

Agriculture

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Lyssa Seefeldt | Regional Dairy Educator



A nutrition survey for dairy farmers with automated milking systems (AMS - robotic) herds to share results with dairy farmers interested in increasing productivity and efficiency to achieve and maintain economic viability.

A nutrition survey for dairy farmers with high producing herds to share results with dairy farmers interested in increasing productivity and efficiency to achieve and maintain economic viability.

A live, on-line meeting series for farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned the latest research on balancing diets for energy and amino acids to maximize milk components. The goal of this effort was to increase knowledge of the latest UW-Madison research on impacts of feeding fat sources and amino acids to maximize milk protein and fat.

Initial meeting with a representative from the Wisconsin Migrant Education Program from the WI Department of Public Instruction to help connect the program to Extension colleagues, partners, and farmers that may be interacting with migrant or seasonal employees in the dairy industry on the western side of Wisconsin. The long-term goal is to continue to build local connections of professionals working with Spanish speaking dairy employees and access to services.

Developing a factsheet on the risks of inadequate fiber diets for cows to help dairy farmers and farm employees. The goal is to help the audience better understand the metabolic disease risks of feeding low fiber diets and correct implementation of feeding low fiber diets to achieve better health & welfare outcomes for cows.

Development of a presentation on the use of fats in the dairy diet for farmers, employees, and affiliated agri-business service providers to complement a presentation on amino acids by a campus professor for the Badger Dairy Insight. The goal is for farmers, employees, and affiliated agri-business service providers to better understand the use of fats in dairy diets, how different types of fat are utilized by the cow, and potential limitations of the use of different fats so that cows experience better health and welfare.

Developing resources on re-examining phosphorus in the cow diet to transition cow diet for dairy farmers and farm workers. The goal is to help the audience better understand the implications of overfeeding phosphorus on a cow's health.

Jerry Clark | Regional Crops & Soils Educator



A training session for manure applicators and farmers where participants learn to apply manure safely and accurately to keep themselves safe, protect the environment, and increase farm profitability.

A seminar for hop growers where participants learned current crop production and marketing strategies to increase profitability and sustainability.

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A crop insurance and grain marketing program for new and experienced grain crop farmers where participants learned to identify risk, calculate accurate production expenses, discover grain price sensitivities, and manage crop insurance and federal programs to lower risk and increase farm profitability.

An educational program for farmers and lake owners where participants learned about implementation of practices on farms and landscape to improve and protect ground and surface water.

A training program for private applicators where participants learned about safe handling and application of restricted-use pesticides to protect themselves and the environment. The purpose of this program is to provide certifiable training on the safe and legal handling and use of pesticides for applicators.

Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator



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.

Development of a presentation on native plants and pollinators for the public. The goal is to encourage individuals to incorporate native plants in their landscape to benefit pollinators and increase pollinator habitat.

Coordinating community gardens in three different communities. The goal is to aid in making fresh produce more accessible to individuals without space to grow many of their own fruits and vegetables and to provide opportunities for learning gardening best practices.

Community Development

Check out the position details [here](#)

Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter
FoodWise Coordinator



Joy Weisner
FoodWise Educator



Jael M. Wolf
Bilingual FoodWise Educator



Participation in the Healthy Communities Coalition to provide 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 residents. FoodWise will be on the advisory committee providing oversight for actions taken in support of a rural community assessment initiative that is grant funded through Eau Claire City-County Health Dept. More to come.

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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.

A series of 6 nutrition lessons to 3rd graders at Lakeshore, Flynn, and Longfellow Elementary schools (including students in the Spanish Dual Immersion Program at Longfellow). 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 and encourage students to choose a goal to try more fruits and vegetables at each meal.

A 6-week nutrition education series for 5th graders at Longfellow Elementary where they learn about MyPlate and how the nutrients in foods contribute to a healthy diet. This effort will help the students plan healthy meals and snacks using a variety of foods from the food groups.

An Altoona Head Start family event where parents learned the benefits of having kids help in the kitchen, family mealtimes, and how to feed choosy eaters, along with a healthy snack tasting. This effort supports parents in encouraging their families to eat healthy, helps kids to develop a love for preparing food, and reduces mealtime struggles.

A 4-lesson series for women in Affinity House, a transition home, where they learn about food resource management, reading nutrition labels and reducing sugar intake, and creating healthy meals/snacks. This effort will help limited resource participants to make healthy food choices on a budget.

Applied for a FoodWise Food Garden Grant to repair and improve the North River Fronts Kids' Garden by replacing raised beds and widening the pathways for accessibility. Our 18-year collaboration with Master Gardener Volunteers and Boys and Girls Club youth strives to improve the nutrition education, gardening knowledge, food safety, and food security for families of limited income by increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

Margo Dieck | Health and Well-Being Educator



Finalized 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.

Continued meetings with community partners and attending community meetings to better understand the mental health needs and landscape within Eau Claire County and the Chippewa Valley. Needs and potential areas for Extension support are also revealed through this process.

Positive Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator



The annual Sarah Nelson Memorial pancake breakfast was planned and executed by the Older Youth Council. The fundraiser raises money for cancer research and camp fees for children with cancer diagnoses.

Development of a weaving curriculum that can be used by educators and volunteers to support the spark of weaving.

Planning for and delivery of a Youth for the Quality Care of Animals training for the young people who exhibit animals at the Eau Claire County Fair. This training is one of the services Extension offers in its partnership with the Eau Claire County Fair.

Performing Arts Festival including Drama and Music categories to provide an opportunity for young people to perform as a group or individual and receive feedback from a caring adult.

Virtual Cultural Baking Series for the Northern Region where we led young people and their families in baking Mexican Hot Chocolate Cookies, Sticky Toffee Pudding, Rugelach, and Fortune Cookies. This collaborative effort supports the Spark of Baking.

Foods & Nutrition Night where we learned about the Foods Revue, practiced making garnishes, made smoothies, and practiced planning menus using the MyPlate guidelines to provide support for the spark of Foods & Nutrition.

An overnight camp counselor retreat provided a "mini camp" experience for our camp counselors to build teamwork and relationships across counties and with us as 4-H Educators plus provide 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.



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

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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 risk, crop insurance and grain marketing hybrid course, where material was adapted into a more relevant format for use in-person, as stand-alone educational videos and articles, and an on-line course. The Farm Pulse - Crop Insurance and Grain Marketing course will assist farmers and ag professionals in identifying strengths and weaknesses of their business to assist them in making decisions that will improve their farm profitability. (Katie Wantoch)

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 participants' ability to meet their financial goals and increase their financial capability for long term financial success. (Jeanne Walsh)

A survey of agencies and organizations that support farmer-led watershed groups in Wisconsin was conducted to better understand how these groups are functioning and the nature of support they receive from their partners. Results of the survey will be used to inform decisions about what types of support are most beneficial and most needed by the farmer-led groups. (Anna James)

Camp counselor applications have been received and reviewed. The selected counselors have been contacted for an interview. The interviews were held at five different times throughout the month. The Educators prepared for the interviews by setting the times and creating questions that were relevant to the age group and the situation. (Zachary Rozmiarek)