

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 farmer, nutritionist, 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.

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.

An on-farm study to better understand the effect of nitrogen application rates on nitrogen cycling and corn yield. Results from this study will help corn growers in that they can implement and adapt N management practices to optimize economic return, improve efficiency of N fertilizer resulting in more sustainable corn production and farm profitability.

Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator



A presentation about the benefits of gardening for 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.

A 2023-2024 horticulture-inspired program with ADRC-Eau Claire for people living with dementia and their care partners 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 winter garden program for youth in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley Menomonie Center. The goal of this effort is to teach and inspire young kids about garden-related topics through hands-on activities and get them ready for spring gardening.

Community Development

Vacant

Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter
FoodWise Coordinator



Joy Weisner
FoodWise Educator



Jael M. Wolf
Bilingual FoodWise Educator



A collaborative effort with Chronic Disease Prevention Action Team under the Eau Claire Health Alliance to promote the 2023-2024 Winter Wellness Initiative. This effort helps promote community engagement that includes increased physical activity as an action step to reduce chronic diseases.

Provided advisory oversight and letter of support to Master Gardeners Association for their KidsGardening Grant application. This funding would contribute to their 2-year project to replace raised beds and enhance the watering system for the North River Fronts Kids Garden where FoodWise provides programming to the Boys and Girls Club youth.

Provided support and local farmers market data to the statewide GusNIP planning committee. This is a federal grant application effort to acquire a nutrition incentive match for FoodShare eligible families purchasing fruits and vegetables at the Eau Claire Downtown Farmers Market.

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, Flynn, and Longfellow Elementary. 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 LSS Affinity House 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.

Margo Dieck | Health and Well-Being Educator



Meetings with Eau Claire Extension colleagues to learn more about who they are, the work they do, and opportunities for collaboration between programs. Discussion also included talking about the mental health trends they see in the work they do and gathering a list of partners and community meetings to explore.

Positive Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator



Writing and revising a weaving curriculum. This curriculum is to fill a need for project learning in fiber arts to support young people who have a spark in art or fiber.

Planning for a Virtual Cultural Baking program. This series engages young people in the Spark of baking, teaches different baking techniques, and provides opportunities to discuss cultures around the world.

The Annual 4-H Awards Banquet was held Dec 3. 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. Partners in 4-H, Distinguished Leaders, and other volunteers were recognized. Youth were awarded scholarships for educational experiences and clubs were recognized for their good work over the year.

A Houseplant Project workshop that incorporated youth teaching. This meeting allowed young people to practice sharing knowledge and provided participants with information on how to care for and practice propagating house plants.

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.

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.

A Speaking Contest was held 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 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 course 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

Facilitation of monthly meetings of the Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition. The goal is to implement a watershed plan aimed at improving the water quality in the Eau Claire River Watershed. (Daniel Zerr)

Technical assistance for a partnership group (Rain to Rivers) which raises awareness and encourages action to reduce stormwater impacts. The goal of this effort is to increase storm water management awareness and implementation. (Daniel Zerr)

Facilitation of bimonthly meetings of the Red Cedar River Water Quality Partnership, with the goal to implement a ten-year watershed plan aimed at improving the water quality and soil health of the Red Cedar River Watershed. (Daniel Zerr)

A series of 3 county steering committee meetings, outreach activities and research projects intended to create a community health needs assessment which will inform community priorities and activities in the coming years. (Luisa Gerasimo)

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. (Jeanne Walsh)

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. (Addison Vang)

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

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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)

A live, on-line meeting series, for farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned the latest research and applications regarding effective animal handling and the impact that plays on efficiency on the farm. The goal of this effort was to increase knowledge of the latest UW-Madison research and provide a comprehensive understanding of effective dairy animal handling, grouping strategies and their impact on efficiency in the parlor and beyond. (Jackie Mccarville)

A meeting series for crop farmers and ag professionals, where they learned about crop insurance and grain marketing, crop input planning, farmland rental rates and lease agreements, and ag income taxes. These meetings were designed to assist crop farmers in identifying strengths and weaknesses of their farm business to assist them in making decisions that will improve their farm profitability. (Katie Wantoch)

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)