

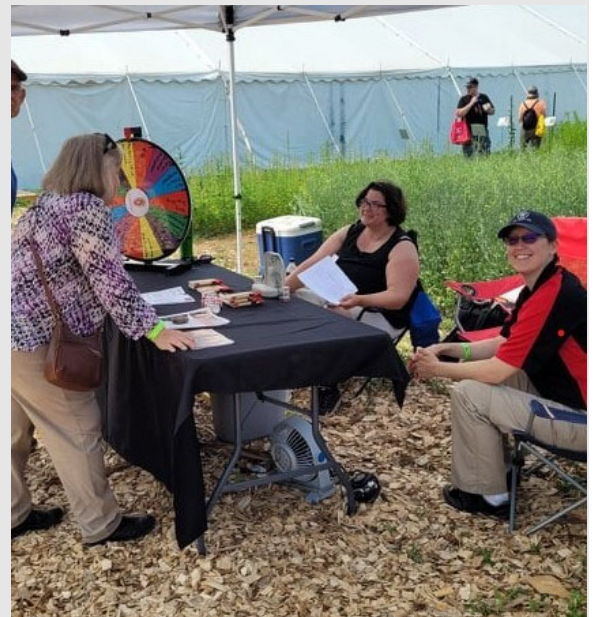
## Agriculture



**Katie Wantoch** | *Associate Professor and Agriculture Agent, Specializing in Economic Development*

The Wisconsin Farm Technology Days is the largest agricultural show in Wisconsin and one of the largest in the nation. The three-day outdoor event showcases the latest improvements in production agriculture, including many practical applications of recent research findings and technological developments. Each year, it is held in a different Wisconsin county - on a different host family farm. The 2021 event was held July 20-22 in the Eau Claire area. Jerry Clark, Chippewa County Agriculture Agent, and I co-chaired the Extension educational area at the event.

Extension educators from four Agriculture Institute program areas, in addition to the Master Gardener program, collaborated on educational stations for the 2021 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days. The goal of this effort was to increase producer's knowledge of Crops and Soils, Dairy and Livestock, Master Gardener, and Farm Management program educational initiatives. Examples include cover crop demonstration plots, mitigating dairy cattle heat stress, beef x dairy cross calf care, farm statistics, how much meat to expect from a hog, lamb, and steer, alternative forage crops, weed identification, and more. Program educators staffed each station, along with Master Gardener Volunteers, to answer questions. Extension educator relationships were leveraged to partner with a dairy goat producer to present milking demonstrations, with the goats displayed in an Extension pasture seeding mix demonstration plot. New program area topic hubs were promoted through the use of QR codes and handouts with new website addresses. An estimated 50,000 people attended the three day event.



*Pictured: Extension educators talking with 2021 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days attendees at the Extension educational area about Farm Management topics.*

- Presentation of Agriculture Institute educational displays for the 2021 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days. The goal of this effort was to increase producer's knowledge of Crops and Soils, Dairy and Livestock, Master Gardener, and Farm Management program educational initiatives.
- Development of financial planning curriculum for farmers and agribusiness professionals. This effort was designed to increase financial decision-making capacity and reduce stress levels.
- A poster session at statewide and national virtual conferences where our team shared results of Motivational Interviewing as a Tool to Address Farm Stress and Transitions efforts. This program increased the professional capacity of UW Extension educators by improving their communication and facilitation skills with the clientele they serve.
- A podcast series, AgriVision, for farmers and ag professionals, where UW Extension educators answer Farm Management questions and share knowledge and expertise on how farmers can improve their farm management skills.
- Updating and adapting of a grain marketing curriculum for beginning, female, and other farmers into a more relevant format for use in-person, stand-alone educational videos, and an on-line course. This curriculum will assist farmers in identifying strengths and weaknesses of their business to assist them in making decisions that will improve their farm profitability.



## Community Development



Addison Vang | *Community Development Educator*

I'm excited to be joining the Area 6 Extension working on community food systems and broadband and working in Dunn County.

- Networking and connecting with educators and community stakeholders.
- Introduced to statewide community food systems programming: Edible Startup Summit, a 4-day program for food business start-ups and entrepreneurs through talks, workshops, and networking sessions, and Exploring Extension Capacity to work with HMoob farmers supporting Wisconsin Hmong farmers.

## Horticulture



Margaret Murphy | *Horticulture Outreach Specialist*

Yard and garden questions still come in daily. Lawn questions are topping the list - questions on grubs and rust. Plus, I have received many questions concerning lilacs and other landscape plants along with vegetable crops exhibiting signs of foliar fungal disease.

The Horticulture and Master Gardener Programs are offering a 12-week course called Foundations in Horticulture (FIH) this fall. FIH is an online Canvas course where participants will learn the fundamentals of Wisconsin horticulture with an emphasis in integrated pest management. It is for individuals interested in expanding their upper Midwest garden knowledge as well as for individuals interested in becoming a Master Gardener Volunteer. We have 11 individuals from Area 6 registered. I have coordinated the Q&A sessions with state specialists that are new to the course this year plus, will be leading a lab section.

I met with the Boys and Girls Club in Menomonie to do a midsummer garden class. The kids did an outstanding job of cleaning up the 6 raised beds and planting the 4 of empty ones. The plan is to do a couple of more classes in 2021 and a more extended course in 2022.

The pizza garden planted in one of the round planters outside the Dunn County Government Center is bearing fruit. The garden has tomatoes, peppers, onions, herbs and marigolds (for the cheese). Help yourself to the produce as well as some herbs.



- Master Gardener Volunteer Mentorship Program for new volunteers where established volunteers help familiarize them with local volunteer service projects and help acclimate them as they begin their volunteer service. This effort is designed to increase volunteer retention and their involvement with community horticulture projects.
- Planning and redeveloping an online course about Wisconsin horticulture for consumer audiences (home gardeners) and those interested in becoming a Master Gardener Volunteer. This effort is designed to increase learners' decision-making and problem-solving skills to improve the productivity and health of gardens and landscapes, while also expanding access to new underserved audience members.



## Health and Well-Being



Sandy Tarter | *FoodWise Coordinator*

Nancy Fastner | *FoodWise Educator*

Pamela Warren-Armstrong | *FoodWise Educator*

Joy Weisner | *FoodWise Educator*



StrongBodies classes continued virtually this summer. Sandy, Joy, Pamela, and Nancy are taking turns to lead the sessions. Beth Olson, FoodWise Nutrition Specialist, spoke to our group on the Mediterranean Diet in July. Barb Ingham, Food Safety Specialist, presented tips about freezing and preserving fruits and vegetables throughout the summer.



Chippewa Valley Summer Activity Passport continues through August. So far, 80 families in Dunn, Chippewa, and Eau Claire counties have joined this initiative by sharing a photo of their family enjoying a trail, pool, playground, and other activities in our community and area. Drawings are held weekly and Dunn families have received prizes.



Nancy completed her classes with WIC participants at the Farmers Market. They discussed ideas on utilizing WIC vouchers, reviewed preparation/storage of fruits/vegetables and enjoyed tasting vegetables with dip, strawberry salad, etc.

Pamela and Joy completed their virtual lessons with the Boys and Girls Club. Youth learned about healthy snacks, eating different parts of the plant, and were encouraged to try different vegetables. Hopefully we can utilize the raised bed gardens next year.

FoodWise staff are taking training this summer on the Around the Table curriculum that upholds the principles of trauma-informed engagement and nourishment.

- Implemented the Chippewa Valley Summer Activity Passport program with support of three local coalitions encouraging families to get out and enjoy multiple local resources. This effort supports physical activity, stress reduction, and increased fresh fruit and vegetables intake as action steps towards better health in chronic disease prevention.
- Providing nutrition lessons at Farmers Markets with WIC participants to promote utilizing farmers market vouchers, fresh produce, healthy recipes, and offer tastings. This effort will help parents in food resource management while expanding their knowledge of using produce with family meals.
- Planning a nutrition education series with families to inspire them to make healthy, affordable food choices while meal planning, shopping, and cooking at home.
- Virtual lessons (My Plate) for youth where they learn about nutrition facts label reading, importance of breakfast, healthy snacks, and avoiding sugar sweetened beverages. This effort will encourage youth to make better food choices and create healthy goals.



*FoodWise Nutrition Educator Nancy Fastner helps WIC participants learn about choosing, storing, and freezing fresh produce.*





## Human Development and Relationships



Stephanie Hintz | *Human Development and Relationships Educator*

I'd like to highlight a big accomplishment from The Mental Health & Wellness Team, an action team for the Health Dunn Right Coalition. We have officially launched our Online Community Resource Guide! Check out our website here: <https://dunn.myresourceguide.org/resources>

This new resource guide:

- Has 400+ resources that are searchable by organization name, category, or key work!
- Allows the user to bookmark the resource they're interested in and then turn it into a printer friendly version.
- Completely free to use!
- Includes a link that allows organizations to update their resource easily:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScMvhJlloWOWfLahLHEEeclCUjXnV5FfJw5f7WQ49y3pWklXQ/viewform>

Keep your eyes peeled for a paper copy of the resource guide! This paper copy will contain resources focused on emergency housing, mental health, and food pantries.

- A 4-hour online class for parents in a legal court case for divorce, placement change, child support or paternity, where they learn about the effects of family transitions on children and how parents can minimize problems for their children through cooperative co-parenting strategies.

## Positive Youth Development



Luisa Gerasimo | *4-H Program Educator*

The "Pirates of Dunn County" Day camp, which we held on the lawn of the Government Center, was a big hit with the little ones that attended. We got a sweet thank you note calling out how fun it was and how nice the counselors were. Chippewa, Dunn and EC county 4-H educators are busy preparing to run a 6 week "Discover 4-H" series with in person and virtual components. These area activities are aimed at introducing families to a variety of hands-on educational and fun projects and then getting them enrolled in area clubs. August included many meetings aimed at wrapping up the old 4-H year and preparing for the new one which begins September first.

Hi Katie and Luisa:

I just wanted to drop a quick note to say thanks for all of your hard work with the fair. With the combination of coming off of a year without the fair and the recent Farm Tech Days, I have no doubt that you both and your collective staff put in many hours on top of your usual many hours worth of time and energy. I wanted to say thanks and that I thought you all did a great job again.

-Corporate Partner

- A series of meetings with summer interns designed to help the interns understand 4-H and to mentor the interns to increase their understanding of professional workplace norms and duties.
- A series of meetings to plan a cooperative overnight summer camp for two counties to occur in early June of



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2022 with the goal of making the camp more accessible, affordable, and fun.

- A series of meetings and activities for the purpose of planning 4-H's activities at the Dunn County Fair.
- A program (incorporating Money Matters) for Department of Workforce Development clients where they gained financial skills, and earned a voucher they could redeem when opening a savings account at a local credit union. The purpose of the effort is to improve financial wellbeing and stability of participants.

## Support



Michelle Bachand | *Support Specialist*

August is a transition month as summer activities wrap-up and there is a lull before fall programming kicks into gear. This month I worked on a variety of activities, some of which include:

- Preparing for new 4-H year with database maintenance
- Website and social media updates
- Creating marketing images to advertise programming
- Completing Extension Civil Rights 101 training
- Podcast audio editing and transcribing
- Attending various virtual meetings and trainings
- Reviewing physical and electronic files, destroying items outside of their required retention period

## Area Extension Director



Catherine Emmanuelle | *Area Extension Director - Chippewa, Dunn, & Eau Claire Counties*

We are appreciative of the support, questions, and conversations we've had on the committee level as we enter budget season on the county level. Please feel free to reach out anytime if you have questions or want to connect along the way. I have been working closely with our new Community Development Educator, Addison Vang, as he gets to know our three counties, Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire. He will be a busy and effective Extension Educator, that is for sure! Lastly, as we continue with Covid this fall, we will continue to prioritize the health and safety of our staff, and supporting them if they need to care for themselves or their family as we enter another challenging respiratory season. We continue to have in-person and virtually programming, while following CDC, state, and local public health guidance. We appreciate all of your support as our department continues to navigate this long pandemic chapter.