



Agriculture & Natural Resources

Agriculture



Katie Wantoch
Agriculture Agent, Specializing in
Economic Development
katie.wantoch@wisc.edu

The farm population is aging and a high percentage have not made plans related to transitioning their farms to a successor generation. Successful transitions depend on effective communication around this highly emotional topic. In early 2020, Extension educators offered introductory farm succession workshops at five regional locations. I held this workshop in Menomonie that was attended by 28 local farmers.

The participants learned about a variety of resources, people and tools that would help them be successful in farm succession plans. They were also given the opportunity to have individual meetings with resource speakers, such as a lawyer, a tax specialist, a financial advisor, and USDA Farm Service Agency loan officer.

As a result of participating in the workshop, 96% of participants reported learning about tools to help them develop their vision and goals for the farm business (on average increasing their understanding by 1.2 points on a 5-point scale). In addition, 87% said they planned to seek out resources and/or professionals to help in their farm succession planning; and 83% said they plan to implement one or more steps in their farm succession plan. Individual participants noted, "Good idea to allow 1 on 1 interaction with speakers. Very helpful." By learning about resources and steps in succession planning, Wisconsin farmers are equipped to have important conversations and can develop plans that lead to successful farm transitions.

I recently assisted with a live, on-line webinar for Her Farm Network (Landmark Cooperative patrons) where participants learned how to get help for their farm business to get started on their farm succession plan. Joy Kirkpatrick, Extension Farm Management Specialist, provided a presentation via Zoom with an overview of the succession planning process

– Where are you now? Where do you want to be? How do you get there? I and three other educators assisted with developing the presentation and moderated breakout room discussions on farm succession planning.

Horticulture



Margaret Murphy
Horticulture Outreach Specialist
margaret.murphy@wisc.edu

Horticulture Outreach Specialist, Diana Alfuth and I began our Master Gardener online prep class. This class is not a certification class but instead a prep course for those interested in becoming a Master Gardener Volunteer. It will prepare individuals to enroll in the newly required online onboarding class, which will be available this winter. We have 29 people participating in the prep class. Many are from Area 6, including Menomonie.

I've been asked by the Master Gardener State office to serve on a committee to discuss strategies to keep new volunteers connected to the local Master Gardener programs when volunteers are being trained through an online format. One approach we will be taking locally to support connectivity between new volunteers and existing Master Gardener programming is to offer a mentorship program.

I am also supporting area Master Gardeners to transition their spring gardening seminars from an in-person event to a virtual event.

Yard and garden questions continue to come in. Recent inquiries have included questions on trees, fall producing raspberries, yellow-bellied sapsucker damage and prepping gardens now for next spring.

Continuing with professional development, I attended the National Extension Master Gardener Coordinator virtual four-day conference. Conference presentations included discussions on how to evaluate the impact of Master Gardener projects, how to keep volunteers engaged in a virtual environment and how to increase diversity and inclusion in the Master Gardener Program. I recently completed a four-week learning circle on leadership using the book *Dare to Lead* by Brené Brown. In the next couple of weeks, I will begin participation in a learning circle on expanding access that will focus on race, ethnicity, and gender.

Youth, Family, & Community Development

Health & Well-Being



Sandy Tarter
FoodWise Coordinator
sandy.tarter@wisc.edu



Joy Weisner
FoodWise Educator
joy.weisner@wisc.edu

Our Area FoodWise team just started a new Strong Bodies Statewide virtual series every Tuesday and Thursday morning. We kicked off the series the week of October 6th and on the first Thursday we had over 120 participants following along on Zoom (50 have registered from our Area). These classes will continue until Dec. 17th. Each Tuesday a 20 minute nutrition lesson is offered after the strength training exercises and on Thursdays a follow up nutrition discussion or other topics is offered. Some of the nutrition topics offered are Seasonal Vegetables, Good for you Whole Grains, Food Safety, Stretching our Food Dollars, and more! We even have special guest speakers to share their area of expertise pertaining to keeping us strong and healthy.



Pamela
Warren-Armstrong
FoodWise Educator
pamela.warren-armstrong@wisc.edu

We all have been learning how to adapt our lessons for virtual learning. We continue involvement in Statewide Curriculum Work Groups, Video Review Teams, and other FoodWise Virtual Learning sessions in order to prepare for this fall.

Educators continue to be positive and flexible in these ever changing times and look forward to the challenge of teaching their lessons virtually versus face to face.



Nancy Fastner
FoodWise Educator
nancy.fastner@wisc.edu

Sandy is a member of the Health Dunn Right-Chronic Disease Prevention Action Group. She worked with Robyn Thibado, Associate Director- West CAP, to submit a proposal for funding to add Market Match to the Menomonie Farmers Market EBT program for FoodShare participants.

Human Development & Relationships



Stephanie Hintz
Human Development
& Relationships
Educator stephanie.hintz@wisc.edu

This month I collaborated with colleagues across the state to hold a 4 session Taking Care of You program for over 40 nursing students to help them stay resilient during times of covid-19. The majority of the students indicated that this program helped them better manage their stress.

The monthly Parents Forever program also went well with one participant shared in a follow up email “Thank you so much for teaching the class. I loved the class, you make it very comfortable and humanize what we are all going through.”

The Health Dunn Right Coalition is continuing to grow. We are still in the process of setting up an information portal, developing a plan for the grant money presented by the Community Foundation, and implementing programming relevant for Covid-19.

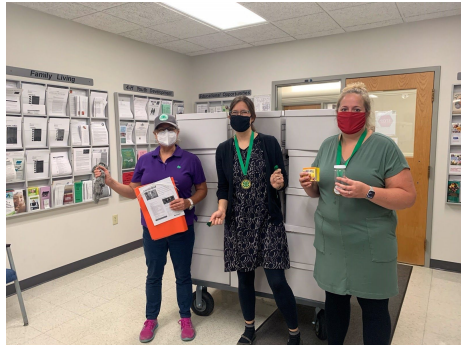
I participated in a 3 day virtual training to be able to share and facilitate Triple P. Triple P stands for Positive Parenting Program and is internationally recognized for being evidenced based and effective across cultures. I plan to use this information and my background in love and logic to develop a mini series for “Bite-sized” parenting lessons that could help families that are highly stressed during this time.

This month also wrapped up the Dare to Lead program I was facilitating for Extension Area 6 (Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire counties) colleagues. All of the respondents to the post survey indicated they felt more confident in their leadership skills after taking the class. This was an excellent program to facilitate and I am in the works of offering more relationship/capacity building opportunities for community leaders in Dunn County and across the state.

Positive Youth Development



Luisa Gerasimo
4-H Program
Coordinator
luisa.gerasimo@wisc.edu



Want to hear all the cool news about 4-H in our region? Check out my fun minute interview with Scott Schultz on WAXX Radio 104.5! Click the link: <https://www.midwestfarmreport.com/bob-and-scott/> and then scroll down to interviews and Dunn Co.

We talked about what is happening behind the scenes these days: a new enrollment database, new 4-H website, new virtual learning opportunities, and in our region: DISCOVER 4-H/4-H in a Box. (See pictures from packing days in Chippewa).

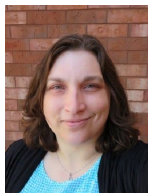
Area families signed up this month to order and safely pick up 160 boxes filled with materials for 6 fun and educational 4-H activities for two youth to use. The educators from Area 6 are cooperating to design, build, market and run this innovative program... and we are sharing our plan and materials with colleagues all over Wisconsin. We get rolling October 4th with a Welcome Night, just in time for National 4-H Week, and then will meet virtually with a new hands-on activity each Thursday until mid-November. We plan to wrap up with a lively Celebration Night. It looks like we have LOTS of brand new families to bring into our area's clubs this fall so we are pulling out all the stakes for this! Here is our promo on WEAU TV:

<https://www.weau.com/video/2020/09/21/discover-h-box-part-2/>

Community Development

The Community Development Educator position is currently vacant. Catherine shared updates on the position, including a fresh look at the scope of the position and support from Extension's Community Development Institute during the 2021 budget deliberations. Please contact Catherine Emmanuelle with any questions catherine.emmanuelle@wisc.edu 715-450-0823. For information on Extension's Community Development efforts see <https://extension.wisc.edu/community-development/>, and how Extension is responding to COVID-related work supported by Community Development Educators, see <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/covid19/category/topics/communities/>.

Support Staff



Michelle Bachand
Support Specialist
mbachand@co.dunn.wi.us

The changing leaves and garden clean-up may indicate the end of summer, but it also indicates the start of the new 4-H year! The 4-H calendar year starts in October, so I spent September helping Luisa with preparing for the rollover. 4-H club charter documents were reviewed, record books awards packets distributed, and a new 4-H Online enrollment system was spun up by the state which required refining at our local level.

I also assisted educators with implementing virtual programming in a variety of ways, including updating brochures and flyers, digitizing books for virtual

presentation, beta testing online training, and editing Podcasts and Videos, as well as then transcribing and captioning the finished products.

I continued to participate in the weekly technology training offered by the Extension state educational tech team to learn new or streamlined ways to assist the educators in their adjusted programming efforts.

A budgetary update, our FY21 Extension budget passed through the Executive Committee and will be presented to the County Board with no changes from what was originally presented to the committee in August.

Area Extension Director



Catherine Emmanuelle
Area Extension Director
Chippewa, Dunn, &
Eau Claire Counties
catherine.emmanulle@wisc.edu

Our educators continue to mostly work from home. Extension has updated guidance that educators may return to the office up to 50% of the time, although they are also fully supported to work from home up to 100%. We thank the county for their tremendous support in understanding. There is some educational programming occurring in the county, with approvals for events in the public to be consistent with Extension's program guidance and local public health guidance. Our Dunn County team continues to work with our state partners on the pilot for the monthly highlights. We are still ironing out the details as a state with the other counties who are participating in the pilot. So for now, we'll be using the same format 'til we are ready to roll. As you prepare for your last weeks of budget deliberation, please feel free to contact me if there are any questions I can help answer. Thanks for all you are doing to serve and lead in these trying times. It's not easy for anyone, and the continued partnership is truly appreciated!