

Agriculture

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Regional Dairy Educator

This position is currently vacant.

A media/social media/topic hub post on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). This effort aims to inform dairy and beef producers about the spread and risk of HPAI and make them aware of reputable resources for timely updates on the disease. Increasing knowledge about HPAI will help producers make informed decisions on reducing the risk of HPAI in their herds, thus being conscious of biosecurity.

A presentation for dairy farmers and employees on "effective dairy herd health records" so that the audience better understand why certain records are important to track along with nutritional tips to help prevent dairy metabolic & disease issues.

A field day and classroom instruction for goat producers and those interested in becoming goat producers where basic introductory kid development, doe care, biosecurity, feeding strategies and marketing were discussed. This program was developed as Clark County has a rapidly expanding dairy goat, and meat goat, family scale enterprise largely among the Amish Community. The success of this program may develop into future offerings.

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.

Development of an in-person two-day workshop, Badger Sheep Short Course, for sheep and goat producers to learn about biosecurity, reproduction technologies, record keeping, genetic selection, and the relationship between parasite resistance and disease resistance with demonstrations and hands-on experiences. This effort was designed to help producers gain knowledge and skills for feeding, breeding, record-keeping, healthcare planning, determining body condition scores, and selecting cull animals based on records to increase productivity to sustain or increase profitability.

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.



Jerry Clark | Regional Crops & Soils Educator

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 agriculture professionals in identifying strengths and weaknesses of their business to assist them in making decisions that will improve their farm profitability.

An outreach and public relations effort for farmers where farmers increased awareness of extension resources to connect and build relationships and improve their lives and farms.

A presentation for Chippewa Fire District emergency responders and medical technicians where participants learned about safe and efficient response to pesticide and manure gas hazards on farms and providing proper care.

Jerry Clark was recently honored with the Van Hise Outreach Teaching Award at the 2024 UW-Madison Distinguished Teaching Awards celebration. As president of the University of Wisconsin from 1903 to 1918, Charles Van Hise developed the doctrine known today as the Wisconsin Idea: the guiding philosophy of UW-Madison's outreach efforts to extend the borders of the university to touch the lives of people throughout Wisconsin and around the world. The Van Hise Outreach Teaching Award was established in 1990 to honor distinguished teaching by a member of UW-Madison's faculty. Jerry is a great resource to farmers in our community and across the state of Wisconsin. Congratulations on receiving this well-deserved award, Jerry!



Celebrating Jerry Clark's Distinguished Teaching Award. From left, Kevin Jarek, William Halfman, Annie Lisowski, Jeanne Walsh, Kristen Bruder, Rachel Hart-Brinson, Jerry Clark, Kristi Peterson, Amber Gilles, Andrew Heren, & Dean Karl Martin.

Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator



A program on starting an herb garden for the public in partnership with the Augusta Memorial Public Library where participants learned how to grow select culinary herbs. This effort was designed to encourage people to garden with herbs to create both a sensory impact with fragrant foliage, various foliage colors and shapes, and have a supply of fresh herbs for cooking as a healthy, low calorie, flavor substitute to salt. Extension based information on cooking with herbs was included.

A presentation about the benefits of gardening for the United Women in Faith Northwest District Meeting 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.

A workshop to start seeds indoors for the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley-Menomonie where participants learned the basics of starting tomato and pepper seeds indoors. The goal of this effort was to teach kids techniques and strategies to successfully start seeds indoors to grow crops that will be used for summertime programming.

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.

A workshop on creating a succulent dish garden for the Chippewa County Courthouse employees in partnership with the Chippewa County Staff Satisfaction Squad where participants learned about planting and caring for succulents. This effort was designed to encourage people of all ages to incorporate plants and gardening into their lifestyle, enjoy social interactions and learn about indoor plant care.

A garden program for beginners in partnership with the Bloomer Public Library where participants learned the basics of vegetable gardening. The goal of this effort was to teach those new to vegetable gardening how to start a vegetable garden, understand soil health, learn about plant selection, planting, and garden maintenance.

A program on starting an herb garden for the public in partnership with the Chippewa Falls Public Library where participants learned how to grow select culinary herbs. This effort was designed to encourage people to garden with herbs to create both a sensory impact with fragrant foliage, various foliage colors and shapes, and have a supply of fresh herbs for cooking as a healthy, low calorie, flavor substitute to salt. Extension based information on cooking with herbs was included.

A presentation for the public on pollinators and native plants where participants learned the value of creating ecological niches in their landscape, allowing urban areas to support a host of different insect pollinators. This effort is to encourage individuals to adopt gardening practices that support pollinator habitat and health throughout the year.

A container garden program for the Women's Fellowship of Ladysmith and Conrath Congregational UCC 12th Annual Garden seminar where attendees learned strategies to successfully grow flowers, herbs, or vegetables in containers. This effort was designed to encourage people of all ages to garden for wellness, beautification and /or food even if space or mobility is limited.

An activity to illustrate the benefits of gardening for participants in the Chippewa County Recovery Court Program. Participants learned how gardening is a great way to incorporate many wellness benefits such as stress relief, focus recovery and a sense of accomplishment into your life and were able to build their own sensory garden in a pot. This effort was designed to encourage people to include plants and gardening in their lifestyle to experience the many benefits that gardening can provide.

Community Development

The position had been filled and will start May 13, 2024

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 Augusta Elementary to learn about fruits, vegetables and keeping their bodies healthy. This effort helps children to learn to use their senses with colors and tastes to explore foods and includes movement.

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Extension Eau Claire County

April 2024 Report

A 6-week nutrition education series for 1st graders in Locust Lane and Augusta 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 6-week nutrition education series to 3rd graders at Lakeshore, Locust Lane, and Augusta Elementary schools 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 5th graders at Locust Lane and Augusta Elementary schools 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.

A collaboration with Eau Claire Master Gardener Volunteers, Eau Claire City Parks, and Recreation, and Western Dairyland Fresh Start to start activities in implementing the FoodWise Garden Grant program. This effort will replace 6 raised beds and widen pathways for accessibility in the North River Fronts Kids Garden.

Youth focus groups with 1st, 3rd, and 5th graders at Longfellow and Augusta Elementary schools to gather valuable insights, perspectives and experiences with school breakfast and lunch. This effort will provide youth feedback to inform the Wisconsin School Meals Rock! program and social marketing campaign along with FoodWise efforts in enhancing the appeal and nutritional quality of school meals.

A collaboration with Lakeshore Elementary staff and Master Garden Volunteers to plan the summer gardening program. This effort will teach students about growing vegetables and provide opportunities for tasting to enhance their willingness to increase fruit and vegetable intake.

Partnership development meeting with Prairie Ridge Early Learning Center. This effort will foster relationship building with new staff and identify ways to engage with their caregivers.

An educational caregiver event at Truax Head Start where parents learned about online tools, seasonal fruit and vegetable charts, proper storage and using leftovers effectively. This effort supports parents in making the most out of their shopping trips and stretching their money to purchase more fruits and vegetables.

Margo Dieck | Health and Well-Being Educator



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.

Met with six agencies (public, private, nonprofit, school) to better understand the mental health landscape in Eau Claire County and the Chippewa Valley.

4-H Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator

Extension Eau Claire County

April 2024 Report



Planning for a Volunteer Leader Training to build relationships with volunteers and encourage program planning.

Planning for an all-day camp counselor training on May 5. The training will provide an opportunity for our camp counselors to practice leading their sessions for others as well as learn from an UWEC professor about classroom management strategies especially helpful for neurodiverse kids.

Juntos Middle School Family Night sessions where Latinx families participate in a 5-week series. This series aims to improve communication between parents and children and the school and families with the goal of achieving academic success.

The Area 6 Clover U event was held on April 6th. Twenty youth attended. They each got to choose two activities to participate in. The activities that were offered included fishing, dogs, painting, jewelry making, cooking, and sewing. We had positive feedback from both youth and volunteers.

Rachel attended the Joint Council of Extension Professionals conference in April. She received three awards from the Wisconsin Association of 4-H Youth Development Professionals for work on a "Let's Celebrate" virtual "take and learn" box as well as a volunteer training, "Building Safe Spaces" that she helped develop. She also received an award from Epsilon Sigma Phi for her outreach and programming with the Spanish-Speaking population. Awards are sent on to compete at a regional level and then national level.



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

The existing Zoom footage of all past Cranberry Virtual Brown Bags is being chunked by content, transcribed, and uploaded to Youtube for on-demand viewing by cranberry growers. This will enable useful information from UW researchers and crop scouts to be shared as new employees are hired into the industry, when growers need

Extension Eau Claire County

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to refresh their memories, or when weather conditions are like those remarked upon in prior years. (Allison Jonjak, Anne Pfeiffer, Megan Sankey)

In coordination with the UW Agribusiness Club and Cranberry Learning Inc, a case study was developed for undergrad Ag Econ students to practice solving a real-world return on investment problem. Cranberry grower judges were identified to volunteer, and cranberry industry partners (excavator, drainage experts, irrigation experts, an engineering company, banks, and plant propagation experts) were recruited to provide pricing and support to the students. This will give students opportunities to interact with a variety of professions crucial to the cranberry industry, to develop familiarity with the cranberry industry, and will encourage development of the skills needed to successfully run a small agricultural business. (Allison Jonjak)

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)

Facilitation of monthly meetings of the Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition, with the goal to implement a ten-year watershed plan aimed at improving the water quality and soil health of the Eau Claire River Watershed. (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, Kelsey Hyland)

A farm open house highlighting automated milking systems (AMS) was held for dairy producers. Many producers are interested in AMS currently as they help address labor shortages, distribution of labor and working conditions for farmers. Understanding AMS will help producers make better decisions addressing critical labor and management issues on their farm that affect profitability. (Matt Lippert, Carolina Pinzon-Sanchez, Doug Reinemann, Nesli Akdeniz Onuki, Stephanie Bowers)

A day-long workshop focused on watershed planning as part of the statewide Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention, where participants learned the basics of watershed planning, as well as tools to help them in their individual planning efforts, all to help in the creation of more comprehensive watershed management plans around the state. (Daniel Zerr, Eric Olson, Katy Bradford, Sara Windjue, Whitney Passint)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- MAY 14** We Cope Zoom
- MAY 22** Badger Crop Connect
- JUNE 6-9** Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire 4-H Base & Outpost Camp
- JUNE 12** Badger Crop Connect