

Agriculture

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Regional Dairy Educator - This position is currently vacant

Jerry Clark | Regional Crops & Soils Educator



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.

An on-farm study to better understand industrial hemp fiber and grain performance related to varieties, effect of planting date, tillage treatments, and nitrogen application rates. Results from this study will help hemp growers select better performing varieties and optimize economic return to nitrogen to increase sustainable hemp production and farm profitability.

An on-farm study to better understand malting barley variety performance and the effect of potassium and sulfur application rates on barley yield. Results from this study will help barley growers in that they can implement and adapt barley variety selection and potassium management practices to optimize economic return and improve variety selection in more sustainable barley production and farm profitability.

An on-farm study to better understand winter malting barley variety performance on barley yield and grain quality. Results from this study will help barley growers in that they can implement and adapt winter barley variety selection to optimize economic return and improve variety selection in more sustainable barley production and farm profitability.

A leadership program presentation for business and industry leaders in Dunn County where leaders learned of the economic impact of Dunn County and Chippewa Valley agriculture to increase awareness and understanding of the local agricultural industry. The goal of the presentation as an invited speaker was to increase awareness of the economic, social, and environmental impact of the agricultural industry.



Menomonee Sunrise Rotary President Brian Seguin presents a certificate of a book donation to UW-Madison Extension Regional Crops and Soils Educator Jerry Clark.

Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator



Two vegetable container garden programs for participating seniors in StrongBodies where they learned strategies for successful container gardening and wellness benefits, we gain through gardening. This effort is designed to encourage people of all ages to garden for wellness and food, even if space, time and/or mobility is limited. (Partnered with Sandy Tarter, Chippewa, Dunn & Eau Claire Counties & Mary Hoeft-Leithold, La Crosse County)

A presentation for the Bloomer Garden Club on landscaping for birds where participants learned the value of creating ecological niches to support bird populations, especially backyard species that are experiencing significant declines. This effort is to encourage individuals to adopt gardening practices that support bird habitat and health throughout the year.

An activity to plant a native flower garden for the public at the Obey Interpretive Center, Chippewa Moraine State Recreation Area. This effort offers the 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.

An activity to plant several raised beds with Boys & Girls Club-Menomonie where participants receive hands-on experience to grow and care for plants and learn basic gardening skills. The goal of this effort is to teach kids techniques and strategies to successfully grow crops that will be used for their summertime programming.

Hands-on container garden workshop for the public where attendees learned strategies to successfully grow vegetables in containers and planted their own containers to take home. This effort is designed to encourage people of all ages to garden for wellness and to grow their own food, even if space, time and/or mobility is limited.



Horticulture Educator Margaret Murphy facilitates a vegetable garden workshop

Community Development

Garret Zastoupil | Community Development Educator



Garret joined Area 6 Extension after serving as an Assistant Professor of Sustainable Rural Economic Development at Northland College in Ashland, WI. His previous research and teaching have focused on building inclusive and sustainable communities. This has included business development, nonprofit management, workforce development, housing, recreation, and energy. Since joining the team, he presented at the Wisconsin Rural Partners annual summit in Ashland, WI on trends and opportunities for rural communities in Northern Wisconsin. More to come!

Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter
FoodWise Coordinator



Joy Weisner
FoodWise Educator



Jael M. Wolf
Bilingual FoodWise Educator



A 2-lesson series with young adult participants of Life Without Limits-a community-based program that works with high school students qualifying for individualized special education services that extends beyond the high school experience. This effort expands their knowledge of nutrition, food waste and food preparation skills.

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.

Extension Eau Claire County

May 2024 Report

A 2-lesson nutrition education series with Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association Building Bridges middle and high school teens in Menomonie and Eau Claire. This effort helps teens become more aware of MyPlate guidelines, food safety, and builds on food preparation skills for greater independence.

A series of strength training sessions (StrongBodies) for adults in the community, where participants engage in regular, progressive strength training and health education to improve their physical and mental health and enhance social connectedness. FoodWise helps to lead the Tues/Thurs 9:00 am virtual class.

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.

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 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 Chippewa Valley Builders Association 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.

A collaboration with Affinity House, a women's inpatient or transitional residential treatment facility, to implement a site food garden. This effort will support the learning of food resource management in the growing, harvest, preparation, and storage of garden produce. Produce will be used in FoodWise nutrition education lessons.

"This online strong bodies course is spectacular. It's such a gift. I hope it runs continually."

"My instructor encouraged me to join strong bodies and I believe it has saved my life!"

~StrongBodies Participants

Margo Dieck | Health and Well-Being Educator



Planning for a six-week lunch and learn WeCOPE series to be prepared to offer the program state-wide in May and June, so that participants can learn how to connect with their positive emotions and reduce overall stress.

A six-week WeCOPE series starting in May to help adults cope with stress & difficult times. This effort has been shown to reduce stress and depression, increase positive affect, and improve healthy behaviors. Managing life's challenges in healthy ways allows participants to take better care of themselves and others.

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Extension Eau Claire County

May 2024 Report

Planning for a Professional Quality of Life (ProQOL) presentation series to be prepared to present in June to employees of a large county organization and a 10-county consortium. The goal of this effort is that participants can learn about the positive and negative aspects of helping professions, take the ProQOL screener, and work within their organization and Extension for future programming to improve their professional quality of life.

Coordinating the connection of Eau Claire agencies serving Hmong elders where individuals and agencies come together to build relationships and address needs and opportunities for partnership and collaboration. This effort helps to improve physical activity, food insecurity, and social connectedness among Hmong elders, as well as bridge gaps in transportation needs.

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

Positive Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator



Tabling event at the Hmong Youth Day Festival where we interacted with young people and their parents to promote 4-H as an opportunity and build relationships with the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association.

Planning for Summer 4-H Camps that is a collaboration between Eau Claire, Dunn, and Clark County 4-H staff. The goal of the program is to provide a positive camp experience that will increase the feeling of belonging for both volunteers, counselors, and youth participants.

An intern onboarding program where we onboarded our summer interns to introduce Extension, basics of positive youth development theory, and communicate expectations of the intern positions.

Planning for a camp orientation meeting for families where we will help explain how camp works and answer questions so that participants will have a better experience.



Rachel Hart-Brinson, Zac Rozmierek, and Jordan Blue - Tabling event at the Hmong Youth Day Festival where we interacted with young people and their parents to promote 4-H as an opportunity and built relationships with the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association.

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

Assistance was provided in planting new hybrids at the Wisconsin Cranberry Research Station, which experience will inform future outreach efforts. (Allison Jonjak)

A Virtual Brown Bag was held featuring crop stage and insect updates with Ocean Spray's Senior Agricultural Scientist, fruit quality and PAC measurements with USDA's Shinya Ikeda, and the EPA Bulletins Live Two system for complying with the Endangered Species Act. (Allison Jonjak)

Direct grower questions were answered regarding high soil sulfur levels concurrent with high soil pH—due to several growers experiencing these results this year, additional outreach work will be developed. (Allison Jonjak)

A Wisconsin Cranberry Research and Education Foundation meeting was held to continue progress on the development of the Wisconsin Cranberry Research Station. (Allison Jonjak)

A Women Leadership in Agriculture panel was held with Under Secretary Alexis Taylor, bringing together several cranberry leaders as well as grazing, dairy, potato, and vegetable leaders for a round table discussion informing trade/export issues. (Allison Jonjak)

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

Extension Eau Claire County

May 2024 Report

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

6-9

Base and Outpost Camp

JUNE

17-20

Fiber Arts 4-H with ESASD