

Positive Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator

Planning for a 4-H camp experience for youth in grades 5-8. Campers will learn about different categories of "art". Through this experience, campers will gain independence, practice making new friendships, and try a variety of activities to build their confidence and make relationships across seven county's 4-H programs.

A training for 4-H Club treasurers and club leaders where they learned how to correctly fill out the required form for 4-H Annual Financial Reports. This event was created to increase understanding of 4-H financial policies, improve on-time submission of the Annual Financial Report, and decrease the number of errors on submitted reports.

Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | Horticulture 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 and revising an online course for consumer audiences (home gardeners) where participants learned fundamental knowledge of Wisconsin horticulture with an emphasis in Integrated Pest Management. The goal is to increase decision-making and problem-solving skills, improve the productivity / health of gardens and landscapes, and to implement gardening practices that have a positive impact on the environment.

A 6-week garden program for youth at the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley Chippewa Falls Center where they learn best practices in the garden through hands-on activities. The goals of this program are to teach kids how to food garden, connect them to the natural world and promote life-long healthy eating habits.

A 6-week garden program for youth at the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley Menomonie Center where they learn best practices in the garden through hands-on activities. The goals of this program are to teach kids how to food garden, connect them to the natural world and promote life-long healthy eating habits.

Agriculture

Lyssa Seefeldt | Agriculture Educator

Planning for bi-annual Midwest Manure Summit for farmers, managers, agronomists, engineers, nutrient management consultants, manure haulers, consultants, and other agri-business professionals. The goal of this effort is to teach individuals the latest, unbiased, university-based research on manure handling technologies, so that they can improve environmental sustainability and increase farm business viability.

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

Planning for a virtual symposium in 2022 for swine producers where they increase knowledge of using 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 decision-making skills for increasing profitability.

Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter | FoodWise Coordinator

Joy Weisner | FoodWise Educator

Jael Wolf | FoodWise Educator

A nutritional education lesson for women in transitional housing where they learned about meal planning and food shopping tips. The goal of this effort is to help participants make healthy food choices on a limited budget.

A collaborative effort with Chronic Disease Prevention Action Teams under the Eau Claire Healthy Communities, Health Dunn Right, and Chippewa Health Improvement Partnership coalitions to promote our 2022 Summer Activity Passport. This effort helps promote community engagement in summer activities that promote increased physical activity, increased fresh produce access and consumption, and stress reduction as action steps to reduce chronic diseases.

Collaboration with Boys and Girls Clubs of the Chippewa Valley-Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls, and Menomonie in providing a summer garden nutrition education series. This effort will introduce youth to gardening, promote fresh produce, and provide opportunity for youth to increase produce consumption.

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.

Collaboration 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.

Human Development & Relationships

Yia Lor | Human Development & Relationships Educator

Planning and development of digital parenting resources for parents/caregivers in collaboration with family-serving professionals. This effort is designed to support family stability and resiliency while increasing social emotional development in children.

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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.

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.

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

Addison Vang | Community Development Educator

Planning a grant 101 workshop to support businesses and nonprofits. The goal is to build the capacity of business owners and nonprofits to in their skillsets. The workshop is a collaboration with other Extension educators.

An educational Extension booth at the Wausau Hmong Festival to promote Extension resources to the underserved Hmong community and farmers from throughout the State. The goal was to promote Extension to the general Hmong community and to identify underserved farmers, which allows us to create a list for anticipated focus groups or workshops.

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



Lyssa Seefeldt | Agriculture Educator

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August kicked off with some community outreach in Augusta at the community night out on August 2. Kids and their families got to learn about the butter making process and try their hand at making butter.

Many of our winter meeting planning processes have started to ensure we are bringing the right programs to our clients. I am also working with another educator on creating an e-newsletter for our dairy farmers to help with making sure they know when factsheets, videos, or other materials are published and upcoming events that they might want to sign up for.

I have also been working with partners to craft the Leadership Eau Claire Agriculture and Natural Resources Day for September.



Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator

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Our late season, mini webinars are finishing up. The state Horticulture Program offered a series of mini webinars throughout the growing season covering a variety of gardening topics. Mini webinars are 30 minutes and have been hugely popular. The final webinar, Bringing the Garden Inside, discusses bringing your plants indoors for the winter and how to properly transition them to their new indoor home. Other topics in the late season webinars included Yard and Garden Cleanup with Diseases and Insects in Mind and Fall "Lawndry" List that discussed fall lawn TLC. To watch recordings of webinars visit <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/mini-webinars-for-gardeners/>.

This fall/winter I will be updating outreach materials that promote the WI Master Gardener program as well as updating display areas in offices and gardening information on our websites. This is much needed to reflect current changes in the MG program and highlight updated horticulture factsheets with the wonderful activities Master Gardeners are doing throughout the area.

Professional Development I attended in August included a training on Hostile and Intimidating (HIB) Policies and Processes, which introduced the characteristics of Hostile and/or Intimidating Behavior as defined by UW Madison, and processes and resources available if someone is experiencing, witnessing, or accused of HIB and a training on Cybersecurity.

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Yia Lor | Human Development & Relationships

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When I worked in the school district, we often talked about how August felt like one long Sunday. This applies very much to Extension life as I prepare for another programming season!

In early August, my state team met in Eau Claire to discuss the digital parenting offerings and how these support our program outcomes. In our county, we currently offer the [Just in Time Parenting newsletters](#). Starting this fall, we will be launching [Raising Caring Kids](#) (RCK), which is a resource that builds children's social and emotional learning. A special thank you to the Family Resource Center, the Eau Claire County BRAIN Team, and Lauri Malnory (Special Education Parent Facilitator for Eau Claire Area School District and Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District) for helping us share this resource with families.

Another digital parenting offering we will pilot this year is Managing Screens Before They Manage You. Thank you to the Literacy Chippewa Valley team for collaborating on this program! I'm looking forward to sharing tips on raising children in this digital age.

Lastly, the Eau Claire BRAIN Team took a tour of the Children's Museum of Eau Claire's new site downtown. Our team hosts an annual conference each year to fundraise for local organizations that support families. This year, we donated \$10,000 to the museum! Check out some photos below and on the [BRAIN Team's Facebook page](#). Hope to see you at the 2023 BRAIN Conference!



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Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Educator

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August was less busy than July, thank goodness. But I did go to National Night Out-Eau Claire at Carson Park to promote 4-H. EC Parks and Rec estimated that over 3000 people were at the event, and I talked to at least 200 young people and their parents about 4-H and involved them in interactive learning around natural fibers. I had bags of angora rabbit fur, alpaca wool, sheep wool, and cotton. We had lots of fun getting kids (and parents) to guess what animals (or plants) they came from. (See the picture below.)



August is the month to prepare Club and Group Annual Financial Reports. These reports are required to be filled out and turned into the office by September 1. The form can be confusing, and the math needs to come out exactly right, so I held an AFR Training and Work night on August 16. The clubs that came, greatly appreciated the guidance and the opportunity to ask questions as they worked on their records.

I arrived safely in England on Aug 23. We are settled in at Harlaxton Manor and the kids are attending school at Harlaxton CE Primary School. I am typically working 9:15AM-5:45PM local time which is 3:15AM-11:45AM your time but will work in the evenings here if there are necessary meetings.



Addison Vang | Community Development Educator

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With the farmers market starting to peak with the harvest season, I have been busing making rounds to the markets throughout the Chippewa Valley. I had an opportunity to meet with many vendors at the Menomonie Farmers market. One purpose of my visit was to introduce myself to the farmers. I was also able to promote a High Tunnel Field Day/Tour to be done primarily in the Hmong language with English interpreters for non-Hmong speakers. The tour is an exciting opportunity for our Hmong speaking farmers to learn about the use of high tunnels in their farm operations, but also raise awareness of funds supporting its purchase using the USDA Equip program. The DATCP Produce Safety Team will also provide food safety rules and will also be part of the tour.

This month was also the last of Extension's New Colleague Onboarding cohort 10, and it was a great orientation opportunity to get to know more about Extension services, staff, and other valuable things to know. The orientation was completed over multiple virtual sessions including two in-

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person meetings starting in February through June. It was great to meet other new hires and learn together as we start our careers with Extension.

Also, there is an online grants 101 workshop being developed in collaboration with other Extension educators that will cover half of the counties in the state. The workshop is FREE and is scheduled for October 18th from 10:00am - 12:00pm.

[Registration can be found here.](#)



Sandy Tarter | FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator

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Sandy finished up the last 8 days of Kids Garden programming! .1) Boys and Girls Club of Eau Claire- 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. From Monday to Thursday respectively at North River Fronts Garden. 2) On Wednesday the Boys and Girls Club of Menomonie- 3rd and 4th grades at River Heights Elementary School.

Kids' gardens are 6 weeks/lessons from the Growing Healthy Kids curriculum. We worked with Master Gardeners volunteers, staff, and teachers supervised by the schools and summer programs. Many thanks also to Eau Claire City Parks for allowing us access to the North River Fronts Park/Pavilion over the summer!



Joy has completed her cybersecurity training. Jael is finalizing her FoodWise training and doing her Extension Cohort 11 training. Jael, Joy, and Sandy have registered for Adult, Child, and Baby First Aid/CPR/AED online training.

Congratulations to Jael for receiving the statewide FoodWise Rising Star Award! In 6 short months, Jael hit the ground running by quickly learning our curricula and began programming. She outreached to partners and community events, increased expanding access with Hispanic/Latino families, and included additional training to enhance her professional capacity. We are fortunate to have Jael on our team!

Jael and Joy started a two-lesson series about nutrition, meal planning and food budget, tastes at The Bridge to Hope in Menomonie, WI. This is an organization that works with victims & survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault in Dunn & Pepin counties.

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We say goodbye to our Area 6 FoodWise team member, Nancy Fastner, as she retires. The open FoodWise Nutrition Educator position can be found [here](#). Feel free to share this opportunity.



Kristi Peterson | Office Coordinator

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- Assisted in preparing and presenting our 2023 budget request
- Social Media updates and request
- Coordinating and planning for AED transition, Administrative Specialist on leave and 4-H educator departure
- Coordinating and posting for Clerk duties
- Process invoice and payment requests
- Canner testing as gardening season is ending

WELCOME Kristen Bruder to Area 6! We are so excited to have you joining our team!



Andy Heren | Administrative Specialist II

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This time of year brings lots of 4-H activities. I will specifically be assisting Rachel and the 4-H Leaders with the big 4-H Awards Banquet at the beginning of November. I will be making certificates and getting them printed, ordering the awards, and fulfilling their orders for the kids' plaques and disks that go with them.

We will also be seeing an increase in pressure canner lid testing and plat books sales before hunting season.

I also make updates to our website as requested by the educators.



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

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Kristen Bruder was named the Area 6 Director serving Eau Claire, Chippewa, and Dunn Counties. She started her role on September 5, 2022; however, she is also interim for Area 5 (the area she vacated) until a new AED is hired.

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