



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
CHIPPewa COUNTY

# Extension Chippewa County

June & July 2023 Report

## Agriculture

Jerry Clark | Regional Crops and Soils Educator

Lyssa Seefeldt | Regional Dairy Educator



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

*A field day for farmers and agency personnel, where participants learned about crop production practices and research updates to increase farm profitability.*

*A training program for youth 12-years old or older where participants learned the safe operation of tractors and farm machinery to become certified to safely work on Wisconsin farms.*

*A research-based educational article for farmers, managers, employees, and agri-business professionals, where they will learn about utilizing a forage test to determine forage stability for dairy farms. The goal of the article is to help producers learn how reading a forage test can help determine how stable their stored forages are to increase business viability and environmental sustainability.*

*Dairy needs assessment for Chippewa, Dunn, & Eau Claire farms to learn what types of educational programs dairy farmers would be interested in to improve their dairy cattle management to ultimately lead to improved economic viability and farm sustainability.*

*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.*



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*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.*

*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 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.*

*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.*

## Community Development

Addison Vang | Community Development Regional 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.*

*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.*

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.

## Health and Well-Being

Sandy Tarter | FoodWise Regional County Coordinator

Hillarie Roth | FoodWise Chippewa & Dunn Educator



Multiple nutrition education lessons at the Chippewa Farmers Market with WIC (Women, Infant, Children) parents of young children on vegetable seasonal availability, importance of dark green/orange vegetables, role modeling, healthy food access, and food resource management. The effort encourages healthy eating behaviors while stretching food dollars.

A nutrition education lesson at Hope Village-Tiny Home Emergency Housing where residents learned about nutrition, food safety, and utilizing slow cookers. This effort helps individuals with limited resources make healthy food choices on a limited budget.

A Chippewa Falls Head Start family event at Klinger's Farm Market where parents learned the benefits of growing vegetables, getting kids helping in the kitchen, family mealtimes, along with a healthy snack tasting. This effort supports parents in encouraging their families to eat healthy and reduce mealtime struggles.

Participation and collaboration with local agencies to conduct a poverty simulation in Chippewa Falls. This effort helped those who have never experienced poverty to better understand the challenges faced by those who live it daily.



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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 gardening program for beginners where participants learn the basics of vegetable gardening. The goal of this effort was to teach those new to vegetable gardening how to start a vegetable garden, understand soil health, learn about plant selection, planting and garden maintenance.

A garden presentation for AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program participants. 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 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.

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 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.

Planning 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.





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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



An in-person slow cooking on a budget class where families at Hope Village learned how to save money and eat healthy while using a slow cooker. This effort was designed to increase family financial resiliency.

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.

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.

A 4-day financial coaching workshop (A/4 Financial Coaching Foundations online course) for financial professionals/educators to learn and practice coaching techniques for assisting clients in reaching financial goals.

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 financial coaching program for qualifying justice involved individuals and 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.



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Slow Cooker Budget Class at Hope Village



Making Reading Memories with Jail Inmate Families

## Positive Youth Development

Heidi Vanderloop Benson | 4-H Program Educator



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 experience participants.

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.

Planning for summer camp 2023 by holding a series of meetings (virtual and in-person), interviews, and training sessions with youth and adult camp volunteers. The goal is to provide a positive high-quality camping experience for youth.





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A 4-H camp experience for youth grades 3-7 where campers gained independence, practiced making new friendships, and tried a variety of activities to build their confidence and make relationships across the Chippewa County 4-H program.

A travel experience (Washington D.C.) for 4-H youth and adult advisors where they learned about government, civic engagement, historical leadership and how to use their voice in local programming. Adult participants grew their leadership skills in supporting youth and encouraging youth to have a voice in their local programs.



Chippewa County 4-H delegation to Washington D.C.



4-H Camp Blue Color Group



Chippewa County 4-H delegation in front of the U.S. Capitol Building



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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.*