

Positive Youth Development

A program (Blue Ribbon Kid's Day Tent) for young people where they learn about 4-H projects through hands-on learning. This effort is designed to promote the 4-H and Extension programs to the Eau Claire County Fair attendees.

A series of planning meetings for three county 4-H educators to develop and implement a six-week hybrid "Discover 4-H" program for youth in grades K-4. This program will include all needed materials for doing 6 diverse projects using the 4-H curriculum taught by the educators and volunteers and will provide exposure to new audiences to 4H.

A four-afternoon program for upper middle and high school students entitled, "Baking with Yeast," where young people learned about and practiced different bread-making techniques needed to make filled rolls, braided breads, bagels, soda crackers, focaccia, and more. The purpose of this program was to provide an enrichment activity to older youth using Positive Youth Development principles of Essential Elements and Life Skill development.

Horticulture

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.

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.

Agriculture

Planning for an annual regional conference for ag professionals and educators, where attendees gain an awareness of the outlook for commodity prices in the coming year. This conference is designed to increase their knowledge when advising their farm clientele in preparing for the upcoming year.

Planning with county partners to teach local developing community leaders about Eau Claire agriculture and its economic contributions to the county. Leadership Eau Claire is a skill building program hosted by the Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce.

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Planning with pilot locations to deliver 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 podcast series, AgriVision, for farmers and ag professionals, where UW Extension educators answer Farm Management questions and share knowledge and expertise on how farmers can improve their farm management skills.

A live, on-line webinar series for Women in Agriculture (producers) where they learned how important it is to focus on eating together as a family. The Heart of the Farm Coffee Chat Series was designed to help mitigate social isolation through connecting with other participants due to COVID-19.

Planning for a cattle well-being conference for dairy workers, farmers, and agribusiness professionals where participants will learn to enhance animal care while promoting health and safety for livestock.

Health & Well-Being

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.

A 6-week series for women in a transition facility where they learn about food resource management. This effort will help limited resource participants to make healthy food choices on a budget.

Planning with local partners to create sustainability with funding for our Farmers Market-Market Match program. This ensures our FoodShare participants will receive double tokens to purchase fresh produce for their families.

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.

Planning and development of medication safety materials (e.g., flyers, video, DVDs) for HMoob and Latinx communities in collaboration with the health department. The goal of this effort is to offer educational materials around medication storage, deactivation bags, and prescription drug misuse, specifically among youth, and to offer resources that are accessible to these communities (e.g., translated materials).

Collaborated with local agencies to create sustainability and promotion of the farmers markets token and match programs. This effort enables FoodShare participants to utilize their benefits in purchasing market foods while supporting increased vendor sales.

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.

Human Development & Relationships

A program (incorporating Money Matters) for Department of Workforce Development clients where they gained financial skills and earned a voucher they could redeem when opening a savings account at a local credit union. The purpose of the effort is to improve financial wellbeing and stability of participants.

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 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 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 parenting newsletter and baby bundles for HMoob and Spanish-speaking families in collaboration with the Family Resource Center, medical centers, and other community partners. This effort is designed to connect new parents and caregivers with Extension and non-Extension resources, offering tips on taking care of newborns.

Planning and development of Positive & Adverse Childhood Experiences (PACES) initiative to provide education and resources for community members in collaboration with the child poverty coalition. The goal of this effort is to prepare the coalition to support and lead efforts in reducing adverse childhood experiences and promoting positive childhood experiences through capacity-building.

Planning and development of medication safety materials and children's wellness books for the HMoob, Latinx, and Somali communities in collaboration with the health department and local faith groups. These materials were distributed by community partners at a cultural event. The goal of this effort is to offer educational materials around medication safety and supporting children's social-emotional health in ways that are accessible to these communities.

ACEs in Our Work

- What are some markers you have seen that potentially identify kids with high ACEs?
- What have you done to help kids with ACEs?
- What do you wish you would have done differently?



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Craft activities and children's wellness book distribution for youth and families at the county fair where participants engaged in various art activities promoting wellness (e.g., coloring mandalas) and received books to support social-emotional well-being. These activities contribute to supporting family stability and resiliency.

Planning and development of wellness programs for homeless families in partnership with the school district. This effort is designed to support family stability and resilience by offering wellness tips and resources.

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*Area Extension
Director*

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*Horticulture Outreach
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Yia Lor
*Human Development & Relationships
Educator*

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Joy Weisner
*FoodWise Nutrition
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Sandy Tarter
*FoodWise Nutrition
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Staff Highlights



Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Outreach Specialist

Yard and garden questions are coming in daily. I have received many questions concerning lilacs and other landscape plants along with vegetable crops exhibiting signs of foliar fungal disease.

The Horticulture and Master Gardener Programs are offering a 12-week course called Foundations in Horticulture (FIH) this fall. FIH is an online Canvas course where participants will learn the fundamentals of Wisconsin horticulture with an emphasis in integrated pest management. It is for individuals interested in expanding their upper Midwest Garden knowledge as well as for individuals interested in becoming a certified Master Gardener. I coordinated the Q&A sessions with state specialists, which is a new feature to the course this year plus, will be leading a lab section.

We have 11 individuals from Area 6 registered for Foundations in Horticulture with 8 from Eau Claire County. I will be hosting an orientation with the local Foundations in Horticulture participants this October to introduce them to the local Master Gardener program.

Jeffers Road Community Garden is going strong. We've seen some slow development in some crops, but people are now busy harvesting. I will be sharing information on food donation and best practices for donating garden produce.



Lyssa Seefeldt | Agriculture Educator

August had a lot of planning meetings for getting prepped for our winter programming season.

We wrapped up the last of the summer Heart of the Farm coffee chats in August as well. This last chat focused on dinner conversations as a focus to bring the family together and bring mental balance. We are grateful to have had Nancy Vance and Jackie Carattini, Human Development and Relationship educators from Clark and Wood Counties, presenting this information.

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Yia Lor | Human Development & Relationships

August was another busy month! Extension educators and I facilitated a Triple P Seminar series in August for families heading into another school year. My colleague Jeanne Walsh, Chippewa County Educator, and I also facilitated an ACE/Resilience workshop for 85 staff members at Fall Creek School District.

I continue to collaborate with the Eau Claire City-County Health Department on a variety of projects. You may have noticed that the Vulnerable Populations Work Group voted to change our name to Community Health Equity Work Group. Check out this article [here](#) to learn more about why the change.

Fall includes several projects and new initiatives to support families. With generous donations from Kiwanis clubs, we will distribute over 2,000 of our [Just in Time Parenting](#) newsletters to Mayo, Sacred Heart, and Nurse-Family Partnership. Extension is also launching a self-paced version of WeCOPE, which is a wellness program to support adults (register [here](#)). The CV Child Poverty Coalition launched our [PACES Connection site](#). We are still in the early stages of setting this up but consider joining our group to learn how we can grow a resilient community.



Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Educator

August started with the tail-end of the Eau Claire County Fair. The fair continues to be a meaningful part of the 4-H year. And it was good to be there in person, watching the young people show animals and supporting them in their project learning.

As mentioned above, I held another cooking program in partnership with the Eau Claire Area School District (ECASD). We made lots of delicious bread and I even got a note from a parent expressing how much her family enjoyed the program--both as participants and recipients of the food they made.

The rest of August was spent wrapping up the ECASD partnership reporting. Based on evaluations that I received from the programs that I did, most young people learned something, had fun, and would take the class again. For the first go-around with the partnership, it feels like a success. I have already scheduled a meeting to plan next year's programming partnership.

September 1 marks the start of the new 4-H year and I look forward to coordinating programs across the county for the coming 4-H year.

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Addison Vang | Community Development Educator

This month completes the first month as the new Community Development Educator for Area 6 covering Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire Counties. It has been focused on learning about Extension and the work everyone does in this area and throughout the state. This includes connecting with local stakeholders and local organizations.

I'm excited to return to the Chippewa Valley, as a proud local of the area. I look forward to supporting and furthering my knowledge of the three counties on a variety of topics.



Sandy Tarter | FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator

Joy Weisner | FoodWise Nutrition Educator

Pamela Warren-Armstrong | FoodWise Nutrition Educator

2021 Kids' Garden: Along with hot August days comes the wrapping up of the 2021 Kids Garden partnering with the Boys & Girls Club at the North River Fronts Park in Eau Claire. We had a successful garden program thanks to our Master Gardener Volunteer Judy Mitchell, Coordinator and the Master Gardener Volunteer team that taught the kids in the garden throughout the summer. Each day, Monday thru Thursday, we taught a different grade level. The second graders attended every Monday for six weeks, and the third, fourth, and fifth grades followed throughout the week. Over the 6 weeks of programming in June, July, and August we taught nearly 75 youth. During the lessons and activities, the main objective was to expose children to a variety of vegetables and fruit by tending the garden with the hope of increased consumption of vegetables and fruits.



Affinity House: Pamela and Joy are taking turns teaching a 6-week series starting in August, at the Affinity House partnering with Lutheran Social Services. We are teaching Food Resource Management, using the "Healthy Cents" curriculum to encourage limited resource participants to make healthy food choices on a limited budget.

F-Set W2 Workforce Resource: Pamela taught a 4-week series at the Eau Claire Job Center in August. Five participants took part in a Cooking Matters Program, the main objective of the program is to learn to stretch food dollars and make healthy choices along the way. Each session included a discussion, along with short shopping tip videos and recipe demonstrations. Joy will be offering this same session in September for new participants at the Job Center.

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Kristi Peterson | Office Coordinator

This month I spent some time with Addison, our new educator, onboarding and training on our office procedures and policies.

I continue to update social media on a regular basis with a variety of programs and learning opportunities from each area within Extension. Topics posted range from fun facts, to eating tips, to parenting skills and many more. If you haven't had a chance, check it out and like our page to receive updates. [Extension Eau Claire County \(facebook.com\)](https://www.facebook.com/ExtensionEauClaireCounty)



Andy Heren | Administrative Specialist II

We are in that period post county fair and annual 4-H Awards Banquet. The 4-Hers will be completing their record books. Along with that comes interviews for awards and Educational Experiences. I will soon be busy making certificates and competing orders for their plaques and disks. It is a fun time of year as we get to see what the 4-Hers have accomplished over the past year.

The gardening season is coming to an end, so I'll be giving Margaret any help she needs in closing out our Jeffers Road Gardens.

I also continue making occasional updates to our website and assist the educators on whatever they put my way.



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

We are appreciative of the support, questions, and conversations we've had on the committee level as we enter budget season on the county level. Please feel free to reach out anytime if you have questions or want to connect along the way.

I have been working closely with our new Community Development Educator, Addison Vang, as he gets to know our three counties, Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire. He will be a busy and effective Extension Educator, that is for sure!

Lastly, as we continue with Covid-19 this fall, we will continue to prioritize the health and safety of our staff and support them if they need to care for themselves or their family as we enter another challenging respiratory season. We continue to have in-person and virtually programming, while following CDC, state, and local public health guidance. We appreciate all your support as our department continues to navigate this long pandemic chapter.