

Agriculture

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Lyssa Seefeldt | Regional Dairy Educator



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, veterinarian, and other agribusiness professionals' understanding of management of these topics to help improve farm sustainability and economic viability.

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.

Discussion & planning on VITAL dairy women programming for spring event(s) for west central Wisconsin.

Conversations with dairy farmers to discuss current / ongoing research opportunities for collaboration with Extension educators, state specialists, & campus specialists.

Planning for the 2024 Western WI Ag Lender Conference for agriculture bankers / 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).

Met with county sustainability coordinator to discuss upcoming Agriculture & Natural Resources Input session for Eau Claire County's Climate Action & Resilience Plan.

Met with Land Conservation to share upcoming programs & outreach materials.

Met with an attorney partner. Planning for a November professional development event for western agriculture educators to foster better collaborations with legal counselors (& other ag professionals) to help farm families start and complete farm succession plans.

Meeting with Eau Claire Emergency Management Program Assistant to discuss additions and suggestions for changes for Emergency Operations Plan for the section on agriculture & animal agriculture. This effort supports the county emergency management team being able to contact appropriate agriculture contacts in the event of an agriculture emergency in the county.

Jerry Clark | Regional Crops & Soils Educator



A field event for farmers and agriculture professionals where participants learned manure management application and manure spill response techniques to maximize nutrient efficiency, protect ground and surface water, and increase farm profitability. The goal of the program is to increase knowledge about manure application, placement, and timing while preventing manure and soil runoff.

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A land evaluation clinic for students where participants learned land management principles, soil properties, and land use, to increase effective land management practices and maximize soil and agricultural land production into the future. The goal of the program is to increase knowledge and understanding of the importance of land and soil management and the impact agriculture and commercial development has on the land.

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 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.

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Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter
FoodWise Coordinator



Joy Weisner
FoodWise Educator



Jael M. Wolf
Bilingual FoodWise Educator



A 4-lesson series for 4K preschoolers at Western Dairyland Truax Head Start 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 3-lesson series for 4K preschoolers at Western Dairyland Eau Claire Head Start 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 Great Apple Crunch event for Augusta Elementary 1st grade where Great Apple Crunch materials were provided. The goal of this effort is to raise awareness about the benefits of supporting local agriculture and to encourage healthy eating habits among students.

A 4-lesson series for 4K preschoolers at Menomonie Head Start 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 4-lesson series for 4K preschoolers at Altoona Head Start 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.

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.

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.

Health and Well-Being Educator

We hired this position, and this person will start with Extension November 29, 2023.

Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator



Implemented 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.

Continuing with 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.

A presentation on how gardening benefits us mentally, physically, and socially for honor students at UW Eau Claire where participants learned and discussed how gardening can help us age with vitality. This effort was

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designed to illustrate how gardens are a source of excellent nutrition, provide opportunities for exercise at any age, and can provide a sense of meaning or purpose in people's lives.

A program on planting hardy bulbs for the public where participants learned bulb selection, planting, and care to learn best practices in growing early spring blooms.

A presentation on gardening with kids for the 2023 Family and Consumer Sciences Education and WI DPI Childcare Conference at UW Stout where participants learned how gardening can enrich a child's life in many ways. This effort was designed to encourage gardening with youth with strategies to engage kids in gardening activities.

A presentation about the benefits of gardening for the Wisconsin United Women in Faith Annual Gathering where participants learned and discussed how gardening is a great way to incorporate many mental, physical, and social benefits into your life. This effort was designed to encourage people of all ages to incorporate plants and gardening into their lifestyle to experience many of these benefits.

Positive Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator



Planning for a Citizen Science STEM Day for 5-8th graders to provide an opportunity for them to engage in one of their Sparks.

A Citizen Science STEM Day for 5-8th graders to provide an opportunity for them to engage in one of their Sparks.

Planning for 4-H Summer Camp & Camp Counselor Application process to promote youth leadership opportunities for camp.

Interview with WAXX radio as part of the "4-H on the Air" program that is aired weekly. This program is to provide clubs and groups an opportunity to practice interviewing skills as well as promote the 4-H Program and the activities clubs and groups engage in.

A food preservation workshop where young people learned about safe food preservation methods and reliable resources.

4-H Discovery Day at the L.E. Phillips Memorial Library where young people and adults led 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.

Planning for an urban Citizen Science afternoon program for grades 5-8 to provide programming in the spark of STEM.

A presentation on completing a Record Book for the Country Cousins 4-H Club. This was in response to a club leader's request to learn more about record books and increase participation in the full 4-H program of the county as some of the county awards require a record book to participate.

Meeting with Vecino a Vecino to discuss support for their Latino 4-H Club. This effort is to support volunteers and programming in an underserved audience.

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 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.

A live, on-line meeting series, for farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned the latest research and applications regarding different manure processing options. The goal of this effort was to increase knowledge of the latest UW-Madison research on manure processing options including the good and bad of each system.

The webinar, Badger Crop Connect, is meant for agriculture producers, consultants, and industry professionals where they can learn more about timely agriculture related topics from non-bias research-based sources. The goal is to provide seasonal updates on the latest research and recommendations related to current field conditions and crop stages. This activity is designed to provide tangible information that can make a positive impact in the short term which ultimately leads to long term environmental and financial sustainability on Wisconsin farms.

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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A facilitated conversation with nonprofit leaders in Northeast Wisconsin where participants learned about reviewing grant applications and applying for grants to further the mission of their organization.

A special event in which business experts join the UW-Madison Extension Entrepreneur in Training Partnership (EITP) to coach EITs about their business ideas. These events improve business viability and build empathy among participants, which leads to structural changes in the workforce and incarceration systems, long term.