

Agriculture

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Lyssa Seefeldt | Regional Dairy Educator



Planning for the 2024 Western WI Ag Lender Conference for agriculture bankers and lenders, ag service professionals, and finance-oriented farmers in collaboration with a committee of ag lenders and ag service professionals. The goal of this conference is to increase lender knowledge of current agricultural markets, better understand "behind the scenes" of how ag businesses function and keep up to date with technology adaptation (how & why the cost of investment in technology is important).

Planning for development of 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.

Jerry Clark | Regional Crops & Soils Educator



A field day for farmers and agriculture professionals where participants learned adaptation of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and emerging technologies to cropping systems to manage crop pests and increase crop and farm profitability.

Community Development

Addison Vang | Community Development Educator



Meetings with state and local partners to design a winter educational program for Hmong and underserved farmers in the Chippewa Valley on agricultural practices to support farm operations and profitability. 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.

Educational program development on food truck/transient businesses so entrepreneurs can learn about the food business and basic food safety practices. The goal is to reduce challenges and barriers for food entrepreneurs to sell prepared foods in the Chippewa Valley.

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. For this specific workshop, the focus will be on soil health demonstrating how to take samples, where to send the samples, and how to interpret the results. The role of the Community Development Educator was the development of and planning of the workshop with partners.

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.

Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter | FoodWise Coordinator



Participation in the Eau Claire Health Alliance monthly meeting including active support for the local chronic disease prevention action team. The goal of this effort is to help guide objectives and strategies that support initiatives to improve the health of residents.

Planning and scheduling nutrition education lessons in eligible elementary and pre-k early learning centers across the Chippewa Valley. The goal of this effort is to support nutrition education and healthy eating with hundreds of youth and families.

Joy Weisner | FoodWise Nutrition Educator



A Great Apple Crunch event for Lakeshore and Longfellow Elementaries, including the Dual Immersion Spanish classrooms, where apple tasting was provided with supporting Great Apple Crunch materials. The goal of this effort is to raise awareness about the benefits of supporting local agriculture and to encourage healthy eating habits among students.

Jael M. Wolf | Bi-Lingual FoodWise Nutrition Educator



Collaboration and planning with Affinity House, women's residential addiction treatment program, and Master Gardeners to support the development of a kitchen garden. This effort will help limited resource participants learn about nutrition, food resource management, along with planting, cultivating, and harvesting their own produce.

Planning for Harvest of the Month efforts in collaboration with Eau Claire Area School District Food and Nutrition Director Lisa Smith. The goal of this effort is to help build relationships and collaborations that will support and align our efforts to promote healthy eating along with

Harvest of the Month education to students in schools.

Health and Well-Being Educator

We are bringing four candidates forward for final interviews to be held October 23, 2023.

Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator



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 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 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.

Positive Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator



Updating the 4-H Welcome Packet as well as all distribution lists so that families interested in 4-H receive the correct information regarding where and when clubs meet as well as the correct person to contact regarding club details. This will help make sure that anyone interested in joining a club will be more likely to do so.

Meeting with the Fair Coordinator to improve upon this year's fair and start planning for Extension's educational role in the coming year.

Meeting with CVTC to build relationships that would allow 4-H to create partner programs and expand access to new audiences.

Crafted ten email responses to inquiries about how to enroll and join 4-H where I tailored information to the recipient based on their responses in a 4-H Interest form. This effort is intended to make new families feel welcome and find a club that is a good fit for their family.

Planning for a 4-H Discovery Day at the L.E. Phillips Memorial Library where young people and adults will lead 4-H Project activities. This effort is an opportunity for youth to practice leadership skills as well as an opportunity to engage with non-4-H families and promote the 4-H program.

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

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 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.

Basic grant proposal workshop for local government, businesses, and organization members and staff. The goal of this effort is for people to learn how to find, write and apply for grants so that they can carry out the activities of their organization, business, or government unit.

An online learning opportunity for Entrepreneurs in Training (EITs) and volunteer business leaders to collaborate around developing strong business pitches and personal introductions. This structured interaction builds confidence and entrepreneurial skill in the EITs and fosters empathy in volunteers which leads to more opportunities for formerly incarcerated Wisconsinites to start businesses in a supportive community environment.