



## Agriculture

Jerry Clark  
*Agriculture Educator, Crops & Soils*



Lyssa Seefeld  
*Agriculture Educator, Dairy*



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 dairy production and management newsletter for farmers, managers, employees, and agribusiness professionals, where subscribers learned about dairy facilities and ventilation, reproduction, animal well-being, nutrition, and Extension dairy production and management resources. This effort was designed to provide a timely and reliable source of dairy management news and updates to help them improve farm business viability, environmental sustainability, and food safety through animal welfare.

A think tank for field crop farmers where participants engaged in focus group discussions to increase understanding of the causes of soil compaction and the challenges and strategies to prevent and remedy it for increased soil health and farm profitability.

A research-based educational article for dairy farmers, and agri-business professionals, where participants will learn about current ventilation recommendations for dairy cattle, resources for identifying the most energy efficient fans for their facilities, and how proper ventilation and fan selection can help improve Dairy's carbon footprint.

A video series for food and farm business entrepreneurs, where participants develop the framework needed for effective food and ag entrepreneurship and are connected with the resources they need to be successful. This effort was designed to help participants assess their skills, assets, personalities, and/or networks to help make a decision about a business opportunity or new enterprise.

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## Community Development

Addison Vang | *Community Development Educator*



Planning for a series of webinars for food entrepreneurs in collaboration with county educators, statewide specialists, and local experts. This effort is designed to equip food entrepreneurs with increased skills and knowledge for operating successful food business enterprises.

Planning for the second in a series of educational program targeting underserved Hmong and marginalized small farmers where they learned about the importance of food safety and receive vegetable washing stations for use at their own farms. The goal is to reduce challenges and barriers to support and/or expand underserved farm operations with good agricultural practices and economic growth.

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## Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | *Horticulture Outreach Specialist*



Planning a 6-week garden program for youth in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley Menomonie Center and FoodWise. The goal of this effort is to teach best practices in the garden through hands-on activities, promote life-long healthy eating habits and to foster connections to nature.

Planning 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.

Planning a gardening series for beginners in collaboration with the Cardinal Community Learning Center where participants learn the basics of vegetable gardening, starting seeds indoors and growing vegetables in containers when space is limited. The goal of this effort is to teach those new to vegetable gardening how to get started and encourage people to try vegetable gardening.

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.

## Health and Well-Being

Sandy Tarter  
*FoodWise Coordinator*



Joy Weisner  
*FoodWise Educator*



Jael Wolf  
*FoodWise Educator*



Hillarie Roth  
*FoodWise Educator*



A collaborative effort with Chronic Disease Prevention Action Teams under the Eau Claire Healthy Communities, Health Dunn Right, and Chippewa Health Improvement Partnership coalitions to promote our 2022-2023 Winter Wellness Initiative. This effort helps promote community engagement in winter activities that include increased physical activity, increased access to local food in winter farmers markets, and stress reduction as action steps to reduce chronic diseases.

Multiple emails and connection to plan nutrition education with a new partner, Downsville Elementary. The goal of this effort is for students to learn about eating healthy, being active, exploring fruits and vegetables, and the importance of hand-washing.

Multiple meetings and emails with local partners to implement a new Farmers Market in Chippewa and plan for Market Match programs in Menomonie and Eau Claire Farmers Markets. This effort will help to improve food security with the development and implementation of a program for SNAP/FoodShare recipients to use benefits for food purchases.

A 5-week nutrition education series to kindergarten classes in Parkview Elementary. The goal of this effort is for students to discover MyPlate, learn the importance of healthy habits and handwashing, and taste fruits and vegetables.

A 5-week nutrition education series to 3rd graders at Parkview Elementary to learn about the importance of eating five food groups, physical activity, healthy habits, and try seasonal fruits and vegetables. This effort will encourage students to choose a goal to try more fruits and vegetables at each meal.

Participation in the transition meeting of Healthy Communities Coalition and Alliance Mental Health teams including active support for the local chronic disease prevention action

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team. This effort will help guide objectives and strategies that support initiatives to help improve the health of local residents.

A series of virtual statewide strength training sessions (StrongBodies) where older adults learn best practices along with nutrition and health education. Participants engage in regular strength training exercises to improve strength, balance, and flexibility so they can stay healthy and socially connected.

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## Human Development and Relationships

Luisa Gerasimo | *Human Development and Relationships Educator*



A multi-county regional resource fair hosted by a local school district for parents attending conferences, where local agencies and nonprofits staffed booths and handed out information to families. The purpose of this activity was to raise awareness of programming and educational efforts while making connections to community partners for future new partnerships.

A 6-session evidence-informed program for parents, caregivers, educators, and human service professionals where they learn communication skills that help young children think for themselves. The goal is to improve children's prosocial behaviors such as problem solving and positive peer relationships and reduce problematic behaviors such as impulsivity.

A 3-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. When divorced parents can cooperate or have a business-like approach to co-parenting, their children are far more likely to do better and not experience lasting negative effects of divorce.

Programs open to Dunn County and offered by other Area 6 Human Development and Relationships Educators:

A monthly topic-specific class series (Resilient Co-Parenting) for co-parents raising children together while living apart, where they learn skills to improve communication and problem-solving, support children emotionally and keep kids out of the middle of conflict.

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.

## Positive Youth Development

Zachary Rozmiarek | 4-H Program Educator



Planning for a hands-on project learning day for middle school and high school youth in collaboration with 4-H volunteers. The goal of this effort is to broaden participant's experiences, increase project skills, and encourage youth and adult partnerships.

Planning for Art U that is a virtual art instruction program in partnership with UW-Stout in order to provide project learning in the spark of Art.

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Planning for two 4-H camps for over 80 youth from Clark, Dunn and Eau Claire counties, where youth will sleep overnight in cabins and tents. The goal is to bring youth together to try new activities, make new friends, and experience nature and time away from home in a safe setting.



Zac, Melissa and Luisa at the Extension Dunn Co. table, getting ready to greet families at the annual Elk Mound Community Resource Fair.

## Area Extension Director

Kristen Bruder | Area Extension Director – Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire Counties



Please reach out with questions and ideas. The role of the AED is much like the department head in the county. 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.