

Agriculture

Lyssa Seefeldt | Regional Dairy Educator



Jerry Clark | Regional Crops & Soils Educator



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

The North American Manure Expo where professional manure applicators increased awareness of new manure handling equipment, management, and research to apply manure more accurately and protect the environment.

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.

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.

Planning for development of factsheets/articles, longer publications, and videos on nutrition, genetics, & reproduction topics. The goal of this effort is to increase farmers, nutritionists, veterinarians, and other agribusiness professionals' understanding of management of these topics to help improve farm sustainability and economic viability.

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.

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.

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



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.

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 educational program development on food truck/transient businesses to learn about the food businesses and basic food safety practices. Meeting with a state extension specialist on developing the program. The goal is to reduce challenges and barriers for food entrepreneurs to sell prepared foods in the Chippewa Valley.

The second year of a USDA grant developing a winter educational program to support Hmong and underserved farmers in the Chippewa Valley on the agricultural practices to support farm operations and profitability. Meet with partners from the state, non-profits, and extension specialists on developing the program. The goal is to reduce challenges and barriers and increase access to resources for direct farmers to support the food systems in the Chippewa Valley.

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.

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

Extension Eau Claire County

August 2023 Report

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.

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.

A presentation for seniors where participants learned about the benefits of plants / gardening on our overall wellbeing to encourage the incorporation of more plants / gardening in our lives.

Planning a presentation on gardening with kids for the 2023 Family and Consumer Sciences Education and WI DPI Child Care Conference at UW Stout. The goal of this effort is to discuss how gardening can enrich a child's life and to teach participants strategies on gardening with kids to encourage youth participation in the garden.

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 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.

Positive Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator



Interactive activity at a booth at National Night Out Eau Claire where the 4-H intern and 4-H Educator engaged the public attendees in a fun activity to promote the 4-H program and demonstrate positive youth development practices.

4-H Club Annual Financial Report work night where the 4-H Educator reviewed how to fill out the forms with club or group leaders and treasurers to facilitate all clubs and groups accurately completing the forms and turning them in on time.

Communication with partner organizations such as CVTC and LE Phillips Memorial library to build relationships that would allow 4-H to create partner programs and expand access to new audiences.

Health and Well-Being Educator

This position is posted. See details [here](#).

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



A series of two field days for woodland owners in Chippewa and Eau Claire counties where participants toured three managed prairie and pollinator sites in Eau Claire and Pepin counties to learn about planting, maintaining, and cost sharing prairie and pollinator plantings on their woodlands/agricultural lands. Through this, landowners can better manage their woodlands having learned about how recent funding impacts the ability to get these land management practices funded and implemented in the following years.

The North American Manure Expo where professional manure applicators increased awareness of new manure handling equipment, management, and research to apply manure more accurately and protect the environment.

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.