



Agriculture

Jerry Clark | *Regional Crops & Soils Educator*



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

An on-farm study to better understand the effect of nitrogen application rates on nitrogen cycling and corn yield. Results from this study will help corn growers in that they can implement and adapt N management practices to optimize economic return, improve efficiency of N fertilizer resulting in more sustainable corn production and farm profitability.

An on-farm study to better understand industrial hemp fiber and grain performance related to varieties, effect of planting date, tillage treatments, and nitrogen application rates. Results from this study will help hemp growers select better performing varieties and optimize economic return to nitrogen to increase sustainable hemp production and farm profitability.

A leadership program presentation for business and industry leaders in Dunn County where leaders learned of the economic impact of Dunn County and Chippewa Valley agriculture to increase awareness and understanding of the local agricultural industry. The goal of the presentation as an invited speaker was to increase awareness of the economic, social, and environmental impact of the agricultural industry.

An on-farm study to better understand malting barley variety performance and the effect of potassium and sulfur application rates on barley yield. Results from this study will help barley growers in that they can implement and adapt barley variety selection and potassium management practices to optimize economic return and improve variety selection in more sustainable barley production and farm profitability.

An on-farm study to better understand winter malting barley variety performance on barley yield and grain quality. Results from this study will help barley growers in that they can implement and adapt winter barley variety selection to optimize economic return and improve variety selection in more sustainable barley production and farm profitability.



Menomonie Sunrise Rotary President Brian Seguin presents a certificate of a book donation to UW-Madison Extension Regional Crops and Soils Educator Jerry Clark.

Agriculture

Vacant | *Regional Dairy Educator*



Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | *Regional Horticulture Educator*



Two vegetable container garden programs for participating seniors in StrongBodies, where they learned strategies for successful container gardening and wellness benefits we gain through gardening. 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. (*Partnered with Sandy Tarter & Mary Hoeft-Leithold, La Crosse County*)



Horticulture Educator Margaret Murphy facilitates a hands-on vegetable container garden workshop.

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

An activity to plant a native flower garden for the public at the Obey Interpretive Center, Chippewa Moraine State Recreation Area. This effort offers the 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.

An activity to plant several raised beds with Boys & Girls Club – Menomonie, where participants receive hands-on experience to grow and care for plants and learn basic gardening skills. The goal of this effort is to teach kids techniques and strategies to successfully grow crops that will be used for their summertime programming.

A hands-on vegetable container garden workshop for the public where attendees learned strategies to successfully grow vegetables in containers and planted their own containers to take home. This effort is designed to encourage people of all ages to garden for wellness and to grow their own food, even if space, time and/or mobility is limited.

Community Development

Garret Zastoupil | *Regional Community & Leadership Development Educator*



Welcome to the team, Garret!

Presented at the Wisconsin Rural Partners Summit in Ashland, WI on the challenges and opportunities facing rural communities in Northern Wisconsin.

Stay tuned for exciting programming from Community Development!



Health and Well-Being

Sandy Tarter

FoodWise Coordinator



Joy Weisner

FoodWise Educator



Jael Wolf

FoodWise Educator



Hillarie Roth

FoodWise Educator



A 2-lesson series with young adult participants of Life Without Limits - a community-based program that works with high school students qualifying for individualized special education services that extends beyond the high school experience. This effort expands their knowledge of nutrition, food waste and food preparation skills.

A 2-lesson nutrition education series with Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association Building Bridges middle and high school teens in Menomonie and Eau Claire. This effort helps teens become more aware of MyPlate guidelines, food safety, and builds on food preparation skills for greater independence.

A series of strength training sessions (StrongBodies) for adults in the community, where participants engage in regular, progressive strength training and health education to improve their physical and mental health, and enhance social connectedness.

Virtual nutrition education provided for Chippewa County WIC families on introducing young children to a variety of fruits, vegetables, and health eating patterns. This effort provides parents with ideas and resources to help them introduce new foods, be good role models, and raise healthy eaters.

“This online StrongBodies course is spectacular. It’s such a gift. I hope it runs continually.” “My instructor encouraged me to join strong bodies and I believe it has saved my life!” “I am grateful to WPR for their program on StrongBodies. This is how I learned about the classes. As a result, I have been directed toward appropriate strength training as well as numerous suggestions for better health.” –*StrongBodies Participant*



Human Development and Relationships

Luisa Gerasimo | *Human Development and Relationships Educator*



Planning for a six week lunch-and-learn WeCOPE series in order to be prepared to offer the program state-wide in May and June, so that participants can learn how to connect with their positive emotions and reduce overall stress. *(Partnered with Margo Dieck)*

In order to make sure we have needed services for the families I serve, a year ago I became the VP of United Way of Dunn County. For the past year, the board worked to keep the organization going and to reimagine how we could better serve our community. This month, United Way St. Croix Valley and Dunn County United Way announced their intent to merge to form a stronger, more unified force for community impact. The combined organization will be known as United Way St. Croix and Red Cedar Valleys, serving communities throughout Burnett, Dunn, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix counties. More on this merger soon.



Educator with an armload of children's books being mailed to families in the Making Reading Memories Program at the Dunn County Jail.

"[This program]... made me realize I need to stop ****ing up"

-Father in County Jail Reading Program

A program (Making Reading Memories) for families involved in the justice system 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.

Planning to support efforts to improve managerial skills and reduce stress in county departments. The goal is to offer appropriate Extension programming and workshops in the coming year to improve workplace culture and efficiency.

The month of May also included a number of all-day trainings and workshops, including certification in Youth Mental Health First Aid.

Positive Youth Development

Zachary Rozmiarek | *4-H Program Educator*



The May Clover Courier can be viewed [HERE](#).

Planning for Summer 4-H Camps in collaboration with Eau Claire and Clark County 4-H staff. The goal of the program is to provide a positive camp experience that will increase the feeling of belonging for both volunteers, counselors, and youth participants. *(Partnered with Rachel Hart-Brinson & Seth Harrmann)*



An intern onboarding program where we on-boarded our summer interns to provide an introduction to Extension, basics of positive youth development theory, and communicate expectations of the intern positions. *(Partnered with Rachel Hart-Brinson & April Daniels)*

Dunn County hosted the Battle of the Clubs! Battle of the clubs is activity for Dunn County 4-H members, leaders and families, where they participated in competitions and activities to meet other members and form a sense of belonging.

An activity for Dunn County 4-H members, leaders and families, where they participated in competitions and activities to meet other members and form a sense of belonging.

Planning for a camp orientation meeting for families where we will help explain how camp works and answer questions so that participants will have a better experience. *(Partnered with Rachel Hart-Brinson & Seth Harrmann)*

Planning for a series of Day Camps for Cloverbuds and youth in grades 3-5 has begun in collaboration with Dunn, Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties. The goal is to allow the youth to explore sparks and allow non 4-H members to learn about the program, so that they will become involved or more involved with 4-H. *(Partnered with Jordan Blue & Rachel Hart-Brinson)*

A presentation for the Photography Club was given to increase the member’s knowledge of how to prepare for the county fair.

A meeting for club leaders where important information was shared and they also had the opportunity to gather and bond.

Tabling event at the Hmong Youth Day Festival where we interacted with young people and their parents to promote 4-H as an opportunity and also built relationships with the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association. *(Partnered with Rachel Hart-Brinson & Jordan Blue)*



Rachel Hart-Brinson, Zac Rozmiarek, and Jordan Blue standing behind a promotional booth at the Phoenix Park Pavilion.

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

JUNE
13

Winter Barley & Rye Cover Crop Field Day

View winter barley and rye variety trials.
10:30am-Noon
4348 Cty Rd M, New Auburn, WI 54757

JUNE
15

Pollinator & Rain Garden Tour

Tour an established Pollinator Garden and
a young Native Plant Rain Garden - FREE!
10:00am- Lake Wissota State Park
18127 Co Hwy O, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

JULY
9

Focus on Fathers

Helping Children Handle Emotions.
6-7pm on Zoom
Register at: <https://bit.ly/46L4nEo>

AUGUST
13

Focus on Fathers

Helping Children Make Good
Choices.
6-7pm on Zoom
Register at: <https://bit.ly/46L4nEo>