



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
DUNN COUNTY



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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**The Community Resources & Tourism Committee provides oversight for Extension:**

Jim Anderson – Chair, Jim Zons – Vice Chair, Larry Bjork, Thomas Quinn, & Ann Vogl

**Thank you for your continued support and guidance.**

**University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension Dunn County**

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# UW-MADISON EXTENSION

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES *with* THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

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## Agriculture & Horticulture »

Our network of researchers, outreach specialists, and local educators are on the leading edge of creating practical solutions for livestock and crop production in addition to farm and labor management. We provide customized guidance, business planning assistance, and industry knowledge for what today's agricultural operators are facing.

## Community & Economic Development »

Businesses, governments, and organizations succeed through development from Extension educators and specialists. We provide education for elected officials to understand their roles and responsibilities in helping communities thrive. We offer businesses the direct technical assistance and connection to support structures they need to help them succeed. Our rural entrepreneurship program identifies ways for businesses to overcome challenges and take advantage of unique opportunities.

## Health & Well-Being »

We're supporting positive change for families through physical and mental health programs in addition to structural improvements needed to make the healthy choice the easy choice. Our physical fitness classes and mental health training equips people with the tools they need to lead healthy, active lives. We provide public health resources and tools for community action. We provide guidance on systems changes for food security and food access.

## Families & Finances »

Reinforcing family connections, financial knowledge, and strong relationships is at the heart of Extension's programming. We support learning and emotional bonding by building literacy skills in justice-involved families. We guide community and individual development across lifespans. We teach financial security through rent planning and budget management.

## Natural Resources & Conservation »

We work at the crossroads of communities, natural resources, and agriculture to protect our environmental assets and guide resource management. We support individual and regional water-well testing along with education to address safe drinking water. We educate farmers, businesses, and communities on safe practices to ensure access to plentiful, sustainably managed sources of food, water, and energy.

## Positive Youth Development & 4-H »

Community-led 4-H programs deliver quality activities and leadership opportunities that are leading to engaged, energized, and informed young people across the state. 4-H is a movement — in Wisconsin, 98% of our 4-H members are inspired to make positive changes in their communities. They're developing leadership skills, building connections, and finding what topics spark their interest.



**Catherine Emmanuelle**  
Area Extension Director  
Chippewa, Dunn, and  
Eau Claire Counties

Our Extension team worked in partnership with the county and our community to respond to Dunn County’s needs, through virtual and in-person education, both responding to emerging needs with the pandemic and continuing traditional programming - a source of “normal”- and continuing our operations as smoothly as possible. Pandemic or not, Extension’s purpose is to teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities. I think you’ll see the meaningful and transformative work for lives and communities here in Dunn, in Agriculture, Horticulture, Health and Well-Being, Human Development and Relationships, Positive Youth Development, and Community Development. One day in particular stood out for me, a meeting we held in September with our staff from three counties and the Extension oversight committees from Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire

Counties. Our team of educators shared out on these key themes:

- *Teaching and Capacity Building at Farm Technology Days*
- *Growing Food Security: Local Farmers Market Match Program*
- *Supporting Thriving, Just, and Resilient Place-Based Food Systems.*

Extension’s educational capacity is multiplied through the power of volunteers, who give thousands of hours of education to the county.

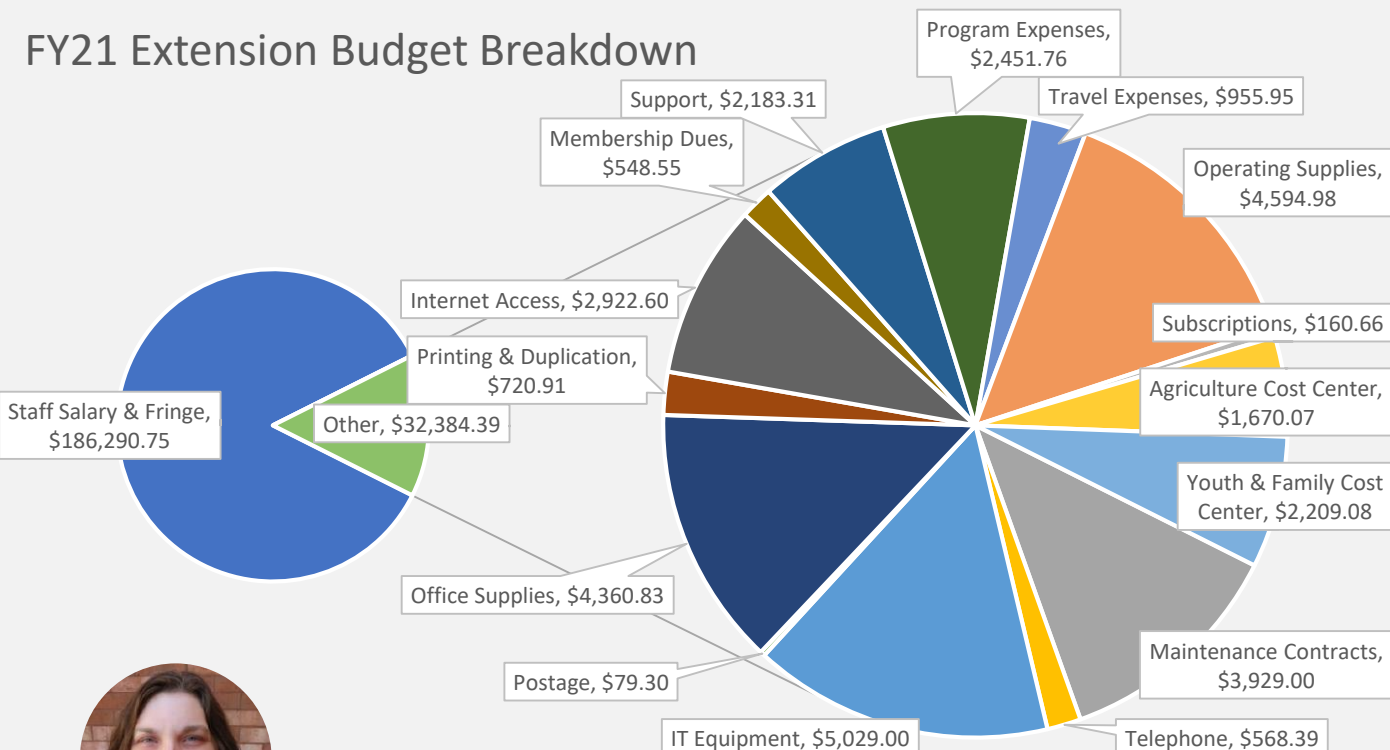
Beyond our local Extension programming, we have been able to partner with professional development offered at no additional cost to the county, such as Civility and Diversity in Local Government. Out of 65 participants statewide, we had 55 from Chippewa, Dunn, & Eau Claire Counties.

Last and not least, we could not be successful in Dunn County without the valued support from the county, community partnerships, and most importantly, the people who live here.

Grateful to be interconnected with our community and the power of education.

*Catherine Emmanuelle*

## FY21 Extension Budget Breakdown



**Michelle Bachand**  
Support Specialist

The Dunn County Support Specialist is a county-based employee that supports the educators while managing the day-to-day operations of the office. Michelle processed over 300 support requests during the year, drafted the FY22 budget, maintained 5 social media accounts, 3 webpages, edited 23 videos and 14 podcast episodes, and completed numerous other tasks.



# Agriculture



**Katie Wantoch**  
Agricultural Agent,  
Specializing in Economic  
Development

The Wisconsin Farm Technology Days is the largest agricultural show in Wisconsin and one of the largest in the nation. The three-day outdoor event showcases the latest improvements in production agriculture, including many practical applications of recent research findings and technological developments. Each year, it is held in a different Wisconsin county - on a different host family farm. The 2021 event was held July 20-22 in the Eau Claire area. Jerry Clark, Chippewa County Agriculture Agent, and I co-chaired the Extension educational area at the event.

Extension educators from four Agriculture Institute program areas, in addition to the Master Gardener program, collaborated on educational stations for the 2021 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days. The goal of this effort was to increase producer's knowledge of Crops and Soils, Dairy and Livestock, Master Gardener, and Farm Management



program educational initiatives. Examples include cover crop demonstration plots, mitigating dairy cattle heat stress, beef x dairy cross calf care, farm statistics, how much meat to expect from a hog, lamb, and steer, alternative forage crops, weed identification, and more. Program educators staffed each station, along with Master Gardener Volunteers, to answer questions. Extension educator relationships were leveraged to partner with a dairy goat producer to present milking demonstrations, with the goats displayed in an Extension pasture seeding mix demonstration plot. New program area topic hubs were promoted through the use of QR codes and handouts with new website addresses. An estimated 50,000 people attended the three day event.

## Impact of Agriculture in Dunn County

**1,288**  
Farms

**3,781**  
Jobs in Agriculture

**348,301**  
Agriculture Acres,  
64% of County land

**\$989 Million**  
Economic Impact

**\$82.1 Million**  
Grain Sales

**\$77.8 Million**  
Dairy Sales



# Agriculture

## Tractor Safety

14 youth between the ages of 12 and 18 completed the 2021 Wisconsin Tractor and Machinery Safety Certification Course in Dunn County. This year's program consisted of a mix of virtual instructions (10 hours), self-study (8+ hours), a written exam, and an in-person driving exam. The training program was held June 7-10, 2021. After completion of the in-class and self-study hours, youth were required to pass a written exam and a tractor driving test. Youth participating in the course who passed both of their tests then received their State, and/or Federal tractor safety certifications depending on age.



## AgriVision

A podcast series, AgriVision, for farmers and ag professionals, where Extension educators answer Farm Management questions and share knowledge and expertise on how farmers can improve their farm management skills.

A portion of Episode 11 Careers in Agriculture was utilized for a national segment, 'Farm to Fork' with Host Darrell Anderson, that aired on Tuesday, April 12 in 13 states on over 200 stations.

<https://www.northshoreproductions.com/affiliate-downloads.htm>

Extension Farm Management Program link: <https://farms.extension.wisc.edu/programs/agrivation-podcast/>

SoundCloud link: <https://soundcloud.com/agrivation-extension>

As of 12/1/2021, total of 714 plays of podcast episodes.





# Community Development



**Addison Vang**  
Community Development  
Educator



Community Food Systems, as the focus area, integrate culturally responsive food production, processing, distribution, consumption, and disposal to enhance the environmental, economic, social, and nutritional health of a particular place. As such, community food systems offer an alternative vision to the dominant food system by shortening the length and increasing the transparency of food supply chains while emphasizing links between food, place, and culture as well as values such as social justice, sustainability, and resilience.

**Exploring Capacity to Serve HMoob Farmers** is an Extension statewide effort to support HMoob (Hmong) farmers. Wisconsin is home to a significant portion of the HMoob American population and the HMoob language is the 3rd most commonly spoken language in the state. HMoob farmers are critical to Wisconsin farmers markets and community food security since their arrival in the late 1970s. Yet, knowledge of HMoob farmer needs is limited, as is their knowledge of what Extension offers. Efforts to bridge this gap include group discussions and interviews with HMoob farmers, as well as with partner organizations. Extension can improve knowledge, support needs, and find new ways to work with HMoob farmers while strengthening relationships and improving access to Extension programs.

**Nonprofit Peer Learning Program** is a virtual pilot training and networking educational program that prioritizes peer learning for both new and established nonprofit organizations. Participants share and learn about nonprofit fundraising, sustainability, and program evaluation. The purpose of the program is to increase organizational capacity to address community needs. The program was piloted in Pierce and Dane Counties with future possibilities in other counties as the program and its curriculum is further developed.

Our new Community Development Educator starting in August 2021. Here are a few trainings and programs:

- Provide local support for graduates of the Entrepreneur In Training (EIT) Program
- Food Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development (FEED) Project Virtual Winter 2022 Workshop Series
- “Civil Leadership for Vibrant Communities” program designed to build civil civic leadership skills and community leadership networks across Wisconsin.



# Community Development

**Elevando Wisconsin** is a statewide virtual educational leadership program designed to elevate the Latinx communities with leadership skills and build a network of leaders across Wisconsin around culturally relevant topics. The program provides simultaneous English and Spanish interpretation.

Well-experienced interpreters have shared that the program is very unique and powerful. Specifically, the interpreters have lots of experience interpreting for English speakers to present to Spanish speaking audiences and for the audience to just listen and learn. These sessions throughout the program are very interactive, engaging, and recognize the knowledge, skills, and strengths, that both speakers and participants bring to the learning and networking opportunity.



## **Testimonials from Elevando Wisconsin**

*“The biggest lesson I think for me was focusing on my strengths and exploring them further in order to help better others. I’ve seen firsthand why it is important to bring people with different strengths and abilities together and I hope to continue doing this in my leadership work and working with the communities I serve.”*

*“I plan on sharing what I learned with others in my circle both professionally and personally. I love to learn but also share what I learn.”*

## **Opportunities for the Future in 2022**

A Specialty Crop Block Grant submitted by Chippewa Valley Produce LLC was approved by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to support in building capacity of underserved specialty crop growers in Western Wisconsin. The grant will support the development of workshops and tours covering farm business management, best agricultural practices, and farm financial resources. Local organizations, such as the Black and Brown Womyn Power Coalition, Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, and DATCP, will be supporting and partnering to make this program successful.

The HMong Economic Development Summit is currently being planned for the fall in the City of Eau Claire to highlight, share, learn, and network between HMoob (Hmong) owned businesses. The summit will be a 3-day event with the first 2 being a conference, coinciding with an outdoor community event showcasing minority owned food businesses such as food trucks and crafts, and cultural entertainment with an emphasis on local entrepreneurs. The event provides an opportunity for other HMoob owned businesses and entrepreneurs to interact on a platform specific for them to succeed, share, and network, with a farther-reaching goal of creating thriving BIPOC owned businesses.





# FoodWise



## Healthy Choices, Healthy Lives

FoodWise is federally funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). We advance healthy eating habits, active lifestyles and healthy community environments for Wisconsin residents with limited incomes through nutrition education at the individual, community and systems levels.

## The Challenge

In response to the ongoing challenges in reaching SNAP-Ed audiences with direct education during the pandemic, FoodWise increased the delivery of indirect education. This included an expanded social media and website presence, local online and print resources, electronic materials and handouts, and pre-recorded videos; all with the overall goal to continue to reach audiences with helpful nutrition information and resources empowering participants to live healthier lives.

**Dunn County** continued to deliver nutrition education by sharing **1259** indirect educational materials through the use of electronic class materials and newsletters; hard copy handouts to students, parents, and participants; videos, social media, and nutrition educational reinforcement items.



## Community IMPACTS



- Created three cooking videos utilizing Stepping Stones Food Pantry items to help participants utilize available foods. Videos were available to over 1500 families.
- Collaborated with multiple community coalitions and agencies to create and implement the Summer Activity Passport in the Chippewa Valley. This program supported chronic disease prevention and encouraged families to stay active locally.
- Youth lessons were provided via in-person, virtually, and pre-recorded videos. Parents/guardians received multiple print resources and electronic newsletters about our lessons and included nutritional information.
- Provided WIC families with virtual lessons and guidance at Farmers Markets. We were able to provide Walmart and Kwik Trip gift card incentives as part of a national Cooking Matters program. Participants were able to then purchase recipe items.
- The FoodShare program at the farmers market was expanded with the new Market Match to increase access to produce. FoodShare sales more than quadrupled!

## ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER



UW-Madison Division of Extension works alongside the people of Wisconsin to deliver practical educational programs where people live and work – on the farm, in schools and throughout urban and rural communities. In Dunn County, FoodWise partners with River Heights Elementary School, Menomonie and Colfax Head Start Centers, WIC, Workforce Resource, Boys and Girls Club, Hmong Friendship Center, ADRC Congregate Meal Sites, Shirley Doane Senior Center, and Stepping Stones Food Pantry to help make the healthy choice the easy choice in our communities.



# FoodWise

## Virtual education continues to thrive with River Heights Elementary 3<sup>rd</sup> grades in 2021

Whether virtual or in-person, FoodWise helps youth to understand the importance of nutrition and make better choices when eating.



Pamela and Joy share the benefits of eating fruits and vegetables.

## Parents and Teachers agree that FoodWise classes work!

- 80% of parents responding to evaluation surveys agreed that their children had been eating more vegetables, were more willing to wash hands, and consumed less sugary drinks following lessons.
- “My kids...came home in the afternoon after the sessions and excitedly told me about the day's topics. I was excited to have some "back-up" from other adults who preach the same things we do in our household: eat healthy and well-balanced meals and move your body. Thank you for this program.”
- Teachers observed students eating more vegetables, fruit, and bringing better snacks from home.

## New in 2021! FoodShare participants can double bucks at Farmers Market with Market Match program.

Through a FoodWise led collaboration with WestCAP, Health Dunn Right Coalition, and funding from The Community Foundation, the first Market Match program started in May, 2021.

For each FoodShare (FS) purchase up to \$10, participants were given a match number of tokens. Word spread and the response was immediate.

- FS Sales in 2020 - \$1719 FS Sales in 2021- \$8082
- Market Match tokens given \$3500
- Number Families served - 140
- Number of transactions - 375



*“I’m writing to express my gratitude and appreciation for the Farmers Market EBT Match program... Your program allows me to put state and community money back into our community and state... And all of that doesn’t even touch on the beautiful, nutritious, fresh, seasonal, sustainable food that I get to enjoy and share with my loved ones. Thank you for this program and all the good work it does” EBT Market Customer*

All vendors accept tokens and were grateful for the added revenue.



**Sandy Tarter**  
Coordinator  
Chippewa, Dunn, Eau  
Claire Counties



**Nancy Fastner**  
Nutrition Educator  
Chippewa & Dunn



**Pamela Warren-Armstrong**  
Nutrition Educator  
Eau Claire & Dunn



**Joy Weisner**  
Nutrition Educator  
Eau Claire & Dunn

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# Horticulture



**Margaret Murphy**  
Horticulture Educator  
Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire  
Counties

## Horticulture Education

As the Horticulture Educator in Chippewa, Dunn and Eau Claire counties, I am well-positioned to support the use of environmentally-sound horticultural practices by educating the public directly and through local volunteers in the Master Gardener Program. Through education and outreach, we connect residents to a wide range of university-based resources and diagnostic services such as soil testing, general plant disease diagnostics, general insect identification and turf grass diagnostics. Horticulture programming can also have a positive impact on food security and personal and community well-being

## The Need

Wisconsin faces many environmental challenges such as pollinator decline, climate change and environmental pollution due to over use of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments. Teaching horticultural best practices can play an important role in helping address these challenges at a local level. For example, our outreach on proper plant selection can reduce invasive plant species and provide habitat for native pollinators. Education on proper pest management techniques can lead to less pesticide use leading to reduced likelihood for environmental pollution.



## Horticultural Inquiries

As a county-based educator, I answer horticulture inquiries from Area 6 following an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach, which emphasizes actions that reduce the impact of pests while minimizing negative effects on the environment. In 2021, I had over 300 horticulture inquiry contacts area wide that included inquiries coming to the Extension offices and during programs. In Dunn County, horticulture questions spanned a wide range with questions on trees, landscaping and plant ID the most common.

## Master Gardener Volunteer Impact in Dunn County

# 244

Master Gardener Volunteer Hours

# 451

Individuals reached by Master Gardener Programming

# 296

Hours of Continuing Education

# 3,465

Pounds of produce donated to Stepping Stones Food Pantry from the Jail Garden

Note: In 2021, we had 14 active Dunn County Master Gardener Volunteers. Due to COVID, volunteer requirements were 0 hours for volunteer service and 10 hours for continuing education. Despite this, they continued to fill their volunteer commitments and rose to the challenge to educate through virtual platforms as reflected in the above effort data.



# Horticulture

## Teach Best Horticultural Practices

A key strategy of Extension programming is live presentations whether in-person or online (which allows for increased access to Extension expertise and resources). Examples of 2021 programming efforts include my work on the Foundations in Horticulture Steering Committee. Foundation in Horticulture is a self-paced, statewide, online course that teaches research-based methods to grow plants and manage pests. In 2021, the course was piloted in several counties including Dunn. The course had over 300 statewide participants. Part of my work with this committee included serving as a lab instructor and coordinating the newly added Q & A sessions that involved interactive sessions with 13 Extension specialists on topics of soils, insects, plant disease, wildlife, weeds, container growing, fruit, vegetables and lawns.



*Youth garden  
at River Heights*

I participated on a State Horticulture Committee to plan a statewide webinar series for consumer horticulture audiences where participants learn about horticultural best practices and how they can play an important role in addressing identified environmental issues in Wisconsin.

I initiated a new youth gardening program with the Boys and Girls Club at River Heights Elementary school. Youth gardens provide opportunity for hands-on learning that promotes best practices in the garden, connects kids to the natural world and encourages lifelong healthy eating habits.

**Dunn County Master Gardener Volunteers** also support identified Horticulture Program outcomes. Volunteers answer garden questions, educate the public, and participate in numerous garden projects that teach best horticultural practices, aid local food security efforts and provide personal and community well-being.

To support volunteer development, in 2021, we piloted a Master Gardener Mentorship Program. The overall goal of the program was to help acclimate new volunteers to their local Master Gardener Program and, ultimately, increase volunteer retention. I reviewed feedback from the mentees and found that 86% stated that the mentorship had helped them become better familiar with their local Master Gardener Program and helped facilitate their involvement in volunteer service. In general, mentees described the program as successful because it provided hands on learning opportunities, support to get started volunteering and occasion to learn from an experienced gardener. The results were very positive and supported our program objective. Successful mentoring programs have been shown to increase volunteer retention.

*Dunn County Jail Garden  
produce donated to  
area food pantry*





# Human Development & Relationships



**Stephanie Hintz**  
Human Development and Relationships Educator



Stephanie's efforts to *increase social and emotional wellbeing for all youth and families in Dunn County* is grounded in local community needs assessments and backed by state and national research. Her efforts can be categorized into three main strategies to address the local and emerging needs of the community including (1) expanding access initiatives, (2) parenting programming, and (3) mental wellness initiatives.

## Expanding Access Initiatives

Dunn County's demographics are becoming more diverse. In the wake of emerging state trends and embracing diversity, one strategy is to build and maintain relationships with the Hmong and Hispanic/Latina/o communities and agencies who serve this public in Dunn County. Building relationships and promoting equitable access to educational opportunities for historically underrepresented, disadvantaged, and/or underserved populations will be a first crucial step to cultivate an inclusive and welcoming environment in our community. The intention is to build strong connections that allows historically underserved populations feel more comfortable to attend relevant and social emotional wellbeing programming.

Specific efforts include but are not limited to:

- **Hmong Friendship Center.** There are over 30 Hmong Elders that participate in the program and with the 503c3 status they hope to grow to include intergenerational programming in the future.
- **Creating an Anti-racist Statement.** This effort started at the county level but then was pushed to the state level. Statement will be vetted and shared in 2021.
- **A Fair and Just Recovery Grant.** Awarded for the project to support colleagues across institutes to facilitate conversations that support a fair and just recovery in communities. These conversations and subsequent actions will focus on centering the voices of those most impacted to build awareness and take action towards addressing social and economic inequalities.

## Parenting Programming

Research indicates the primary protective factor in helping children heal from ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) or counter effect ACEs is the presence of a consistent, supportive, and loving adult. Parental knowledge of child development and parenting skills are pinnacle to foster healthy relationships with children.

Specific efforts include but are not limited to:

- **Parents Forever.** A research-based parenting curriculum developed by the University of Minnesota - Extension and Dunn County court-ordered divorce parenting programming. Held 12 times, supported 52 parents. 100% of participants reported gaining valuable information for their life.
- **Parenting with Love and Logic Classes.** An evidence-based approach designed to create positive schools and home culture. Held once before the pandemic shut down programming and the curriculum creators did not approve of online presentations until later in the year.
- **Trained in Triple P.** An internationally recognized and accredited evidence-based parenting curriculum developed by the University of Queensland in Australia. Training completed in level 2 (a series of parenting seminars) and level 3 (a series of group discussions).



# Human Development & Relationships

## Mental Wellness Initiatives

According to the Dunn County Community Health Needs Assessment Report in 2019, Mental Health was listed as the number one priority in the realm of health that needed improvement in our community.

Specific efforts include but are not limited to:

- **Providing WeCOPE programming.** Created and launched a healthy coping mechanisms curriculum, starting 2021.
- **Health Dunn Right - Mental Health and Wellness Action Team.** Provided several free mindfulness and self care series. (<https://healthdunnright.org>)
- **Co-creating the Dunn County Online Community Resources Guide.** (<https://dunn.myresourceguide.org/resources>)
- **Co-leading the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment.** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/18Jl7lt6l8hIHfRRRagytp4sWR8fgf6TK/view?usp=sharing>
- **Created and launched Practicing the Pause.** A weekly, 30-minute virtual space to practice a variety of techniques to calm your mind and body, decrease stress, and increase self-awareness and resiliency. We practice holding space while also practicing skills such as deep breathing, guided imagery, gentle stretching, etc.



## PRACTICING THE PAUSE

A self-care community of practice

## Testimonials

*"The positive, happy environment presented by Practicing the Pause has helped me with stress levels and to manage my diabetes by learning mindfulness."*

- Practicing the Pause participant

*"Whether I'm learning something new or being reminded of a practice I have long forgotten, this class puts me in the moment to practice, to reflect and to smile. My anxiety has met its match as each week, the instructors guide us through different exercises we can then practice anytime. I feel myself becoming more self-aware when I'm faced with stressful moments. Peace and calm are more easily spilling into these moments."*

- Practicing the Pause participant

*"I think I really like and look forward to "Practice the Pause" for several reasons. First of all, I love that there are sessions to deepen awareness. To me, that is why we are here and is a lifetime goal. I like that there is one concept to learn about and practice per session. It is just right for learning new skills. Too much would be overwhelming. I like the friendly and upbeat presenters! I like that it is interactive with the participants."*

- Practicing the Pause participant



# Wisconsin 4-H



**Luisa Gerasimo**  
4-H Program Educator

**4-H empowers youth** in grades K-13 to reach their full potential while learning citizenship, leadership, and life skills. For over 100 years, Dunn County has been a leader in 4-H youth development. Members learn by doing; through projects, activities, and adult mentorship provided by dozens of trained and background-checked volunteers.

Long term studies show that those who participate in 4-H are **4 times more likely to give back** to their communities, and **2 times more likely to make healthy choices**. That means that **investing in 4-H makes good sense** in both the short term and the long term for our community.

In 2021, Dunn County had 13 community clubs and 6 chartered project clubs **servicing close to 300 4-H youth and 74 adult volunteers**. This year has been a year of re-building after pandemic restrictions brought many of our favorite 4-H activities to a complete halt.

Locally, the lack of broadband internet meant that the pivot we made to offer more virtual 4-H programming was not available to all 4-H families.



## 4-H fun in 2021!

- “4-H Art U” virtual art classes with UW-Stout art education students
- Virtual Speaking Festival for 3 counties
- Record Book Evaluation night
- Fall Forum Virtual Workshops
- Camp Counselor Trainings
- 3 Day Summer Camp (day version held at Pleasant Valley with EC County)
- Dunn County Fair
- County Awards for Youth, Adults, and Partners
- Pirates of Dunn County Day Camp

## 4-H Volunteer Impact in Dunn County

**1,527**

Youth Community Service Hours

**3,098**

Adult Volunteer Hours

**\$28.54**

Value of a Volunteer Hour

**\$131,997.50**

Volunteer Value to the Community

We experienced reduced volunteer hours due to COVID-19 in-person programming restrictions.



# Wisconsin 4-H

## Sometimes good things come out of bad things!

2021 was a year of trying to learn how to do all our favorite 4-H things in a completely different way. We moved things outside, and we pivoted to more virtual meetings. The one great thing that came out of our constant work to offer 4-H programming to our communities during the pandemic was a **historic level of cooperation and synergy between local county 4-H educators.** We found out we make a GREAT team and that our programs can flourish even when we face an entirely new landscape.



## Testimonials

*"Thank you so much for running the 4-H camp for Cloverbuds. Hudson had a blast and as soon as he got in the car, my husband said he wanted to sign up again for next year."*

- 4-H Parent

*"I cannot thank you enough! This was lovely! I can't wait for the next opportunity!... Could we start tomorrow? Juniper will miss these activities"*

- Parent of Art U Participant

*"Thanks a bunch for all you do. I had fun at the 4-H Pirate Day Camp. The counselors were nice."*

- Love, P. (a day camper)

*"...thanks for all of your hard work with the Fair. With the combination of coming off a year without the Fair and the recent Farm Tech Days, I have no doubt that you both and your collective staff put in many hours on top of your usual many hours worth of time and energy. I wanted to say thanks and that I thought you all did a great job again."*

- 4-H Dad and 4-H Award Sponsor

*"Several weeks ago she checked out a "spa book" for girls from the library. A relaxation garden was one of the activities, however we didn't have time to do it. So, she was so excited when she saw the calendar with the weekly activity topics and learned she would make a relaxation garden after all!"*

*I just want to say thank you for hosting these events... we greatly appreciate these short term opportunities."*

- Parent of Discover 4-H Participant





# Community Outreach

28

## Community Clubs Supported by Extension Dunn County

12 Community 4-H Clubs, (22ers, Cedarlings, Colfax Comets, Connorsville Comets, Elk Meadow, Hay River Helpers, Ideal, Little Elk Creek, Missouri Valley, Rock Falls Rockets, Sand Creek Pipers, and Willing Workers) as well as 7 countywide 4-H interest clubs (Dairy Judging Project, Dog Project, Horse Project, Horseless Horse Project, Shooting Sports, Small Animal Project, and Youth Activities Council). 1 weekly after school club (Building Bridges Youth Program), Boys and Girls Club, 6 HCE Chapters (Baxterville, Ideal, Popple Creek, Caddie Woodlawn, Cedarlings, and Elk Meadow), and The Master Gardener Volunteers

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## Collaborations with Community Agencies

Arbor Place, Bridge to Hope, Chippewa Valley Technical College, Colfax School District, Dunn County Farm Bureau and Young Farmer Agriculturist, Dunn County Farmers Union, Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, Elk Mound School District, Head Start, Leadership Menomonie, Mayo Health Systems, Menomonie Chamber of Commerce, Menomonie Farmer's Market, Menomonie Market Food Coop, Menomonie School District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Stepping Stones, United Way, USDA Farm Service Agency, UW-Eau Claire, UW-River Falls, UW-Stout, WestCAP, Workforce Resources

11

## Committees Extension Educators led or participated in

CVTC Horticulture Advisory Committee, Dunn County Dairy Promotion Committee, Dunn County Partnership for Youth, Dunn County Soil and Water Partnership, Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance, Health Dunn Right Steering Committee, Health Dunn Right Chronic Disease Prevention, Housing Action, Mental Health and Wellness Action Teams, Hmong Friendship Center, Western Wisconsin Ag Lenders

14

## Collaborations with County Entities

Aging and Disability Resource Center, ARDC Senior Meal Sites – Hosford Rich, Eau Galle, Colfax, & Knapp, Dunn County Economic Development Corporation, Dunn County Fair Board, Dunn County, Historical Society, Dunn County Public Health & WIC, Land and Water Conservation, Land Information Services, Veterans Service Office, Workforce Resources/W2



# Mandated Programs

## Agriculture Extension Mandated Programs

Private Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) and Certification.

- State Statute ATCP 29 Wisconsin's Administrative Rule on Pesticide Use and Control. Extension has an agreement with Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection to provide the education to and proctor the certification exam.

Tractor and Machinery Safety and Certification

- Federal regulation 29 CFR 570 Subpart E-1. also State Statute 36.32 Extension partners with local high school vocational agriculture instructors. Extension develops curriculum and material, performs instructor training and coordination.

Livestock Premises Identification

- Wisconsin Act 229, 95.36 UW-Extension serves as a local partner with the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium assisting livestock owners' complete the appropriate paperwork to comply with Wisconsin Livestock Premises Identification requirements.

Beef and Pork Quality Assurance and Youth for the Quality Care of Animals

- This is a National Beef and Pork Board administrative rule that states that producers and youth must complete training and become certified to be able to market their livestock. Extension is one of the primary trainers for BQA, PQA, and YQCA and can sign certification cards indicating that the training has been completed.

Emergency Government

- Homeland Security Presidential Directive -5. Establishment of NIMS. Extension is one of numerous county partners trained to perform duties as part of the Dunn County Disaster Assessment Team.

Farm Worker Safety Education

- OSHA directive CPL 04-00 (LEP 009) for Wisconsin Dairy Farms, was established in late 2011. It requires dairy farms with over 11 employees to provide safety training to their workers. Extension provides this training for skid loader safety and cattle handling to meet this mandate placed on local dairy producers as well as providing walk through and check list reviews.

## 4-H Program Mandated Program

Youth Protection Program

- 4-H Adult Volunteers must complete the Youth Protection Program to serve in leadership roles in 4-H Clubs. This includes background checks, volunteer orientation training, and mandated reporter training.

## Human Development & Relationships Mandated Programs

Parents Forever

- Dunn County Courts require divorcing parents to take Parents Forever per State Statute 767.401: During the pendency of a divorce or paternity action, the court may order the parties to attend a class that is approved by the court and that addresses such issues as child development, family dynamics, how parental separation affects a child's development, and what parents can do to make raising a child in a separated situation less stressful for the child.

## Federally Funded Nutrition Education Programs

FoodWise

- Title III of the Older American Act funds meals and address food insecurities. State Policy and Procedure Manual of the Wisconsin Aging Network, Chapter 8—8.4.4 states Nutrition Education will be provided a minimum of four times per year (one time per quarter) to participants in congregate and home delivered meal programs. Where feasible, each program will provide monthly nutrition education suitable to participant needs and interest.

Food Share Employment Training Program

- This is a federal requirement that can help some FoodShare members meet the work requirements in order to continue receiving FoodShare benefits.

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.



# Extension

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