

## Agriculture

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### Lyssa Seefeldt | Regional Dairy Educator



*Introduction to Extension Spanish translated resources for dairy workers for Wisconsin Literacy volunteers that tutor Spanish speaking dairy workers to increase knowledge and awareness.*

*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.*

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

*Revisions 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 beef farmers and pasture managers where participants learned cattle health, handling management, and pasture and soil management to improve beef cattle health, farmer safety, and pasture and soil management to increase beef and pasture production efficiency and improve farm profitability. The goal of the program is to increase knowledge and improve understanding of beef herd health and pasture management practices.*

*A Fall Beef and Pasture Management field event was hosted to provide cattle handling, herd health, and soil and pasture management to address herd and farmer safety. Speakers and topics included "Farm Facility Tour & Handling Demonstration, Low Cost Farmer-Built Portable Corral System with a Bud Box Demonstration with Heifers", Ken Schmitt & Family; "Biosecurity Discussion", Implementing Herd Health Programs & Correct Injection Placemen", Sandy Stuttgen, Division of Extension UW-Madison, Taylor County Agriculture Educator; "Considerations for Handling Facilities" and "Stretching Hay Supplies", Bill Halfman, Division of Extension UW-Madison, Beef Specialist; and "Estimating Forage & Feed Inventory", Jerry Clark, Division of Extension UW-Madison, Crops and Soils Educator for Chippewa, Dunn & Eau Claire counties. Twenty-four beef farmers and pasture managers attended the event. Informal post-meeting evaluation indicated all farmers increased their knowledge of the topics presented.*

### Community Development

Addison Vang | Community Development Educator



*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. In the process of finalizing workshop dates and agenda.*

*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. Partners are gathering to develop 2024 workshops.*

*Education workshop on the Wisconsin Local Food Produce Assistance (LFPA) program targeting underserved small farmers. Assistance was provided to those who wanted to apply for the program. The workshop was conducted in English and Hmong. The program was promoted to anyone interested in the program with the main audience being Hmong farmers who sell direct to market as an identified underserved farm population.*

### Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter  
FoodWise Coordinator



Joy Weisner  
FoodWise Educator



Jael M. Wolf  
Bilingual FoodWise Educator



*Collaboration with Longfellow Elementary School to develop a Kids Garden. This effort is concentrated on developing a strategic plan to include comprehensive programming with newly established garden beds which will introduce youth to new foods.*

*A 6-week nutrition education series to 3rd graders at River Heights 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 1st graders in River Heights, Longfellow, and Flynn Elementary Schools. 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 4-lesson series for women in an addiction treatment program where they learn about nutrition and food resource management principles. The goal of this effort is to help limited resource participants make healthy food choices on a budget.*

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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.

Participation in a statewide collaboration for local farmers markets that offer a token program to be included in a GusNIP grant proposal. This effort would provide a Market Match for fruits and vegetables purchased by FoodShare individuals which enhances food security.

### Margo Dieck | Health and Well-Being Educator



Margo was hired to fill the Health and Well-Being Educator position and began on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Her role will be focused on behavioral health in Eau Claire County. She attended the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health and Community Health Education with a minor in nutrition. She has been a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES<sup>®</sup>) since 2018. Formerly, Margo was employed for the last five years as the Community Health Educator and Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Waupaca County Department of Public Health. Her work focused on

content areas such as chronic disease prevention, nutrition and food insecurity, alcohol and other substance use, and communicable disease prevention. She is a trained facilitator with experience in coalition building, grant writing, CHA/CHIP processes, and communications. Margo is looking forward to learning more about Eau Claire County, the unique mental health landscape in the area, and how she can work with partners to better the health and well-being for everyone who comes to Eau Claire County to live, learn, work, and play.

## Horticulture

### Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator



A presentation about the benefits of gardening at the first annual Age Your Way Conference in Chippewa Falls, 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 to include plants and gardening in their lifestyle to experience many of these benefits.

Completing the first year of a horticulture-inspired program in partnership with the ADRC Eau Claire County for people living with dementia and their care partners that offers hands-on, nature-inspired experiences that provide opportunities to stimulate the senses, enjoy social interactions, and provide physical activity and the use of fine motor skills while imparting a sense of purpose.

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 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 about the benefits of gardening for the Wisconsin United Women in Faith Annual Gathering, Eau Claire, 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.*

*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.*

## Positive Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator



*Supporting the Leaders Association to plan for the future of the organization and develop a viable leadership structure.*

*Planning for Art U, a virtual art project club in partnership with UW-Stout's art education department to provide a program that meets the needs of families and provides opportunities for kids to explore their sparks.*

*Developing a GooseChase game in partnership with two high school students to provide an engaging experience for young people and their families and build engagement across the county.*

*A straw weaving activity as part of Smart Girls Rock at Menomonie Middle School to provide a hands-on activity for middle school girls as part of their STEM exploration. This activity was to promote STEM learning and to increase the visibility of 4-H.*

*Meetings with Eau Claire Area School District and the Altoona School District to discuss partnerships in providing Juntos programming to meet the needs of Spanish-speaking families and provide a positive youth development opportunity for young people and increase families' sense of belonging.*

*Planning for the annual 4-H Awards Banquet. The Awards banquet is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the work of young people and volunteers over the past year to provide a positive youth development experience.*

*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 Speaking Contest for Dunn, Eau Claire, and Chippewa Counties. Youth participated in a variety of events that allowed them to improve their public speaking and presentation skills. They were given feedback which*

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celebrated their strengths and provided education on areas to improve. Awards were given to the top speakers in each category.

Planning for a refresher of the Building Safe Spaces training for 4-H volunteers. The goal of this effort is to develop a short, interactive training for volunteers that will refresh them on the content of the original Building Safe Spaces training. The content of this training is important for volunteers because it helps us ensure a safe space for youth to participate and aligns with the Youth Protection policy.

### 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

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. (Kevin Schoessow)

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. (Katie Wantoch)

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. (Julie Hill)

A pasture walk on an organic dairy farm was held for local dairy producers to learn about sustainable practices in pasture management and the management of pasture grazed dairy cows and replacements. (Matt Lippert)

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.

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*Planning for a dairy goat field day to be held in the local Amish Community who are expanding in goat production capacity and who as new producers have many production and marketing related questions. (Matt Lippert)*

*A field study data collection in collaboration with Colorado State University to better understand the practices and challenges associated with transportation of pre-weaned dairy heifer, dairy bull, and beef x dairy calves from the source (dairy farms), hauler, and receiver (calf raiser). Results from this study will help dairy farmers, managers, haulers, calf raisers, and the dairy community in adopting practices and improving transportation welfare to improve farm business viability and food safety. (Tina Kohlman)*