



Agriculture

Jerry Clark

Agriculture Educator, Crops & Soils



Lyssa Seefeld

Agriculture Educator, Dairy



A field day for farmers and agency personnel, where participants learned about crop production practices and research updates to increase farm profitability.

The North American Manure Expo where professional manure applicators increased awareness of new manure handling equipment, management, and research to apply manure more accurately and protect the environment.

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, for 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 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.

Community Development

Addison Vang | *Community Development Educator*



Educational programming as part of a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant supporting underserved HMoob and marginalized small farmers in Western Wisconsin, where participants learn about the importance of food safety, soil health, and gain awareness of farm agencies and food-business resources. The goals are to reduce challenges and barriers to support and expand underserved HMoob farm operations through good agricultural practices and economic growth.

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.

Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | *Horticulture Educator*



Planning a program on gardening and composting with limited space for the public. The goal of this effort is to teach participants strategies to successfully grow vegetables and compost garden waste even when space is limited.

A presentation for seniors where participants learned about the benefits of plants / gardening on our overall wellbeing to encourage the incorporation of more plants / gardening in our lives.

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 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.

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.



Rough Blazing Star (*Liatris aspera*) blooming in the Native Plant Garden at the DCGC.



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.



How do FoodWise staff and Boys and Girls Club Youth beat the summer heat? With "un-beet-able" smoothies!

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.

Human Development and Relationships

Luisa Gerasimo | *Human Development and Relationships Educator*



A series of focus groups for new parents to help educators refine a new one page version of an existing popular parenting newsletter (*Just in Time Parenting*) in English, Spanish and Hmong. The purpose of the focus groups is to gather improvements for the new one page newsletter for parents.

A series of workgroups and team meetings for a county sponsored community coalition. The group's goal is to increase the availability of safe, affordable housing of all kinds from executive level homes to affordable rental units in the region, in order to impact the community's overall health and well-being.

Ongoing executive board leadership work in collaboration with community partners to plan the future of a local nonprofit that serves the community and is currently undergoing a crisis. This organization is a critical source of support for many individuals and families in the region.

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 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.

When asked what they will do differently after taking the co-parenting class, one parent responded: "I will be more mindful of how I deal with my daughter's concerns with her dad."

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.



The Extension Dunn County 4-H Educator and Human Development and Relationships Educator at the Menomonie Middle School Resource Fair.

The 4-H Educator and I represented Extension Dunn County at the first annual Menomonie Middle School Resource Fair. I handed out parenting class information and asked parents to take a moment to fill out the Community Health Needs Assessment.

In August I sent out a press release to all local media to share upcoming classes and parenting/relationships resources and I met with the following county staff or teams to see if we can work together on projects that will benefit our residents: County Planner; Manager of Family and Children's Service;

Director of Public Health; Dunn County Play Group's facilitator. I also called all our licensed day care facilities to ask for updated contact information and to share upcoming events. I attended my first Dunn County Crisis Stakeholders meeting to learn how mental health crises are dealt with in our region.

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.

Positive Youth Development

Zachary Rozmiarek | *4-H Program Educator*



A 4-H event was held that invited everyone to a special night at the Red Cedar Speedway. A pre-party was organized for members before the race. Dunn County 4-H families were invited to attend the Red Cedar Speedway on August 18th. There was a party before the races with donated snacks, crafts, and lawn games. All of the 4-H members come onto the track to say the 4-H pledge. We all sat together during the races. This allowed the youth to meet others from different clubs and create new friendships.

Various booths have been set up throughout the summer to promote 4-H as well as provide education to festival goers. These booths were set up at The Colfax Fair, Menomonie's Paint the Town, Dunn County Fair, and Celebrate Downsville Day. Some of the educational activities were straw rockets, electric circuits, and fishing education.



4-H members gathered for a special event at the Red Cedar Speedway.

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.