



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
CHIPPewa COUNTY

# Extension Chippewa County

April & May 2023 Report

## Agriculture

Jerry Clark | Regional Crops and Soils Educator

Lyssa Seefeldt | Regional Dairy Educator



*On-farm research projects for farmers and agricultural professionals where data and observations will provide unbiased information to help farmers make informed decisions.*

*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.*

*A cover crop walk where farmers and agency professionals engaged in hands-on learning and discussion about cover crop management to learn strategies and methods to implement cover crops and improve soil health and farm profitability.*

*Educational programing 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.*

*A webinar for sheep and goat producers to learn about techniques of grilling and cooking lamb. This effort was designed to help producers prepare lamb products to ensure an enjoyable eating experience and to promote eating lamb to consumers to increase lamb consumption.*



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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.

## Community Development

Addison Vang | Community Development Tri - County Educator



A video series for food and farm business entrepreneurs, where participants develop the framework needed for effective food and ag entrepreneurship and are connected with the resources they need to be successful. This effort was designed to help participants assess their skills, assets, personalities, and/or networks to help make a decision about a business opportunity or new enterprise.

Create a Chippewa Valley farmers market survey to better understand our farmers market vendors' and small farmers needs and their impact to the overall community food system. The survey is in development with a tentative distribution during the peak summer farmers market months.

Educational programing 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.

Planning for a series of webinars for food entrepreneurs in collaboration with county educators, statewide specialists, and local experts. This effort is designed to equip food entrepreneurs with increased skills and knowledge for operating successful food business enterprises.

### Health and Well-Being

Sandy Tarter | FoodWise Tri- County Coordinator

Hillarie Roth | FoodWise Chippewa & Dunn Educator



*A collaboration with Family Fare grocery store and St. Francesca Food Pantry participants to provide a tour that shared shopping tips, unit pricing, label reading, and choosing healthy foods. This effort reinforces food resource management skills to compare products and make healthy choices within a limited budget.*

*A series of 2 lessons for Veterans and Recovery Court participants where they learned about nutrition, food safety, food resource management principles, and utilizing slow cookers. This effort helps individuals with limited resources make healthy food choices on a limited budget.*

*A 5 week nutrition education series to 2nd graders in Parkview Elementary. The goal of this effort is to help youth learn about the importance of MyPlate and eating five food groups, proper hand washing, and physical activity.*

*A 5 week nutrition education series to 5th graders at Parkview Elementary where they learn about healthy habits and how the nutrients in foods contribute to a healthy diet. This effort will help the students plan healthy meals and snacks using a variety of foods from the food groups.*

*A 5-week nutrition education series to kindergarten classes in Parkview Elementary. The goal of this effort is for students to discover MyPlate, learn the importance of healthy habits and handwashing, and taste fruits and vegetables.*

*Multiple meetings and emails with local partners to support our local farmers markets by implementing a new Farmers Market in Chippewa and plan for Market Match programs in Menomonie and Eau Claire Farmers Markets. This effort will help to improve food security with the development and implementation of a program for SNAP/FoodShare recipients to use benefits for food purchases.*



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A 5-week nutrition education series to 3rd graders at Parkview Elementary to learn about the importance of eating five food groups, physical activity, healthy habits, and try seasonal fruits and vegetables. This effort will encourage students to choose a goal to try more fruits and vegetables at each meal.

A collaboration with Mayo Health System staff and St. Francesca Food Pantry in developing the "Food Is Medicine" program to underserved, food insecure participants. This effort aims to improve food security and health behaviors on a limited budget.

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.

## Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Tri- County Educator



An informational table for the general public at Chippewa County's Chippewa Strong Event where information on the positive impacts plants have on various areas of our lives was offered. This effort is designed to increase awareness of the benefits of plants and how we can incorporate more plants in our lives.

A vegetable container garden program for the Spring Series StrongBodies Chat for participating seniors where they learned about the benefits and ease of growing vegetables in containers. 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.

A fruit container garden program for the Spring Series StrongBodies Chat for participating seniors 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 gardening series for beginners in collaboration with the Cardinal Community Learning Center where participants learn the basics of vegetable gardening, starting seeds indoors and growing vegetables in containers when space is limited. The goal of this effort is to teach those new to vegetable gardening how to get started and encourage people to try vegetable gardening.

Planning a gardening presentation in collaboration with the Bloomer Public Library for the public. The goal of this effort is to teach participants strategies to grow successful patio gardens and to encourage people of all ages to garden even when space is limited.

Planning a gardening series for the public in collaboration with the Chippewa Falls Public Library One Seed, One Wisconsin program. The goal of this effort is to demonstrate growing tomatoes from seed to harvest to teach and encourage people to try vegetable gardening.





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*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.*

## **Human Development and Relationships**

*Jeanne Walsh | Human Development and Relationships Educator*



*Significant preparatory meetings for part 2 of Chippewa Strong, a community resilience program. The goal was to build a resilient community together, through promoting wellness resources and activities for families in Chippewa County. This event included supper, large group family enrichment, and booths designed to promote various wellness opportunities.*

*Educational activity booth for Chippewa County families at Chippewa Strong. The hands-on activities of rock painting, gratitude journals, family gratitude games, and a gratitude garden were led to promote gratitude as a wellness strategy promoting individual and family resilience.*

*Significant preparatory meetings to develop and provide 4 Stand Against Meth Community Town-Halls in different communities within Chippewa County. The goal of the town-halls was to reduce drug use in our community. The town halls provided education on drugs in Chippewa County, harm reduction, Adverse Childhood Experiences, and Crime Stoppers. They are also persons with lived experience who provided personal stories of recovery and hope. Different tracts with breakout activity-based education were planned for youth.*

*Presentations on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's), at 4 Stand Against Meth Community Town-Halls in Chippewa County. The goals of the presentations were to educate on ACE's, relate ACE's to drug use, and provide avenues for building individual, family and community resilience to combat the effects of ACE's.*

*Recovery Court Treatment Team meetings to develop individualized and group educational opportunities for justice involved families. The goal is to decrease drug use and recidivism and increase financial capability, resiliency, positive community involvement, and healthy families.*

*Monthly workshops 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.*

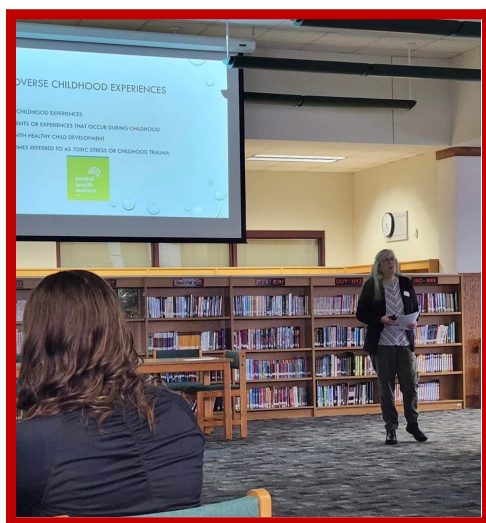
*An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.*

*A re-entry coaching program for Chippewa County Jail inmates that focuses on setting achievable short- and long-term goals in order to be successful in the community. The goals of this program are to increase the financial, relationship, and well-being goal attainment for long term community reintegration by goal setting.*

*A series of 2 lessons for Veterans and Recovery Court participants where they learned about nutrition, food safety, food resource management principles, and utilizing slow cookers. This effort helps individuals with limited resources make healthy food choices on a limited budget.*

*Ongoing Rent Smart classes at Hope Village, where Chippewa County participants learn how to be a successful renter. The goal of this program is that participants will learn their responsibilities as renters, and how to plan, budget, and apply for rentals.*

*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.*



Presenting ACES at multiple Meth Town Hall meetings throughout the county. The goal is to provide information on ACES and education on building community Resiliency.



Veterans and Recovery Court participants with limited resources learning to make healthy food choices on a limited budget.



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## Positive Youth Development

Heidi Vanderloop Benson | 4-H Program Educator



A camp counselor training program for 4-H youth in grades 9-13 where participants received training in leadership, welcoming environments, & youth development. Through the training they become safe and effective leaders for the Chippewa 4-H Summer Camp program.

Art U, a 6-week virtual art instruction program for youth in grades K-6 and in-person for grades 7-12 where youth were led in an art lesson using different mediums and also participated in a gallery walk to show off their finished pieces on the last night. This effort was designed to provide project learning in the spark of Art.

Planning for a hands-on project learning day for middle school and high school youth in collaboration with 4-H volunteers. The goal of this effort is to broaden participants' experiences, increase project skills, and encourage youth and adult partnerships.

A five week program for elementary aged youth, where youth learned life skills through STEAM programming. This effort is designed to increase the reach of the 4-H program and increase access to learning about a youth's sparks.

Planning for an educational experience for 5th to 8th graders in collaboration with youth leaders. The goal of this effort is to develop an educational experience to a location in Wisconsin so that youth are engaging in citizenship, learning about diverse WI cultures and building positive peer relationships with experienced participants.



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## Area Extension Director

Kristen Bruder | Chippewa, Eau Claire and Dunn Counties



*The role of the AED is like that of the department head in the county. If you have ideas, thoughts, or want to chat about Extension please reach out! 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.*