

Agriculture

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Jerry Clark | Regional Crops & Soils Educator



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.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

Farmers continue to adjust cropping systems in reaction to commodity prices and soil management needs. Local craft brewers are seeking local raw ingredients for their beer products. Spring barley varieties meeting malt quality can bring up twice the market price as conventional barley. The research was funded by the American Malting Barley Association. Two spring malting barley on-farm field research plots are being planted for 2024. One study investigates eleven spring barley varieties to measure disease resistance and yield. The other project is the final year of a fertility study to investigate different potassium and sulfur application rates to determine if the rates have an influence on barley malt quality. The fertility study is a randomized, complete block design with four replications. Potassium rates are 20, 40, and 60 pounds per acre alone and combined with sulfur rates of 20 pounds/acre. Soil test potassium levels were low indicating a potential response to potassium. One treatment was an untreated check. The variety performance trial is a randomized, complete block design with four replications. 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 Chippewa County July 2024 Report New experimental varieties from Oregon State, University of Minnesota, and Cornell University, were provided for the study. Data will be added to an existing database and a full report will hopefully be available in January. Future plans include using the data in presentations, workshops, development of factsheets, and topic hub articles. A peer-reviewed journal article is also planned if accepted in 2025.

Regional Livestock Educator

This position is currently [posted](#)

Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator



Provided garden articles published in the Extension in the Valley, tri-county monthly newsletter that focuses on Agriculture and Horticulture news, where participants learned about harvesting summer fruit in the garden, disorders of tomatoes and soldier beetles. Links to UW Madison Extension factsheets on relevant concerns were also provided. This effort is designed to keep participants connected to current horticulture matters.

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. Total Reach: 655 email recipients 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.

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 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 Pollinator-based garden activity at Area 6 County Fairs for the public where information on pollinators and their conservation was provided. This effort is to encourage individuals to adopt gardening practices that support pollinator habitat and health throughout the year.

A garden program for youth where participants learned about what garden plants need to grow successfully and how each part of the plant has an important function. This effort was designed to help kids become more engaged with the plants they are growing with better understanding of how plants work and how best to tend them.

A program on herb gardening for the public where participants learned how to grow select culinary herbs. This effort was designed to encourage people to garden with herbs and create a garden that both stimulates the senses and provides fresh herbs to add healthy, low calorie, flavor to meals. Extension based information on cooking with herbs was included.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

An event to promote Pollinator Week and promote awareness of the need to support pollinators year-round with native landscaping. Led a tour, answered questions and provided information on plant choices and landscape design.

Community Development

Garret Zastoupil | Community Development Educator



Met with Local Government and Nonprofit Partners to understand needs and opportunities within Eau Claire County.

Hosted two educational sessions with City of Altoona Administrators to understand the Community Land Trusts and Design Charrettes program.

Attended Shared Equity Training Program in Richland Center to develop expertise in Community Land Trusts, Deed Restricted Housing, and Cooperative Housing models to build lasting affordable housing.

Presented Strategic Planning Process Proposal for Criminal Justice Collaborating Committee (CJCC) Executive Committee. Finalized outline for Criminal Justice Collaborating Committee Strategic Planning Process with Tiana Glenna.

Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter
FoodWise Coordinator



Joy Weisner
FoodWise Educator



Jael M. Wolf
Bilingual FoodWise Educator



A 6-lesson series at Lakeshore Elementary with 3rd and 4th grade youth. This collaboration with Master Gardener volunteers provides youth with garden and nutrition education around the Growing Healthy Kids curriculum.

Planning for a teen nutrition series in collaboration with Northwest Journey, a day treatment program for children and adolescents offering comprehensive intervention and preventative services aimed at preventing out-of-home placements, transitioning back from placements, and creating family stability.

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.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

The North River Fronts Kids Garden Program has been a collaboration with Boys and Girls Club, Master Gardener Volunteers, Eau Claire City Parks and Recreation, and FoodWise for over 18 years. Each summer, boys and girls from 2nd - 5th grades come to the garden from Monday to Thursday respectively for a 6-week series. We have the capacity to host up to 20 youth each day at the garden. Youth have time to spend in the garden learning all aspects of growing fruits and vegetables including planting, weeding, watering, and harvesting. Youth

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also join FoodWise to learn about MyPlate nutrition, parts of the plants we eat, and have a delicious taste based on fruits and veggies grown in the garden. Boys and Girls Club youth and staff have enjoyed several tastings such as berry and spinach smoothies, pesto pasta, caprese salad skewer, stir fry, carrot-jicama-orange salad, rhubarb and strawberry compote over vanilla yogurt...highlighting garden harvest as it is ready. Extra harvest is sent back with the youth at the end of lessons.

Margo Dieck | Health and Well-Being Educator



Development of a draft of the 2025-2027 Community Health Improvement plan in collaboration with the Eau Claire Health Alliance. The goal of this plan is to identify community health priorities for the next three years and create community-led goals for actionable change.

A workshop for Eau Claire County Department of Human Services staff where participants learned about professional quality of life, contributing factors of compassion satisfaction and compassion fatigue, and completed the Professional Quality of Life (ProQOL) survey. The goal of this effort was to provide participants with their individual survey score and to build department wide efforts to reduce burnout, secondary traumatic stress and improve compassion satisfaction. Total reach: 171 staff members

A workshop for economic support staff over a 10-county region where participants learned about professional quality of life, contributing factors of compassion satisfaction and compassion fatigue, and completed the Professional Quality of Life (ProQOL) survey. The goal of this effort was to provide participants with their individual survey score and to build department wide efforts to reduce burnout, secondary traumatic stress and improve compassion satisfaction. Total reach: 130 staff members

A partnership summit with community support organizations, where Extension resources, programs, and needs assessment data was shared with participants to identify community needs, brainstorm solutions, set goals, and establish an action plan. The goal of this effort was to improve how efficiently and effectively families are connected to necessary services.

Attended the Naming and Framing for Public Deliberation Training (Deliberative Inquiry), provided by the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service (WIPPS), the Wisconsin Institute for Citizenship and Civil Dialogue (WICCD), the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, and UW-Madison Division of Extension's Health and Well-Being Institute. The goal is to expand my individual training, capacity, and professional development to increase the public deliberation methods available for coalition and community-based work in Eau Claire County.

A 6-week program, WeCOPE, for adults where participants learn 11 self-care and coping skills. The goal of this effort is to reduce stress and symptoms of depression, increase positive affect, and improve healthy behaviors.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted service provision and service professionals were impacted by how services were administered, learning and relearning policy changes, and delivering both good and bad news to clients served. The Eau Claire County Department of Human Services leadership team wanted to formally assess the health of staff by using the Professional Quality of Life (ProQOL) scale. In continued partnership with

the DHS leadership team, we will use aggregated data for future planning and decision making to help find ways to maximize the positive aspects and reduce negative aspects of helping.

Positive Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator



Activity stations at the Eau Claire County Fair where youth volunteers led build-a-boat, Lego challenge, cookie decorating, make butter, build spoon catapults, and oobleck stations for fairgoers. This activity was to provide youth leadership experience as well as promote the 4-H program to the public. Total Reach: We had 175 young people participate in the activities and at least 75 adults engage in at least one of the stations.



A scavenger hunt activity for the Eau Claire County Fair where youth up to 19 could enter a completed sheet and enter a drawing for a shake or malt from the Dairy Shack food stand. This activity promoted seeing a variety of exhibits and provided a fun activity for families to engage in.

A succulent and terracotta workshop at the Altoona Public Library where teen participants learned about terracotta, decorated pots, and planted succulents.

A 4-day baking club where participants spend each day exploring different baking techniques and flavors including scones and biscuits, cupcakes and frosting, refrigerator cookies, fresh fruit tarts, soft pretzels, and pizza dough.

The summer interns in Eau Claire and Dunn counties planned a series of Day Camps for cloverbuds and youth in grades 3-5. These day camps will allow youth to explore sparks and provide exposure to the program for non-4-H members, as well as have participants try new things, make friends, and build relationships with Extension Educators and summer interns. The three-day series included themes of "wilderness explorers," "mad scientists," and "plants and growth" for the K-2 age group and "game makers," "Lego mechanics," and "tie-dye funk" for the 3-5 graders. Each day was in one of the three counties and participants could register for one or all the experiences in their age group.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

Day Camps have not been offered for a 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. We held a series in July and will have another series in August.

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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.

For a full list of upcoming events throughout Extension, click [here](#)