



Agriculture

Jerry Clark | *Regional Crops & Soils Educator*



Sign up to receive the Extension in the Valley agriculture and horticulture newsletter [Here](#).

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. *(Partnered with Andy Heren, Jeanne Walsh, Katie Wantoch, Lyssa Seefeldt, Margaret Murphy, Michelle Bachand, Ryan Sterry, & Sandy Tarter)*

A risk, crop insurance and grain marketing hybrid course, where material was adapted into a more relevant format for use in-person, in webinars, and in an on-line course. The Farm Pulse-Crop Insurance and Grain Marketing course has assisted farmers and agricultural professionals in identifying strengths and weaknesses of their crop business to assist them in making decisions that will improve their farm profitability. *(Partnered with Katie Wantoch, Jerry Clark, Joshua Kamps, Kevin Jarek, Michelle Bachand, Scott Reuss, & Steve Okonek)*

Jerry Clark was recently honored with the Van Hise Outreach Teaching Award at the 2024 UW-Madison Distinguished Teaching Awards celebration. As president of the University of Wisconsin from 1903 to 1918, Charles Van Hise developed the doctrine known today as the Wisconsin Idea: the guiding philosophy of UW-Madison's outreach efforts to extend the borders of the university to touch the lives of people throughout Wisconsin and around the world. The Van Hise Outreach Teaching Award was established in 1990 to honor distinguished teaching by a member of UW-Madison's faculty. Jerry is a great resource to farmers in our community and across the state of Wisconsin. Congratulations on receiving this well-deserved award, Jerry!



Celebrating Jerry Clark's Distinguished Teaching Award. From left, Kevin Jarek, William Halfman, Annie Lisowski, Jeanne Walsh, Kristen Bruder, Rachel Hart-Brinson, Jerry Clark, Kristi Peterson, Amber Gilles, Andrew Heren, & Dean Karl Martin.



Agriculture

Lyssa Seefeldt | *Regional Dairy Educator*



A media/social media/topic hub post on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). This effort aims to inform dairy and beef producers about the spread and risk of HPAI and make them aware of reputable resources for timely updates on the disease. Increasing knowledge about HPAI will help producers make informed decisions on reducing the risk of HPAI in their herds, thus being conscious of biosecurity.

Dairy e-newsletter for farmers, nutritionists, veterinarians, other 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.

Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | *Regional Horticulture Educator*



A program on starting an herb garden for the public in partnership with the Augusta Memorial Public Library where participants learned how to grow select culinary herbs. This effort was designed to encourage people to garden with herbs to create both a sensory impact with fragrant foliage, various foliage colors and shapes, and have a supply of fresh herbs for cooking as a healthy, low calorie, flavor substitute to salt. Extension based information on cooking with herbs was included.

A presentation about the benefits of gardening for the United Women in Faith Northwest District Meeting 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 workshop to start seeds indoors for the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley-Menomonie, where participants learned the basics of starting tomato and pepper seeds indoors. The goal of this effort was to teach kids techniques and strategies to successfully start seeds indoors to grow crops that will be used for summertime programming.

A garden program for beginners in partnership with the Bloomer Public Library where participants learned 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 program on starting an herb garden for the public in partnership with the Chippewa Falls Public Library where participants learned how to grow select culinary herbs. This effort was designed to encourage people to garden with herbs to create both a sensory impact with fragrant foliage, various foliage colors and shapes, and have a supply of fresh herbs for cooking as a healthy, low calorie, flavor substitute to salt. Extension based information on cooking with herbs was included.

A container garden program for the Women’s Fellowship of Ladysmith and Conrath Congregational UCC 12th Annual Garden seminar where attendees learned strategies to successfully grow flowers, herbs, or vegetables in containers. This effort was designed to encourage people of all ages to garden for wellness, beautification and /or food even if space or mobility is limited.

Community Development

Vacant | *Regional Community Development Educator*

Health and Well-Being

Sandy Tarter
FoodWise Coordinator

Joy Weisner
FoodWise Educator

Jael Wolf
FoodWise Educator

Hillarie Roth
FoodWise Educator



A county-sponsored family community fair and children's concert where local agencies and nonprofits staffed booths and handed out information to families. The purpose of this activity was to raise awareness of family-friendly resources while making connections to community partners in order to expand local Extension programming to broader audiences. *(Partnered with Luisa Gerasimo, Melissa Burke, Zachary Rozmiarek, & Margaret Murphy)*

A 5-week nutrition education series with the Western Dairyland Fresh Start program for at-risk teens and young adults where they learn about nutrition, food preparation/cooking, and food safety. The goal of this effort is to empower teens/young adults to adopt healthier lifestyles by the teaching them the knowledge and skills needed to prepare nutritious snacks and meals at home.



Three teens work together in preparation of making Sesame Chicken Stir Fry.



FoodWise staff joined in the 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge.

Planning for FY25 is in process. We are looking at adding some new partnerships with schools who have just become FoodWise eligible.

Human Development and Relationships

Luisa Gerasimo | *Human Development and Relationships Educator*



A series of face to face and virtual meetings with members of several housing coalitions and county-based workgroups to plan the merging of groups and the review of next steps. The group intends to provide education and advocacy to the public and to county board committees on the local crisis in housing availability.

A county-sponsored family community fair and children's concert where local agencies and nonprofits staffed booths and handed out information to families. The purpose of this activity was to raise awareness of family-friendly resources while making connections to community partners in order to expand local Extension programming to broader audiences. *(Partnered with Sandy Tarter, Melissa Burke, Zachary Rozmiarek, & Margaret Murphy)*



Two Extension staff members stand behind a red table cloth covered with Extension resource handouts & coloring pages.

A co-parenting class for adults in transition, where they learned skills to prioritize the parent-child relationship and better communicate with their co-parent. This program is designed to increase child well-being and reduce parental conflict.

"I just wanted to reach out and say thank you for everything. You helped me feel comfortable with myself and with others around me. I really appreciate all that you did and continue to do. It was so nice having someone I could talk to throughout my journey when I had no one else...I have an amazing support system around me. Me and my parents are still slowly working through everything but they now acknowledge it and accept it. So yeah you were a big part of my journey and just wanted to tell you how much I appreciate all the help you gave me."

-Program Participant

A Literacy Link 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.

Youth Forward Wisconsin: A social marketing campaign for the general public, raising awareness in communities throughout Wisconsin about Universal Child Savings Accounts (CSAs). CSAs are accounts that allow families to save for their children's post-secondary education with the support of local government, state, or community organizations, thereby building pathways for maintaining a well-trained and skilled resident base.



Positive Youth Development

Zachary Rozmiarek | *4-H Program Educator*



The April Clover Courier can be viewed [Here](#).

Planning for an all-day camp counselor training on May 5 has begun. The training will provide an opportunity for our camp counselors to practice leading their sessions for others, as well as learn from an UWEC professor about classroom management strategies especially helpful for neurodiverse kids. *(Partnered with Rachel Hart-Brinson & Seth Harrmann)*

I have started planning the Summer Project Days. I set dates, contacted volunteers, created promotional materials and set up the online registration. The project days will be a series of four days in June and July where youth will get to learn and create projects that can be taken to the fair. They will be led by myself, volunteers, and other 4-H staff. This year they will be able to learn about Legos, fishing, art, and rockets.

Training was given to the Sand Creek Pipers 4-H club on when and how to make motions. They were taught how to make motions through an interactive activity, and then were placed in groups to practice. I attended the business meeting to offer suggestions and advice.

The Area 6 Clover U event was held on April 6th. Twenty youths attended. They each got to choose two activities to participate in. The activities that were offered included fishing, dogs, painting, jewelry making, cooking, and sewing. We had positive feedback from both youth and volunteers. *(Partnered with Jordan Blue & Rachel Hart-Brinson)*

Planning has begun for a Cloverbud Stuffed Animal Show. The purpose of this event is to give Cloverbud members experience showing small animals and get them excited about joining the project. I have found leaders to help run the show and educate members on proper showing technique. I have also set dates to meet and learn about showing.

Planning has begun for a 4-H Rabbit Hopping Fun Show at the Dunn County Fair. I have communicated with the small animal project leaders and small animal club. We have discussed practice times and obtaining equipment. I also talked with the Fair Board about when and where to have the event.

I participated in an interactive camp workday with 4-H educators from across the state. Through this effort we supported each other with ideas about camp and how to improve camp for the youth while also learning about new policies and procedures in relation to camp.

Planning has begun for the Dunn County Battle of the Clubs. Youth in middle and high school plan competitions and events for clubs to compete in. So far we have found a location, set an entrance fee, planned the activities and determined the team sizes.



Value Added Programming

Dunn, Chippewa, and Eau Claire Counties

Facilitation of a bi-monthly meetings of the Red Cedar River Water Quality Partnership, with the goal to implement a ten-year watershed plan aimed at improving the water quality and soil health of the Red Cedar River Watershed. *(Daniel Zerr, Kelsey Hyland)*

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 participants' ability to meet their financial goals and increase their financial capability for long term financial success. *(Jeanne Walsh)*

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.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
DUNN COUNTY

April 2024 Report

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY
8 & 22

Badger Crop Connect

Online Crop Update Webinars

12:30pm on the 2nd & 4th

Wednesdays April-October

Register at go.wisc.edu/8ojf0l

MAY
14

WeCOPE

A FREE Zoom class on managing
life's stress in healthy ways.

12pm-1pm Tuesdays 5/14-6/18

Register at go.wisc.edu/j7o11o

MAY
14

Gardening Workshop

Learn how to grow fresh veggies in
containers!

6:30pm at the Bloomer Senior Center

Call the Bloomer Library to register:

(715-568-2384)