

Agriculture

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Lyssa Seefeldt | Regional Dairy Educator



A live, on-line meeting series, for farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned the latest research and applications regarding developments in genetic evaluations, feed efficiency research, methane emissions, and dairy cow resiliency. The goal of this effort was to increase knowledge of the latest UW-Madison research on the impacts that genetics plays on dairy cattle.

Developing resources on using herd health to monitor transition cow status for dairy farmers and farm workers. The goal is to help the audience better understand the implications of disease events on transition cow health so that they monitor incidence rates and identify at-risk cows to trigger earlier interventions.

A seminar for agricultural finance lenders where participants learned about emerging agricultural economic issues to improve lending decisions. The goal of the program is to provide university-based research, information, and market analysis for regional financial leaders to make informed decisions.

Jerry Clark | Regional Crops & Soils Educator



A presentation for barley researchers, consultants, and producers where participants learned about winter barley production and cropping systems to continue future research and inclusion in cropping systems for farm crop diversity and profitability.

A seminar for agricultural finance lenders where participants learned about emerging agricultural economic issues to improve lending decisions. The goal of the program is to provide university-based research, information, and market analysis for regional financial leaders to make informed decisions.

Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator



Creating a dish garden with succulents for people living with dementia and their care partners that offers a hands-on experience to stimulate the senses, enjoy social interactions and encourage the use of motor skills while learning about indoor plant care.

A container garden program for the public where participants learn strategies to grow successful planters of herbs, vegetables, and flowers with the opportunity to start an indoor herb garden. This effort is designed to encourage people of all ages to garden for health and beautification indoors or outdoors or with limited space.

A winter garden class on the origin of some of our most common garden crops for youth in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley. The goal of this effort is to help make cultural connections to our food and create a plan to plant a global themed garden this spring.

Community Development

Currently Vacant

Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter
FoodWise Coordinator



Joy Weisner
FoodWise Educator



Jael M. Wolf
Bilingual FoodWise Educator



A series of 6 nutrition lessons for 3rd graders at Lakeshore Elementary. This effort will help students explore MyPlate and discover why people need to eat food from all five food groups, identify benefits of physical activity, and identify why one snack might be a better choice than another snack by reading a Nutrition Facts Label.

A 6-week nutrition education series to 3rd graders at Longfellow Elementary (including students in the Spanish Dual Immersion Program) to learn about the importance of eating five food groups, physical activity, healthy habits, and trying seasonal fruits and vegetables. This effort will encourage students to choose a goal to try more fruits and vegetables at each meal. Longfellow has expanded their Dual Immersion classes. We are looking forward to including more Spanish sections in their fifth grade as they grow.

"I have a lot of physical limitations, and this program is helping to strengthen me. It allows me to be able to function better with everyday life."

~StrongBodies participant- January 2024

A series of virtual statewide strength training sessions (StrongBodies) where older adults learn best practices along with nutrition and health education. Participants engage in regular strength training exercises to improve strength, balance, and flexibility so they can stay healthy and socially connected. Twelve Eau Claire residents are currently enrolled in the FoodWise supported January-March Tues/Thurs virtual series.

A 6-week nutrition education series for 1st graders in Lakeshore 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.

Introductory meeting and collaboration with ECASD Life Without Limits coordinators to discuss potential integration of resources for students with individualized special education needs. This effort will support students in gaining skills around lifelong healthy habits as they transition beyond high school.

Participation in the Healthy Communities Coalition includes active support for the local Chronic Disease Prevention Action Team. This effort will help guide objectives and strategies that support 2024 initiatives to help improve the health of local residents. Hundreds of people took part in the city-wide scavenger hunts- Reindeer Roundup and "2024 Carson Capers Scavenger Hunt". In February, join in on the [Bridges of the City Crossword Hunt!](#)

Extension Eau Claire County

January 2024 Report

Margo Dieck | Health and Well-Being Educator



Continued 1-1 staff meetings with Area 6 Extension staff to learn about who works in the area, understand potential for collaboration, and build connections within the area.

Began meeting with community partners and attending community meetings to better understand the mental health needs and landscape within Eau Claire County and the Chippewa Valley.

Positive Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator



Weaving Series in partnership with the Altoona Public Library to pilot a weaving curriculum that I authored. The series hopes to provide young people with an opportunity to learn new skills and experience positive youth development experience plus provide feedback on the curriculum to improve it.

Hiring older youth as 4-H camp counselor staff provides them practice with filling out applications, asking for letters of recommendation, and participating in an interview. This process builds life skills and helps us choose the best staff for our 4-H camp.

Planning for camp counselor training retreat. This retreat is a fun weekend for our camp counselors to build teamwork and relationships with us as 4-H Educators plus provides required training that supports them in being the best camp counselors that they can be.

Meetings with Eau Claire Area School District and Altoona School District staff 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 GooseChase interactive game launched to build engagement across Eau Claire County's 4-H family. Game challenges were developed in partnership with two high school youth to support youth-adult partnerships and increase youth voice in programming.

Planning for a Foods & Nutrition Night that will provide project support for the Foods & Nutrition program as well as advertise for the Foods Revue.

Planning for a Virtual Cultural Baking Series for the Northern Region. This effort is a collaboration across counties that supports the Spark of Baking.

Extension Eau Claire County

January 2024 Report

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

Developing a Planning for Emergency Livestock Transportation Response (PELTR) hybrid training in collaboration with Waukesha County Emergency Management and the Humane Animal Welfare Society (HAWs) of Waukesha for area and statewide emergency response personnel to learn about responding to roadside incidents involving livestock trailers. The purpose of this program is to increase the effectiveness of emergency planning and the preparedness of local emergency response agencies. (Sandy Stuttgen)