am also getting questions regarding the Eau Claire County Fair. Many of those go to the Fair Coordinator. Our county is moving to more current times of fair organization, which includes a fair coordinator.

My work changes daily as the Educators give me various tasks to complete, which is what I am here for.



Catherine Emmanuelle | Area Extension Director - Chippewa, Dunn, & Eau Claire Counties

My big bucket items have been working through county budgets in all three counties (Chippewa, Dunn, & Eau Claire), continuing work on the Community Development Educator position, our return to the office plans (July 6th is our big day), and working with our grant-provided Community Health Internship Program interns. They are taking a mutli-disciplinary approach and working with 4-H, FoodWise, Horticulture, some local public health with our Extension educators, and some broader work on research for creating a more inclusive website and office presence. Farm Tech Days is July 20-22. I will be there for a couple days so stop and say hey! Extension will be leading with an educational presence along with the greater Agriculture community. You can visit their website here for more information <https://www.wifarmtechdays.org>. There is still a need for volunteers and you can sign up here: <https://www.wifarmtechdays.org/volunteers> Have a great rest of your month!