

Agriculture

Lyssa Seefeldt | Regional Dairy Educator



Jerry Clark | Regional Crops & Soils Educator



On-farm applied research projects for farmers and agricultural professionals where data and observations will provide unbiased information to help farmers make informed decisions.

A field day for farmers and agency personnel, where participants learned about crop production practices and research updates to increase farm profitability.

A research-based educational article for farmers, managers, employees, and agri-business professionals, where they will learn about utilizing a forage test to determine forage stability for dairy farms. The goal of the article is to help producers learn how reading a forage test can help determine how stable their stored forages are to increase business viability and environmental sustainability.

Dairy e-newsletter for farmers, nutritionists, veterinarians, other agribusiness professionals, and other interested individuals to inform participants of new dairy management articles/factsheets, connect with dairy educators, and learn about upcoming programming to help them learn about new research and management techniques to improve their overall farm sustainability.

An information table for the public at Chippewa County's Chippewa Strong Event where information on the positive impact plants have on various areas of our lives was offered. This effort is designed to increase awareness of the benefits of plants and how we can incorporate more plants in our lives.

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.

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.

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.

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Extension Eau Claire County

July 2023 Report

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 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.

Community Development

Addison Vang | Community Development Educator



A farmers market survey for Chippewa Valley to better understand market vendor and small farmer needs. The survey will be distributed during the peak summer farmers' market months and is designed to inform market decisions as well as understand the market's impact on the community food system.

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Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter
FoodWise Coordinator



Joy Weisner
FoodWise Nutrition Educator



Jael M. Wolf
Bi-Lingual FoodWise Nutrition Educator



A 6-week nutrition series at Lakeshore Elementary Kids' Garden. This effort will introduce youth to gardening, promote fresh produce, and provide an opportunity for youth to increase produce consumption.

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Extension Eau Claire County

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A 6-lesson series at River Heights Elementary with Boys and Girls Club of the Chippewa Valley-Menomonie. This effort will introduce youth to gardening, promote fresh produce, and provide opportunities for youth to increase produce consumption.

A 6-lesson series at the North River Fronts Kids' Garden with Boys and Girls Club of the Chippewa Valley-Eau Claire. This effort will introduce youth to gardening, promote fresh produce, and provide opportunities for youth to increase produce consumption.

Participation in Eau Claire Health Alliance with active support for the local chronic disease prevention action team. This effort will help guide objectives and strategies that support initiatives to help improve the health of residents.

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 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.



A bird's eye view of a circle of youth arms showing off their "un-beet-able" smoothies with umbrellas for a summertime drink that beats the heat.

Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator



Planning a garden program for the public at a local community garden in collaboration with the Chippewa Falls Public Library. The goal of this effort is to teach participants how to identify and manage diseases and disorders that can affect tomatoes. Tomatoes are one of the most popular vegetables to grow in the home garden and providing guidance on proper management strategies is intended to increase awareness and adoption of environmentally-sound, best horticultural practices.

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 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.

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July 2023 Report

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.

Planning an educational garden for the public in collaboration with facilities at the Dunn County Government Building. The goal of the effort is to incorporate native plants into the garden for both beautification and an opportunity to demonstrate plantings that, once established, support pollinators by increasing habitat, are lower in water needs and reduce the need for fertilizers and pesticides, helping to keep our waterways clean and reduce chemical input to our environment.

A vegetable and fruit container garden program for the Spring Series StrongBodies Chat for participating seniors where they learned about the benefits and ease of growing vegetables in containers. This effort is designed to encourage people of all ages to garden for wellness and food, even if space, time and/or mobility is limited.

A community of practice for horticulture educators where we explore strategies and resources to expand horticulture education and outreach. 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.

A gardening program for beginners where participants learn the basics of vegetable gardening in containers. The goal of this effort was to teach participants techniques to successfully grow vegetables in containers and to encourage people to grow vegetables even when space and/or time is limited. Also, to teach those new to vegetable gardening how to start a vegetable garden, understand soil health, learn about plant selection, planting, and garden maintenance.

A garden presentation for AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program participants. 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 6-week nature-based program for youth in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley – Chippewa Falls. The goal of this effort is to build nature connectedness and promote environmental literacy.

Human Development & Relationships

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

Positive Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator



Sample 4-H Program with the Eau Claire Area School District for grades 4-6 for four afternoons. Participants were offered a variety of activities to highlight different types of projects in 4-H such as cake decorating, sewing, coding, succulents, weaving, and natural science.

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Extension Eau Claire County

July 2023 Report

Sample 4-H Program with the Eau Claire Area School District for grades 7-9 for four afternoons. Participants were offered a variety of activities to highlight the different types of projects in 4-H. They included cake decorating, sewing, coding, weaving, and natural science.

4-Hers helped lead project activities at the Eau Claire County fair such as cookie decorating, wool soap felting, lego building, pompom launchers, bristlebots, and pinecone birdfeeders. This created engaging activities to showcase the 4-H program and provide opportunities for youth leadership for current 4-H members.

A scavenger hunt for youth and families at the Eau Claire County Fair where participants found a variety of different exhibits throughout the whole fairgrounds for a chance to win an ice cream shake. This opportunity was to provide an engaging activity that would build belonging for 4-H participants and give ideas for future 4-H projects.

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.