



Agriculture

Jerry Clark | *Regional Crops & Soils Educator*



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

A presentation for Minnesota Hop Growers Association members where participants learned about cost of production estimates for growing established hops to lower input costs and increase farm profitability.

A presentation for Wisconsin Land and Water Association members where participants learned about industrial hemp production and how it fits into existing cropping systems to increase soil and water conservation and environmental benefits.

A crop insurance and grain marketing program for new and experienced grain crop farmers where participants learned strategies to develop a grain marketing plan to lower risk and increase farm profitability.

A seminar for beef and dairy farmers where participants learned about alfalfa, forage and farm management topics to increase forage, livestock and dairy profitability.

A meeting of Crops & Soils field staff and UW-Madison College of Ag & Life Sciences Specialists to develop more intentional coordination around on-farm research related to cropping systems in Wisconsin. The purpose of this effort is to carry out the Wisconsin Idea by connecting Extension staff across the state to the research being conducted by faculty and bringing those ideas to farms where they can be applied and tried in order to increase agricultural sustainability and profitability across the state.

Agriculture

Lyssa Seefeldt | *Regional Dairy Educator*



A webinar for dairy producers where attendees learned about Dairy Margin Coverage sign-up, changes to the program, and utilizing the decision tool to help determine coverage levels.

A presentation to Chippewa Valley Forage Council Members where farmers learned about how fats in the dairy diet are used by cows, limitations of different types of fat, and considerations/discussions to have with their nutritionist on the inclusion in the dairy diet.

Development of a presentation for dairy farmers and employees on "effective dairy herd health records" so that the audience better understands why certain records are important to track along with nutritional tips to help prevent dairy metabolic & disease issues.

A webinar for dairy farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned the latest trends for using sexed semen and beef semen for reproduction. The goal of this effort was to increase knowledge of the



latest University research on the use of sexed semen, beef semen, increasing conception rates and how dairy professionals can practically apply these technologies to their clients' farms.

Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | *Regional Horticulture Educator*



Seed starting program for people living with dementia and their care partners that offers hands-on experience to grow and care for plants and encourages the use of fine motor skills. This effort is to teach vegetable gardening skills and offer a sense of fulfillment as participants grow plants for use in the Eau Claire County Meals on Wheels program.

A presentation for the public on landscaping for birds where participants learned the value of creating ecological niches to support bird populations, especially backyard species that are experiencing major declines. This effort is to encourage individuals to adopt gardening practices that support bird habitat and health throughout the year.

A presentation about the benefits of gardening for the general public in partnership with Chippewa Falls Public Library 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.

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



An educational caregiver event at Menomonie Head Start where parents learned the benefits of getting kids helping in the kitchen along with a healthy snack preparation. This effort supports parents in encouraging their families to eat healthy and reduce mealtime struggles. Children joined parents after the educational component



to then make smoothies together. Even the parent proclaimed “pickiest eater” child enjoyed the fruit and yogurt smoothies!

A presentation to UW-Stout Community Nutrition class. This effort shares the work of Extension and the FoodWise program to the students for greater understanding of the local opportunities for the community and FoodShare families.

Participation in the Health Dunn Right- Chronic Disease Prevention Action Team monthly meeting including active support for Winter Fun in Dunn initiative. The goal of this effort is to help guide objectives and strategies that support initiatives to improve the health of local residents. Just over 60 residents have submitted photos for a chance to win prizes.

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. Sandy lead and presented on nutrition label reading in February. She was stopped on the Menomonie Junction Trail by walkers who expressed how much they love the StrongBodies and have participated since 2020!

Human Development and Relationships

Luisa Gerasimo | *Human Development and Relationships Educator*



After one year of running the United Way of Dunn County with no employees, our all-volunteer board is very close to a merger with a neighboring United Way. This newly formed six- county organization will keep its focus on education, health and financial stability and will announce its new name next month. All funds previously raised for United Way Dunn County will be reserved for grants to Dunn County nonprofits and agencies.

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.

This month I was able to lead a special class for Spanish speaking parents who are experiencing a change in custody. The parents that attended were court-ordered from several counties, and were able to take the class online with the help of a UW Madison interpreter. This class helps divorcing parents improve communication with the other parent while supporting children emotionally and learning how to keep kids out of the middle of conflict.

“[The Parents Forever Class]... helped me a lot in the divorce process to be a better mother and ex-wife... the most important thing is always the well-being of our children.”

-Spanish Speaking Parents Forever Participant

A program for justice-involved families where parents in jail are video recorded reading storybooks, 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.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
DUNN COUNTY

March 2024 Report

Positive Youth Development

Zachary Rozmiarek | *4-H Program Educator*



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

Planning has been ongoing for summer camp. This month the educators focused on planning out the camp schedule and activities. They also worked on contacting camp volunteers, life guards, and guest presenters.

The Art U program concluded on March 4th with an in person art show. Youth got the chance to display their work, as well as work on a large group project. A follow up survey gave us positive feedback from the participants. We hope to continue this program in the future.

Sessions have been planned for the Area 6 Clover U Program. We will be offering sessions on fishing, watercolors, cooking, dogs, jewelry making, and sewing. Registration has closed and we have over 20 youth participating. It will be held on April 6th.

The Youth Activities council have picked their activities for battle of the clubs. Each of the 8 members will host one activity for the teams to compete in. The activities range from relay races, pie eating contests and trivia. The event will take place on April 27th at UW-Stout.

Value Added Programming

Dunn, Chippewa, and Eau Claire Counties

Provided advisory and consulting services to the West Central WI Broadband Committee where the participants learned about specifics of upcoming federal broadband funding related to the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Act (BEAD) for infrastructure deployment and digital equity. The purpose of this effort is to educate communities about federal and state programs concerning funding for programs that support broadband deployment and adoption of digital skills. *(Christopher Stark)*

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

3

Stout Wellness Fair
10am-2pm
Stout Sports & Fitness Center

APRIL

13

Parents Forever (in person)
8:30am-12:30pm
Dunn County Government Center