

Agriculture

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Jerry Clark | Regional Crops & Soils Educator



A field event for farmers where participants learned management strategies to limit nitrogen application rates to increase farm profitability and protect groundwater resources.

A field event for farmers where participants learned alternative weed management strategies to reduce herbicide resistance risk and increase farm profitability.

A UW-Madison Extension horticulture information booth at the Chippewa County Farm Technology Days for the public where participants had the opportunity to ask horticulture questions and take-home information on current pests and diseases, native plants and the beneficial impacts of plants and gardening on our health and wellbeing. This effort was to raise awareness of the services and information available to the public through the regional and state horticulture programs.

Program Spotlight

Farmers are seeking alternative weed control management strategies as risk to herbicide resistant weeds is increasing. Electric weed control is a new alternative to managing herbicide resistant weeds and hard to control weeds that escape traditional herbicide applications. Farmers learned about alternative weed management strategies in soybeans during a field event. A demonstration of electric weed control equipment was highlighted as a method of grass and broadleaf weed management. I presented information about grass and broadleaf physiology and how electric weed control impacts weed growth and development. Discussion about impact of weed control on corn and soybean yield was also discussed. Sixteen farmers and agronomy professionals attended the event. A post-meeting evaluation was conducted. All attendees increased their understanding of electric weed control. Ninety percent of participants increased their knowledge of the impact of weed control on corn and soybean yield. A newspaper ran a featured story on the event.

https://www.leadertelegram.com/country-today/farm/crops/uw-madison-extension-holds-electric-weed-control-demonstration-in-chippewa-county/article_02e7b816-4a93-11ef-931f-032047e713f6.html

Regional Livestock Educator

This position is currently posted <https://jobs.wisc.edu/jobs/regional-livestock-educator-chippewa-dunn-eau-claire-counties-eau-claire-wisconsin-united-states>

Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator



A lunch tour of a native plant demonstration garden for the public where participants had the opportunity to explore the garden, ask questions and get take-home information on native gardens and pollinators. This effort is to encourage individuals to include native plantings in their home landscape and adopt gardening practices that support pollinator habitat and health throughout the year.

An activity for families where participants walked through a field of native prairie to explore signs of animal usage of the habitat and to learn about the native prairie ecosystem. This effort was designed to increase awareness on the importance of native prairies and the community of fauna they support.

A garden program for youth where participants learned about herbs, how to grow them, what value they add to the garden and how they can be used as a sensory experience. This effort was designed to help kids become more engaged with growing plants that both stimulate the senses and provide the family with fresh herbs to add healthy, low calorie, flavor to meals.

An activity for youth where participants engaged in pollinator-based activities and games to learn more about pollinators and how to support them. This effort was designed to increase awareness about the importance of pollinators and their conservation.

A UW-Madison Extension horticulture information booth at the Chippewa County Farm Technology Days for the public where participants had the opportunity to ask horticulture questions and take-home information on current pests and diseases, native plants and the beneficial impacts of plants and gardening on our health and wellbeing. This effort was to raise awareness of the services and information available to the public through the regional and state horticulture programs.

Program Spotlight

I receive increasing inquiries from homeowners about adding native plants or creating a native prairie garden in their landscape and this provided an opportunity to explore an established prairie and discuss the wide-ranging faunal community this ecosystem supports. Did a combination field walk and scavenger hunt to engage participants. Provided information on prairies, native plants, pollinators and answered questions.

Community Development

Garret Zastoupil | Community Development Educator



Presented an overview of the Criminal Justice Collaborating Council (CJCC) Strategic Planning Process to the whole board. Began conducting interviews with CJCC board members to inform the strategic plan.

Meeting with local stakeholders in the nonprofit and local government sectors to inform future programming and Extension Offerings.

Developing a system map of homelessness services in the City of Eau Claire to support ongoing community response.

Connected local stakeholders with statewide extension educators Bill Oemichen (Eau Claire County), Karl Green (City of Eau Claire) to plan future programming and provide technical assistance.

Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter
FoodWise Coordinator



Joy Weisner
FoodWise Educator

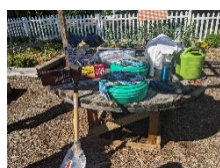


Jael M. Wolf
Bilingual FoodWise Educator



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 collaboration with Eau Claire Master Gardener Volunteers, Boys and Girls Club, Eau Claire City Parks and Recreation, and Chippewa Valley Builders Association to implement the FoodWise Garden Grant program. This effort replaced 6 raised beds and widened pathways for accessibility in the North River Fronts Kids Garden along with providing garden supplies, trellises, tarp, and tools. <https://www.weau.com/2024/08/19/kids-help-update-downtown-garden/>



A 4-lesson series at Affinity House, a residential care treatment program, covering MyPlate, food waste, gut health, reading nutrition labels, meal prepping, and understanding sugar content in drinks. This effort helps women to plan and prepare healthy meals while learning to stretch their food dollars.

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.

Nutrition lesson to teens at Northwest Journey, a community-based day treatment program offering therapeutic support services for children, adolescents, and families transitioning back to the community from out-of-home placements. This effort helped teens understand the importance of healthy eating and provided time for them to make and eat a healthy snack.



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Extension Eau Claire County

August 2024 Report

Planning for the Great Apple Crunch 2024 for FoodWise eligible schools in collaboration with Eau Claire Health Alliance- Chronic Disease Prevention Action Team. The goal is to promote eating healthy fruit and bring awareness to the Great Apple Crunch resources so that there may be more community involvement including local apple growers.

FoodWise staff participate in monthly EC Health Alliance- Chronic Disease Prevention meetings and initiatives. They also attended the following training: Safe Systems: Increasing Physical Activity Through Community Design in States & Communities.

Program Spotlight

A 4-lesson series provided quarterly at Affinity House, a residential care treatment program, covering MyPlate, food waste, gut health, reading nutrition labels, meal prepping, and understanding sugar content in drinks. This effort helps women to plan and prepare healthy meals while learning to stretch their food dollars. Affinity House is a Lutheran Social Services residential care facility that offers women comprehensive substance use treatment. They requested FoodWise to share information that will add health and wellness to their recovery. FoodWise offers a 4-lesson nutrition education series quarterly on a range of topics that include but not limited to utilizing MyPlate nutrition principles, gut health, food waste, stretching produce, meal prepping, reading nutrition labels, understanding sugar in drinks and impacts on health. In summer 2024, FoodWise supported the residents planting a garden and subsequent lessons included that produce as able. Each class involved a taste test and offered recipe preparation based on participant voting during the last 3 lessons. Many residents engaged in both the lessons and in planting the garden. This effort helps to support the learning of food resource management in the harvest, preparation, and storage of garden produce. Participants learn of the impact good nutrition has on their health which supports them in the recovery process from substance use. They also are more knowledgeable about stretching their food dollars when living on their own.

Margo Dieck | Health and Well-Being Educator



Preparing for Professional Quality of Life (ProQOL) programming for Eau Claire County Department of Human Services (DHS) staff in collaboration with the Eau Claire County DHS leadership team. The goal of this effort is to provide staff with professional development opportunities to reduce compassion fatigue and increase compassion satisfaction.



Tabling at Farm Technology Days to bring awareness to the WeCOPE program and share resources Extension has to offer with the public (photo).

Attended the Strengthening Communities Through Coalitions training provided by UW-Madison Division of Extension Youth and Family Health Department. The goal is to expand my individual training, capacity, and professional development to increase the models and frameworks, facilitation methods, and types of evaluation available for coalition and community-based work in Eau Claire County.

Met with two agencies in effort to better understand the mental health landscape in Eau Claire County and the Chippewa Valley.

Program Spotlight

Responded to an ask from the Lead Community Impact Director of the United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley to join the Health Advisory Council. The Advisory Councils are active workgroups of volunteers established by United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley to set priorities, implement strategies, and evaluate results related to the Community Impact Initiatives.

Positive Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator



Rachel held an Annual Financial Report Review Night where she went over the required paperwork and club leaders and youth treasurers answered questions and then reviewed each other's financial reports. This event helped leaders make sure that their submitted financial reports contained all the necessary pieces as well as provided reviewers for the reports since those are often difficult for leaders to find.

At Farm Technology Days, 4-H Program Staff and AmeriCorps Members from Pierce, Dunn, and Eau Claire Counties teamed up to host an engaging promotion event for Chippewa County youth and beyond. Attendees participated in hands-on learning activities, sparking curiosity and excitement while building connections with local 4-H programs. This event was a fantastic opportunity to inspire new membership and strengthen the 4-H community.

A promotional table at a community event (We Care Eau Claire) where staff explained the 4-H program to young people and their parents and provided an interactive activity. This effort aimed to increase visibility of our program in the wider community. There was so much interest, we ran out of brochures!

Cloverbud and Grade 3-5 Day Camp Series where 4-H members and non-members were invited to participate in day camps located in each of Area 6's counties. This series provided an opportunity for youth who completed grades K-2 to make new friends, try new things, and build relationships with summer interns and 4-H Educators. Day camp topics included Zookeeper, Leatherwork, Olympics, and more.

An activity booth at the city of Eau Claire's National Night Out event. This outreach effort promoted 4-H to the public and we also provided opportunities to engage in hands-on-learning. Youth could make a popsicle and plastic spoon catapult and make butter from cream.

Rachel participated as part of a panel presentation at the Play, Make, Learn conference in Madison, WI where a group of professors and myself shared our weaving programming successes and next steps. This presentation allowed audience members to learn about virtual weaving programs and how they can incorporate both art, math, and circuitry in a weaving program.



Program Spotlight

I partnered with Marianne Fairbanks, a UW-Madison professor of design, to provide virtual weaving programs incorporating exploration of color, fibers, and technology as part of a Baldwin grant in 2023. We had an enthusiastic response to the program. I am in the process of developing curriculum for further exploration of

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weaving. Marianne submitted a panel presentation proposal, "Weaving Innovations," to the Play, Make, Learn conference organized by the UW-Madison department of curriculum and Instruction and asked me to be a part of it. The proposal was accepted. I, along with two professors from colleges outside of Wisconsin who do work with weaving and Marianne prepared a presentation that talked about the work we have done to increase access to weaving exploration. We created a presentation that highlighted our separate work. We presented to an audience of 25 people. Our presentation allowed the four of us to meet and learn about programming we are doing. I am interested in integrating conductive thread and circuits in some weaving programming in the future.

Value Added Programming

A Cranberry Summer Field Day was held, attracting 830+ growers, to share best practices in cranberry production as well as connect growers, researchers, and industry partners. Mini-Clinics on in-season stress detection, genetics, and biofertilizers were presented with UW as well as marsh tours with research inputs. (Allison Jonjak, Amaya Atucha, Leslie Holland)

Field observations were made at a 2023-2024 cycle Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Project to assess upright development and growth under 4 nitrogen timing regimens. (Allison Jonjak, Amaya Atucha)

A training session was held encouraging & educating a NOPP Outreach Specialist in her upcoming presentation on cranberry production. (Allison Jonjak, Lindsey Rushford)

A tour of the Warrens Cold Storage facility was conducted to understand alternative markets for cranberry growers. (Allison Jonjak)

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](#)