

### Agriculture

Lyssa Seefeldt | Regional Dairy Educator



Jerry Clark | Regional Crops & Soils Educator



*On-farm applied research projects for farmers and agricultural professionals where data and observations will provide unbiased information to help farmers make informed decisions.*

*A field day for farmers and agency personnel, where participants learned about crop production practices and research updates to increase farm profitability.*

*A research-based educational article for farmers, managers, employees, and agri-business professionals, where they will learn about utilizing a forage test to determine forage stability for dairy farms. The goal of the article is to help producers learn how reading a forage test can help determine how stable their stored forages are to increase business viability and environmental sustainability.*

*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.*

*An information table for the public at Chippewa County's Chippewa Strong Event where information on the positive impact plants have on various areas of our lives was offered. This effort is designed to increase awareness of the benefits of plants and how we can incorporate more plants in our lives.*

*Updating and adapting a risk and grain marketing curriculum into a more relevant format for use in-person, stand-alone educational videos, and an on-line course. This curriculum will assist beginning, organic and transitioning dairy farmers in identifying strengths and weaknesses of their business to assist them in making decisions that will improve their farm profitability.*

*Educational programming as part of a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant supporting underserved HMoob and marginalized small farmers in Western Wisconsin, where participants learn about the importance of food safety, soil health, and gain awareness of farm agencies and food-business resources. The goals are to reduce challenges and barriers to support and expand underserved HMoob farm operations through good agricultural practices and economic growth.*

*An all-day educational event for new farmers, part-time and full-time operators, low-income startups, graziers and non-graziers featuring guest speakers, farmer/local resources panel, commercial and agency exhibitors, and farmer-to-farmer networking with emphasis on grazing fundamentals, cattle stockmanship and handling facilities, wildlife and grazing ecology and future grazing opportunities and programs. The goal is for people to be able to make informed decisions about the pros and cons of grazing, and to meet other people with similar interests and goals related to grazing and pasture management.*

*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

## July 2023 Report

*A dairy production and management newsletter for farmers, managers, employees, and agribusiness professionals, where subscribers learned about dairy facilities and ventilation, reproduction, animal well-being, nutrition, and Extension dairy production and management resources. This effort was designed to provide a timely and reliable source of dairy management news and updates to help them improve farm business viability, environmental sustainability, and food safety through animal welfare.*

*A video series for food and farm business entrepreneurs, where participants develop the framework needed for effective food and ag entrepreneurship and relate to the resources, they need to be successful. This effort was designed to help participants assess their skills, assets, personalities, and/or networks to help decide about a business opportunity or new enterprise.*

## Community Development

Addison Vang | Community Development Educator



*A farmers market survey for Chippewa Valley to better understand market vendor and small farmer needs. The survey will be distributed during the peak summer farmers' market months and is designed to inform market decisions as well as understand the market's impact on the community food system.*

*Educational programming as part of a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant supporting underserved HMoob and marginalized small farmers in Western Wisconsin, where participants learn about the importance of food safety and soil health, and gain awareness of farm agencies and food-business resources. The goals are to reduce challenges and barriers to support and expand underserved HMoob farm operations through good agricultural practices and economic growth.*

## Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter  
FoodWise Coordinator



Joy Weisner  
FoodWise Nutrition Educator



Jael M. Wolf  
Bi-Lingual FoodWise Nutrition Educator



*A 6-week nutrition series at Lakeshore Elementary Kids' Garden. This effort will introduce youth to gardening, promote fresh produce, and provide an opportunity for youth to increase produce consumption.*

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# Extension Eau Claire County

## July 2023 Report

A 6-lesson series at River Heights Elementary with Boys and Girls Club of the Chippewa Valley-Menomonie. This effort will introduce youth to gardening, promote fresh produce, and provide opportunities for youth to increase produce consumption.

A 6-lesson series at the North River Fronts Kids' Garden with Boys and Girls Club of the Chippewa Valley-Eau Claire. This effort will introduce youth to gardening, promote fresh produce, and provide opportunities for youth to increase produce consumption.

Participation in Eau Claire Health Alliance with active support for the local chronic disease prevention action team. This effort will help guide objectives and strategies that support initiatives to help improve the health of residents.

Multiple meetings and emails with local partners to support our local farmers markets by implementing a new Farmers Market in Chippewa and plan for Market Match programs in Menomonie and Eau Claire Farmers Markets. This effort will help to improve food security with the development and implementation of a program for SNAP/FoodShare recipients to use benefits for food purchases.

A series of virtual statewide strength training sessions (StrongBodies) where older adults learn best practices along with nutrition and health education. Participants engage in regular strength training exercises to improve strength, balance, and flexibility so they can stay healthy and socially connected.



A bird's eye view of a circle of youth arms showing off their "un-beet-able" smoothies with umbrellas for a summertime drink that beats the heat.

## Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator



Planning a garden program for the public at a local community garden in collaboration with the Chippewa Falls Public Library. The goal of this effort is to teach participants how to identify and manage diseases and disorders that can affect tomatoes. Tomatoes are one of the most popular vegetables to grow in the home garden and providing guidance on proper management strategies is intended to increase awareness and adoption of environmentally-sound, best horticultural practices.

Planning a 6-week garden program for youth in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley Menomonie Center and FoodWise. The goal of this effort is to teach best practices in the garden through hands-on activities, promote life-long healthy eating habits and to foster connections to nature.

Planning a series of horticulture-based activities for people living with dementia and their care partners, offered in partnership with the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Eau Claire County Dementia Care Specialist. The goal of this effort is to offer hands-on, nature-inspired experiences that provide opportunities to stimulate participant's senses, enjoy social interactions, and provide physical activity while imparting a sense of purpose.

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# Extension Eau Claire County

## July 2023 Report

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*Planning a gardening series for the public in collaboration with the Chippewa Falls Public Library One Seed, One Wisconsin program. The goal of this effort is to demonstrate growing tomatoes from seed to harvest to teach and encourage people to try vegetable gardening.*

*Planning an educational garden for the public in collaboration with facilities at the Dunn County Government Building. The goal of the effort is to incorporate native plants into the garden for both beautification and an 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.*

*A vegetable and fruit container garden program for the Spring Series StrongBodies Chat for participating seniors where they learned about the benefits and ease of growing vegetables in containers. 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.*

*A community of practice for horticulture educators where we explore strategies and resources to expand horticulture education and outreach. The goal of participating in this group is to dig into ways we can locally continue to grow and enhance our horticulture programs to reach more diverse audiences.*

*A gardening program for beginners where participants learn the basics of vegetable gardening in containers. The goal of this effort was to teach participants techniques to successfully grow vegetables in containers and to encourage people to grow vegetables even when space and/or time is limited. Also, 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 garden presentation for AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program participants. The goal of this effort is to teach participants strategies to grow successful patio gardens and to encourage people of all ages to garden even when space is limited.*

*Planning a 6-week nature-based program for youth in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley – Chippewa Falls. The goal of this effort is to build nature connectedness and promote environmental literacy.*

## Human Development & Relationships

This position is currently vacant. Watch for the posting soon.

## Positive Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator



*Sample 4-H Program with the Eau Claire Area School District for grades 4-6 for four afternoons. Participants were offered a variety of activities to highlight different types of projects in 4-H such as cake decorating, sewing, coding, succulents, weaving, and natural science.*

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# Extension Eau Claire County

## July 2023 Report

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Sample 4-H Program with the Eau Claire Area School District for grades 7-9 for four afternoons. Participants were offered a variety of activities to highlight the different types of projects in 4-H. They included cake decorating, sewing, coding, weaving, and natural science.

4-Hers helped lead project activities at the Eau Claire County fair such as cookie decorating, wool soap felting, lego building, pompom launchers, bristlebots, and pinecone birdfeeders. This created engaging activities to showcase the 4-H program and provide opportunities for youth leadership for current 4-H members.

A scavenger hunt for youth and families at the Eau Claire County Fair where participants found a variety of different exhibits throughout the whole fairgrounds for a chance to win an ice cream shake. This opportunity was to provide an engaging activity that would build belonging for 4-H participants and give ideas for future 4-H projects.

### 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.

### Agriculture

Lyssa Seefeldt | Regional Dairy Educator



Jerry Clark | Regional Crops & Soils Educator



*A field day for farmers and agency personnel, where participants learned about new and emerging crops and production and research updates to increase farm profitability.*

*The North American Manure Expo where professional manure applicators increased awareness of new manure handling equipment, management, and research to apply manure more accurately and protect the environment.*

*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.*

*Updating and adapting a risk and grain marketing curriculum into a more relevant format for use in-person, stand-alone educational videos, and an on-line course. This curriculum will assist beginning, organic and transitioning dairy farmers in identifying strengths and weaknesses of their business to assist them in making decisions that will improve their farm profitability.*

*Planning for development of factsheets/articles, longer publications, and videos on nutrition, genetics, & reproduction topics. The goal of this effort is to increase farmers, nutritionists, veterinarians, and other agribusiness professionals' understanding of management of these topics to help improve farm sustainability and economic viability.*

*A video series for food and farm business entrepreneurs, where participants develop the framework needed for effective food and ag entrepreneurship and relate to the resources, they need to be successful. This effort was designed to help participants assess their skills, assets, personalities, and/or networks to help decide about a business opportunity or new enterprise.*

*An all-day educational event for new farmers, part-time and full-time operators, low-income startups, graziers and non-graziers featuring guest speakers, farmer/local resources panel, commercial and agency exhibitors, and farmer-to-farmer networking with emphasis on grazing fundamentals, cattle stockmanship and handling facilities, wildlife and grazing ecology and future grazing opportunities and programs. The goal is for people to be able to make informed decisions about the pros and cons of grazing, and to meet other people with similar interests and goals related to grazing and pasture management.*

*A dairy production and management newsletter for farmers, managers, employees, and agribusiness professionals, where subscribers learned about dairy facilities and ventilation, reproduction, animal well-being, nutrition, and Extension dairy production and management resources. This effort was designed to provide a timely and reliable source of dairy management news and updates to help them improve farm business viability, environmental sustainability, and food safety through animal welfare.*

### Community Development

Addison Vang | Community Development Educator



A farmers market survey for Chippewa Valley to better understand market vendor and small farmer needs. The survey will be distributed during the peak summer farmers market months and is designed to inform market decisions as well as understand the market's impact on the community food system.

Educational programming as part of a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant supporting underserved HMoob and marginalized small farmers in Western Wisconsin, where participants learn about the importance of food safety, soil health, and gain awareness of farm agencies and food-business resources. The goals are to reduce challenges and barriers to support and expand underserved HMoob farm operations through good agricultural practices and economic growth.

An educational program development on food truck/transient businesses to learn about the food businesses and basic food safety practices. Meeting with a state extension specialist on developing the program. The goal is to reduce challenges and barriers for food entrepreneurs to sell prepared foods in the Chippewa Valley.

The second year of a USDA grant developing a winter educational program to support Hmong and underserved farmers in the Chippewa Valley on the agricultural practices to support farm operations and profitability. Meet with partners from the state, non-profits, and extension specialists on developing the program. The goal is to reduce challenges and barriers and increase access to resources for direct farmers to support the food systems in the Chippewa Valley.

### Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter  
FoodWise Coordinator



Joy Weisner  
FoodWise Nutrition Educator



Jael M. Wolf  
Bi-Lingual FoodWise Nutrition Educator



A 6-week nutrition series at Lakeshore Elementary Kids' Garden. This effort will introduce youth to gardening, promote fresh produce, and provide an opportunity for youth to increase produce consumption.

A 6-lesson series at River Heights Elementary with Boys and Girls Club of the Chippewa Valley-Menomonie in providing a summer garden nutrition education series. This effort will introduce youth to gardening, promote fresh produce, and provide opportunities for youth to increase produce consumption.

A 6-lesson series at the North River Fronts Kids' Garden with Boys and Girls Club of the Chippewa Valley-Eau Claire in providing a summer garden nutrition education series. This effort will introduce youth to gardening, promote fresh produce, and provide opportunities for youth to increase produce consumption.

Multiple meetings and emails with local partners to support our local farmers markets by implementing a new Farmers Market in Chippewa and plan for Market Match programs in Menomonie and Eau Claire Farmers Markets. This effort will help to improve food security with the development and implementation of a program for SNAP/FoodShare recipients to use benefits for food purchases.

## Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator



A community of practice for horticulture educators where we explore strategies and resources to expand horticulture education and outreach to underrepresented audiences. The goal of participating in this group is to dig into ways we can locally continue to grow and enhance our horticulture programs to reach more diverse audiences.

A presentation for seniors where participants learned about the benefits of plants / gardening on our overall wellbeing to encourage the incorporation of more plants / gardening in our lives.

Planning a presentation on gardening with kids for the 2023 Family and Consumer Sciences Education and WI DPI Child Care Conference at UW Stout. The goal of this effort is to discuss how gardening can enrich a child's life and to teach participants strategies on gardening with kids to encourage youth participation in the garden.

Planning a series of horticulture-based activities for people living with dementia and their care partners, offered in partnership with the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Eau Claire County Dementia Care Specialist. The goal of this effort is to offer hands-on, nature-inspired experiences that provide opportunities to stimulate participant's senses, enjoy social interactions, and provide physical activity while imparting a sense of purpose.

Planning an educational garden for the public in collaboration with facilities at the Dunn County Government Building. The goal of the effort is to incorporate native plants into the garden for both beautification and an 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.

## Positive Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator



Interactive activity at a booth at National Night Out Eau Claire where the 4-H intern and 4-H Educator engaged the public attendees in a fun activity to promote the 4-H program and demonstrate positive youth development practices.

4-H Club Annual Financial Report work night where the 4-H Educator reviewed how to fill out the forms with club or group leaders and treasurers to facilitate all clubs and groups accurately completing the forms and turning them in on time.

Communication with partner organizations such as CVTC and LE Phillips Memorial library to build relationships that would allow 4-H to create partner programs and expand access to new audiences.

### Health and Well-Being Educator

This position is posted. See details [here](#).

### Area Extension Director

Kristen Bruder | Eau Claire, Chippewa, and Dunn Counties



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### Value Added Programming

Eau Claire, Chippewa, and Dunn Counties



A series of two field days for woodland owners in Chippewa and Eau Claire counties where participants toured three managed prairie and pollinator sites in Eau Claire and Pepin counties to learn about planting, maintaining, and cost sharing prairie and pollinator plantings on their woodlands/agricultural lands. Through this, landowners can better manage their woodlands having learned about how recent funding impacts the ability to get these land management practices funded and implemented in the following years.

The North American Manure Expo where professional manure applicators increased awareness of new manure handling equipment, management, and research to apply manure more accurately and protect the environment.

Planning a 6-week nature-based program for youth in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley – Chippewa Falls. The goal of this effort is to build nature connectedness and promote environmental literacy.

### Agriculture

For updated Valley E-Newsletters click [here](#)

Lyssa Seefeldt | Regional Dairy Educator



Planning for the 2024 Western WI Ag Lender Conference for agriculture bankers and lenders, ag service professionals, and finance-oriented farmers in collaboration with a committee of ag lenders and ag service professionals. The goal of this conference is to increase lender knowledge of current agricultural markets, better understand "behind the scenes" of how ag businesses function and keep up to date with technology adaptation (how & why the cost of investment in technology is important).

Planning for development of articles, longer publications, and videos on nutrition, genetics, & reproduction topics. The goal of this effort is to increase farmers, nutritionists, veterinarians, and other agribusiness professionals' understanding of management of these topics to help improve farm sustainability and economic viability.

Jerry Clark | Regional Crops & Soils Educator



A field day for farmers and agriculture professionals where participants learned adaptation of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and emerging technologies to cropping systems to manage crop pests and increase crop and farm profitability.

### Community Development

Addison Vang | Community Development Educator



*Meetings with state and local partners to design a winter educational program for Hmong and underserved farmers in the Chippewa Valley on agricultural practices to support farm operations and profitability. The goal is to reduce challenges and barriers and increase access to resources for direct farmers to support the food systems in the Chippewa Valley.*

*Educational program development on food truck/transient businesses so entrepreneurs can learn about the food business and basic food safety practices. The goal is to reduce challenges and barriers for food entrepreneurs to sell prepared foods in the Chippewa Valley.*

*Educational programing as part of a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant supporting underserved HMoob and marginalized small farmers in Western Wisconsin, where participants learn about the importance of food safety, soil health, and gain awareness of farm agencies and food-business resources. The goals are to reduce challenges and barriers to support and expand underserved HMoob farm operations through good agricultural practices and economic growth. For this specific workshop, the focus will be on soil health demonstrating how to take samples, where to send the samples, and how to interpret the results. The role of the Community Development Educator was the development of and planning of the workshop with partners.*

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### Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter | FoodWise Coordinator



*Participation in the Eau Claire Health Alliance monthly meeting including active support for the local chronic disease prevention action team. The goal of this effort is to help guide objectives and strategies that support initiatives to improve the health of residents.*

*Planning and scheduling nutrition education lessons in eligible elementary and pre-k early learning centers across the Chippewa Valley. The goal of this effort is to support nutrition education and healthy eating with hundreds of youth and families.*

Joy Weisner | FoodWise Nutrition Educator



*A Great Apple Crunch event for Lakeshore and Longfellow Elementaries, including the Dual Immersion Spanish classrooms, where apple tasting was provided with supporting Great Apple Crunch materials. The goal of this effort is to raise awareness about the benefits of supporting local agriculture and to encourage healthy eating habits among students.*

Jael M. Wolf | Bi-Lingual FoodWise Nutrition Educator



*Collaboration and planning with Affinity House, women's residential addiction treatment program, and Master Gardeners to support the development of a kitchen garden. This effort will help limited resource participants learn about nutrition, food resource management, along with planting, cultivating, and harvesting their own produce.*

*Planning for Harvest of the Month efforts in collaboration with Eau Claire Area School District Food and Nutrition Director Lisa Smith. The goal of this effort is to help build relationships and collaborations that will support and align our efforts to promote healthy eating along with*

*Harvest of the Month education to students in schools.*

### Health and Well-Being Educator

We are bringing four candidates forward for final interviews to be held October 23, 2023.

### Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator



*Planning a gardening series for the public in collaboration with the Chippewa Falls Public Library One Seed, One Wisconsin program. The goal of this effort is to demonstrate growing tomatoes from seed to harvest to teach and encourage people to try vegetable gardening.*

*Planning an educational garden for the public in collaboration with facilities at the Dunn County Government Building. The goal of the effort is to incorporate native plants into the garden for both beautification and an 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.*

*A presentation for seniors where participants learned about the benefits of plants / gardening on our overall wellbeing to encourage the incorporation of more plants / gardening in our lives.*

*Planning a series of horticulture-based activities for people living with dementia and their care partners, offered in partnership with the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Eau Claire County Dementia Care Specialist. The goal of this effort is to offer hands-on, nature-inspired experiences that provide opportunities to stimulate participant's senses, enjoy social interactions, and provide physical activity while imparting a sense of purpose.*

### Positive Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator



*Updating the 4-H Welcome Packet as well as all distribution lists so that families interested in 4-H receive the correct information regarding where and when clubs meet as well as the correct person to contact regarding club details. This will help make sure that anyone interested in joining a club will be more likely to do so.*

*Meeting with the Fair Coordinator to improve upon this year's fair and start planning for Extension's educational role in the coming year.*

*Meeting with CVTC to build relationships that would allow 4-H to create partner programs and expand access to new audiences.*

*Crafted ten email responses to inquiries about how to enroll and join 4-H where I tailored information to the recipient based on their responses in a 4-H Interest form. This effort is intended to make new families feel welcome and find a club that is a good fit for their family.*

*Planning for a 4-H Discovery Day at the L.E. Phillips Memorial Library where young people and adults will lead 4-H Project activities. This effort is an opportunity for youth to practice leadership skills as well as an opportunity to engage with non-4-H families and promote the 4-H program.*

### Area Extension Director

Kristen Bruder | Eau Claire, Chippewa, and Dunn Counties



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### Value Added Programming

*A community of practice for horticulture educators where we explore strategies and resources to expand horticulture education and outreach to underrepresented audiences. The goal of participating in this group is to dig into ways we can locally continue to grow and enhance our horticulture programs to reach more diverse audiences.*

*A video series for food and farm business entrepreneurs, where participants develop the framework needed for effective food and ag entrepreneurship and relate to the resources, they need to be successful. This effort was designed to help participants assess their skills, assets, personalities, and/or networks to help decide about a business opportunity or new enterprise.*

*Basic grant proposal workshop for local government, businesses, and organization members and staff. The goal of this effort is for people to learn how to find, write and apply for grants so that they can carry out the activities of their organization, business, or government unit.*

*An online learning opportunity for Entrepreneurs in Training (EITs) and volunteer business leaders to collaborate around developing strong business pitches and personal introductions. This structured interaction builds confidence and entrepreneurial skill in the EITs and fosters empathy in volunteers which leads to more opportunities for formerly incarcerated Wisconsinites to start businesses in a supportive community environment.*