



Community Development

Addison Vang | *Community Development Educator*

August marked one year! And I have learned a lot and anticipate more opportunities for growth moving forward. My biggest project this month and into the first half of September has been coordinating the HERE (Hmong | Economic Advancement | Research | Equity) Conference. It will be held on September 14-16 with the first 2 days being the conference and the 3rd the summit. It's been great to be able to work with people I have not worked with locally and across the state. I'm super excited for the conference and what the Chippewa Valley has to offer for attendees!

Other projects I have been engaged in. I am in the process of fine tuning a Grant Writing 101 workshop coming up in the next few months with other educators. I also just started a statewide project to better support our rural entrepreneurs. And I have continued to engage with the farmers market in Dunn County and getting to know the vendors and how to best support them.

- Planning a statewide conference to support a Hmong economic development summit. The goal is to build a network of underrepresented entrepreneurs and business owners to learn and support one another.

Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | *Horticulture Outreach Specialist*

Our late season mini webinars are finishing up. The Horticulture Program offered a series of mini webinars throughout the growing season covering a variety of gardening topics. Mini webinars are 30 minutes and have been hugely popular. The final webinar, Bringing the Garden Inside, discusses bringing your plants indoors with information on which plants can come in, the requirements for growing plants indoors, and how to properly transition them to their new indoor home. This webinar is on September 7 at noon.

Other topics in the late season webinars included Yard and Garden Cleanup with Diseases and Insects in Mind that discussed best practices for fall cleanup to reduce insect and disease issues next year and Fall "Lawndry" List that discussed fall lawn TLC. To register for the September 7 webinar or to watch recordings of past webinars, visit <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/mini-webinars-for-gardeners/>.

We are in the process of updating outreach materials to promote the WI Master Gardener program and the Dunn County Master Gardeners. This is much needed to reflect current changes in the program and elevate all the wonderful activities the Master Gardeners are doing in Dunn County. A huge shout out to Michelle for her help on this project!

The 6-week youth garden programs I do in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club and FoodWise at the River Heights Elementary school and the Chippewa Falls Community Garden have finished for the season. When asked what they liked most about garden club, 52% responded gardening activities, 40% said food sampling with the remaining stating learning new things and/or everything!

Yard and garden questions are still rolling in and include questions on plant ID, vegetable diseases, tree diseases, fruits, insects and wildlife.

Professional Development in August included a training on Hostile and Intimidating (HIB) Policies and Processes, which introduced the characteristics of Hostile and/or Intimidating Behavior as defined by UW Madison, and processes and resources available if someone is experiencing, witnessing or accused of HIB. I also attended a training on Cybersecurity.

For September, I'll be teaching labs for the Foundations in Gardening course, which starts this month, helping to install a native rain garden at Lake Wissota State Park and doing outreach on healthy soils, soil testing and best practices on garden clean up at community gardens.

- A 6-week garden program for youth at the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley Chippewa Falls Center where they learn best practices in the garden through hands-on activities. The goals of this program are to teach kids how to food garden, connect them to the natural world and promote life-long healthy eating habits.
- A 6-week garden program for youth at the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley Menomonie Center where they learn best practices in the garden through hands-on activities. The goals of this program are to teach kids how to food garden, connect them to the natural world and promote life-long healthy eating habits.



- Planning for a statewide webinar series for consumer horticulture audiences where participants will learn about pollinator decline, climate change and environmental contamination and pollution. The goal of this effort is to increase adoption of horticultural practices addressing identified environmental issues in Wisconsin.

Health and Well-Being

Sandy Tarter | *FoodWise Coordinator*

Nancy Fastner | *FoodWise Educator*

Joy Weisner | *FoodWise Educator*

Jael Wolf | *FoodWise Educator*

FoodWise team has completed the Boys and Girls Club series at River Heights Elementary. Youth utilized learning from all lessons to identify food groups and a MyPlate meal with fun games. They enjoyed tasting fresh garden produce and experienced how tastes can change when in combination with other foods including a coleslaw with 8 different veggies and fruits.

Joy and Jael started a two lesson series with Bridge to Hope clients. Lessons will include topics of healthy eating, meal planning and budgeting.

Congratulations to Jael for receiving the statewide FoodWise Rising Star Award! In 6 short months, Jael hit the ground running by quickly learning our curricula and began programming, outreached to partners and community events, increased expanding access with Hispanic families, and included additional training to enhance her professional capacity. We are so fortunate to have her on our FoodWise team!

Congratulations to Nancy for receiving the statewide FoodWise Community Engagement Award! Nancy has been dedicated in community outreach to partners for programming and in Policy, Systems, and Environmental initiatives. She was instrumental in providing the Safe and Healthy Toolkit and videos to food pantries, providing support in coalition leadership and community events, and working with Mayo Health System to pilot the Food is Medicine project.

A tremendous thanks goes to Nancy for her 8 years of commitment to FoodWise and local communities. She is retiring this fall and we wish her all the best!

The open FoodWise Nutrition Educator listing can be found at go.wisc.edu/734nyd. Please share it with anyone who may be interested in applying.

- Multiple educational events at the Menomonie and Chippewa Falls Farmers Markets with WIC families. The goal of this effort is to support parents on the benefits of children eating healthy foods, provide information on the WIC vouchers and SNAP/EBT token programs, and promote families to trying more produce and fresh foods at the market.
- A collaborative effort with Chronic Disease Prevention Action Teams under the Eau Claire Healthy Communities, Health Dunn Right, and Chippewa Health Improvement Partnership coalitions to promote our 2022 Summer Activity Passport. This effort helps promote community engagement in summer activities that promote increased physical activity, increased fresh produce access and consumption, and stress reduction as action steps to reduce chronic diseases.
- Monthly meetings with the Chronic Disease Prevention Action Teams under the Eau Claire Healthy Communities, Health Dunn Right, and Chippewa Health Improvement Partnership coalitions. This effort helps guide the action teams in providing community awareness and activities concerning healthy food access, food security, and increased physical activity for local families.
- Monthly Steering Committee meetings with the executive leadership of the Chippewa Healthy Improvement Partnership and Health Dunn Right during which organizational needs are reviewed and discussed. The purpose of this effort is to help the organization identify a strategic direction in order to more effectively guide its action teams including the Chronic Disease Prevention Action Teams.
- Collaboration with local agencies to create sustainability and promotion of the farmers markets token and match programs. This effort enables FoodShare participants to utilize their benefits in purchasing market foods while supporting increased vendor sales.



Human Development and Relationships

Luisa Gerasimo | *Human Development and Relationships Educator*

Parents Forever is a 3-4 hour co-parenting course designed to help parents who are sharing children after a divorce or other custody change take better care of their children, and themselves while developing a healthier co-parenting relationship with the other parent. Parents may be court ordered or may sign up because they want to improve their understanding of how to co-parent in a positive way.

Attendees at two different in person class offerings rated the usefulness of the topic as a 5 (very useful). Participants rated their knowledge of co-parenting before the class as between zero knowledge and a little knowledge (average of 1.5) and rated their knowledge after the class was completed as very knowledgeable (5).

When asked what the participants might tell other parents about the program one said: "it is essential" and another remarked that it is a "great program" and "there needs to be a longer course."

- A 3-4 hour class, Parents Forever, designed to educate parents on how to co-parent during a divorce or other custody change. *"[I learned] how children process the information/experiences compared to how adults do."*
-Parents Forever participant
- A series of meetings with partner organizations, agencies and regional nonprofits for the purpose of a community needs assessment focused on how Extension Dunn County can serve local needs in the area of human development and family relationships education.

Positive Youth Development

The hiring process for the 4-H Program Educator position is ongoing. For information on Extension's 4-H Program, visit <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/>.

- Series of meetings to coordinate an educational art camp located at Kamp Kenwood, for middle school aged youth, where there will be several classes of the "art" theme.

Natural Resources

Dan Zerr | *Regional Natural Resource Educator*

- Technical assistance for a partnership group (Rain to Rivers) which raises awareness and encourages action to reduce stormwater impacts. The goal of this effort is to increase storm water management awareness and implementation.
- Facilitation of bimonthly 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.

Agriculture

Katie Wantoch | *Professor of Practice and Statewide Farm Management Outreach Specialist*

- A monthly column in WI Agriculturist magazine for farmers and ag professionals, where readers learn about farm management and available Extension resources. The purpose of this effort is to improve farm business decision-making.
 - A podcast series, AgriVision, for farmers and ag professionals, where UW Extension educators answer Farm Management questions and share knowledge and expertise on how farmers can improve their farm management skills.
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Support

Michelle Bachand | *Support Specialist*

This month I worked on a variety of activities, some of which include:

- Serving on the search and screen committee for the 4-H Program Educator position.
 - Participating in the Area Extension Director final interviews.
 - Preparing for the annual 4-H Online system rollover that will kick off the new program year in September.
 - Creating and distributing the monthly Clover Courier.
 - Reviewing the 4-H Annual Financial Reports that are required of 4-H chartered clubs and groups as they are submitted and following up with club leaders to ensure the September 1 deadline is met.
 - Assisting the 4-H Plat Book Committee with proofing the 2022 Plat Book, setting up a committee meeting, connecting the printing company and 4-H Treasurer for payment, and announcing the arrival of the new book with marketing efforts.
 - Managing registrations, invoicing, and collecting payments for the upcoming 4-H Arts Camp at Kamp Kenwood for youth from Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Pierce, and Trempealeau Counties.
 - Collaborating with Human Services and the Health Department to update an informational Healthy Babies handout.
 - Updating the Human Development and Relationships website information and marketing materials.
 - Discussing a potential grant agreement for administrative support with the County Manager, CFO, HR Director, and AED.
 - Completing professional development in project management foundations.
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Area Extension Director

Jason Hausler | *Interim Area Extension Director*

- Will be transitioning to a new role, Assistant Dean.
 - Area 6 AED position recruitment has concluded. More to come on who has been selected and their hire date.
 - Dunn County 4-H Position will be reposted. Initial recruitment yielded an unqualified pool.
 - Draft 2023 Extension contract for service is available with minimal changes from 2022.
 - Working with Extension leadership, facilities and corporation counsel on a lease for the county home property.
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