

### Positive Youth Development

A festival day in which youth showcase talents in music, speech and drama for Chippewa, Eau Claire and Dunn County 4H youth. Our goal is to promote/build respect, confidence, and determination.

An in person two-hour long training where teens who will be camp counselors got to know each other, learned about youth development, camp safety, and prepared to deliver programming for Eau Claire summer camp.

Planning for four camp counselor training and finalization of the camp staff manual in collaboration with other county 4H educators. The training and materials will prepare 20 youth to assist at the upcoming summer camp in early June.

A six-session series of art classes for 4H youth in three counties where families tap the energy and enthusiasm of UW-Stout art education students to learn creative art techniques while connecting with other youth in a virtual setting.

Ongoing support for an afterschool club for Hmong youth which builds community through activities, mindfulness moments, and goal setting activities. The goal of this effort is to support youth mental health and to keep youth connected to their peers and caring professionals.

### Agriculture

Planning for a virtual symposium in 2022 for swine producers where they increase knowledge of u technology, improving ventilation, the importance of biosecurity, and changes in nutrition (additional topics to be determined and finalized). The goal of the seminar is to increase raising skills for increasing profitability.

Planning for a statewide webinar series for consumer horticulture audiences where participants will learn about pollinator decline, climate change and environmental contamination and pollution. The goal of this effort is to increase adoption of horticultural practices addressing identified environmental issues in Wisconsin.

Planning for the Agriculture Education area at 2022 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, an outdoor trade show for farmers and rural communities to increase knowledge of Extension Agriculture programs and soils, dairy, farm management, livestock, and horticulture.

A webinar for dairy owners/operators, managers, employees, and service providers where they learned how to better use and interpret reproductive records for herd management decisions.

Planning the 2022 Spring Emergency Livestock Transport Response (PEL TR) hybrid course to increase economic sustainability of a local area's emergency plan for roadside incidents involving livestock trailers.

### Health & WellBeing

A 4-lesson series for preschoolers at Augusta Elementary to learn about fruits, vegetables and keeping their bodies healthy. This effort helps children to learn to use their senses with colors, music, and tastes to explore foods and physical activity.

A 6-lesson series for women in AffirmHouse, 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 6-week nutrition education series to 1st graders in Augusta Elementary students engage in language arts while learning about eating healthy, being active, and the importance of handwashing. The goal of this effort is to help students explore, identify, and taste new fruits and vegetables.

A 6-week nutrition education series 3rd graders at Augusta and Flynn Elementary to learn about the importance of eating five food groups, physical activity, and how to read a nutrition facts label. Following lessons, students are encouraged to choose a goal to try more fruits and vegetable meal.

A series of meetings with local food pantries to support and promote the pilot of providing culturally responsive food availability for Hmong/Hmoob and Hispanic/Latinx families.

### Human Development & Relationships

A coaching program for families and individuals, where participants learn how to create financial goals and gain money management skills. The goal of this program is to enable participants to prepare for and take charge of household financial situations that occur due to changes in income or unforeseen hardships.

A parenting series for parents with limited English proficiency where participants learn about positive parenting skills and early literacy. This effort is designed to support family stability and resiliency.

A research conference for adults where participants learned safe strategies and positive parenting programs. The goal of this effort was to support family stability and build community capacity.

A workshop for families to learn about Hmoob/Hmong culture and history engage in a craft activity. This effort is designed to increase positive interactions between child and caregiver and build community capacity.

An article for parents of preschoolers where they learned what toddlers go through developmentally, how to build confidence and love, and stay connected to a rapidly growing and changing child. This effort is designed to support family stability and resiliency.

### Community Development

# Extension Eau Claire County

## April 2022 Report

*An educational program for underserved Hmong Farmers, where they learn how to complete financial documents and learn of financial resources to support their farm businesses. The goal is to reduce challenges and barriers to support and/or expand underserved operations with introduction of financial practices and increased knowledge to access financial resources.*

*Planning a statewide conference to support a Hmong economic development summit. The goal is to build a network of underrepresented entrepreneurs and business owners to learn and support one another.*

*Planning meetings with county government leaders to identify organizational needs and design a strategic planning process. The purpose of this effort is to help the Eau Claire County Board set a strategic direction for addressing priority issues facing the county, its residents, and its businesses.*

*A workshop for people in local government, organizations, and businesses, where participants learned how to find and research a grant and how to successfully complete a grant proposal or application to enable them to apply for a grant to fund activities and projects of their organization*

Catherine Emmanuelle  
*Area Extension  
Director*

Rachel Hart-Brinson  
*4-H Program  
Educator*

Margaret Murphy  
*Horticulture Educator*

Lyssa Seefeldt  
*Agriculture  
Educator*

Yia Lor  
*Human Development & Relationships  
Educator*

Joy Weisner  
*FoodWise Nutrition  
Educator*

Addison Vang  
*Community Development  
Educator*

Sandy Tarter  
*FoodWise Nutrition  
Coordinator*

Jael M. Wolf  
*FoodWise Nutrition  
Educator*

### Staff Highlights



#### *Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator*

As the horticulture educator in Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire counties, I am well-positioned to support the use of environmentally-sound horticultural practices by educating the public directly and through local volunteers in the Master Gardener Program.

Wisconsin faces many environmental challenges such as pollinator decline, climate change and environmental pollution due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments. Teaching horticultural best practices can play an important role in helping address these challenges at a local level. For example, our outreach on proper plant selection can reduce invasive plant species and provide habitat for native pollinators. Education on proper pest management techniques can lead to less pesticide use leading to reduced likelihood for environmental pollution.

Some of the ways we are currently meeting the needs of the community locally include providing research-based, unbiased information to the public with yard and garden questions. We provide educational programs and presentations; we also have a well established youth gardening program with the Boys and Girls Club and FoodWise educators at North Riverfront Park. This six-week program provides an opportunity for hands-on learning to teach kids how to garden while learning best practices in the garden. We are also working on an event for families to learn more about native pollinators to celebrate National Pollinator Week starting June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Horticulture programming also has positive impacts on food security and personal and community well-being. Gardeners at our community garden off Jeffers Road are getting ready to plant as the weather is now more cooperative and I will be doing outreach at the garden on basic gardening maintenance and working with those gardeners who would like to grow food to donate to local food pantries.

# Extension Eau Claire County

## April 2022 Report



### *Lyssa Seefeldt | Agriculture Educator*

Time has been flying by! April wrapped up the last of the small ruminant webinars, featuring JJ Jones, a farm economy specialist from Oklahoma State Extension. I was happy to be able to connect farmers with JJ's expertise with meat goats and being able to look at farming goats through an economic lens. I was able to bring JJ on our webinar through a connection I made as being part of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, one of the many benefits brought to the county by my membership in the association.

There was a lot of planning happening in April, (and continues into May) from a state program planning standpoint. I spent some time developing a factsheet with two dairy colleagues that tied back to the Dairy and Beef Well-Being Conference in February. That factsheet, along with other factsheets developed because of the conference are currently being reviewed and sent through formatting.

April also kicked off our second round of Planning for Emergency Livestock Transport canvass course. We have been working out "bugs" we found from the pilot course, set up more consistent office hours, and have been working out a rotation to review course participant progress to make sure that all are successful with the course material.

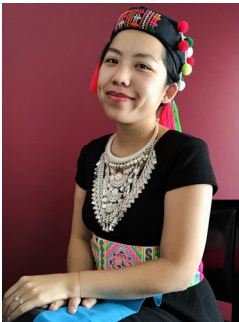
### *Yia Lor | Human Development & Relationships*

April was a packed month full of many fun and exciting programs! It started off with the 2022 BRAIN Conference where my colleague Stephanie Hintz was a guest speaker on mindfulness. I also joined the Family Resource Center (Dr. Jennifer Eddy and Dr. Roy Sargeant) in sharing updates on our Triple P efforts in Eau Claire County.

I wrapped up the parenting series with the Family Resource Center and Literacy Chippewa Valley. We are grateful for our community partners along with guidance and interpretation services through Extension's Office of Access, Inclusion, and Compliance for making this a successful program!

Altoona Public Library hosted Extension and the Family Resource Center to offer programs during HMoob/Hmong Heritage Month. Participants had many positive things to say! See our [Facebook post](#) for some pictures.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and Extension is hosting a wellness bingo challenge for the community. Submit your responses by May 31st for a chance to win some cool prizes from local businesses! Check out our website [here](#) for more details.



# Extension Eau Claire County

## April 2022 Report



### *Rachel Hart Brinson J4-H Educator*

As mentioned last month in HDR, I collaborated with Yia on holding a HMoob cloth ball workshop at the Altoona Public Library. We shared about the differences between Hmong, Hmoob, Moob, and HMong; a history of the HMoob refugee resettlement in the U.S.; the tradition of Pov Pob (ball toss) and made our own cloth ball. It was an excellent partnership and the survey results from participants showed that they all learned something and very much enjoyed making the balls.



### *Addison Vang Community Development Educator*

April was an exciting month for professional development and programming. I was able to attend the Wisconsin Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEPWI) hybrid conference. The first part of the conference was in person in Rothchild, Wisconsin. Being hired during the pandemic, I have only been able to meet Extension colleagues over zoom, so it was great to finally meet in person. One notable virtual session is Placemaking 101, a community strategy to create a place where people want to live, work, and play. JCEP was a great experience to finally meet in person and to learn about what others are doing in Extension.

The HMoob/Hmong Farm Financial Workshop (in collaboration with DATCP, Groundswell, Compeer, NRCS, and the Wisconsin Hmong Chamber) in Eau Claire and Sun Prairie was held this month with an overall good turnout. The workshop presented on how to qualify and apply for farm and business loans, and the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) grant. I was able to present to these farmers the services Extension can provide and as a resource available in most counties. Many HMoob (Hmong) farmers expressed interest and were engaged in the presentation. They also expressed their appreciation of the workshop being presented by HMoob professionals in the HMoob language.



***Sandy Tarter | FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator***  
***Joy Weisner | FoodWise Nutrition Educator***  
***Jael M. Wolf | FoodWise Nutrition Educator***

Joy and Jael are teaching in Affinity Housing doing a 6-week series using the Healthy cents curriculum. The women chose the topics they wanted to learn about: nutrition facts labels, meal planning, sugar in beverages, healthy snacks, food needs vs wants. This one-hour-long class is divided into two. In the first half we teach them about the topics they chose and in the other half we help them prepare a healthy recipe.

Joy, Jael, and Nancy (Chippewa Falls Nutrition Educator) did their StrongBodies training on Friday, April 29 in Neillsville, WI. StrongBodies, lifting people to better health. Nancy was one of the two facilitators providing the training. Joy did a review training and Jael was trained for the first time

Joy and Jael have been teaching at Augusta three 1st grades 6 lessons of the Read for Health curriculum, three 3rd grades 6 lessons from the Serving Up MyPlate curriculum, and one 4K AM and one 4K PM 4 lessons of the Color Me Healthy curriculum. All of these lessons provide hands-on and engaging activities, as well as tastes.

Joy and Jael have been teaching two 3rd grades at Flynn Elementary. They are teaching a series of 6 lessons of the Serving Up MyPlate curriculum. All of these lessons provide hands-on and engaging activities, as well as tastes.

Sandy and Jael visited the Feed My People facility and received a tour from Tami Syverson and learned more about culture-appropriate pantries.

Jael did the Mental Health First Aid for Youth. This training is primarily designed for adults who regularly interact with young people. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan (ALGEE) for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders (including AD/HD), and eating disorders.

Jael completed the Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge (21 days) Food Solutions New England (FSNE) by University of New Hampshire.

Jael has been able to shadow Nancy and learn the curriculum taught for the 2nd and 4th grades in Chippewa Falls.

# Extension Eau Claire County

## April 2022 Report



### *Kristi Peterson / Office Coordinator*

Registrations, soil samples, and the fair are all keeping our office busy!

I continue to work on the new budget.

I am also going to be working with the 4H educators across three counties to organize supplies and food for their summer camp! It's back and we are all so excited!



### *Andy Heren / Administrative Specialist II*

This is a busy time of year! I'm keeping soil test kits in supply as the demand for soil testing increases.

I am busy assisting Rachel in-#1 with camp registrations and the registrations for her summer class in conjunction with the Eau Claire Area School District.

I recently sent out a mailing for Lyssa for the 2022 Four State Dairy Nutrition Conference.



### *Catherine Emmanuelle / Area Extension Director @Chippewa, Dunn, & Eau Claire Counties*

Hello and welcome and/or welcome back to the UW Extension Education Committee. We are excited to be working with you and sharing more about our partnership with the county and the university. We will have an "Extension 101" so-to-speak at our first committee meeting and will be the first of many conversations of how/where/what/why we work together. In hiring news, we are having our final interviews for the Extension Dunn County Human Development & Relationships Educator on Wednesday, May 4. We hope to have the new educator in place by early June. We are excited to continue growing our team and look forward to the new talent to fill this important role. While the educator will be in Dunn County, we expect there will be some overlap in Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties as we work as a team with our strengths. Here is my contact information—please don't hesitate to reach out if you'd like to connect outside of our committee meetings. [catherine.emmanuelle@wisc.edu](mailto:catherine.emmanuelle@wisc.edu) 715-450-0823 See you soon!