



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
DUNN COUNTY

# November 2023 Report

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## Agriculture

Jerry Clark | *Regional Crops & Soils Educator*



A clinic for students where students learned forage feed and nutrition analysis recommendations and the nutrition impact on dairy cattle and type and structure of dairy cattle to improve forage and feeding practices and increase dairy production efficiency and improve farm profitability. The goal of the program is to increase knowledge and understanding of the importance of forage and feeding impact on dairy animals.

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). *(Partnered with Lyssa Seefeld)*

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. *(Partnered with Katie Wantoch and Michelle Bachand)*

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## Agriculture

Lyssa Seefeld | *Regional Dairy Educator*



Conversations with dairy farmers to discuss current / ongoing research opportunities for collaboration with Extension educators, state specialists, & campus specialists.

A field study data collection in collaboration with Colorado State University to better understand the practices and challenges associated with transportation of pre-weaned dairy heifer, dairy bull, and beef x dairy calves from the source (dairy farms), hauler, and receiver (calf raiser). Results from this study will help dairy farmers, managers, haulers, calf raisers, and the dairy community in adopting practices and improving transportation welfare to improve farm business viability and food safety.

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). *(Partnered with Jerry Clark)*

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



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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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## Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | *Regional Horticulture Educator*



A horticulture-inspired program for people living with dementia and their care partners offers hands-on, nature-inspired experiences that provide opportunities to stimulate the senses, enjoy social interactions, and provide physical activity and the use of fine motor skills while imparting a sense of purpose.

A presentation on how gardening benefits us mentally, physically, and socially for honor students at UW Eau Claire where participants learned and discussed how gardening can help us age with vitality. This effort was designed to illustrate how gardens are a source of excellent nutrition, provide opportunities for exercise at any age, and can provide a sense of meaning or purpose in people's lives. *(Partnered with Melissa Burke)*

A program on planting hardy bulbs for the public where participants learned bulb selection, planting, and care to learn best practices in growing early spring blooms.

A presentation on gardening with kids for the 2023 Family and Consumer Sciences Education and WI DPI Childcare Conference at UW Stout where participants learned how gardening can enrich a child's life in many ways. This effort was designed to encourage gardening with youth with strategies to engage kids in gardening activities.

A presentation about the benefits of gardening for the Wisconsin United Women in Faith Annual Gathering where participants learned and discussed how gardening is a great way to incorporate many mental, physical, and social benefits into your life. This effort was designed to encourage people of all ages to incorporate plants and gardening into their lifestyle to experience many of these benefits.

A presentation about the benefits of gardening for the first annual Age Your Way Conference in Chippewa Falls, where participants learned and discussed how gardening is a great way to incorporate many mental, physical, and social benefits into your life. This effort was designed to encourage people to include plants and gardening in their lifestyle to experience many of these benefits

Implemented 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. *(Partnered with Melissa Burke)*



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## Community Development

Addison Vang | *Regional 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.

Education workshop on the Wisconsin Local Food Produce Assistance (LFPA) program targeting underserved small farmers. Assistance was provided to those who wanted to apply for the program. The workshop was conducted in English and Hmong. The program was promoted to anyone interested in the program with the main audience being Hmong farmers who sell direct to market as an identified underserved farm population.

Developing programming to improve healthcare professionals who provide food recommendations to ethnic minority communities. Reaching out to healthcare agencies and professionals to gauge and build interest.

Complete survey of the Chippewa Valley farmers market vendors and start evaluation. Based on survey, determine the needs of local food-entrepreneur's interests and how to support activities, opportunities, and challenges of farmers markets. The evaluation will support in identifying programs and market opportunities for local farmers and small-scale food businesses to ensure that the Chippewa Valley community food system continues to grow and thrive.

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.



## Health and Well-Being

**Sandy Tarter**  
*FoodWise Coordinator*



**Joy Weisner**  
*FoodWise Educator*



**Jael Wolf**  
*FoodWise Educator*



**Hillarie Roth**  
*FoodWise Educator*



A 6-week nutrition education series to 3rd graders at River Heights Elementary to learn about the importance of eating five food groups, physical activity, and included hands-on activities. This effort was designed to encourage students to try more fruits and vegetables at each meal.

A 6-week nutrition education series for 1st graders in River Heights 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.

A collaborative effort with Chronic Disease Prevention Action Team under Health Dunn Right to promote 2023-2024 Winter Wellness and planning for a spring Family Resource Fair and Dance. This effort helps promote community and family engagement with activities that include increased physical activity.

Outreach to local partners, Workforce Resource and Bridge to Hope, to discuss future programming. This effort supports individuals in transitions with food resource management topics.

## Human Development and Relationships

**Luisa Gerasimo** | *Human Development and Relationships Educator*



This month I discovered I would be short a co-chair for the Health Dunn Right Housing Action Team (HAT), just as preliminary results from Dunn County's Community Health Needs (CHNA) Assessment show housing as the top concern of a majority of residents who answered the survey. After looking for help, and staying active with the county's Housing Work Group and that group's Housing Advocacy working group, I consulted with our health department director and we decided to give HAT a short holiday break while we look for a co-leader. We will reconvene in the new year to evaluate and discuss our team's goals in light of the new CHNA results.

A Lunch and Learn for Real Colors was requested as a follow up to a longer workshop last spring. I planned this workshop with the Clerk of Court to help her team work together better and to understand themselves more clearly. We focused on how the colors handle stress, time and meetings. Two thirds of the participants provided a follow-up sheet sharing the most valuable things they learned about each color. These sheets were insightful and detailed and showed that new understanding was gained despite the short format of the



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program. One participant said "Overall, I learned to ask the other person how they learn best or what they need."

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 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. I co-presented to a state-wide audience on the topic of Self Compassion.

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. This month we concentrated on a class for mothers who are currently incarcerated at the Dunn County Jail and were able to mail out 8 books for children ages 7 months to 12 years old.

A weekly parenting class (Raising a Thinking Child) for parents and childcare workers. This state-wide online class is co-led with a colleague and is taught twice a day, morning and evening, for six weeks, with the aim of helping children think through situations, make better decisions, and become more empathetic towards others. Affordable registry credit is offered to child care workers who need continuing education for their workplace.

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## Positive Youth Development

Zachary Rozmiarek | *4-H Program Educator*



A Speaking Contest was held for Dunn, Eau Claire, and Chippewa Counties. Youth participated in a variety of events that allowed them to improve their public speaking and presentation skills. They were given feedback which celebrated their strengths and provided education on areas to improve. Awards were given to the top speakers in each category.

Planning was done for a "Join 4-H! Informational Meeting." This planning included, reserving a room at the library, distributing posters around the county, advertising on social media, contacting volunteers, and preparing a presentation.

An informational meeting was held for families who wanted to learn more about 4-H. The meeting was held at the Public Library. It gave an overview of the program and information on how to join. Volunteers and Youth were present to add insight.

Dunn County 4-H attended a trunk or treat event with the goal of making connections in the community. 4-H informational flyers were distributed. The flyers also contained activities from the 4-H Movement activity book. Over 500 youth were contacted.

A booth was staffed at the Boyceville parent-teacher conferences to educate families about 4-H.



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Informational flyers were passed out, as well as 4-H give away items.

A meeting was held for the Boyceville Middle School Student Council. They received information about leadership opportunities in 4-H. They also did an educational leadership activity.

Interview with WAXX radio as part of the "4-H on the Air" program that is aired weekly. This program is to provide clubs and groups an opportunity to practice interviewing skills as well as promote the 4-H Program and the activities clubs and groups engaged in.

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## Value Added Programming

*Dunn, Chippewa, and Eau Claire Counties*

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. *(Jeanne Walsh)*

An all-day educational event for new farmers, part-time and full-time operators, low-income startups, graziers and non-graziers featuring guest speakers, farmer/local resources panel, commercial and agency exhibitors, and farmer-to-farmer networking with emphasis on grazing fundamentals, cattle stockmanship and handling facilities, wildlife and grazing ecology and future grazing opportunities and programs. The goal is for people to be able to make informed decisions about the pros and cons of grazing, and to meet other people with similar interests and goals related to grazing and pasture management. *(Kevin Schoessow, Jason Cavadini, John Strauser, Ryan Sterry, and Yoana Newman)*

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## Area Extension Director

**Kristen Bruder** | *Area Extension Director - Dunn, Chippewa, 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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