



## Agriculture

**Jerry Clark**

*Agriculture Educator, Crops & Soils*



**Lyssa Seefeld**

*Agriculture Educator, Dairy*



The webinar, Badger Crop Connect, is meant for agriculture producers, consultants, and industry professionals, where they can learn more about timely agriculture related topics from non-biased, research-based sources. The goal is to provide seasonal updates on the latest research and recommendations related to current field conditions and crop stages. This activity is designed to provide tangible information that can make a positive impact in the short term which ultimately leads to long term environmental and financial sustainability on Wisconsin farms.

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

Planning for the 2024 Western WI Ag Lender Conference for agriculture bankers / lenders, ag service professionals, and finance-oriented farmers in collaboration with a committee of ag lenders and ag service professionals. The goal of this conference is to increase lender knowledge of current agricultural markets, better understand "behind the scenes" of how ag businesses function, and keep up to date with technology adaptation (how & why the cost of investment in technology is important).

A live, on-line meeting series for farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned the latest research and applications regarding a blood panel developed to predict high liver triglyceride status in multiparous cows and early lactation milking frequency in an automated milking herd. The goal of this effort was to increase knowledge of the latest UW-Madison research on impacts of fresh cow herd health and monitoring.

A research-based educational article for dairy producers and agri-business professionals, where participants will learn about sire selection indexes and methods for selecting sires. The goal of this effort is to increase knowledge of dairy genetic proof terminology, and empower dairy herd managers to make selection decisions for their herds.

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.

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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.

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## 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.

Meetings with state and local partners to design a winter educational program for Hmong and underserved farmers in the Chippewa Valley on agricultural practices to support farm operations and profitability. The goal is to reduce challenges and barriers and increase access to resources for direct farmers to support the food systems in the Chippewa Valley.

Educational program development on food truck/transient businesses so entrepreneurs can learn about the food business and basic food safety practices. The goal is to reduce challenges and barriers for food entrepreneurs to sell prepared foods in the Chippewa Valley.

A farmer's market survey for the 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.

Basic grant proposal workshop for local government, businesses, and organization members and staff. The goal of this effort is for people to learn how to find, write and apply for grants so that they can carry out the activities of their organization, business, or government unit.

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## Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | *Horticulture Educator*



A fruit container garden program for gardeners of all levels 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.

A presentation on gardening with kids for the 2023 Family and Consumer Sciences Education and WI DPI Child Care Conference at UW Stout. The goal of this effort is to discuss how gardening can enrich a child's life and to teach participants strategies on gardening with kids to encourage youth participation in the garden.

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.

Created 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.

Completed 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.



Smooth Blue Aster (*Symphyotrichum laeve*)  
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*



Participation in the Health Dunn Right - Chronic Disease Prevention Action Team monthly meeting including active support for the Menomonie Farmers Market. The goal of this effort is to help guide objectives and strategies that support initiatives to improve the health of local residents.

Planning and scheduling nutrition education lessons in eligible elementary and pre-k early learning centers across the Chippewa Valley. The goal of this effort is to support nutrition education and healthy eating with hundreds of youth and families.

FoodWise Staff completed the following professional development in September that will support our programming, build partner relationships, and help to foster positive culture within our organization:

- Leadership awareness
- Inclusive Teams: Co-creating culture, values, and intentions
- Building Safe Spaces
- Multi-state wellness workshop with SNAP-Ed colleagues
- Building a Culture of Health with Hmong Communities
- Culture-Centered Dietary Interventions to Address Chronic Diseases
- North Region FoodWise Educator Training
- Food Smarts Curriculum Training
- Latino Employee Resource Group participation and presentation
- Cohort 13 New Colleague Training



Eat a rainbow every day! A rainbow of fruits and veggies might include cherry tomatoes, strawberries, orange peppers, oranges, yellow peppers, yellow tomatoes, kiwi, cucumber, broccoli, grapes and blueberries!





## Human Development and Relationships

Luisa Gerasimo | *Human Development and Relationships Educator*



A community coalition and working group (Housing Action Team), which came out of the county's health needs assessment, met in a series of monthly community meetings to review a major regional housing study, and to begin taking steps to increase housing options in the region across all categories: rental, multi-family, executive, elderly, and low-income. The goal of this group is to move the needle on a community housing gap which has been seen as intractable for decades.

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 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.

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 am in full support of this program. Luisa is wonderful to work with. Thanks for the work you do to help our family!"  
*-Making Reading Memories Co-Parent*

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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.

### 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*



Working with area 4-H educators and community partners to plan and present a 4-H STEM day. The STEM Day is planned for October 21st at Boyd Park in Eau Claire.

We are in the planning phases of the Tri-County Speaking Contest. It will be held on November 15th in Elk Mound. This past month I worked with Area 6 4-H educators to set up a day and time, contacted Elk Mound High School to reserve the space, created a registration form, and promoted the program.

Contacted community members for 4-H outreach opportunities. Next month, we will be at Markquart Motors in Menomonie during their Trunk or Treat event and at the Boyceville School District. Both events will offer information about 4-H and encourage people to enroll.

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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.

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