

### Agriculture

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#### Lyssa Seefeldt | Regional Dairy Educator



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, veterinarian, and other agribusiness professionals' understanding of management of these topics to help improve farm sustainability and economic viability.

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.

Discussion & planning on VITAL dairy women programming for spring event(s) for west central Wisconsin.

Conversations with dairy farmers to discuss current / ongoing research opportunities for collaboration with Extension educators, state specialists, & campus specialists.

Planning for the 2024 Western WI Ag Lender Conference for agriculture bankers / 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).

Met with county sustainability coordinator to discuss upcoming Agriculture & Natural Resources Input session for Eau Claire County's Climate Action & Resilience Plan.

Met with Land Conservation to share upcoming programs & outreach materials.

Met with an attorney partner. Planning for a November professional development event for western agriculture educators to foster better collaborations with legal counselors (& other ag professionals) to help farm families start and complete farm succession plans.

Meeting with Eau Claire Emergency Management Program Assistant to discuss additions and suggestions for changes for Emergency Operations Plan for the section on agriculture & animal agriculture. This effort supports the county emergency management team being able to contact appropriate agriculture contacts in the event of an agriculture emergency in the county.

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



A field event for farmers and agriculture professionals where participants learned manure management application and manure spill response techniques to maximize nutrient efficiency, protect ground and surface water, and increase farm profitability. The goal of the program is to increase knowledge about manure application, placement, and timing while preventing manure and soil runoff.

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# Extension Eau Claire County

## October 2023 Report

A land evaluation clinic for students where participants learned land management principles, soil properties, and land use, to increase effective land management practices and maximize soil and agricultural land production into the future. The goal of the program is to increase knowledge and understanding of the importance of land and soil management and the impact agriculture and commercial development has on the land.

## 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 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.

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.

## Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter  
FoodWise Coordinator



Joy Weisner  
FoodWise Educator



Jael M. Wolf  
Bilingual FoodWise Educator



A 4-lesson series for 4K preschoolers at Western Dairyland Truax Head Start to learn about fruits, vegetables and keeping their bodies healthy. This effort helps children to learn to use their senses with colors, music, and tastes to explore foods and physical activity.

A 3-lesson series for 4K preschoolers at Western Dairyland Eau Claire Head Start to learn about fruits, vegetables and keeping their bodies healthy. This effort helps children to learn to use their senses with colors, music, and tastes to explore foods and physical activity.

A Great Apple Crunch event for Augusta Elementary 1st grade where Great Apple Crunch materials were provided. The goal of this effort is to raise awareness about the benefits of supporting local agriculture and to encourage healthy eating habits among students.

A 4-lesson series for 4K preschoolers at Menomonie Head Start to learn about fruits, vegetables and keeping their bodies healthy. This effort helps children to learn to use their senses with colors, music, and tastes to explore foods and physical activity.

A 4-lesson series for 4K preschoolers at Altoona Head Start to learn about fruits, vegetables and keeping their bodies healthy. This effort helps children to learn to use their senses with colors, music, and tastes to explore foods and physical activity.

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.

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.

## Health and Well-Being Educator

We hired this position, and this person will start with Extension November 29, 2023.

## Horticulture

**Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator**



Implemented 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.

Continuing with 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.

A presentation on how gardening benefits us mentally, physically, and socially for honor students at UW Eau Claire where participants learned and discussed how gardening can help us age with vitality. This effort was

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# Extension Eau Claire County

## October 2023 Report

*designed to illustrate how gardens are a source of excellent nutrition, provide opportunities for exercise at any age, and can provide a sense of meaning or purpose in people's lives.*

*A program on planting hardy bulbs for the public where participants learned bulb selection, planting, and care to learn best practices in growing early spring blooms.*

*A presentation on gardening with kids for the 2023 Family and Consumer Sciences Education and WI DPI Childcare Conference at UW Stout where participants learned how gardening can enrich a child's life in many ways. This effort was designed to encourage gardening with youth with strategies to engage kids in gardening activities.*

*A presentation about the benefits of gardening for the Wisconsin United Women in Faith Annual Gathering where participants learned and discussed how gardening is a great way to incorporate many mental, physical, and social benefits into your life. This effort was designed to encourage people of all ages to incorporate plants and gardening into their lifestyle to experience many of these benefits.*

## Positive Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator



*Planning for a Citizen Science STEM Day for 5-8th graders to provide an opportunity for them to engage in one of their Sparks.*

*A Citizen Science STEM Day for 5-8th graders to provide an opportunity for them to engage in one of their Sparks.*

*Planning for 4-H Summer Camp & Camp Counselor Application process to promote youth leadership opportunities for camp.*

*Interview with WAXX radio as part of the "4-H on the Air" program that is aired weekly. This program is to provide clubs and groups an opportunity to practice interviewing skills as well as promote the 4-H Program and the activities clubs and groups engage in.*

*A food preservation workshop where young people learned about safe food preservation methods and reliable resources.*

*4-H Discovery Day at the L.E. Phillips Memorial Library where young people and adults led 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.*

*Planning for an urban Citizen Science afternoon program for grades 5-8 to provide programming in the spark of STEM.*

*A presentation on completing a Record Book for the Country Cousins 4-H Club. This was in response to a club leader's request to learn more about record books and increase participation in the full 4-H program of the county as some of the county awards require a record book to participate.*

Meeting with Vecino a Vecino to discuss support for their Latino 4-H Club. This effort is to support volunteers and programming in an underserved audience.

### 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

A coaching and Money Matters program for qualifying individuals, where participants learn how to create financial goals and gain money management skills. The goal of this program is to increase meeting financial goals and increase financial capability for long term financial success.

A live, on-line meeting series, for farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned the latest research and applications regarding different manure processing options. The goal of this effort was to increase knowledge of the latest UW-Madison research on manure processing options including the good and bad of each system.

The webinar, Badger Crop Connect, is meant for agriculture producers, consultants, and industry professionals where they can learn more about timely agriculture related topics from non-bias research-based sources. The goal is to provide seasonal updates on the latest research and recommendations related to current field conditions and crop stages. This activity is designed to provide tangible information that can make a positive impact in the short term which ultimately leads to long term environmental and financial sustainability on Wisconsin farms.

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.

# Extension Eau Claire County

## October 2023 Report

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*A facilitated conversation with nonprofit leaders in Northeast Wisconsin where participants learned about reviewing grant applications and applying for grants to further the mission of their organization.*

*A special event in which business experts join the UW-Madison Extension Entrepreneur in Training Partnership (EITP) to coach EITs about their business ideas. These events improve business viability and build empathy among participants, which leads to structural changes in the workforce and incarceration systems, long term.*

## Agriculture

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### Lyssa Seefeldt | Regional Dairy Educator



*Introduction to Extension Spanish translated resources for dairy workers for Wisconsin Literacy volunteers that tutor Spanish speaking dairy workers to increase knowledge and awareness.*

*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.*

*Conversations with dairy farmers to discuss current / ongoing research opportunities for collaboration with Extension educators, state specialists, & campus specialists.*

*Revisions for Emergency Operations Plan for the section on agriculture & animal agriculture. This effort supports the county emergency management team being able to contact appropriate agriculture contacts in the event of an agriculture emergency in the county.*

### Jerry Clark | Regional Crops & Soils Educator



*A field event for beef farmers and pasture managers where participants learned cattle health, handling management, and pasture and soil management to improve beef cattle health, farmer safety, and pasture and soil management to increase beef and pasture production efficiency and improve farm profitability. The goal of the program is to increase knowledge and improve understanding of beef herd health and pasture management practices.*

*A Fall Beef and Pasture Management field event was hosted to provide cattle handling, herd health, and soil and pasture management to address herd and farmer safety. Speakers and topics included "Farm Facility Tour & Handling Demonstration, Low Cost Farmer-Built Portable Corral System with a Bud Box Demonstration with Heifers", Ken Schmitt & Family; "Biosecurity Discussion", Implementing Herd Health Programs & Correct Injection Placemen", Sandy Stuttgen, Division of Extension UW-Madison, Taylor County Agriculture Educator; "Considerations for Handling Facilities" and "Stretching Hay Supplies", Bill Halfman, Division of Extension UW-Madison, Beef Specialist; and "Estimating Forage & Feed Inventory", Jerry Clark, Division of Extension UW-Madison, Crops and Soils Educator for Chippewa, Dunn & Eau Claire counties. Twenty-four beef farmers and pasture managers attended the event. Informal post-meeting evaluation indicated all farmers increased their knowledge of the topics presented.*

### Community Development

Addison Vang | Community Development Educator



*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. In the process of finalizing workshop dates and agenda.*

*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. Partners are gathering to develop 2024 workshops.*

*Education workshop on the Wisconsin Local Food Produce Assistance (LFPA) program targeting underserved small farmers. Assistance was provided to those who wanted to apply for the program. The workshop was conducted in English and Hmong. The program was promoted to anyone interested in the program with the main audience being Hmong farmers who sell direct to market as an identified underserved farm population.*

### Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter  
FoodWise Coordinator



Joy Weisner  
FoodWise Educator



Jael M. Wolf  
Bilingual FoodWise Educator



*Collaboration with Longfellow Elementary School to develop a Kids Garden. This effort is concentrated on developing a strategic plan to include comprehensive programming with newly established garden beds which will introduce youth to new foods.*

*A 6-week nutrition education series to 3rd graders at River Heights Elementary 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 1st graders in River Heights, Longfellow, and Flynn 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 4-lesson series for women in an addiction treatment program where they learn about nutrition and food resource management principles. The goal of this effort is to help limited resource participants make healthy food choices on a budget.*

# Extension Eau Claire County

## November 2023 Report

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.

Participation in a statewide collaboration for local farmers markets that offer a token program to be included in a GusNIP grant proposal. This effort would provide a Market Match for fruits and vegetables purchased by FoodShare individuals which enhances food security.

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



Margo was hired to fill the Health and Well-Being Educator position and began on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Her role will be focused on behavioral health in Eau Claire County. She attended the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health and Community Health Education with a minor in nutrition. She has been a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES<sup>®</sup>) since 2018. Formerly, Margo was employed for the last five years as the Community Health Educator and Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Waupaca County Department of Public Health. Her work focused on

content areas such as chronic disease prevention, nutrition and food insecurity, alcohol and other substance use, and communicable disease prevention. She is a trained facilitator with experience in coalition building, grant writing, CHA/CHIP processes, and communications. Margo is looking forward to learning more about Eau Claire County, the unique mental health landscape in the area, and how she can work with partners to better the health and well-being for everyone who comes to Eau Claire County to live, learn, work, and play.

## Horticulture

### Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator



A presentation about the benefits of gardening at the first annual Age Your Way Conference in Chippewa Falls, where participants learned and discussed how gardening is a great way to incorporate many mental, physical, and social benefits into your life. This effort was designed to encourage people to include plants and gardening in their lifestyle to experience many of these benefits.

Completing the first year of a horticulture-inspired program in partnership with the ADRC Eau Claire County for people living with dementia and their care partners that offers hands-on, nature-inspired experiences that provide opportunities to stimulate the senses, enjoy social interactions, and provide physical activity and the use of fine motor skills while imparting a sense of purpose.

A presentation on gardening with kids for the 2023 Family and Consumer Sciences Education and WI DPI Childcare Conference at UW Stout where participants learned how gardening can enrich a child's life in many ways. This effort was designed to encourage gardening with youth with strategies to engage kids in gardening activities.

A presentation on how gardening benefits us mentally, physically, and socially for honor students at UW Eau Claire where participants learned and discussed how gardening can help us age with vitality. This effort was

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*A presentation about the benefits of gardening for the Wisconsin United Women in Faith Annual Gathering, Eau Claire, where participants learned and discussed how gardening is a great way to incorporate many mental, physical, and social benefits into your life. This effort was designed to encourage people of all ages to incorporate plants and gardening into their lifestyle to experience many of these benefits.*

*Implemented 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



*Supporting the Leaders Association to plan for the future of the organization and develop a viable leadership structure.*

*Planning for Art U, a virtual art project club in partnership with UW-Stout's art education department to provide a program that meets the needs of families and provides opportunities for kids to explore their sparks.*

*Developing a GooseChase game in partnership with two high school students to provide an engaging experience for young people and their families and build engagement across the county.*

*A straw weaving activity as part of Smart Girls Rock at Menomonie Middle School to provide a hands-on activity for middle school girls as part of their STEM exploration. This activity was to promote STEM learning and to increase the visibility of 4-H.*

*Meetings with Eau Claire Area School District and the Altoona School District to discuss partnerships in providing Juntos programming to meet the needs of Spanish-speaking families and provide a positive youth development opportunity for young people and increase families' sense of belonging.*

*Planning for the annual 4-H Awards Banquet. The Awards banquet is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the work of young people and volunteers over the past year to provide a positive youth development experience.*

*Interview with WAXX radio as part of the "4-H on the Air" program that is aired weekly. This program is to provide clubs and groups an opportunity to practice interviewing skills as well as promote the 4-H Program and the activities clubs and groups engage in.*

*A Speaking Contest for Dunn, Eau Claire, and Chippewa Counties. Youth participated in a variety of events that allowed them to improve their public speaking and presentation skills. They were given feedback which*

# Extension Eau Claire County

## November 2023 Report

celebrated their strengths and provided education on areas to improve. Awards were given to the top speakers in each category.

Planning for a refresher of the Building Safe Spaces training for 4-H volunteers. The goal of this effort is to develop a short, interactive training for volunteers that will refresh them on the content of the original Building Safe Spaces training. The content of this training is important for volunteers because it helps us ensure a safe space for youth to participate and aligns with the Youth Protection policy.

### Area Extension Director

Kristen Bruder | Eau Claire, Chippewa, and Dunn Counties



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### Value Added Programming

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. (Kevin Schoessow)

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. (Katie Wantoch)

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. (Julie Hill)

A pasture walk on an organic dairy farm was held for local dairy producers to learn about sustainable practices in pasture management and the management of pasture grazed dairy cows and replacements. (Matt Lippert)

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# Extension Eau Claire County

## November 2023 Report

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*Planning for a dairy goat field day to be held in the local Amish Community who are expanding in goat production capacity and who as new producers have many production and marketing related questions. (Matt Lippert)*

*A field study data collection in collaboration with Colorado State University to better understand the practices and challenges associated with transportation of pre-weaned dairy heifer, dairy bull, and beef x dairy calves from the source (dairy farms), hauler, and receiver (calf raiser). Results from this study will help dairy farmers, managers, haulers, calf raisers, and the dairy community in adopting practices and improving transportation welfare to improve farm business viability and food safety. (Tina Kohlman)*

## Agriculture

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### Lyssa Seefeldt | Regional Dairy Educator



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

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.

### Jerry Clark | Regional Crops & Soils Educator



A field event for beef farmers and pasture managers where participants learned cattle health, handling management, and pasture and soil management to improve beef cattle health, farmer safety, and pasture and soil management to increase beef and pasture production efficiency and improve farm profitability. The goal of the program is to increase knowledge and improve understanding of beef herd health and pasture management practices.

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.

## Horticulture

### Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator



A presentation about the benefits of gardening for the first annual Age Your Way Conference in Chippewa Falls, where participants learned and discussed how gardening is a great way to incorporate many mental, physical, and social benefits into your life. This effort was designed to encourage people to include plants and gardening in their lifestyle to experience many of these benefits.

A 2023-2024 horticulture-inspired program with ADRC-Eau Claire for people living with dementia and their care partners offers hands-on, nature-inspired experiences that provide opportunities to stimulate the senses, enjoy social interactions, and provide physical activity and the use of fine motor skills while imparting a sense of purpose.

A winter garden program for youth in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley Menomonie Center. The goal of this effort is to teach and inspire young kids about garden-related topics through hands-on activities and get them ready for spring gardening.

## Community Development

Vacant

## Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter  
FoodWise Coordinator



Joy Weisner  
FoodWise Educator



Jael M. Wolf  
Bilingual FoodWise Educator



A collaborative effort with Chronic Disease Prevention Action Team under the Eau Claire Health Alliance to promote the 2023-2024 Winter Wellness Initiative. This effort helps promote community engagement that includes increased physical activity as an action step to reduce chronic diseases.

Provided advisory oversight and letter of support to Master Gardeners Association for their KidsGardening Grant application. This funding would contribute to their 2-year project to replace raised beds and enhance the watering system for the North River Fronts Kids Garden where FoodWise provides programming to the Boys and Girls Club youth.

Provided support and local farmers market data to the statewide GusNIP planning committee. This is a federal grant application effort to acquire a nutrition incentive match for FoodShare eligible families purchasing fruits and vegetables at the Eau Claire Downtown Farmers Market.

A 6-week nutrition education series to 3rd graders at River Heights Elementary 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 1st graders in River Heights, Flynn, and Longfellow Elementary. 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 4-lesson series for women in LSS Affinity House addiction treatment program where they learn about nutrition and food resource management principles. The goal of this effort is to help limited resource participants make healthy food choices on a budget.

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



Meetings with Eau Claire Extension colleagues to learn more about who they are, the work they do, and opportunities for collaboration between programs. Discussion also included talking about the mental health trends they see in the work they do and gathering a list of partners and community meetings to explore.

### Positive Youth Development

#### Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator



Writing and revising a weaving curriculum. This curriculum is to fill a need for project learning in fiber arts to support young people who have a spark in art or fiber.

Planning for a Virtual Cultural Baking program. This series engages young people in the Spark of baking, teaches different baking techniques, and provides opportunities to discuss cultures around the world.

The Annual 4-H Awards Banquet was held Dec 3. The Awards banquet is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the work of young people and volunteers over the past year to provide a positive youth development experience. Partners in 4-H, Distinguished Leaders, and other volunteers were recognized. Youth were awarded scholarships for educational experiences and clubs were recognized for their good work over the year.

A Houseplant Project workshop that incorporated youth teaching. This meeting allowed young people to practice sharing knowledge and provided participants with information on how to care for and practice propagating house plants.

Developing a GooseChase game in partnership with two high school students to provide an engaging experience for young people and their families and build engagement across the county.

Meetings with Eau Claire Area School District and the Altoona School District to discuss partnerships in providing Juntos programming to meet the needs of Spanish-speaking families and provide a positive youth development opportunity for young people and increase families' sense of belonging.

A Speaking Contest was held for Dunn, Eau Claire, and Chippewa Counties. Youth participated in a variety of events that allowed them to improve their public speaking and presentation skills. They were given feedback which celebrated their strengths and provided education on areas to improve. Awards were given to the top speakers in each category.

Planning for a refresher of the Building Safe Spaces training for 4-H volunteers. The goal of this effort is to develop a short, interactive training course for volunteers that will refresh them on the content of the original Building Safe Spaces training. The content of this training is important for volunteers because it helps us ensure a safe space for youth to participate and aligns with the Youth Protection policy.

### Area Extension Director

Kristen Bruder | Eau Claire, Chippewa, and Dunn Counties



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### Value Added Programming

*Facilitation of monthly meetings of the Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition. The goal is to implement a watershed plan aimed at improving the water quality in the Eau Claire River Watershed. (Daniel Zerr)*

*Technical assistance for a partnership group (Rain to Rivers) which raises awareness and encourages action to reduce stormwater impacts. The goal of this effort is to increase storm water management awareness and implementation. (Daniel Zerr)*

*Facilitation of bimonthly meetings of the Red Cedar River Water Quality Partnership, with the goal to implement a ten-year watershed plan aimed at improving the water quality and soil health of the Red Cedar River Watershed. (Daniel Zerr)*

*A series of 3 county steering committee meetings, outreach activities and research projects intended to create a community health needs assessment which will inform community priorities and activities in the coming years. (Luisa Gerasimo)*

*A coaching and Money Matters program for qualifying individuals, where participants learn how to create financial goals and gain money management skills. The goal of this program is to increase meeting financial goals and increase financial capability for long term financial success. (Jeanne Walsh)*

*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. (Addison Vang)*

*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*

# Extension Eau Claire County

## December 2023 Report

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*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. (Kevin Schoessow)*

*A live, on-line meeting series, for farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned the latest research and applications regarding effective animal handling and the impact that plays on efficiency on the farm. The goal of this effort was to increase knowledge of the latest UW-Madison research and provide a comprehensive understanding of effective dairy animal handling, grouping strategies and their impact on efficiency in the parlor and beyond. (Jackie Mccarville)*

*A meeting series for crop farmers and ag professionals, where they learned about crop insurance and grain marketing, crop input planning, farmland rental rates and lease agreements, and ag income taxes. These meetings were designed to assist crop farmers in identifying strengths and weaknesses of their farm business to assist them in making decisions that will improve their farm profitability. (Katie Wantoch)*

*A pasture walk on an organic dairy farm was held for local dairy producers to learn about sustainable practices in pasture management and the management of pasture grazed dairy cows and replacements. (Matt Lippert)*