

### Agriculture

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

#### Regional Dairy Educator

*This position is currently vacant.*

*A media/social media/topic hub post on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). This effort aims to inform dairy and beef producers about the spread and risk of HPAI and make them aware of reputable resources for timely updates on the disease. Increasing knowledge about HPAI will help producers make informed decisions on reducing the risk of HPAI in their herds, thus being conscious of biosecurity.*

*A presentation for dairy farmers and employees on "effective dairy herd health records" so that the audience better understand why certain records are important to track along with nutritional tips to help prevent dairy metabolic & disease issues.*

*A field day and classroom instruction for goat producers and those interested in becoming goat producers where basic introductory kid development, doe care, biosecurity, feeding strategies and marketing were discussed. This program was developed as Clark County has a rapidly expanding dairy goat, and meat goat, family scale enterprise largely among the Amish Community. The success of this program may develop into future offerings.*

*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.*

*Development of an in-person two-day workshop, Badger Sheep Short Course, for sheep and goat producers to learn about biosecurity, reproduction technologies, record keeping, genetic selection, and the relationship between parasite resistance and disease resistance with demonstrations and hands-on experiences. This effort was designed to help producers gain knowledge and skills for feeding, breeding, record-keeping, healthcare planning, determining body condition scores, and selecting cull animals based on records to increase productivity to sustain or increase profitability.*

*Developing a Planning for Emergency Livestock Transportation Response (PELTR) hybrid training in collaboration with Waukesha County Emergency Management and the Humane Animal Welfare Society (HAWS) of Waukesha for area and statewide emergency response personnel to learn about responding to roadside incidents involving livestock trailers. The purpose of this program is to increase the effectiveness of emergency planning and the preparedness of local emergency response agencies.*



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

*A risk, crop insurance and grain marketing hybrid course, where material was adapted into a more relevant format for use in-person, as stand-alone educational videos and articles, and an on-line course. The Farm Pulse -Crop Insurance and Grain Marketing course will assist farmers and agriculture professionals in identifying strengths and weaknesses of their business to assist them in making decisions that will improve their farm profitability.*

# Extension Eau Claire County

## April 2024 Report

*An outreach and public relations effort for farmers where farmers increased awareness of extension resources to connect and build relationships and improve their lives and farms.*

*A presentation for Chippewa Fire District emergency responders and medical technicians where participants learned about safe and efficient response to pesticide and manure gas hazards on farms and providing proper care.*

*Jerry Clark was recently honored with the Van Hise Outreach Teaching Award at the 2024 UW-Madison Distinguished Teaching Awards celebration. As president of the University of Wisconsin from 1903 to 1918, Charles Van Hise developed the doctrine known today as the Wisconsin Idea: the guiding philosophy of UW-Madison's outreach efforts to extend the borders of the university to touch the lives of people throughout Wisconsin and around the world. The Van Hise Outreach Teaching Award was established in 1990 to honor distinguished teaching by a member of UW-Madison's faculty. Jerry is a great resource to farmers in our community and across the state of Wisconsin. Congratulations on receiving this well-deserved award, Jerry!*



*Celebrating Jerry Clark's Distinguished Teaching Award. From left, Kevin Jarek, William Halfman, Annie Lisowski, Jeanne Walsh, Kristen Bruder, Rachel Hart-Brinson, Jerry Clark, Kristi Peterson, Amber Gilles, Andrew Heren, & Dean Karl Martin.*

## Horticulture

**Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator**



*A program on starting an herb garden for the public in partnership with the Augusta Memorial Public Library where participants learned how to grow select culinary herbs. This effort was designed to encourage people to garden with herbs to create both a sensory impact with fragrant foliage, various foliage colors and shapes, and have a supply of fresh herbs for cooking as a healthy, low calorie, flavor substitute to salt. Extension based information on cooking with herbs was included.*

*A presentation about the benefits of gardening for the United Women in Faith Northwest District Meeting 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.*

*A workshop to start seeds indoors for the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley-Menomonie where participants learned the basics of starting tomato and pepper seeds indoors. The goal of this effort was to teach kids techniques and strategies to successfully start seeds indoors to grow crops that will be used for summertime programming.*

*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.*

A workshop on creating a succulent dish garden for the Chippewa County Courthouse employees in partnership with the Chippewa County Staff Satisfaction Squad where participants learned about planting and caring for succulents. This effort was designed to encourage people of all ages to incorporate plants and gardening into their lifestyle, enjoy social interactions and learn about indoor plant care.

A garden program for beginners in partnership with the Bloomer Public Library where participants learned the basics of vegetable gardening. The goal of this effort was 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 program on starting an herb garden for the public in partnership with the Chippewa Falls Public Library where participants learned how to grow select culinary herbs. This effort was designed to encourage people to garden with herbs to create both a sensory impact with fragrant foliage, various foliage colors and shapes, and have a supply of fresh herbs for cooking as a healthy, low calorie, flavor substitute to salt. Extension based information on cooking with herbs was included.

A presentation for the public on pollinators and native plants where participants learned 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 container garden program for the Women's Fellowship of Ladysmith and Conrath Congregational UCC 12th Annual Garden seminar where attendees learned strategies to successfully grow flowers, herbs, or vegetables in containers. This effort was designed to encourage people of all ages to garden for wellness, beautification and /or food even if space or mobility is limited.

An activity to illustrate the benefits of gardening for participants in the Chippewa County Recovery Court Program. Participants learned how gardening is a great way to incorporate many wellness benefits such as stress relief, focus recovery and a sense of accomplishment into your life and were able to build their own sensory garden in a pot. This effort was designed to encourage people to include plants and gardening in their lifestyle to experience the many benefits that gardening can provide.

## Community Development

The position had been filled and will start May 13, 2024

## 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 Augusta Elementary to learn about fruits, vegetables and keeping their bodies healthy. This effort helps children to learn to use their senses with colors and tastes to explore foods and includes movement.

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# Extension Eau Claire County

## April 2024 Report

A 6-week nutrition education series for 1st graders in Locust Lane and Augusta 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 6-week nutrition education series to 3rd graders at Lakeshore, Locust Lane, and Augusta Elementary schools 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 5th graders at Locust Lane and Augusta Elementary schools where they learn about MyPlate and how the nutrients in foods contribute to a healthy diet. This effort will help the students plan healthy meals and snacks using a variety of foods from the food groups.

A collaboration with Eau Claire Master Gardener Volunteers, Eau Claire City Parks, and Recreation, and Western Dairyland Fresh Start to start activities in implementing the FoodWise Garden Grant program. This effort will replace 6 raised beds and widen pathways for accessibility in the North River Fronts Kids Garden.

Youth focus groups with 1st, 3rd, and 5th graders at Longfellow and Augusta Elementary schools to gather valuable insights, perspectives and experiences with school breakfast and lunch. This effort will provide youth feedback to inform the Wisconsin School Meals Rock! program and social marketing campaign along with FoodWise efforts in enhancing the appeal and nutritional quality of school meals.

A collaboration with Lakeshore Elementary staff and Master Garden Volunteers to plan the summer gardening program. This effort will teach students about growing vegetables and provide opportunities for tasting to enhance their willingness to increase fruit and vegetable intake.

Partnership development meeting with Prairie Ridge Early Learning Center. This effort will foster relationship building with new staff and identify ways to engage with their caregivers.

An educational caregiver event at Truax Head Start where parents learned about online tools, seasonal fruit and vegetable charts, proper storage and using leftovers effectively. This effort supports parents in making the most out of their shopping trips and stretching their money to purchase more fruits and vegetables.

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



Continued meetings with community partners and attending community meetings to better understand the mental health needs and landscape within Eau Claire County and the Chippewa Valley. Needs and potential areas for Extension support are also revealed through this process.

Met with six agencies (public, private, nonprofit, school) to better understand the mental health landscape in Eau Claire County and the Chippewa Valley.

## **4-H Youth Development**

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

# Extension Eau Claire County

## April 2024 Report



*Planning for a Volunteer Leader Training to build relationships with volunteers and encourage program planning.*

*Planning for an all-day camp counselor training on May 5. The training will provide an opportunity for our camp counselors to practice leading their sessions for others as well as learn from an UWEC professor about classroom management strategies especially helpful for neurodiverse kids.*

*Juntos Middle School Family Night sessions where Latinx families participate in a 5-week series. This series aims to improve communication between parents and children and the school and families with the goal of achieving academic success.*

*The Area 6 Clover U event was held on April 6th. Twenty youth attended. They each got to choose two activities to participate in. The activities that were offered included fishing, dogs, painting, jewelry making, cooking, and sewing. We had positive feedback from both youth and volunteers.*

*Rachel attended the Joint Council of Extension Professionals conference in April. She received three awards from the Wisconsin Association of 4-H Youth Development Professionals for work on a "Let's Celebrate" virtual "take and learn" box as well as a volunteer training, "Building Safe Spaces" that she helped develop. She also received an award from Epsilon Sigma Phi for her outreach and programming with the Spanish-Speaking population. Awards are sent on to compete at a regional level and then national level.*



## 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

*The existing Zoom footage of all past Cranberry Virtual Brown Bags is being chunked by content, transcribed, and uploaded to Youtube for on-demand viewing by cranberry growers. This will enable useful information from UW researchers and crop scouts to be shared as new employees are hired into the industry, when growers need*

# Extension Eau Claire County

## April 2024 Report

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to refresh their memories, or when weather conditions are like those remarked upon in prior years. (Allison Jonjak, Anne Pfeiffer, Megan Sankey)

In coordination with the UW Agribusiness Club and Cranberry Learning Inc, a case study was developed for undergrad Ag Econ students to practice solving a real-world return on investment problem. Cranberry grower judges were identified to volunteer, and cranberry industry partners (excavator, drainage experts, irrigation experts, an engineering company, banks, and plant propagation experts) were recruited to provide pricing and support to the students. This will give students opportunities to interact with a variety of professions crucial to the cranberry industry, to develop familiarity with the cranberry industry, and will encourage development of the skills needed to successfully run a small agricultural business. (Allison Jonjak)

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 participants' ability to meet their financial goals and increase their financial capability for long term financial success. (Jeanne Walsh)

Facilitation of monthly meetings of the Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition, with the goal to implement a ten-year watershed plan aimed at improving the water quality and soil health of the Eau Claire River Watershed. (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, Kelsey Hyland)

A farm open house highlighting automated milking systems (AMS) was held for dairy producers. Many producers are interested in AMS currently as they help address labor shortages, distribution of labor and working conditions for farmers. Understanding AMS will help producers make better decisions addressing critical labor and management issues on their farm that affect profitability. (Matt Lippert, Carolina Pinzon-Sanchez, Doug Reinemann, Nesli Akdeniz Onuki, Stephanie Bowers)

A day-long workshop focused on watershed planning as part of the statewide Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention, where participants learned the basics of watershed planning, as well as tools to help them in their individual planning efforts, all to help in the creation of more comprehensive watershed management plans around the state. (Daniel Zerr, Eric Olson, Katy Bradford, Sara Windjue, Whitney Passint)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- MAY 14** We Cope Zoom
- MAY 22** Badger Crop Connect
- JUNE 6-9** Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire 4-H Base & Outpost Camp
- JUNE 12** Badger Crop Connect

## Agriculture

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**Regional Dairy Educator** - This position is currently vacant

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



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.

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.

A leadership program presentation for business and industry leaders in Dunn County where leaders learned of the economic impact of Dunn County and Chippewa Valley agriculture to increase awareness and understanding of the local agricultural industry. The goal of the presentation as an invited speaker was to increase awareness of the economic, social, and environmental impact of the agricultural industry.



Menomonee Sunrise Rotary President Brian Seguin presents a certificate of a book donation to UW-Madison Extension Regional Crops and Soils Educator Jerry Clark.

## Horticulture

**Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator**



Two vegetable container garden programs for participating seniors in StrongBodies where they learned strategies for successful container gardening and wellness benefits, we gain through gardening. This effort is designed to encourage people of all ages to garden for wellness and food, even if space, time and/or mobility is limited. (Partnered with Sandy Tarter, Chippewa, Dunn & Eau Claire Counties & Mary Hoeft-Leithold, La Crosse County)

# Extension Eau Claire County

## May 2024 Report

A presentation for the Bloomer Garden Club on landscaping for birds where participants learned the value of creating ecological niches to support bird populations, especially backyard species that are experiencing significant declines. This effort is to encourage individuals to adopt gardening practices that support bird habitat and health throughout the year.

An activity to plant a native flower garden for the public at the Obey Interpretive Center, Chippewa Moraine State Recreation Area. This effort offers the 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.

An activity to plant several raised beds with Boys & Girls Club-Menomonie where participants receive hands-on experience to grow and care for plants and learn basic gardening skills. The goal of this effort is to teach kids techniques and strategies to successfully grow crops that will be used for their summertime programming.

Hands-on container garden workshop for the public where attendees learned strategies to successfully grow vegetables in containers and planted their own containers to take home. This effort is designed to encourage people of all ages to garden for wellness and to grow their own food, even if space, time and/or mobility is limited.



Horticulture Educator Margaret Murphy facilitates a vegetable garden workshop

## Community Development

Garret Zastoupil | Community Development Educator



Garret joined Area 6 Extension after serving as an Assistant Professor of Sustainable Rural Economic Development at Northland College in Ashland, WI. His previous research and teaching have focused on building inclusive and sustainable communities. This has included business development, nonprofit management, workforce development, housing, recreation, and energy. Since joining the team, he presented at the Wisconsin Rural Partners annual summit in Ashland, WI on trends and opportunities for rural communities in Northern Wisconsin. More to come!

## Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter  
FoodWise Coordinator



Joy Weisner  
FoodWise Educator



Jael M. Wolf  
Bilingual FoodWise Educator



A 2-lesson series with young adult participants of Life Without Limits-a community-based program that works with high school students qualifying for individualized special education services that extends beyond the high school experience. This effort expands their knowledge of nutrition, food waste and food preparation skills.

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# Extension Eau Claire County

## May 2024 Report

A 2-lesson nutrition education series with Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association Building Bridges middle and high school teens in Menomonie and Eau Claire. This effort helps teens become more aware of MyPlate guidelines, food safety, and builds on food preparation skills for greater independence.

A series of strength training sessions (StrongBodies) for adults in the community, where participants engage in regular, progressive strength training and health education to improve their physical and mental health and enhance social connectedness. FoodWise helps to lead the Tues/Thurs 9:00 am virtual class.

A 4-lesson series for 4K preschoolers at Augusta Elementary to learn about fruits, vegetables and keeping their bodies healthy. This effort helps children to learn to use their senses with colors and tastes to explore foods and includes movement.

A 6-week nutrition education series for 1st graders in Locust Lane and Augusta 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 6-week nutrition education series to 3rd graders at Locust Lane, and Augusta Elementary schools 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 5th graders at Locust Lane and Augusta Elementary schools where they learn about MyPlate and how the nutrients in foods contribute to a healthy diet. This effort will help the students plan healthy meals and snacks using a variety of foods from the food groups.

A collaboration with Eau Claire Master Gardener Volunteers, Eau Claire City Parks and Recreation, and Chippewa Valley Builders Association to start activities in implementing the FoodWise Garden Grant program. This effort will replace 6 raised beds and widen pathways for accessibility in the North River Fronts Kids Garden.

A collaboration with Affinity House, a women's inpatient or transitional residential treatment facility, to implement a site food garden. This effort will support the learning of food resource management in the growing, harvest, preparation, and storage of garden produce. Produce will be used in FoodWise nutrition education lessons.

"This online strong bodies course is spectacular. It's such a gift. I hope it runs continually."

"My instructor encouraged me to join strong bodies and I believe it has saved my life!"

~StrongBodies Participants

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



Planning for a six-week lunch and learn WeCOPE series to be prepared to offer the program state-wide in May and June, so that participants can learn how to connect with their positive emotions and reduce overall stress.

A six-week WeCOPE series starting in May to help adults cope with stress & difficult times. This effort has been shown to reduce stress and depression, increase positive affect, and improve healthy behaviors. Managing life's challenges in healthy ways allows participants to take better care of themselves and others.

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# Extension Eau Claire County

## May 2024 Report

*Planning for a Professional Quality of Life (ProQOL) presentation series to be prepared to present in June to employees of a large county organization and a 10-county consortium. The goal of this effort is that participants can learn about the positive and negative aspects of helping professions, take the ProQOL screener, and work within their organization and Extension for future programming to improve their professional quality of life.*

*Coordinating the connection of Eau Claire agencies serving Hmong elders where individuals and agencies come together to build relationships and address needs and opportunities for partnership and collaboration. This effort helps to improve physical activity, food insecurity, and social connectedness among Hmong elders, as well as bridge gaps in transportation needs.*

*Continued meetings with community partners and attending community meetings to better understand the mental health needs and landscape within Eau Claire County and the Chippewa Valley. Needs and potential areas for Extension support are also revealed through this process.*

*Met with four agencies (public, private, nonprofit) to better understand the mental health landscape in Eau Claire County and the Chippewa Valley.*

## Positive Youth Development

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



*Tabling event at the Hmong Youth Day Festival where we interacted with young people and their parents to promote 4-H as an opportunity and build relationships with the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association.*

*Planning for Summer 4-H Camps that is a collaboration between Eau Claire, Dunn, and Clark County 4-H staff. The goal of the program is to provide a positive camp experience that will increase the feeling of belonging for both volunteers, counselors, and youth participants.*

*An intern onboarding program where we onboarded our summer interns to introduce Extension, basics of positive youth development theory, and communicate expectations of the intern positions.*

*Planning for a camp orientation meeting for families where we will help explain how camp works and answer questions so that participants will have a better experience.*



*Rachel Hart-Brinson, Zac Rozmiarek, and Jordan Blue - Tabling event at the Hmong Youth Day Festival where we interacted with young people and their parents to promote 4-H as an opportunity and built relationships with the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association.*

### Area Extension Director

Kristen Bruder | Eau Claire, Chippewa, and Dunn Counties



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### Value Added Programming

*Assistance was provided in planting new hybrids at the Wisconsin Cranberry Research Station, which experience will inform future outreach efforts. (Allison Jonjak)*

*A Virtual Brown Bag was held featuring crop stage and insect updates with Ocean Spray's Senior Agricultural Scientist, fruit quality and PAC measurements with USDA's Shinya Ikeda, and the EPA Bulletins Live Two system for complying with the Endangered Species Act. (Allison Jonjak)*

*Direct grower questions were answered regarding high soil sulfur levels concurrent with high soil pH—due to several growers experiencing these results this year, additional outreach work will be developed. (Allison Jonjak)*

*A Wisconsin Cranberry Research and Education Foundation meeting was held to continue progress on the development of the Wisconsin Cranberry Research Station. (Allison Jonjak)*

*A Women Leadership in Agriculture panel was held with Under Secretary Alexis Taylor, bringing together several cranberry leaders as well as grazing, dairy, potato, and vegetable leaders for a round table discussion informing trade/export issues. (Allison Jonjak)*

*A risk, crop insurance and grain marketing hybrid course, where material was adapted into a more relevant format for use in-person, webinars and an on-line course. The Farm Pulse -Crop Insurance and Grain Marketing has assisted farmers and agricultural professionals in identifying strengths and weaknesses of their crop business to assist them in making decisions that will improve their farm profitability. (Katie Wantoch)*

# Extension Eau Claire County

## May 2024 Report

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

6-9

Base and Outpost Camp

JUNE

17-20

Fiber Arts 4-H with ESASD

## Agriculture

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

### Jerry Clark | Regional Crops & Soils Educator



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

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

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

### \*\*SPOTLIGHT

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



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

### Regional Dairy Educator

This position is currently vacant

## Horticulture

### Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator

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

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# Extension Eau Claire County

## June 2024 Report



ecological niches in their landscape, allowing urban areas to support a host of different insect pollinators. This effort is to encourage individuals to adopt gardening practices that support pollinator habitat and health throughout the year.

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

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

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

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

Two vegetable container garden programs for participating seniors in StrongBodies where they learned strategies for successful container gardening and wellness benefits, we gain through gardening. This effort is designed to encourage people of all ages to garden for wellness and food, even if space, time and/or mobility is limited.

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

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

## Community Development

Garret Zastoupil | Community Development Educator



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

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

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

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

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



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

## Health & Well-Being

**Sandy Tarter**  
FoodWise Coordinator



**Joy Weisner**  
FoodWise Educator



**Jael M. Wolf**  
Bilingual FoodWise Educator



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

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

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

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

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# Extension Eau Claire County

## June 2024 Report

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

A collaboration with Eau Claire Master Gardener Volunteers, Eau Claire City Parks and Recreation, and Chippewa Valley Builders Association to start activities in implementing the FoodWise Garden Grant program. This effort will replace 6 raised beds and widen pathways for accessibility in the North River Fronts Kids Garden.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

### Positive Youth Development

Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Area Extension Director

Kristen Bruder | Eau Claire, Chippewa, and Dunn Counties



*The role of the AED is like that of the department head in the county. If you have ideas, thoughts, or want to chat about Extension please reach out! Below is a brief overview of the role of AEDs:*

*Extension fully invests in Area Extension Directors (AEDs) who oversee an area. These administrative positions are responsible for partnership management, staff development, financial management and program coordination.*

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Through the many interactions the AED has with county partners and local educators, the AED develops a solid understanding of the local needs and county priorities and helps to align Extension educational programs to ensure the programs address county needs. Educators also communicate local needs to their programmatic Institutes which collectively identify opportunities to address statewide needs.

### Value Added Programming

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Extension Eau Claire County

## June 2024 Report

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY  
24 Badger Crop Connect

Click [here](#) to register