



Agriculture

Jerry Clark | *Regional Crops & Soils Educator*



A land evaluation clinic for students where participants learned land management principles, soil properties, and land use, to increase effective land management practices and maximize soil and agricultural land production into the future. The goal of the program is to increase knowledge and understanding of the importance of land and soil management and the impact agriculture and commercial development has on the land.

A field event for farmers and agriculture professionals where participants learned manure management application and manure spill response techniques to maximize nutrient efficiency, protect ground and surface water, and increase farm profitability. The goal of the program is to increase knowledge about manure application, placement, and timing while preventing manure and soil runoff.

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-bias 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.

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).

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.

Agriculture

Lyssa Seefeld | *Regional Dairy Educator*



An in-person training for emergency response personnel in the Planning for Emergency Livestock Transportation Response (PELTR) course where they learned how to respond to incidents involving livestock trailers. The purpose of this program is to increase the effectiveness of emergency planning and the preparedness of local emergency response agencies.

Meeting with representatives from Wisconsin Literacy to talk about what Extension Spanish translated resources are available & to plan a discussion panel helping connect literacy volunteers with Spanish translated dairy worker



materials available through Extension & other sources.

Meeting with the poultry superintendent to discuss & support a proposal to bring poultry to the livestock auction.

Discussion & planning on VITAL dairy women programming for spring event(s) for west central Wisconsin.

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

Met with an attorney partner. Planning for a November professional development event for western agriculture educators to foster better collaborations with legal counselors (& other ag professionals) to help farm families start and complete farm succession plans.

A live, on-line meeting series for farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned the latest research and applications regarding different manure processing options. The goal of this effort was to increase knowledge of the latest UW-Madison research on manure processing options including the good and bad of each system.

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.

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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 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, 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.

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.

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 them improve farm business viability, environmental sustainability, and food safety through animal welfare.



Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | *Regional Horticulture Educator*



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.

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 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.

Planning a program on gardening and composting with limited space for the public. The goal of this effort is to teach participants strategies to successfully grow vegetables and compost garden waste even when space is limited.

Planning 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.

Planning 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.

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.



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.

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.

An educational program on soil testing targeting Hmong and underserved farmers to improve their knowledge of soil health. The workshop included a soil sampling demonstration and soil health education. Participants were eligible for free soil testing. The workshop was conducted in English with Hmong interpreters if needed. Local agencies working with soil health were invited to attend and allowed to introduce their agencies to the attendees.



Health and Well-Being

Sandy Tarter

FoodWise Coordinator



Joy Weisner

FoodWise Educator



Jael Wolf

FoodWise Educator



Hillarie Roth

FoodWise Educator



A 4-lesson series for 4K preschoolers at Menomonie Head Start to learn about fruits, vegetables, and keeping their bodies healthy. This effort helps children to learn to use their senses with colors, music, and tastes to explore foods and physical activity.

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.

Provided support to Stepping Stones Food Pantry Director in promotion of their new hours and discussion of their mobile pop-up pantries in rural Dunn County.

Planning a 6-lesson series in 1st and 3rd grades at River Heights Elementary for November. This effort helps children learn about MyPlate guidelines and provides a tasting of fruits and vegetables.

Planning meetings for a spring Dunn County family resource fair and dance event. Members of Health Dunn Right action teams collaborate to provide an evening of activities to support local families.



Human Development and Relationships

Luisa Gerasimo | *Human Development and Relationships Educator*



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.

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 community coalition and working group (Housing Action Team), which came out of the county's health needs assessment, met in 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.

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.

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 program gave me a] better understanding of a child's mind. It made me feel more involved and connected."
-Making Reading Memories Participant

An evidence-based in person co-parenting class designed for parents who will be sharing custody of children. This four-hour course is designed to improve parenting to protect children, increase cooperation between parents and help parents care for themselves in a time of stress.

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.

Positive Youth Development

Zachary Rozmiarek | *4-H Program Educator*



A meeting was held for the Boyceville Middle School Student Council. The purpose of this meeting was to promote the leadership opportunities that 4-H has to offer. I also led an educational activity that gave them the opportunity to reflect on their leadership styles. There is a possibility of partnering with the Student Council to do more leadership education.

Planning has started for 4-H Summer Camp. Dunn, Eau Claire, and Clark County educators came together to create the Camp Counselor Application process. This year, we will be planning more opportunities for the camp counselors to bond and gain leadership skills. This will promote youth leadership opportunities for camp. Planning for a Citizen Science STEM day for 5-8th graders. The Dunn County and Eau Claire County Educators are collaborating for this event. It will be offered to 5-8th graders in Area 6. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for the youth to learn about the environment in an urban setting, which is a place that is not well known to them.

A Citizen Science STEM day was held for 5-8th graders in Dunn, Eau Claire and Chippewa Counties. We met on October 21st at Boyd Park in Eau Claire. We chose that location because it is in an urban setting. This gave the youth the opportunity to explore nature in a setting that was not very well known to them. They were able to make connections between natural areas in a city and places they've explored at home.

The youth learned about the prairie ecosystem, and helped with weeding and planting. They also studied the different soil types in the area and discussed which ones would be best for plants to grow in. During the reflection, many of the youth said that they enjoyed the activities, learned something new, and would be able to transfer what they learned to their own communities.



Participants in the 2023 STEM Day run a soil percolation test at Boyd Park.

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.