



Agriculture

Jerry Clark | *Regional Crops & Soils Educator*



A training session for manure applicators and farmers where participants learn to apply manure safely and accurately to keep themselves safe, protect the environment, and increase farm profitability.

A seminar for hop growers where participants learned current crop production and marketing strategies to increase profitability and sustainability.

A crop insurance and grain marketing program for new and experienced grain crop farmers where participants learned to identify risk, calculate accurate production expenses, discover grain price sensitivities, and manage crop insurance and federal programs to lower risk and increase farm profitability. *(Partnered with Katie Wantoch and Michelle Bachand)*

A risk, crop insurance, and grain marketing hybrid course, where material was adapted into a more relevant format for use in-person, as stand-alone educational videos and articles, and an on-line course. The Farm Pulse - Crop Insurance and Grain Marketing course will assist farmers and ag professionals 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)*

An educational program for farmers and lake owners where participants learned about implementation of practices on farms and landscape to improve and protect ground and surface water.

A training program for private applicators where participants learned about safe handling and application of restricted-use pesticides to protect themselves and the environment. The purpose of this program is to provide certifiable training on the safe and legal handling and use of pesticides for applicators.

Agriculture

Lyssa Seefeldt | *Regional Dairy Educator*



A live, on-line meeting series for farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned the latest research on balancing diets for energy and amino acids to maximize milk components. The goal of this effort was to increase knowledge of the latest UW-Madison research on impacts of feeding fat sources and amino acids to maximize milk protein and fat.

Initial meeting with a representative from the Wisconsin Migrant Education Program from the WI Department of Public Instruction to help connect the program to Extension colleagues, partners, and farmers that may be interacting with migrant or seasonal employees in the dairy industry on the western side of Wisconsin. The long-term goal is to continue to build local connections of professionals that are working with Spanish speaking dairy employees in the Chippewa Valley to increase access to services and eventually partner on dairy training / learning in Spanish after asking employees what dairy training they are interested in learning more about.



Developing a factsheet on the risks of inadequate fiber diets for cows to help dairy farmers and farm employees. The goal is to help the audience better understand the metabolic disease risks of feeding low fiber diets and correct implementation of feeding low fiber diets to achieve better health & welfare outcomes for cows.

Development of a presentation on the use of fats in the dairy diet for farmers, employees, and affiliated agri-business service providers to complement a presentation on amino acids by a campus professor for the Badger Dairy Insight. The goal is for farmers, employees, and affiliated agri-business service providers to better understand the use of fats in dairy diets, how different types of fat are utilized by the cow, and potential limitations of the use of different fats so that farmers & employees are better informed about integrating fats correctly into diets so that cows experience better health and welfare outcomes.

Developing resources on re-examining phosphorus in the cow diet / transition cow diet for dairy farmers and farm workers. The goal is to help the audience better understand the implications of overfeeding phosphorus on transition cow health so that they evaluate the amount of phosphorus in the diet and work with a nutritionist to adjust diets when necessary to achieve better health outcomes for cows.

A nutrition survey for dairy farmers with automated milking systems (AMS - robotic) herds to share results with dairy farmers interested in increasing productivity and efficiency in order to achieve / maintain economic viability.

A nutrition survey for dairy farmers with high producing herds to share results with dairy farmers interested in increasing productivity and efficiency in order to achieve / maintain economic viability.

A research-based educational article for dairy producers and agri-business professionals, where participants will learn about dairy genetic terminology and selection strategies. The goal of this effort was to present a research based methodology for decision makers to analyze genetic proofs, and empower dairy herd managers to make selection decisions for their herds.

Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | *Regional Horticulture Educator*



A winter garden class on the origin of some of our most common garden crops for youth in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley. The goal of this effort is to help make cultural connections to our food and create a plan to plant a global themed garden this spring.

Development of a presentation on native plants and pollinators for the public. The goal is to encourage individuals to incorporate native plantings in their landscape to benefit pollinators and increase pollinator habitat.

Coordinating community gardens in three different communities. The goal is to aid in making fresh produce more accessible to individuals without space to grow many of their own fruits and vegetables and to provide opportunities for learning gardening best practices.



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



Participation in the Heath Dunn Right organizational meetings to support the Jim Gill Family Concert and Dunn County Resource Fair on April 18th at the Dunn County Government Center. The Resource Fair starts at 4:30 and goes till 7:00, with the concert going from 5:30 to 6:30. This effort will engage families with healthy activities and share local resources.

A series of virtual statewide strength training sessions (StrongBodies) where older adults learn best practices along with nutrition and health education. Participants engage in regular strength training exercises to improve strength, balance, and flexibility so they can stay healthy and socially connected. We have 48 Dunn residents taking part in our Tuesday/Thursday morning virtual StrongBodies classes.

Planning for an upcoming Head Start parent event and a UW-Stout Community Nutrition Class presentation.

FoodWise team is meeting to develop a thorough assessment of our county's resources, partners, and current programming to inform our new 3-year action plan FY25-27.

Human Development and Relationships

Luisa Gerasimo | *Human Development and Relationships Educator*



An in person meeting with Family and Engagement Educators from several counties, and the full staff of a crisis center that serves those counties. The purpose of the meeting was to get to know each other's services and needs and see if we can cooperate to educate and support families in the future.

A series of in-person and virtual meetings with UW-Stout, local planning professionals, and the Rural Partners Network (U.S.D.A.), where we discussed the creation of a local housing program. The goal was to encourage the rebuilding of older housing stock near the campus, and the building of affordable single family homes in our region.



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.

You made my day! ... I have had such wonderful support since coming to Dunn County from people like you who go out of their way to spread goodness. I truly appreciate you.
-Director of a County Department



Booth at the Sunshine Learning Center Parent's Night, connecting local parents to Extension resources.

Positive Youth Development

Zachary Rozmiarek | 4-H Program Educator



A camp counselor training retreat was held. This retreat was a fun weekend for our camp counselors to build teamwork and relationships with us as 4-H Educators, plus provided required training that supports them in being the best camp counselors that they can be.

The Art U program will run until March 4th. This program allows youth to participate in virtual art lessons led by Art-Ed students from the University of Wisconsin - Stout. There are over 50 participants this year. We have gotten great feedback from the parents of the youth involved.

Plans are currently underway for the Area 6 Clover U Program. Clover U offers sessions lead by volunteers that are meant to reach the Sparks of 4-H youth. We hope to offer 10-12 sessions. We are currently recruiting volunteers and planning the sessions.

A Performing Arts Festival was held for youth in Dunn, Eau Claire, and Chippewa Counties. The youth had the opportunity to perform in a variety of music and theater categories. This event gave the youth the opportunity to plan, rehearse and perform a piece in front of judges. It also allowed them to build their teamwork skills within their clubs. Awards were presented for the top performers.

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.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
DUNN COUNTY

February 2024 Report

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 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.