

Positive Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator

A "Conocer a Extension" open house event targeted at Spanish speaking families where all educators in the Eau Claire Office introduced themselves and shared a little bit about their program. This effort was designed to build relationships with the Spanish-speaking community and provide an opportunity for us to ask what kind of programming Latino families would be interested in.

A report and facilitated discussion for Eau Claire County 4-H club leaders, where they learned about the results of the 4-H Thriving survey. This was to provide an opportunity for better understanding of "quality" as it relates to 4-H programming as well as an opportunity to discuss ways to improve the Eau Claire County 4-H program.

Planning and developing the registration process for a "Sample 4-H" program in partnership with the Eau Claire Area School District where young people will explore a variety of Project Areas in a 4-day experience to explore "sparks" and learn life skills.

Agriculture

Lyssa Seefeldt | Agriculture Educator

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 in crops and soils, dairy, farm management, livestock, and horticulture.

A training for emergency response personnel in the Planning for Emergency Livestock Transportation Response (PELTR) course where they learned how to respond to incidents involving livestock trailers. The purpose of this program is to increase the effectiveness of emergency planning and the preparedness of local emergency response agencies.

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

Planning and development of Badger Dairy Insight factsheets for farmers and agribusiness professionals. The goal of this effort is to share with individuals the latest research related to animal well-being and

health, calf management, reproductive management, data management, and feeding and nutrition so that they can increase farm economic viability, environmental sustainability, and food production safety.

Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter | FoodWise Coordinator

Joy Weisner | FoodWise Educator

Jael Wolf | FoodWise Educator

Monthly meetings with the Chronic Disease Prevention Action Teams under the Eau Claire Healthy Communities, Health Dunn Right, and Chippewa Health Improvement Partnership coalitions. This effort helps guide the action teams in providing community awareness and activities concerning healthy food access, food security, and increased physical activity for local families.

Partnership with Lakeshore Elementary staff and Master Gardeners with significant planning towards implementing a new summer garden program with Lakeshore families. This effort will introduce families to gardening, promote fresh produce, and provide opportunities for families to increase produce consumption.

A 6-week mental health wellness series (WeCOPE) In St. Croix County for adults where participants learn different strategies that support awareness of mind-body connection. The goal of this effort is to offer skills to decrease stress and increase positive emotions of participants.

A seed and houseplant swap event for employees and community members where participants could take seeds/houseplants and learn about mental health resources along with how plants benefit overall well-being. This effort is designed to support resiliency and build community capacity for mental health.

A wellness activity for community members of all ages where participants completed various tasks to support a healthy lifestyle and improve mental health. This effort is designed to support resiliency and build community capacity for health.

Human Development & Relationships

Yia Lor | Human Development & Relationships Educator

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 series of workshops (Food, Fun, and Finance) where adult participants learned about and developed personal spending plans. The purpose of this workshop was to increase participants' confidence associated with personal finance skills, norms, and habits.

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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.

Planning and development of parenting and early literacy programming to expand into laundromats serving small and rural communities. This effort is designed to support family stability, resiliency, and build community capacity.

Planning for literacy resources for HMoob-speaking individuals where educators will develop posters/informational flyers around early literacy strategies for families. This effort is designed to support family stability and resiliency.

Community Development

Addison Vang | Community Development Educator

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.

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.

Staff Highlights

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Yia Lor | Human Development & Relationships

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Programming season has finally started to wind down. Though much of my focus is still around families and children, we have received more requests than before for wellness offerings, and much of this has to do with the pandemic. I am grateful for the partners, colleagues, donors, and participants who've made this season such a success!

May has also been a busy month for training. I finished a plain language course to learn ways of effectively communicating in programming. I'm also taking the Foundations of Equitable Program Development with Area 6 colleagues, and it's been eye-opening and very rewarding learning together about our community needs.

Summer looks to be a busy time for grant writing and new initiatives with local coalitions. It will also be a time to review my plan of work for this coming year, which will likely involve more focus on mental health.

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Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator margaret.murphy@wisc.edu

My update is short and sweet this month. Master Gardeners, in partnership with FoodWise and the Boys and Girls Club, kick off their summer youth garden program at North Riverfront Park in June. We are also starting similar youth garden programs this month in Chippewa and Dunn Counties. These young gardeners will learn best practices in the garden through hands-on activities. The goals of the program are to teach kids how to food garden, connect them to the natural world and promote life-long healthy eating habits

I am serving on the Search and Screen Committee for the Master Gardener Program Coordinator position. This is a state position that provides leadership for the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program. We will be conducting final interviews in the next few weeks.

We are offering a few opportunities to learn more about the important role pollinators and native plants play in our ecosystem during National Pollinator Week, June 20-26. Visit Extension Eau Claire County website for more information,
<https://eauclaire.extension.wisc.edu/2022/06/14/pollinator-week-june-20-26-2022/>.

Lastly, I'm busy answering yard and garden questions. As with past years, the inquiries cover a wide range of topics. I have been fielding questions on trees, fruits, lawns, landscaping, insects, groundcovers, weeds, soil nutrients, soil temperature, invasives and plant ID.



Lyssa Seefeldt | Agriculture Educator lyssa.seefeldt@wisc.edu

May has brought quite a few pasture and fence related questions as folks have gotten critters back to pastures. This is not surprising as things have greened up and seasonal pastures again become a productive part of the farm feedstuff inventory.

I have been busy with building connections in the community: connecting with individuals that work with farms and getting onto various farms to see operations, share resources, and develop relationships.

May has also brought about collaborating with Chippewa 4-H which is hosting area animal science days, an event for youth to experience and practice animal judging. I worked with one of our state dairy specialists, area farmers, and community members to help recruit dairy farms to bring

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animals for this educational experience.

This month I have had the opportunity to take some time to work with area 6 colleagues through the Foundations of Equitable Program Development program. It has brought about some new strategies to ground-truth things that we learn about the communities we work in.

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Educator

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May brought warmer weather (finally.) This was the final stretch of camp counselor training. We held two training sessions in May via zoom to help prepare our 19 camp counselors for the task of leading their fellow 4-H members in camp and camp activities. We learned things about how to keep people engaged, how to choose your activity, asking open ended questions, and how to lead songs/activities. Stay tuned for next month's Highlights, where you'll hear more about camp...

We also held an open house program in partnership with Vecino a Vecino to try and promote Extension programming to a Spanish-speaking audience. All Extension programs were represented and Lidix Montoya provided translation for those staff who are not bilingual. We had three families participate with both adults and children present.



Addison Vang | Community Development Educator

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This month has been busy with both statewide and local projects supporting food systems. Locally, I have been having discussions with DATCP on

programming that would specifically benefit the Hmong (HMoob) in the Chippewa Valley, with a goal of greater statewide impact. One of the programs is a HMoob focused high tunnel/greenhouse tour in Elk Mound and Wausau. The Natural



Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) will also present on their Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) that will help subsidize high tunnels for qualified projects. The Elk Mound tour is scheduled for July 12, 2022, and will be presented mostly in the Hmoob language with English interpretation. Farmers are eligible for a \$50 travel stipend.

On a state level, a grant was recently submitted to the USDA for the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers program by Groundswell

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out of Madison with Extension as a partner to build capacity with Hmoob farmers through relationship building and access to resources.

Additionally, an intern was recently hired to further support Extension's efforts to support Hmoob farmers statewide and will be starting in June.

I continue working on the HMong Economic Development conference/summit with only a few months to go. There are still a lot of moving pieces but it's coming together. More information will be provided as they become available.

The summer is starting to get busy with the conference and farmers getting back to the farmers markets.



Sandy Tarter | FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator

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May was a very busy month of in-school programming before school wraps up in June! Joy & Jael taught right up until the last Friday in May at Augusta Elementary School in 4K- AM & PM, 1st grade (3 classrooms), and 3rd grade (3 classrooms). They also finished up two 3rd grade series at Flynn Elementary in Eau Claire.

In May, we continued our Around the Table Workshop with Western Dairyland's Fresh Start Program for youth/young adults. We were able to provide 5 weeks of lessons in an hour and a half timeframe. The curriculum is designed to build food, nutrition, and cooking literacy, while integrating social emotional learning and using trauma-sensitive facilitation. Participants enjoy hands-on cooking, facilitated conversations, and interactive activities that support healthy connections to food, self, and community.



The Statewide Spring Strongbodies series was wrapped up and we are pleased to announce there will be an eight-week summer series starting on June 14th! See the Eau Claire County Extension website for the flyer with links to register!

With June comes Kid's Gardens in Eau Claire & Dunn County with the Boys & Girls Club and at Lakeshore Elementary Kid's Garden. We look forward to getting back to work outside again this season!

Joy and Jael will also teach a series of Teen Cuisine to teens at the Boys & Girls club. Teen Cuisine is designed to teach youth (grades 6-12) important life skills to promote optimal health. The curriculum addresses key concepts about nutrition, food preparation/cooking, food safety, and physical activity by using approaches and strategies that enhance learning and behavior change among teens.

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Kristi Peterson | Office Coordinator

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Budget season is in full preparation. I will be working with interim AED Kristen Bruder and our finance partners to prepare the 2023 details.

We are hiring a new AED in area 6! [Check](#) it out on our Facebook page. Application deadline is June 26, 2022.

Did you know our Facebook page has a lot of great information? Like us to get up to date info on events, education and so much more!



Andy Heren | Administrative Specialist II

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Last week I was able to go to 4-H Camp at Kamp Kenwood and check in all the campers. So many excited kids (and a few apprehensive)

I am currently taking the registration payments for the Sample 4-H Program that Rachel is having in conjunction with the ECASD. That takes place in July.

And, of course, we get the usual summer flow of people wanting to get soil tested, bringing in plant and insect samples, and wanting plat books.



Kristen Bruder | Area Extension Director - Polk, Pierce, St. Croix Counties, and Interim Eau Claire County

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A search for a full time Area Extension Director in area 6 is posted. Eau Claire County will be covered in the interim by Kristen Bruder who currently serves Area 5, Polk, Pierce and St. Croix Counties.

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