

Positive Youth Development

A series of meetings with partner agency Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association in order to begin re-starting a shared after school club for Hmong teenagers. This club supports teens who as they cope with two cultures, domestic violence and sexual assault by providing professional staff, education on prevention and recovery, creative art and STEM activities and access to post-secondary options.

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.

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

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.

Preparation for a pasture walk for farmers that graze livestock will encourage more producers to utilize grazing, a highly beneficial conservation practice and to be more successful with their efforts.

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.

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.

Planning for and development of bi-annual animal well-being conference for dairy-farmers, managers, and workers; agribusiness professionals; and service providers in collaboration with UW-Madison Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences. The goal of this effort is to teach individuals the latest, unbiased, university-based research regarding animal husbandry so that individuals can increase animal well-being on the farm.

Health & Well-Being

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.

A series of lessons for adults in the Foodshare employment training program, where we demonstrated recipes and provided information on how to stretch food dollars. This effort supports them in making healthy choices while working on a tight budget.

Human Development & Relationships

Planning and development of medication safety materials, family resources, and interactive reading resources for the Latinx community in collaboration with the health department and local faith groups. 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

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).

Planning and development of family programming for low-literacy populations in collaboration with family resource centers and literacy agencies. This effort is designed to create a series of parenting classes that will be accessible to parenting adults with limited English proficiency.

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

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a local credit union. The purpose of the effort is to improve financial wellbeing and stability of participants.

A wellness program for agency partners and community members where participants learn strategies to manage stress. This effort is designed to support adults and increase resilience in families and the community.

A series of newsletters for parents and caregivers where participants learned tips on raising healthy and happy children along with tools for solving common parenting challenges. This effort is designed to support family stability, understanding of child development, and increase resiliency.

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Margaret Murphy
*Horticulture Outreach
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Yia Lor
*Human Development & Relationships
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*FoodWise Nutrition
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*Community Development
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Rachel Hart-Brinson
*4-H Program
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Lyssa Seefeldt
*Agriculture
Educator*

Joy Weisner
*FoodWise Nutrition
Educator*

Sandy Tarter
*FoodWise Nutrition
Coordinator*

Staff Highlights



Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Outreach Specialist

The Jeffers Community Garden is winding down. We will be sending out a letter to participants about clean-up and a reminder to look for an application in February to sign up for a 2022 plot.

It's been a very busy season with yard and garden questions. Recent questions include tree leaf concerns, lilacs reblooming, apple tree concerns, deer resistant plants, plant ids, fruit flies, recommendations on tree selection.

Foundations in Horticulture course began on September 12 with 380 participants statewide. We have participants from all counties in Area 6. I am leading labs sessions and co-moderating question and answer sessions for participants with state specialists.

I've been enjoying working with a hydroponic unit located in the Chippewa County Extension office. The unit has a very nice crop of greens. Food grown in the unit will be donated to food recipient organizations. Recently, we harvested a pound of greens with more to be harvested next week. As we become more experienced with the unit, we will try different crops. The plan is to explore opportunities to partner on research/educational projects.



Lyssa Seefeldt | Agriculture Educator

September finished out with the 2021-2022 Leadership Eau Claire class starting their first session: Agriculture and Natural Resources. Greg Leonard from Land Conservation, Renee Liming from Bauman Associates, and I coordinated the day to have participants learn about the economic, social, and ecological importance of farming & conservation to the county, as well as the greater Chippewa Valley area.

The day started with a short bus ride to Augusta. Along the way, I shared some county economic information related to farms and some of the science behind some farm practices. The first stop was a visit to the water quality trading project with the city of Augusta. That visit was followed with a stop out at the demonstration farm partnership to learn about the no-till drill and how demonstration farms allow for peer-to-peer knowledge transfer, learning new technologies, and increased adoption of research-based conservation practices. The next stop was Bears Grass Dairy to see a working dairy farm, an important stop for up-and-coming leaders, as many of the participants have never been on a

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dairy farm before.

The afternoon started out at Beaver Creek Reserve to learn about the center's role in conservation and hear about Wisconsin agriculture from Alice in Dairyland over lunch. We made a short stop at Big Falls County Park to learn about forestry and recreation importance to the county economy. Finally, to round out the day, we stopped out at Sunbow Farm Community Supported Agriculture to learn about the differences between this farm's business model compared to the "traditional" or "commodity" farm model.

One of the participants shared their experience in a post-attendance survey:

"[I enjoyed] learning more about the significant economic impact of agriculture in Eau Claire and some of the movers and shakers involved in that."

Another participant shared:

"[I enjoyed] all of the content I learned - was not expecting to learn as much as I did - I felt very engaged."



Yia Lor | Human Development & Relationships

September has been a great month for collaboration! In partnership with Sherman Elementary School, we were able to distribute many books and literacy resources as a part of our interactive reading program at various community events.

There have been lots of Triple P happenings both [locally](#) and across the [state](#). One project I'm excited about is working with the Family Resource Center and Literacy Chippewa Valley to deliver Triple P to low literacy populations.

We continue to promote the self-paced version of WeCOPE, which is a program that offers stress management skills for adults. Registration is [here](#), and a limited supply of workbooks and journals can be picked up from our office or Altoona Public Library.

Extension partnered with L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library to create a StoryWalk experience featuring writer Kao Kalia Yang's picture book "The Most Beautiful Thing." A community celebration will be held at the end of October at Owen Park. Details can be found [here](#).

Save the date! Extension will be hosting the Raising Wisconsin Children Conference, which will occur Thursday, January 13th and Saturday, January 15th. Topics include families and technology, fatherhood, emotion coaching, and more!

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Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Educator

September has flown by again!

We are preparing for our Area-wide Discover 4-H program. This will be both an in-person and virtual experience with 2 of the days together at Elk Mound Middle School and 4 of the times meeting virtually. This was a highlight of our year last year and we are excited for the program again.

I am also spending time working with the Leaders Association on leadership transitions plus preparing for our annual awards process. This process includes reviewing record books, arranging interviews, conducting interviews, and soliciting nominations for leader recognition.

Annual Financial Review documents were due September 1 to our office in order to give us enough time to get taxes filed with the IRS and then uploaded to the state database. We are still working on getting all the I's dotted and the T's crossed to finish off that project.



Addison Vang | Community Development Educator

September was a continuation of my efforts to network and connect with Extension Educators throughout the state and local stakeholders. The connections will support the needs assessment for my plan of work.

The Defy "Entrepreneurs in Training" (EIT) program is an online program to support formerly incarcerated individuals who have an interest in starting a business. The program had its first cohort of graduates which included an Eau Claire resident. Area 6 was asked to provide continued support to graduates as a local resource. This is a great program that provides lifelong skills beyond being an entrepreneur. It has already provided positive results with one of the graduates planning on opening a restaurant in Black River Falls.

The Wisconsin Towns Association had their fall workshops this month. Topics ranged from budgeting, levies, tax bills, effective meeting strategies, and rural broadband expansion strategies. There were representatives from throughout the county.

The Wisconsin Towns Association Unit Meeting was held this month as well. I was formally introduced to the town's official in attendance as the newest Area 6 Extension staff.

Extension's Wisconsin Broadband Summit has been announced. The date is Tuesday, November 16, 2021, from 9am - 12pm. There are many relevant topics. Registration is no cost. You can register here.

[Wisconsin Broadband Summit - Community Economic Development](#)

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

At the end of September, FoodWise Colleagues were celebrated during our FoodWise All-Staff Meeting! Our second annual “Golden Awards” were presented virtually to colleagues who were nominated by their peers throughout the state of Wisconsin. Joy Weisner was asked and participated on the Golden Award Committee. There were 8 awards given during this Zoom meeting.



Sandy Tarter received the “**Community Engagement Award**” in recognition of all her efforts with the Farmer’s Market Match Program among many other projects in Eau Claire, Chippewa & Dunn Counties!
Yay, Sandy!

Pamela Warren-Armstrong received the “**Golden Career Award**” in recognition of her 20th year career in FoodWise. Pamela celebrates 20 years on October 21st! Yay, Pamela!



What a positive way to kick off our FY22 which starts on October 1st!

Affinity House: Pamela and Joy took turns teaching a 6-week series starting in August and ending in September 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. Eight participants received certifications after completing the six-week nutrition program.

F-Set W2 Workforce Resource: Joy taught a 4-week series at the Eau Claire Job Center in September. One participant 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.



Kristi Peterson | Office Coordinator

One of my projects this month was to purchase a variety of supplies for the Discover 4-H tri-county program. This is an awesome opportunity for the whole family with six weeks of engaging activities to learn more about 4-H. We packed bags with a wide variety of supplies for families to choose either in person or a virtual experience. This is a great way to be sure we are reaching all comfort levels during a pandemic. I really enjoyed getting to know my colleagues in our partnering counties and the team effort to ensure this is a great event.

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Andy Heren | Administrative Specialist II

As Kristi stated, we had a lot of work to do in preparation for the Discover 4-H program in Area 6.

October brings with it lots of preparation for the annual County 4-H Banquet in November. Lots of certificates to make for our youth who have achieved so much over the past year!



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

Thank you to everyone who was able to make it to the Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire Counties Meet-and-Greet virtual meetings in September. Our theme was Transforming Lives and Communities. Our staff was able to highlight local accomplishments and what's on the horizon for programming at the county level. We had dedicated time to talk about Extension's educational presence at Farm Technology Days. We learned about Extension's FoodWise leadership and impact of expanding a local Market-Match program at farmers markets, which helps stretch food dollars for folks on FoodShare. We also heard from Broadband State Specialist Gail Huycke and a high-level look at the interconnected work of Community Development across our three counties. You should have received an email with the meeting materials. In the event you didn't, please email Catherine.Emmanuelle@wisc.edu and I'd be glad to connect you with the info. Here's a link too to the archived Zoom meeting: [Link to the Zoom meeting https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYD3D4eZJXE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYD3D4eZJXE)