

Agriculture

Lyssa Seefeldt | Regional Dairy Educator



Jerry Clark | Regional Crops & Soils Educator



An outreach and public relations effort for farmers where farmers increased awareness of extension resources to connect and build relationships and improve their lives and farms.

A webinar for sheep and goat producers to learn about preparing for the breeding season to increase birth rates, match production cycles to labor and ensure herd health to increase profitability. This effort was designed to help producers plan pre-breeding management tasks and manage animal nutrition and health to increase conception percentage and conception rates.

A dairy production and management newsletter for farmers, managers, employees, and agribusiness professionals, where subscribers learned about dairy facilities and ventilation, reproduction, animal well-being, nutrition, and Extension dairy production and management resources. This effort was designed to provide a timely and reliable source of dairy management news and updates to help them improve farm business viability, environmental sustainability, and food safety through animal welfare.

A think tank for field crop farmers where participants engaged in focus group discussions to increase understanding of the causes of soil compaction and the challenges and strategies to prevent and remedy it for increased soil health and farm profitability.

A research-based educational article for dairy farmers, and agri-business professionals, where participants will learn about current ventilation recommendations for dairy cattle, resources for identifying the most energy efficient fans for their facilities, and how proper ventilation and fan selection can help improve Dairy's carbon footprint.

A video series for food and farm business entrepreneurs, where participants develop the framework needed for effective food and agriculture entrepreneurship and connections to the resources to be successful. This effort was designed to help participants assess their skills, assets, personalities, and/or networks to help decide about a business opportunity or new enterprise.

Community Development

Addison Vang | Community Development Educator



Planning for a series of webinars for food entrepreneurs in collaboration with county educators, statewide specialists, and local experts. This effort is designed to equip food entrepreneurs with increased skills and knowledge for operating successful food business enterprises.

Planning for the second in a series of educational programs targeting underserved Hmong and marginalized small farmers where they learned about the importance of food safety and receive vegetable washing stations for use at their own farms. The goal is to reduce challenges and barriers to support and/or expand underserved farm operations with good agricultural practices and economic growth.

Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter | FoodWise Coordinator

Joy Weisner | FoodWise Nutrition Educator

Jael Wolf | FoodWise Nutrition Educator



Multiple meetings and emails with local partners to support our local farmers markets by implementing a new Farmers Market in Chippewa and plan for Market Match programs in Menomonie and Eau Claire Farmers Markets. This effort will help to improve food security with the development and implementation of a program for SNAP/FoodShare recipients to use benefits for food purchases.

A 6-week nutrition education series for 5th graders at Locust Lane, Lakeshore, and Longfellow Elementary schools where they learn about healthy habits and how the nutrients in foods contribute to a healthy diet. This effort will help the students plan healthy meals and snacks using a variety of foods from the food groups.

A 6-week nutrition education series to 3rd graders at Locust Lane 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 vegetables at each meal.

A 6-week nutrition education series to 1st graders in Locust Lane Elementary. The goal of this effort is for students to learn about eating healthy, being active, exploring fruits and vegetables, and the importance of handwashing.

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 2022-2023 Winter Wellness Initiative. This effort helps promote community engagement in winter activities that increase physical

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activity, increase access to local food in winter farmers markets, and action steps for stress reduction to reduce chronic diseases.

A series of virtual statewide strength training sessions (StrongBodies) where older adults learn best practices along with nutrition and health education. Participants engage in regular strength training exercises to improve strength, balance, and flexibility so they can stay healthy and socially connected.

Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator



A community of practice for horticulture educators where we explore strategies and resources to expand horticulture education and outreach to underrepresented audiences. The goal of participating in this group is to dig into ways we can locally continue to grow and enhance our horticulture programs to reach more diverse audiences.

Planning a series of horticulture-based activities for people living with dementia and their care partners, offered in partnership with the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Eau Claire County Dementia Care Specialist. The goal of this effort is to offer hands-on, nature-inspired experiences that provide opportunities to stimulate participant's senses, enjoy social interactions, and provide physical activity while imparting a sense of purpose.

Planning a 6-week garden program for youth in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley Menomonie Center and FoodWise. The goal of this effort is to teach best practices in the garden through hands-on activities, promote life-long healthy eating habits and to foster connections to nature.

Planning a gardening series for beginners in collaboration with the Cardinal Community Learning Center where participants learn the basics of vegetable gardening, starting seeds indoors and growing vegetables in containers when space is limited. The goal of this effort is to teach those new to vegetable gardening how to get started and encourage people to try vegetable gardening.

Planning a gardening presentation in collaboration with the Bloomer Public Library for the public. The goal of this effort is to teach participants strategies to grow successful patio gardens and to encourage people of all ages to garden even when space is limited.

Planning a gardening presentation in collaboration with the Bloomer Public Library for the public. The goal of this effort is to teach participants tips and strategies on gardening with kids to encourage youth participation in the garden.

Planning a gardening series for the public in collaboration with the Chippewa Falls Public Library One Seed, One Wisconsin program. The goal of this effort is to demonstrate growing tomatoes from seed to harvest to teach and encourage people to try vegetable gardening.

Human Development & Relationships

This position is currently vacant. Watch for the posting soon.

A parenting program for parents and caregivers who have low literacy and speak HMoob and Spanish. Participants learned strategies around talking to children about differences, including race and racism. This effort is designed to support family resiliency and stability.

A coaching and Money Matters program for qualifying individuals, where participants learn how to create financial goals and gain money management skills. The goal of this program is to increase meeting financial goals and increase financial capability for long term financial success.

Positive Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator



4-H Discovery Days in partnership with the LE Phillips Memorial Library on March 4 where 4-H youth and families showcased available 4-H projects to practice their leadership skills and promote the 4-H program to the public. We had 15 different project stations including but not limited to rabbits, chickens, guinea pigs, photography, seed planting, cupcake decorating, musical instruments, blackout poems, string art, animal tracks, beaded keychains, and Legos. Over 25 youth and adults volunteered. The library staff counted 149 attendees outside of the volunteers. The librarian staff stated, "it was a great program for our patrons and highlighted an awesome opportunity in the community."

Supporting 4-H club meetings for a Latinx audience to provide opportunities of positive youth development for the Spanish-speaking population of Eau Claire County.

Planning for a hands-on project learning day for middle school and high school youth in collaboration with 4-H volunteers called "Clover University." The goal of this effort is to broaden participants' experiences, increase project skills, and encourage youth and adult partnerships.

Planning for Art U, a virtual art instruction program in partnership with UW-Stout to provide project learning in the spark of Art.

Planning for two 4-H camps for over 80 youth from Clark, Dunn, and Eau Claire counties, where youth will sleep overnight in cabins and tents. The goal is to bring youth together to try new activities, make new friends, and experience nature and time away from home in a safe setting.



Area Extension Director

Kristen Bruder | Eau Claire, Chippewa, and Dunn Counties



The role of the AED is like that of the department head in the county. If you have ideas, thoughts, or want to chat about Extension please reach out! Below is a brief overview of the role of AEDs:

Extension fully invests in Area Extension Directors (AEDs) who oversee an area. These administrative positions are responsible for partnership management, staff development, financial management and program coordination.

Through the many interactions the AED has with county partners and local educators, the AED develops a solid understanding of the local needs and county priorities and helps to align Extension educational programs to ensure the programs address county needs. Educators also communicate local needs to their programmatic Institutes which collectively identify opportunities to address statewide needs.

Value Added Programming

Eau Claire, Chippewa, and Dunn Counties

An in person talk and tour event for woodland owners where we spoke about and toured an upcoming timber sale site to educate woodland owners on timber marking in different forest types, timber sales and contracts and prepare them for their own upcoming timber sales.

Facilitation of monthly meetings of the Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition, a group working to improve and protect water quality in the Eau Claire River Watershed.

A Beef Quality Assurance Certification (BQA) for beef producers where they learned about farm-level safe food production practices to decrease animal and carcass bruising, injection site lesions, antibiotic/chemical residues, and biosecurity threats. The purpose of this program is to improve the value for marketed beef cattle and enhance herd profitability through better management.

A live, on-line meeting series, for farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned the latest research and applications regarding automated milking systems economics, foot health, and milk quality. The goal of this effort was to increase knowledge of the latest UW-Madison research on automatic milking systems, and how farmers can implement changes to management practices to help their farms become more profitable.