

## Agriculture

**Jerry Clark**

*Agriculture Educator, Crops & Soils*



**Lyssa Seefeld**

*Agriculture Educator, Dairy*



A training program for youth 12-years old or older where participants learned the safe operation of tractors and farm machinery to become certified to safely work on Wisconsin farms.

On-farm research projects for farmers and agricultural professionals where data and observations will provide unbiased information to help farmers make informed decisions.

A research-based educational article for farmers, managers, employees, and agri-business professionals, where they will learn about utilizing a forage test to determine forage stability for dairy farms. The goal of the article is to help producers learn how reading a forage test can help determine how stable their stored forages are to increase business viability and environmental sustainability.

A dairy needs assessment for Chippewa, Dunn, & Eau Claire farms to learn what types of educational programs dairy farmers would be interested in to improve their dairy cattle management, and ultimately lead to improved economic viability and farm sustainability.

Planning for development of factsheets/articles, longer publications, and videos on nutrition, genetics, & reproduction topics. The goal of this effort is to increase farmer, nutritionist, veterinarian, and other agribusiness professionals' understanding of management of these topics to help improve farm sustainability and economic viability.

A dairy e-newsletter for farmers, nutritionists, veterinarians, 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.

Updating and adapting a risk and grain marketing curriculum into a more relevant format for use in-person, stand-alone educational videos, and an on-line course. This curriculum will assist beginning, organic and transitioning dairy farmers in identifying strengths and weaknesses of their business to assist them in making decisions that will improve their farm profitability.

A dairy production and management newsletter for farmers, managers, employees, and agribusiness professionals, where subscribers learned about dairy facilities and ventilation, reproduction, animal



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
DUNN COUNTY

# June 2023 Report

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 improve farm business viability, environmental sustainability, and food safety through animal welfare.

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## Community Development

Addison Vang | *Community Development Educator*



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.

A farmer's market survey for Chippewa Valley to better understand market vendor and small farmer needs. The survey will be distributed during the peak summer farmer's market months and is designed to inform market decisions as well as understand the market's impact on the community food system.

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## Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | *Horticulture Educator*



A gardening program for beginners where participants learn the basics of vegetable gardening in containers. The goal of this effort was to teach participants techniques to successfully grow vegetables in containers and to encourage people to grow vegetables even when space and/or time is limited.

A gardening program for beginners where participants learn 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 garden presentation for AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program participants. The goal of this effort is to teach participants strategies to grow successful patio gardens and to encourage people of all ages to garden even when space is limited.

A vegetable container garden program for the Spring Series StrongBodies Chat for participating seniors where they learned about the benefits and ease of growing vegetables in containers. 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.

A fruit container garden program for the Spring Series StrongBodies Chat for participating seniors

where they learned about several fruits that can be successfully grown in a container. 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.

Planning an educational garden for the public in collaboration with facilities at the Dunn County Government Building. The goal of the effort is to incorporate native plants into the garden for both beautification and an 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.



Extension Dunn County staff, Melissa and Sam, assist with installing a native plant educational garden in front of the Dunn County Government Center.

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.

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 6-lesson series at River Heights Elementary with Boys and Girls Club of the Chippewa Valley-Menomonie in providing a summer garden nutrition education series. This effort will introduce youth to gardening, promote fresh produce, and provide opportunity for youth to increase produce consumption.

A vegetable container garden program for the Spring Series StrongBodies Chat for participating seniors where they learned about the benefits and ease of growing vegetables in containers. 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.

A 3-lesson series at Bridge to Hope which provides shelter and support for individuals and families affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking where they learn about nutrition, meal planning, utilizing pantry foods, and food safety. The goal of this effort is to help participants make healthy choices on a limited budget.

Multiple meetings and emails with local partners to support our local farmers markets by implementing 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 4-lesson series for women in an addiction treatment program where they learn about nutrition and food resource management principles. The goal of this effort is to help limited resource participants make healthy food choices on a budget.

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 qualitative data analysis of three focus groups to create a report for the county health department for the purpose of better understanding reduced client numbers for the reproductive health clinic.

A workshop where justice-involved parents learn the importance of reading aloud to children and ways to engage their child through books. The goal of this program is to help parents strengthen the parent-child bond and build children's early literacy skills, which are an important foundation for success

in school and life.

A program for justice-involved families where parents in jail are recorded reading storybooks they select, which are then shared with their children at home. The goal is to reduce the trauma of separation, strengthen family relationships, and at the same time increase children's exposure to books and reading.

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*I really enjoyed being able to do this for my babies. Also, I believe this is an awesome opportunity. THANK YOU.*

-Parent Participant in Making Reading Memories

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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.

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An evidence-based in person co-parenting class designed for parents who will be sharing custody of children. This four-hour course is designed to improve parenting to protect children, increase cooperation between parents and help parents care for themselves in a time of stress.

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

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.

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## Positive Youth Development

Zachary Rozmiarek | *4-H Program Educator*



A 4-H Art and Painting Project Day was held for all 4-H members, where youth were able to participate in hands-on learning to increase their knowledge of painting techniques.

A 4-H Action Center Booth was set up for visitors at the Colfax Free Fair. Youth were able to explore a variety of hands-on STEM activities. This effort was designed to educate youth in an engaging manner while promoting the 4-H program.

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.

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## 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.