

Agriculture

Lyssa Seefeldt | Regional Dairy Educator



Jerry Clark | Regional Crops & Soils Educator



Updating and adapting a risk and grain marketing curriculum into a more relevant format for use in-person, stand-alone educational videos, and an on-line course. This curriculum will assist beginning, organic and transitioning dairy farmers in identifying strengths and weaknesses of their business to assist them in making decisions that will improve their farm profitability.

A cover crop walk where farmers and agency professionals engaged in hands-on learning and discussion about cover crop management to learn strategies and methods to implement cover crops and improve soil health and farm profitability.

Educational programming as part of a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant supporting underserved HMoob and marginalized small farmers in Western Wisconsin, where participants learn about the importance of food safety, soil health, and gain awareness of farm agencies and food-business resources. The goals are to reduce challenges and barriers to support and expand underserved HMoob farm operations through good agricultural practices and economic growth.

A webinar for sheep and goat producers to learn about techniques of grilling and cooking lamb. This effort was designed to help producers prepare lamb products to ensure an enjoyable eating experience and to promote eating lamb to consumers to increase lamb consumption.

A conference for dairy owners/managers, engineers, agribusiness professionals where they learned about innovative manure handling processes to recycle nutrients, produce biomass (renewable) energy, and to reduce manure gas greenhouse emissions to improve business viability, environmental sustainability, and food safety through animal husbandry and welfare.

An all-day educational event for new farmers, part-time and full-time operators, low-income startups, graziers and non-graziers featuring guest speakers, farmer/local resources panel, commercial and agency exhibitors, and farmer-to-farmer networking with emphasis on grazing fundamentals, cattle stockmanship and handling facilities, wildlife and grazing ecology and future grazing opportunities and programs. The goal is for people to be able to make informed decisions about the pros and cons of grazing, and to meet other people with similar interests and goals related to grazing and pasture management.

An in-person two-day workshop for beginning sheep producers to learn about ewe and lamb care, assist with lamb birth, nutrition, vaccination, diseases, lamb processing, and view demonstrations of sheep operations. This effort was designed to help producers feed females in late gestation, care for ewes in labor and newborn lambs, and maintain ewe and lamb productivity to sustain or increase profitability.

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.

Community Development

Addison Vang | Community Development Educator



Educational programing as part of a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant supporting underserved HMoob and marginalized small farmers in Western Wisconsin, where participants learn about the importance of food safety, soil health, and gain awareness of farm agencies and food-business resources. The goals are to reduce challenges and barriers to support and expand underserved HMoob farm operations through good agricultural practices and economic growth.

Resources for a Fond du Lac School school district employee to better support HMoob students experiencing a change in life events. The goal of this exchange is to provide culturally responsive and timely support for our community.

A presentation to and conversation with the Board of Momentum West Regional Economic Development Organization, where the participants learned about broadband funding, planning, local team efforts and digital inclusion efforts in Wisconsin. The purpose of this effort is to strengthen the digital inclusion ecosystem in Wisconsin.

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.

A video series for food and farm business entrepreneurs, where participants develop the framework needed for effective food and ag entrepreneurship and relate to the resources, they need 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.

Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter | FoodWise Coordinator

Joy Weisner | FoodWise Nutrition Educator

Jael Wolf | FoodWise Nutrition Educator



A Blazing Lion Family event at Longfellow Elementary where students, parents, and staff meet before school to walk laps and FoodWise provided nutrition information, recipes, and stickers to kids. This effort helped to

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Extension Eau Claire County

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increase awareness of FoodWise programming along with supporting increased physical activity and nutrition education.

A 6-week nutrition education series for 1st graders at Augusta Elementary where students engage in language arts while learning about eating healthy, being active, and the importance of handwashing. This effort will help students explore, identify, and taste new fruits and vegetables.

A 6-week nutrition education series to 5th graders at Augusta Elementary 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 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 Date with Dad event at Eau Claire Head Start where parents learned the benefits of getting kids helping in the kitchen along with a healthy snack preparation. This effort supports parents in encouraging their families to eat healthy and reduce mealtime struggles.

A 6-week nutrition education series for 1st graders in Lakeshore Elementary and 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 6-week nutrition education series for 3rd graders at Flynn Elementary and Locust Lane Elementary to learn about the importance of eating five food groups, physical activity, and included hands-on activities. This effort was designed to encourage students to try more fruits and vegetables at each meal.

A 6-week nutrition education series for 5th graders at Locust Lane Elementary and Lakeshore Elementary 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 series of 6 nutrition lessons for 3rd graders at Lakeshore Elementary. This effort will help students explore MyPlate and discover why people need to eat food from all five food groups, identify benefits of physical activity, and identify why one snack might be a better choice than another snack by reading a Nutrition Facts Label.

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



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 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 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.

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 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.

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.

Human Development & Relationships

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

Positive Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator



Planning for a citizen science education event where youth (and families) will learn how to collect data on flowering plants and pollinators in their yard along with the No Mow May Chippewa Valley Pollinator Partnership to educate young people on flower identification, scientific sampling methods, and the importance of pollinators.

Planning for a 3-session Virtual Weaving Series in collaboration with a UW-Madison professor and Extension STEM outreach specialist to provide project learning for art and STEM to both those enrolled or not enrolled in 4-H.

Art U, a 6-week virtual art instruction program for youth in grades K-6 and in-person for grades 7-12 where youth were led in an art lesson using different mediums and participated in a gallery walk to show off their finished pieces on the last night. This effort was designed to provide project learning in the spark of Art.

Planning for camp counselor training where 19 young people will build community and learn leadership skills that they will use as counselors for the Eau Claire-Dunn-Clark summer 4-H camp in order to be prepared to lead a high-quality camp program.

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