



Agriculture

Jerry Clark | Regional Crops and Soils Educator
Lyssa Seefeldt | Regional Dairy Educator



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. (Jerry)

A field day for farmers and agriculture professionals where participants learned adaptation of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and emerging technologies to cropping systems to manage crop pests and increase crop and farm profitability. (Jerry)

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). (Lyssa & Jerry)

A live, on-line meeting series, for farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned the latest research and applications regarding a blood panel developed to predict high liver triglyceride status in multiparous cows and early lactation milking frequency in an automated milking herd. The goal of this effort was to increase knowledge of the latest UW-Madison research on impacts of fresh cow herd health and monitoring. (Lyssa)



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 of this effort is to increase knowledge of dairy genetic proof terminology, and empower dairy herd managers to make selection decisions for their herds. (Lyssa)

A field day for farmers and agency personnel, where participants learned about new and emerging crops and production and research updates to increase farm profitability. (Jerry)

The North American Manure Expo where professional manure applicators increased awareness of new manure handling equipment, management, and research to apply manure more accurately and protect the environment. (Jerry)

There is widespread recognition that climate change is significantly affecting agriculture in Wisconsin and around the world. What is less clear is what specific actions farmers should take to increase their resilience to climate change while also reducing agriculture's climate impact. The Climate Working Group in the Agriculture Institute seeks to build capacity for Wisconsin agriculture to respond to climate change by providing research-based information to educators and farmers. (Jerry)

Planning for development of factsheets/articles, longer publications, and videos on nutrition, genetics, & reproduction topics. The goal of this effort is to increase farmer, nutritionist, veterinarian, and other agribusiness professionals' understanding of management of these topics to help improve farm sustainability and economic viability. (Lyssa)

Dairy e-newsletter for farmers, nutritionists, veterinarians, other 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. (Lyssa)

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. (Jerry)

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. (Lyssa)

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. (Lyssa)

Community Development

Addison Vang | Community Development Regional County Educator



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.

A farmers market survey for Chippewa Valley to better understand market vendor and small farmer needs. The survey will be distributed during the peak summer farmers market months and is designed to inform market decisions as well as understand the market's impact on the community food system.

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Basic grant proposal workshop for local government, businesses, and organization members and staff. The goal of this effort is for people to learn how to find, write and apply for grants so that they can carry out the activities of their organization, business, or government unit.



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.

Health and Well-Being

Sandy Tarter | FoodWise Regional County Coordinator

Hillarie Roth | FoodWise Chippewa & Dunn Educator



Participation in the Chippewa Health Improvement Partnership monthly meeting, including active support for the local chronic disease prevention action team and Monday Market at the Y. This goal of this effort is to help guide objectives and strategies that support initiatives to improve the health of local residents.

Planning and scheduling nutrition education lessons in eligible elementary and pre-k early learning centers across the Chippewa Valley. The goal of this effort is to support nutrition education and healthy eating with hundreds of youth and families.

Provided support to Agnes' Table, a local food pantry and free meal site, by requesting their written flyers to be translated in Hmong. This effort helps to ensure equitable access to Agnes' Table's services to the local Hmong residents.

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.



Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Regional County Educator



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.

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.

A garden program for the general public at a local community garden in collaboration with the Chippewa Falls Public Library. The goal of this effort is to teach participants how to identify and manage diseases and disorders that can affect tomatoes. Tomatoes are one of the most popular vegetables to grow in the home garden and providing guidance on proper management strategies will hopefully increase awareness and adoption of environmentally-sound, best horticultural practices.

Completed a 6-week nature-based program for youth in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley – Chippewa Falls. The goal of this effort is to build nature connectedness and promote environmental literacy.

Completed a 6-week garden program for youth in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley Menomonie Center and FoodWise. The goal of this effort is to teach best practices in the garden through hands-on activities, promote life-long healthy eating habits and to foster connections to nature.

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.

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.



Human Development and Relationships

Jeanne Walsh | Human Development and Relationships Educator



An in-person 1 hour class held at the Altoona Public Library, G E Bleskacek Public Library, and Chippewa Falls Public Library on saving money by learning safe ways to preserve tomatoes. The goal of this class was to provide safe and healthy evidence-based preservation strategies and recipes, in order to reduce buying tomatoes in the off-season, and save money.

An in person 6-session course for renters where participants at Veterans Assistance Program learn how to find and apply for rental housing, understand their responsibilities as a renter, learn how to communicate effectively with their landlords, and manage housing expenses. Through this, homeless populations and those who have negative rental records are able to increase their ability to find and keep safe affordable housing, thereby increasing their stability and decreasing their reliance on public support.

An in person 6-session course for renters where participants at Hope Village learn how to find and apply for rental housing, understand their responsibilities as a renter, learn how to communicate effectively with their landlords, and manage housing expenses. Through this, homeless populations and those who have negative rental records are able to increase their ability to find and keep safe affordable housing, thereby increasing their stability and decreasing their reliance on public support.

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.

A financial coaching program for qualifying justice involved individuals and the department of health and human services where participants learn how to create financial goals and gain money management skills. The goals of this program are to increase financial goals attainment and financial capability for long term financial success.

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.



A 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.

Positive Youth Development

This position is posted, see details [here](#) | 4-H Program Educator

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.

Value Added Programming

Investment in Chippewa Extension brings additional resources.

A series of two field days for woodland owners in Chippewa and Eau Claire counties where participants toured three managed prairie and pollinator sites in Eau Claire and Pepin counties to learn about planting, maintaining, and cost sharing prairie and pollinator plantings on their woodlands/agricultural lands. Through this, landowners can better manage their woodlands having learned about how recent funding impacts the ability to get these land management practices funded and implemented in the following years. (Lauren Larsen, Kris Tiles, Olivia Kovacs)



Extension

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August & September 2023 Report

Facilitation of bimonthly meetings of the Red Cedar River Water Quality Partnership, with the goal to implement a ten-year watershed plan aimed at improving the water quality and soil health of the Red Cedar River Watershed. (Daniel Zerr)

Facilitation of monthly meetings of the Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition, with the goal to implement a watershed plan aimed at improving the water quality in the Eau Claire River Watershed. (Daniel Zerr)