



Agriculture



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

In July, I had the opportunity to participate in the 2021 National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference.

Although the conference was held virtually, learning from my peers and having exposure to new applied research and outreach activities is a critical part of my professional development and an important way that I stay current on what is happening in my field.

I also had the opportunity to share my programming efforts during a session presentation on "MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING AS A TOOL TO ADDRESS FARM STRESS AND TRANSITIONS" with fellow colleagues around the country and discussed with several members how they can incorporate this work in their state. In addition, I was recognized as a National Finalist in the Search For Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture award for my work with the Red Cedar Demonstration Farm educational efforts.

I completed my two-year term as the Agricultural Issues & Public Relations North-Central Regional Committee Vice-Chair and will serve as the National Chair of this committee for 2021-2022. This committee provides educational opportunities that help NACAA members identify, define and educationally address issues in agriculture that impact the sustainability of agriculture operations in their areas. In addition, it encourages and trains members to carry out high impact public relations projects to enhance appreciation for and an overall understanding of agriculture. This professional development occurs primarily during sessions offered at the annual conference, which is planned for next July 2022. I will be working with regional committee vice-chairs to determine topics and seek out professional speakers for these sessions during the upcoming months.

The proceedings of the 106th NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference are available at <https://www.nacaa.com/ampic/2021/2021%20Proceedings%20LR.pdf>.

"Congratulations on receiving awards from the Wisconsin Association of County Agricultural Agents! Winning two communications awards for Audio Recording and Personal Column along with winning the Search for Excellence Award is very impressive. Keep up the great work with the Wisconsin Extension!"

-Sincerely, Rep. Rob Summerfield

"Congratulations Katie! We appreciate you and all your fine work! We're proud of you and you make us proud!"

-Chuck Stokke

- An article for the "Wisconsin State Farmer" newspaper that provided tools for better understanding the financial flow of farm businesses, and encouraged readers to be proactive with managing the financials for their farm business. The goal of this effort was to increase financial stability and help farmers during volatile commodity prices.
- 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.
- Development of financial planning curriculum for farmers and agribusiness professionals. This effort is designed to increase financial decision-making capacity and reduce stress levels.



Community Development



Addison Vang | *Community Development Educator*

I have continued to develop and connect with stakeholders, organizations, and extension educators to build on my knowledge of the county and extension.

- A statewide program “Exploring Capacity to work with HMoob Farmers” to assess and develop the necessary support for Hmong Farmers throughout the state. Currently, there are ongoing interviews with farmers to further support the initial assessments. The program is still in the early stages of development.
- A statewide program to support recently incarcerated residents who have a desire to be entrepreneurs through a nationally recognized program called “Entrepreneur in Training” with Defy. The effort is to support these individuals with re-entry into the community and the necessary tools to start up new businesses and life skills.

Horticulture



Margaret Murphy | *Horticulture Outreach Specialist*

A few highlights for September include the Horticulture and Master Gardener Programs 12-week course, Foundations in Horticulture (FIH), which began September 12 and is going smoothly. We have approximately 380 students enrolled in FIH. As part of the course, we are offering optional labs for students. We have several different dates and times available to accommodate student schedules. I have 25 students enrolled in the lab sessions I’m teaching on Monday evenings. The first lab is on pesticide label reading and interpreting soil test results. I am also co-moderating a few question and answer sessions with state specialists. The first is with Dr. Doug Soldat on soils.

I am meeting with the Boys and Girls Club in Menomonie to do an end of season class on putting the garden to bed. I will be working with the club coordinators to develop a garden course for 2022.

I plan to begin clean-up on the pizza garden planted in one of the round planters outside the Dunn County Government Center in the next couple of weeks. Please help yourself to any produce, flowers and 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*



Nancy and Sandy presented on StrongBodies to members of Chippewa Valley Learning in Retirement. We are taking registrations for an in-person Strong Bodies series at the Shirley Doane Senior Center starting October 14th through December 9th:

<https://go.wisc.edu/10ws79>



The Menomonie Farmers Market completed their EBT and new Market Match season with \$5942 Foodshare sales and \$3500 in Match tokens. The Match program has been a great success in increasing FoodShare sales from last season along with added food security for low-income families. This data will be shared with agencies in hopes to raise funding for next year's Market Match program.



FoodWise announced it's annual statewide Golden Awards. Congratulations to Sandy Tarter on receiving the Community Engagement Award and Pamela Warren-Armstrong for receiving the distinguished Career Award! Pamela marks her 20th year in October and has helped countless youth and adults to eat better in an economical way.

“Thanks for much for being online – Otherwise, I couldn’t attend. I totally value this program, and am so grateful I don’t have to drive 35 minutes to participate. (And don’t have to share germs)”
-Strong Bodies Participant

- 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.
- Collaborated with local agencies to create sustainability and promotion of the farmers markets token and match programs. This effort enables FoodShare participants to utilize their benefits in purchasing market foods while supporting increased vendor sales.
- A newspaper article where readers learn about the proper steps for preserving fruits and vegetables by freezing for year round consumption. The purpose of this effort is to encourage increasing year-round consumption of local fruits and vegetables.
- Planning a presentation to local seniors on a strength training program. This will help seniors to learn the importance that weight bearing exercises have on health and how it can reduce risk of conditions associated with aging.



Human Development and Relationships



Stephanie Hintz | *Human Development and Relationships Educator*

This month I broke my wrist on my dominant hand in a biking accident. So I will keep this short and sweet because typing can be painful right now.

- I applied for and secured a UW-Madison Graduate Student Research Assistant to help with the upcoming Community Health Needs Assessment and Improvement Plan.
- The Health Dunn Right website and community resources guide is officially launched and I will be facilitating a Dare to Lead Professional Development Program for Health Dunn Right Members.
- Parents Forever wrap around co-parenting education and support is going well.
- Practicing the Pause is still going strong and very successful based on participant feedback.

- 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.
- 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.
- A professional development training is being developed for law enforcement, justice and community partners so they can better understand and interact more effectively with Veterans.

Positive Youth Development



Luisa Gerasimo | *4-H Program Educator*

Pirates of Dunn County Day Camp was a real hit! We had a smaller crew than we hoped for, but the youth who came to spend the day out of doors and do pirate-themed 4-H activities sure had a blast. We did several science projects including racing sailboats and looking at the properties of seawater and fresh water. We ate pirate boat snacks made of apples, cheese and toothpicks, did a treasure hunt with clues, and held a crazy relay race. Campers reported they

LOVED our volunteer camp counselors and want us to do another one ASAP!

I also met my colleague from Eau Claire county to tour Kamp Kenwood this month as we are evaluating new sites for our two county 4-H summer camp.

General Leaders came to the picnic shelter where I hosted a "charter party" so that clubs could get help with a new Annual Financial Report which is required for renewing club charters each year. All of those records were due September first, so both support staff and educator have been very busy communicating, assisting, tracking, scanning and filing these documents so that IRS 990s can be filed on each club's behalf.

Luisa, thanks a bunch for all you do. I had fun at the 4-H Pirate Day Camp. The counselors were nice.
Love, P. -Cloverbud Day Camper



Extension

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DUNN COUNTY

September 2021 Report

- A pirate-themed outdoor day camp for children going into grades 1-4, where 4-H concepts were explored, including STEM, art, history and physical activity. This camp was designed to attract new families to 4-H.
- A series of planning meetings for three county 4-H educators to develop and implement a six-week hybrid "Discover 4-H" program for youth in grades K-4. This program will include all needed materials for doing 6 diverse projects using the 4-H curriculum taught by the educators and volunteers, and will provide exposure to new audiences to 4H.



Support



Michelle Bachand | *Support Specialist*

September kicked off the new 4-H year and signaled the start of fall and winter program planning. This month I worked on a variety of activities, some of which include:

- Approving 4-H club member and volunteer enrollments for the 2021-2022 4-H year
- Organizing, ordering, and creating 4-H fall awards
- Audio and video editing of podcasts and videos, along with transcriptions and captioning
- Starting the logistical planning for Pesticide Applicator Training this winter
- Auditing 4-H club annual financial report documents before their submission to the State 4-H database
- Preparing draft updates to the 4-H Leaders Council bylaws
- Completing parliamentary procedure & minutes training
- Attending various virtual meetings and trainings

Area Extension Director



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

Thank you to everyone who was able to make it to the Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire Counties Meet-and-Greet virtual meeting in September. Our theme was Transforming Lives and Communities. Our staff was able to highlight local accomplishments and what's on the horizon for programming at the county level. We had dedicated time to talk about Extension's educational presence at Farm Technology Days. We learned about Extension's FoodWise leadership and impact of expanding a local Market-Match program at farmers markets, which helps stretch food dollars for folks on FoodShare. We also heard from Broadband State Specialist Gail Huycke and a high-level look at the interconnected work of Community Development across our three counties. You should have received an email with the meeting materials. In the event you didn't, please email Catherine.Emmanuelle@wisc.edu and I'd be glad to connect you with the info. Here's a link too to the archived Zoom meeting: [Link to the Zoom meeting https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYD3D4eZJXE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYD3D4eZJXE)