

## Agriculture

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**Jerry Clark | Regional Crops & Soils Educator**



A field event for farmers and industry and agency professionals where participants viewed and learned the benefits and challenges of inter-seeding alfalfa with corn silage to increase seasonal forage production, soil conservation, and farm profitability.

A field event for farmers where participants learned production and marketing strategies for winter barley and winter rye to increase cropping system flexibility, soil conservation, and potential farm profitability.

An on-farm research study for farmers, agriculture industry and agency professionals where manure application and nitrogen credits will be evaluated to better understand the effect of corn yield to validate current nitrogen rates and manure credits for corn production and protect ground and surface water quality.

### \*\*SPOTLIGHT

Farmers are seeking alternative crops to add to their corn and soybean rotations to minimize crop inputs. A field event was held to discuss winter barley and winter rye production practices. An on-farm research project is being conducted to evaluate winter barley varieties. Farmers learned about agronomic recommendations and marketing opportunities and challenges with production of winter barley. Discussion focused on planting dates, seeding rates, crop protection, and harvest to produce quality barley for the malting industry. Information was provided about winter rye and winter barley as cover crops with production for grain production was also discussed. Twenty-two varieties are being evaluated as part of an on-farm research project. Regional educators leading discussion were Becky Brathal, Barron, Pierce, and St. Croix counties and Jerry Clark, Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire counties. All farmers indicated they increased their knowledge of growing winter barley and management of winter rye. A news story was developed from the field event.



UW-Extension agriculture educator Jerry Clark shows off a test crop of winter barley. A test plot with a variety of winter barley and winter rye has been planted to see which strains will produce the best yields and qualities.

**Regional Dairy Educator**

This position is currently vacant

## Horticulture

**Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator**

A UW- Madison Extension booth at a free event to promote June Dairy Month and National Pollinator Week for the public where pollinator-based information was provided for participants to learn the value of creating

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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.

An article on the ruby throated hummingbird published in the Extension in the Valley, tri-county monthly newsletter that focuses on Agriculture and Horticulture news, where participants learned landscaping ideas to support hummingbirds plus, received links to current garden and pest topics as well as upcoming events. This effort is designed to keep participants connected to current horticulture matters.

A program to create clay pot bird baths for people living with dementia and their care partners to create a space to view backyard birds. This effort offers hands-on experience to encourage the use of fine motor skills, offer a sense of fulfillment, stimulate the senses and connect participants to nature.

A tour of a native plant pollinator garden and a native plant rain garden for the public where pollinator and native plant information was provided for participants. This effort is to encourage individuals to adopt gardening practices that support pollinator habitat and health throughout the year.

Planning a 5-week garden program for youth. The goal of this effort is to teach best practices in the garden through hands-on activities, promote cultural connections with plants, instill life-long healthy eating habits and to foster connections to nature.

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.

### **\*\*SPOTLIGHT**

Responded to a request from the Center Director of the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley-Menomonie to develop a winter garden-based program for youth. Research supports the mental, emotional, social and physical benefits that gardening provides children. This program together with a continuing summer program helps provide hands-on experience for kids to learn best practices in gardening. Developed monthly, hands-on activities for youth to participate in while learning gardening skills and information about plants and plant needs. I engage with participants to help them with tasks, answer questions and ask for their input regarding future gardening endeavors.

## Community Development

Garret Zastoupil | Community Development Educator



I have been meeting with a variety of governmental and nonprofit agencies to understand community needs, assets, and opportunities as I build my program of work.

I attended the Rural Partners Network state-wide federal workshop for rural partners designed to bring community representatives together to foster progress through community action. The all-day workshop included panel discussions and activities that included actions being taken to foster more and more financially accessible rural housing, economic development, and healthcare. The Director

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of Human Services for Dunn County, myself, and the Dunn County Human Development & Relationships Educator were invited by Rural Partners Network and the United States Department of Agriculture to attend this workshop. The workshop itself showcased the availability of federal and state funds that can help rural counties move forward in areas including housing.

I have held exploratory meetings with Tianna Glenna, Director of Criminal Justice Services for Eau Claire County to prepare a strategic planning process for the Criminal Justice Collaborating Council (CJCC). I will be meeting with the Executive Committee next month to further refine the planning exercise structure. I have conducted background research on CJCC structures and sought guidance from UW-Madison experts and federal resources.

I attended the County Officials Workshop Sponsored by the Local Government Education Program of UW-Madison Division of Extension and Wisconsin Counties Association.



Colleagues interested in increasing rural housing gather for a photo at the Rural Partners Network Workshop, in Rothschild, Wisconsin on June 13, 2024.

## Health & Well-Being

**Sandy Tarter**  
FoodWise Coordinator



**Joy Weisner**  
FoodWise Educator



**Jael M. Wolf**  
Bilingual FoodWise Educator



A 6-week series with Boys and Girls Club Youth at the North River Fronts Kids Garden in collaboration with the Master Gardener Volunteers. This effort integrates nutrition education with gardening and aims to increase exposure to fruits and vegetables by tending a garden, help youth learn parts of the plants, and provide tasting of a variety of fruits and vegetables.

A conference with multiple youth-serving organizations to advance understanding of local data related to youth health disparities, assess data gaps, and available organizations. This effort will contribute to initiatives that address the priority of youth connectedness in our community.

Meeting with Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association Elder Advocate to discuss their program, build relationships, and plan culturally relevant programming. This effort will enhance the elders' understanding of nutrition related to fruits and vegetables along with proper handling and storage. Direct Education to take place in September.

A meeting with Eau Claire Health Alliance - Chronic Disease Prevention Action Team to discuss current projects and community initiatives. This effort supports the Lake Street Farmers Market and includes the Rural Eau Claire

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County Food Environment Project to gain more knowledge about the food environment in rural Eau Claire County.

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.

### **\*\*SPOTLIGHT**

The North River Fronts Kids Garden has been in existence for 18 years. FoodWise collaborates with the Eau Claire Master Gardener Volunteers to provide garden and nutrition education to the Boys and Girls Club youth each summer. Overall wear and tear along with weather impact has broken down the raised beds. FoodWise submitted a garden grant application with details of partners, work to be done, budgeting, and plan to include the community. The funding was secured for work to be started summer to fall 2024 after the direct education was completed. More specific impacts to come but overall, this work will ensure the Kids Garden to continue for many years.

### **Margo Dieck | Health and Well-Being Educator**



Planning for a presentation on the Professional Quality of Life (ProQOL) screener for staff employed by the Eau Claire County Department of Human Services and the Great Rivers Consortium. The goal is to assess staff wellbeing after pandemic-era work in the realm of compassion satisfaction and compassion fatigue so that the two agencies can better support staff mental health and wellbeing.

Participation and membership in the United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley's (UWGCV) Health Advisory Council, which consists of community leaders and local professionals with expertise and/or interest in health, with particular focus on the top issues identified in the Community Health Assessment. The Advisory Council's guides impact efforts in the Chippewa Valley by identifying community needs and supporting efforts to achieve the UWGCV Bold Goal.

### **\*\*SPOTLIGHT**

Responded to a request from the Director of the Eau Claire County Department of Human Services and the Economic Support Consortium Administrator of the Great Rivers Consortium to provide a presentation on professional quality of life to staff, administer the Professional Quality of Life (ProQOL) screener with staff, and talk about long-term partnership goals.

### Positive Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator



*A camp orientation meeting where families could see pictures of what camp will look like and ask questions. We hoped that this meeting would help provide a sense of belonging for participating families and youth and reduce anxiety associated with a sleepaway camp experience.*

*An Outpost Camp experience where high school 4-Hers helped lead activities for youth participants in grades 7-9. This event was to provide an opportunity for campers to try new things, work collaboratively, make new friends, and experience sleeping outdoors.*

*4-H Summer Base camp at Kamp Kenwood where high school 4-Hers helped lead a sleepaway camp experience where youth in grades 3-6 tried new things, made new friends, and participated in a variety of activities.*

*A fiber arts camp in partnership with the Eau Claire Area School District where we practiced weaving techniques and sewed a simple bag. This was an opportunity for youth interested in fiber arts to learn new skills and explore their spark of fiber arts.*

*A New Family Orientation meeting with a virtual option to support new families in understanding the relationship to the Eau Claire County Fair, how to fill out record books, and answer questions about the Eau Claire County 4-H Program.*

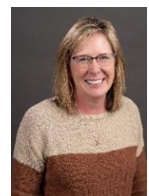
*Planning for a series of Day Camps for cloverbuds and youth in grades 3-5 has begun in collaboration with Dunn, Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties. The goal is to allow the youth to explore sparks and allow non-4-H members to learn about the program, so that they will become involved or more involved with 4-H.*

#### **\*\*SPOTLIGHT**

*Day Camps have not been offered for the past few years. During my Needs Assessment, I saw that day camps were wanted in the county. I recruited the help of the other county 4-H Educators and interns. Then we began to pick dates and times for the camps. We are in the process of finding locations, picking themes and planning activities. We hope that more people will be aware of 4-H through these day camps. We also hope that current members are more engaged in the program. Finally, we hope to offer hands-on education to the participants.*

### 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.*

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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

A Badger Talks speech was given in Janesville in support of the UW Alumni Association and their Taste of Wisconsin program for UW's 175th Anniversary. (Allison Jonjak)

A fungicide 80% bloom application was made in support of the Plant Pathology program, to determine products, rates, and use patterns that may support Wisconsin growers in protecting cranberries from disease while reducing the risk of resistance. (Allison Jonjak, Leslie Holland)

A University of Wisconsin-Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association introduction day was planned and held. The new Executive Director was introduced to five administrators/deans within UW, and toured the labs of eight researchers, to establish rapport and understanding to continue to keep research partnerships strong. (Allison Jonjak, Amaya Atucha, Anne Pfeiffer, Heidi Johnson, Jed Colquhoun, Leslie Holland, Megan Sankey)

A Wisconsin Cranberry Research & Education Foundation meeting was held to review building progress on the new machine shop, development of the planting of the 9 new acres of hybrid vines, and to introduce the new WSCGA Executive Director to all members of the Wisconsin Cranberry Research and Education Foundation. (Allison Jonjak)

A Women in Agriculture and Foreign Trade for Wisconsin Specialty Crops meeting was held with USDA Under Secretary Alexis Taylor, at the Wisconsin Cranberry Research Station. The purpose of the meeting was to familiarize Under Secretary Taylor with women in Wisconsin Specialty Crop Agriculture, and to strengthen relationships across grazing, cranberries, potatoes, dairy, carrots, beef, and other specialty crops. (Allison Jonjak)

Grower questions were answered on moss control, black headed fireworm pheromone trap timing, sulfur and pH applications, bloom progression, and how to obtain a honeybee hive inspection, among others. (Allison Jonjak, Jed Colquhoun)

#### **\*\*SPOTLIGHT**

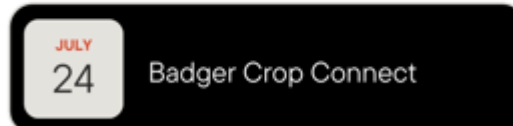
An interview with Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine and the WSCGA was given to improve DNR understanding of cranberry growth and to support public outreach. A Badger Talks speech was given in Janesville in support of the UW Alumni Association and their Taste of Wisconsin program for UW's 175th Anniversary. A Badger Talks speech was given in Janesville in support of the UW Alumni Association and their Taste of Wisconsin program for UW's 175th Anniversary.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS



JULY  
24 Badger Crop Connect

Click [here](#) to register