

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY**  
**AGRICULTURE & EXTENSION COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 6, 2025**  
**CHIPPEWA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RM 302**  
**7:45 AM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. ROLL CALL**

| Attendee Name    | Organization    | Title                   | Status  | Arrived |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| Kari Ives        | Chippewa County | District 21, Chair      | Present |         |
| Matthew Peterson | Chippewa County | District 10, Vice-Chair | Absent  |         |
| Joel Seidlitz    | Chippewa County | District 9              | Present |         |
| Pamela Guthman   | Chippewa County | District 2              | Present |         |
| Timothy Goettl   | Chippewa County | District 6              | Present |         |

**3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD**

There were no members of the public wishing to be heard.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

|                  |                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>     |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Joel Seidlitz, District 9       |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Pamela Guthman, District 2      |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Ives, Seidlitz, Guthman, Goettl |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>   | Peterson                        |

1. Approve the agenda

2. Approve the Minutes

Agriculture & Extension Committee - Regular Meeting - Dec 5, 2024 7:45 AM

3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - April 3, 2025

**5. REPORTS**

**1. Extension Educator Reports**

All the Educators presented to the committee. See attached report.

Crops and Soils - Jerry Clark

Livestock - Ryan Sterry

Community Development - Garret Zastoupil

# Agriculture & Extension Committee

Minutes  
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

February 6, 2025  
7:45 AM

Horticulture - Margaret Murphy

Health and Well-Being - Sandy Tarter and Hillarie Roth

Human Development and Relationships - Jeanne Walsh

Positive Youth Development - Jordan Blue

## 6. BUSINESS ITEMS

There were no business items.

## 7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Chair Ives would like to discuss at a future meeting about the committee participating in different events or traveling to see the educators "in action".

## 8. ADJOURN

|                  |                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>     |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Joel Seidlitz, District 9       |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Timothy Goettl, District 6      |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Ives, Seidlitz, Guthman, Goettl |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>   | Peterson                        |

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY**  
**AGRICULTURE & EXTENSION COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**DECEMBER 5, 2024**  
**CHIPPEWA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RM 302**  
**7:45 AM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. ROLL CALL**

| Attendee Name    | Organization    | Title                   | Status  | Arrived |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| Kari Ives        | Chippewa County | District 21, Chair      | Present |         |
| Matthew Peterson | Chippewa County | District 10, Vice-Chair | Present |         |
| Joel Seidlitz    | Chippewa County | District 9              | Present |         |
| Pamela Guthman   | Chippewa County | District 2              | Present |         |
| Timothy Goettl   | Chippewa County | District 6              | Present |         |

**3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD**

There were no members of the public wishing to be heard.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

**RESULT:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Joel Seidlitz, District 9  
**SECONDER:** Matthew Peterson, District 10, Vice-Chair  
**AYES:** Ives, Peterson, Seidlitz, Guthman, Goettl

1. Approve the agenda
2. Approve the Minutes

Agriculture & Extension Committee - Regular Meeting - Oct 3, 2024 7:45 AM

3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - February 6, 2025, 7:45 am

**5. REPORTS**

1. Area Extension Director Report - Kristen Bruder  
Area Extension Director informed the board since the budget has been passed the contract has been signed and she will provide a copy of the partnership agreement with the committee. She also introduced Ryan Serry as the Regional Livestock Educator.
2. Extension Educator Reports  
Each educator covered the information in the attached reports.  
  
Crops and Soils - Jerry Clark

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Dec 5, 2024 7:45 AM (Consent Agenda)

# Agriculture & Extension Committee

Minutes  
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

December 5, 2024  
7:45 AM

Community Development - Garret Zastoupil

Health and Well-Being - Sandy Tarter and Hillarie Roth

Horticulture - Margaret Murphy

Human Development and Relationships - Jeanne Walsh

Positive Youth Development - Jordan Blue

## 6. BUSINESS ITEMS

## 7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

## 8. ADJOURN

|                  |                                           |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>               |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Joel Seidlitz, District 9                 |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Timothy Goettl, District 6                |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Ives, Peterson, Seidlitz, Guthman, Goettl |

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Dec 5, 2024 7:45 AM (Consent Agenda)



### Crops & Soils

Jerry Clark | Regional Crops and Soils Educator

To view the *Extension in the Valley, E-Newsletter*, [Click Here](#).



A study to better understand the performance of new seedless table grape cultivar. Results from this long-term study will help grape growers in Wisconsin choose the right cultivars for their farm operation. Total Reach: 2024 field days - 32 farms 2024 WI Growing Connection Conference - 64 farms.

A series of in person and virtual crops and soils update meetings for crop and forage growers, consultants, agronomists, students and agency staff where participants were provided relevant research updates from Extension specialists regarding soil and water management, forage and grain production, pest management considerations and economics of crop production. Through this program, attendees can make more informed decisions related to these topics to improve productivity and economic viability for their farms and their client's farms. Total Reach: 201 individuals registered for the event; many of the attendees were consultants which could result in further reach.

#### PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

The Leadership Chippewa Falls program acquaints participants with a broad understanding of issues and challenges facing our community. Each month participants will spend half a day learning about one sector of life and business in Chippewa Falls. Session topics include Community Service, Quality of Life, Business, Health & Wellness, Government, Education, and Infrastructure. Agriculture contributes over \$300 million dollars of economic activity and commodity sales to Chippewa County. Building awareness of this economic engine was requested to be part of the program. A presentation about the economic impact of the agricultural industry in the Chippewa Valley was provided to participants of the Leadership Chippewa Falls program. Twenty-four participants increased their awareness of agricultural trends in the Chippewa Valley. Topics presented focused on crops, dairy, and livestock trends and changes in the Chippewa Valley landscape. Issues such as manure and nutrient management, beef industry changes, cropping systems, and dairy statistics were discussed. Through a post-meeting evaluation, twenty-nine participants increased their knowledge of the economic impact of the agriculture industry in the Chippewa Valley. A popular topic of discussion was precision agriculture and adoption of technology on


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# Extension Chippewa County

## December 2024 Report

farms in the Chippewa Valley. Several questions were asked regarding changes to the landscape shifting from a dairy focused industry to more cash grain farms. Land use was also a popular discussion with many questions about how our land is being used.

## Community Development

Garret Zastoupil | Regional Community Development Educator



A survey for residents of Bloomer, WI, where participants provided information on the senior center, desired programming, and operations. The survey data will support decision-making related to the center's goal of reengaging community members following a decline in participation since the COVID19 pandemic.

A four part training for Chippewa County Public Health Department, where staff learned about their Top 5 Talents, Strengths-based coaching and team collaboration, and the positive psychology theory supporting these practices. As

a result of participating in this training session, participants were able to communicate their talents and needs within their work teams, managers were able to individualize their coaching feedback, and the organization built a stronger culture and trust across diverse members.

A survey of transporting and non-transporting Emergency Medical Services of Chippewa County to understand current trends, opportunities and challenges that will guide ongoing facilitation of community conversations with Chippewa County Emergency Management and Chippewa County EMS Association.

Attachment: December 2024 Monthly Report (8800 : Extension Educator Reports)


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## Health and Well-Being

Sandy Tarter | FoodWise Regional County Coordinator

Hillarie Roth | FoodWise Chippewa & Dunn Educator



Participation in Chippewa Health Improvement Partnership to develop the Community Health Improvement Plan with a focus on Access Workgroup- one of CHIP's priority areas to be addressed during 2025-2027. This effort included developing a mission statement, vision, and Access Team objectives and goals as they link to basic needs of residents.

A 6 -lesson series with high school seniors at Chippewa Valley High School where students are learning basic nutrition and MyPlate guidelines, food resource procurement and management as well as doing hands-on food preparation. These are interactive lessons with a focus on preparing these young adults the skills necessary to make healthy choices once they are living independently.

### PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

Chippewa Valley High School exists to serve the needs of high school students who are currently or potentially at risk of dropping out of school. These at-risk students are given added opportunities to acquire the academic and life skills they need to become contributing members of their home, school and community. FoodWise provides lessons to help students become more aware of the impact healthy eating has on their bodies, expand their comfort level with food preparation and food safety, and enhance their understanding of ways to resourcefully stretch what they spend on food.

Attachment: December 2024 Monthly Report (8800 : Extension Educator Reports)





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## Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | Regional Horticulture Educator

To view the Extension in the Valley, E-Newsletter, [Click Here](#).



*Creating Wild Bird Food Garlands - An activity for the public where individuals engaged in a nature-based craft. This effort was designed for participants to take part in a hands-on, festive activity as crafting along with other such hands-on activities has been shown to help enhance cognitive function, boost creativity and provide an opportunity for positive socialization. This effort also provided information on best practices for supporting wild bird populations through the winter.*

*In 2024, I provided plant advising services to 402 individuals who contacted the County Extension offices in Chippewa, Eau Claire and Dunn Counties by phone, walking in, email or through the "Ask Your Gardening Question" page of the Extension Horticulture website.*

*In 2024, participated in providing editorial reviews for the UW Plant Disease Facts fact sheets series.*

*Horticulture articles for Extension in the Valley newsletter - Continue to provide timely garden and landscape articles in the Extension in the Valley, tri-county monthly newsletter that focuses on Agriculture and Horticulture news to keep participants connected to current horticulture matters.*

## Livestock

Ryan Sterry | Regional Livestock Educator

To view the Extension in the Valley, E-Newsletter, [Click Here](#).



*An evening virtual program for cattle producers to increase their understanding of a new regulation regarding official identification aiding disease traceability. This management practice influences the biosecurity and economic viability of their farms. Total Reach: 99 registered to attend. The YouTube video is being advertised with our partners listed below and using our Extension YouTube channel, Extension livestock and dairy websites and social media pages.*

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*Planning for a dairy heifer reproduction data collection and survey project in collaboration with UW-Madison Department of Animal and Dairy Science faculty and graduate students. The goal is to assess current management practices and identify areas for improvement. Raising replacement dairy heifers is a significant and rising cost to dairy farms, and poor reproductive performance only adds to rearing costs.*

*Planning for an introductory Farm Succession program for farm families in collaboration with the Extension Farm Management program. The goal is to help farms identify legal risks in farm succession and estate planning and to begin those first conversations around succession planning.*

*An introductory article to the Regional Livestock Educator position in the Extension in the Valley, the tri-county monthly newsletter focusing on Agriculture and Horticulture news. This effort was designed to keep participants connected to current agriculture and livestock happenings.*

## Human Development and Relationships

*Jeanne Walsh | Human Development and Relationships Educator*



*An on-demand lesson on topics such as budgeting, credit/debt, record keeping, saving on groceries, goal setting, preventing fraud and scams, and finding affordable housing for groups such as residents at a homeless shelter, recent immigrants, a group of young parents, etc. where they learn effective strategies to manage their money. Through this, participants set and create a plan for achieving their financial goals, can create a spending plan that allows them to manage their monthly income and expenses, and can make a plan to become debt-free. Total Reach: 15 Hope Village participants and their mentors.*

*A coaching program for families and individuals, where participants learn how to create financial goals and gain money management skills. The goal of this program is to enable participants to prepare for and take charge of household financial situations that occur due to changes in income or unforeseen hardships. Total Reach: 40 participants in the Chippewa Valley.*

*A coaching program for families and individuals, where participants learn how to create financial goals and gain money management skills. The goal of this program is to enable participants to prepare for and take charge of household financial situations that occur due to changes in income or unforeseen*

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hardships. Total Reach: 12 participants residing in Hope Village, and an additional 30 volunteers and staff involved with guests.

An 8-module class that provides people reentering communities with tools and tips for managing bills, identifying & prioritizing payments for both legal system-related debt and consumer debt, creating a spending & savings plan, understanding credit scores & reports, choosing financial products and services, and building other financial competencies. Through this, participants strengthen their financial literacy to support a prosperous reentry to their community. Total Reach: 8 participants in the program and 150 readers of the jail kiosk located throughout the facility.

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. Total Reach: 65 males incarcerated in the Chippewa Valley Correctional Facility and their families, and 500 inmates and staff through the Making Reading Memories Flyers posted throughout the facility.

A workshop (Read and Connect) where parents in jail and prison 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. Total Reach: 66 program participants and their families 500 inmates that read the Read and Connect flyers for the program and staff at Chippewa Valley Corrections.

A 6-session course for renters where participants learn how to find and apply for rental housing, understand their responsibilities as a renter, how to communicate effectively with their landlords, and manage housing expenses. Through this, those with negative rental records and those new to renting are able to increase their ability to find and keep safe affordable housing, thereby increasing their stability and decreasing their reliance on public support.

Attachment: December 2024 Monthly Report (8800 : Extension Educator Reports)



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## Positive Youth Development

Jordan Blue | 4-H Program Educator

To view the Chippewa Chatter, E - Newsletter, [Click Here](#).



The Area 6 4-H educators have begun planning for Art U 2025. This program is a collaboration between Area 6 4-H, UW-Stout Art Education Department, and Arts Integration Menomonie. To prepare we have met with the professor at UW-Stout to develop this year's program. We have decided on the dates, times, and began looking at the types of activities that will be offered. We have also begun promoting the event through newsletters, facebook, and a press release that has been picked up by four local news outlets.

Planning and delivery of 2024-25 Camp Counselor Trainings, interviews, and volunteer development for youth camp counselors in collaboration with 4-H leaders and volunteers. The goal is to equip counselors with leadership, teamwork, and planning skills, so that they can create a safe, engaging, and memorable camp experience while developing their own life skills.

Revitalization of the award and recognition system for Chippewa County 4-H in collaboration with adult leaders, youth members, and program staff. The goal is to update and streamline the recognition processes, so that the community can better celebrate achievements, foster motivation, and enhance youth engagement across program areas. This will strengthen the sense of accomplishment, inspire continued participation, and create a more inclusive and impactful system for all involved.

Planning for a project discovery day, Clover College, for youth in grades K-5 in collaboration with Chippewa County 4-H leaders and volunteers. The goal is to introduce youth to various 4-H projects through hands-on activities, so that they discover their interests and sparks, building excitement for future 4-H participation.

Planning and delivery of a seasonal-themed Cloverbud meeting for youth in grades K-2 in collaboration with AmeriCorps Member, focusing on creative arts, team building, youth development and foundations of 4-H. The goal is to foster creativity, curiosity, and critical thinking, so that participants build foundational life skills in a fun and engaging environment.

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*Planning for the Area Six Speaking and Demonstration Festival for 4-H youth in collaboration with local 4-H Educators. The goal is to provide participants with opportunities to develop public speaking and demonstration skills by presenting topics they are passionate about. This helps youth build confidence, improve communication, and practice leadership, contributing to their personal and professional growth.*

## Value Added Programming

*Investment in Chippewa Extension brings additional resources.*

*Participation and membership in the United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley's (UWGCV) Health Advisory Council, which consists of community leaders and local professionals with expertise and/or interest in health, with particular focus on the top issues identified in the Community Health Assessment. The Advisory Council's guides impact efforts in the Chippewa Valley by identifying community needs and supporting efforts to achieve the UWGCV Bold Goal. (Margo Dieck)*

## 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.*

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### Crops & Soils

Jerry Clark | Regional Crops and Soils Educator

To view the *Extension in the Valley, E-Newsletter*, [Click Here](#).



A panel discussion for educators, agronomy industry and agency professionals where attendees learned about the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP) to increase awareness of nitrogen management results and involvement in the program. The goal of the presentation as a panelist was to discuss experience with the program as an extension educator and fiscal agent.

Planning for a four session Focus on Forage webinar series for forage growers and agriculture consultants in collaboration with the Natural Resource

Conservation Service and the US Dairy Forage Research Center. The goal is to provide research based forage management solutions to improve forage quality and meet producer goals.

A study to better understand the performance of new seedless table grape cultivar. Results from this long-term study will help grape growers in Wisconsin choose the right cultivars for their farm operation.

#### PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

Wisconsin agriculture is influenced by domestic and global commodity trading markets and industry trends. Financial management and lending is a major component of overall farm and agriculture business stability. Informing banking and lending institutions about agricultural trends and markets are critical to farm and rural community stability. The annual Western WI Agricultural Lender Seminar provided a venue for agricultural lending professionals to increase awareness of economic trends affecting production agriculture. Speakers and topics included, 2025 Dairy and Policy Outlook, Leonard Polzin, Dairy Market and Policy Outreach Specialist Extension UW-Madison, Consideration for Solar Energy Contracts; Kelly Wilfert, Agriculture Law Outreach Specialist, Extension UW-Madison; Grain Market Outlook, Dr. Brenda Boetel, Commodity Market Specialist, Extension UW-River Falls; Livestock Market Outlook, Dr. Darrell Peel, Livestock Economist, Oklahoma State University; and Leadership Development, Hank Wagner, Dairy Farmer. Ninety-three lenders and agricultural professionals attended the seminar. A Qualtrics evaluation was utilized during and post meeting. On a seven-point Likert Scale with 0 indicating "not useful" and 7 indicating "extremely useful", all attendees rated the usefulness of the program at 5 or


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above. Participants indicated 12.5% would share the information with 51 to 100 others while 69% indicated they would share the information with 6-20 others. ( Collaborated with Ryan Sterry)

## Livestock

Ryan Sterry | Regional Livestock Educator

To view the Extension in the Valley, E-Newsletter, [Click Here](#).



*Thinking About Farm Succession workshop for farmers where participants learned about what happens if they don't do any estate planning and how to start the conversation with their families about estate planning. Evaluations indicate participants learned how to better prepare to meet with service providers (average 4.69 response on Likert scale with 1 = Strongly disagree and 5 = Strongly agree). They learned about tools to help them effectively communicate with business partners and/or family with an average response of 4.76 on the same Likert scale. Respondents identified communication, fair versus equal inheritance, and financial capacity of the farm as barriers to their succession planning. (Collaborated with Jerry Clark)*

*Planning for an artificial insemination course for dairy and beef producers. The goal is to teach farmers how to breed their cattle, so that they are not dependent on an AI technician.*

*Planning for a calving management course for dairy and beef farm owners and workers. The goal is to teach farm owners and workers to recognize signs of stress during calving and to know when assistance is needed and how to assist with the delivery of the calf, so that more live calves can be born.*

*Planning for a dairy heifer reproduction data collection and survey project in collaboration with UW-Madison Department of Animal and Dairy Science faculty and graduate students. The goal is to assess current management practices and identify areas for improvement. Raising replacement dairy heifers is a significant and rising cost to dairy farms, and poor reproductive performance only adds to rearing costs.*





### Community Development

*Garret Zastoupil Regional Community Development Educator*



*A presentation of survey results to the Bloomer Senior Civic Center, where participants provided information on the senior center, desired programming, and operations. The survey data will support decision-making related to the center's goal of reengaging community members following a decline in participation since the COVID19 pandemic.*

*A four part training for Chippewa County Public Health Department, where staff learned about their Top 5 Talents, Strengths-based coaching and team collaboration, and the positive psychology theory supporting these practices. As a result of participating in this training session, participants were able to communicate their talents and needs within their work teams, managers were able to individualize their coaching feedback, and the organization built a stronger culture and trust across diverse members.*

*Provide a leadership role in the founding and operation of the Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative. Extension is working closely with a cooperative board of local civic and business leaders to move forward on constructing a new hospital and related clinics. The goal of the cooperative is to create renewed healthcare access in a region adversely impacted by the recent closure of two closed hospitals and 19 clinics, to preserve nearly 1,400 high paying jobs, and to support local economic development efforts and to support the local tax base.*

#### PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

*The Extension Educator identified emergency medical services as a significant challenge through needs assessments conducted in the summer of 2024. Through ongoing conversations with local EMS leaders and county staff, the educator developed resources to understand the trends across the state. A group of partners identified a need for more accurate information in Chippewa County in order to bolster efforts to find solutions. In the fall of 2024, the educator collaborated with James Small, Rural EMS Outreach Program Manager and county partners to create and distribute a survey of all emergency medical services in Chippewa County. The educator analyzed the data and visualized it in a slideshow presentation and word document. Additionally, the educator collaborated with Chippewa County Emergency Management Service to support the Chippewa County EMS Association quarterly meeting*

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in January. The educator helped create promotional materials, invited media and public officials, coordinate materials, and collect follow-up event information with assistance from extension support staff. As a result of this program, the initial workgroup has identified additional partners to bring into the conversation and is developing next steps to move this effort forward with support from James Small and the Local Government Education state specialists.

## Health and Well-Being

Sandy Tarter | FoodWise Regional County Coordinator

Hillarie Roth | FoodWise Chippewa & Dunn Educator



A 6 -lesson series with high school seniors at Chippewa Valley High School where the students are learning fundamental nutrition principles, MyPlate guidelines, and food resource procurement and management, alongside hands-on food preparation experiences. These interactive lessons are designed to equip young adults with essential skills to make informed, healthy choices when they transition to living independently. The focus is on providing practical knowledge that will support their long-term well-being and self-sufficiency.

A 6-week nutrition education series for 60 3rd graders at Parkview Elementary to learn about establishing healthy habits, the 5 MyPlate food groups, and the importance of food safety. This effort uses interactive activities to help students understand the connections between nutrition and their daily lives and also gives them an opportunity to taste a variety of healthy foods.

A 6-week series for 63 Kindergarten students at Parkview Elementary focusing on the foundational principles of healthy habits, the 5 food groups of MyPlate, and the essential practice of hand washing. These hands-on lessons include interactive games, activities, and sampling of healthy foods which helps youth build a positive relationship with nutritious choices from an early age, setting the stage for healthy habits that will last a lifetime.

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*A series of virtual 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.*

## Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | Regional Horticulture Educator

To view the *Extension in the Valley, E-Newsletter*, [Click Here](#).



*Collaborating with Affinity House and FoodWise to plant gardens at Affinity House and teach several garden lessons*

*Continue to plan and develop programs for 2025 which includes co-chairing a workgroup addressing environmental pollution issues within horticulture and incorporating adaptive gardening strategies in gardening*

*Continue to provide timely garden and landscape articles for the Extension in the Valley, a monthly newsletter that focuses on Agriculture and Horticulture news. January's issue includes guidance on poinsettia care and upcoming programs and presentations. For more garden articles, visit [Seasonal Gardening Articles](#).*

*Participating in the UW Madison Plain Language Certificate course to hone my communication skills.*

## Human Development and Relationships

Jeanne Walsh | Human Development and Relationships Educator



*A coaching program for families and individuals, where participants learn how to create financial goals and gain money management skills. The goal of this program is to enable participants to prepare for and take charge of household financial situations that occur due to changes in income or unforeseen hardships.*

*A workshop (Read and Connect) where parents in jail and prison 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*

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*bond and build children's early literacy skills, which are an important foundation for success in school and life.*

*The Financial Coaching Foundations course is designed to provide social workers, case managers, and other professionals who provide direct services to individuals with the knowledge and skills to help clients craft solutions to any financial problems they may be experiencing.*

*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.*

*An 8-module class in the Chippewa County Jail that provides women reentering the community with tools and tips for managing bills, identifying & prioritizing payments for both legal system-related debt and consumer debt, creating a spending & savings plan, understanding credit scores & reports, choosing financial products and services, and building other financial competencies. Through this, women strengthen their financial literacy to support a prosperous reentry to their community.*

*A monthly financial wheel activity for individuals and families at Agnes's Table free community meal program. Participants learn effective strategies to manage their money. Through this, participants set and create a plan for achieving their financial goals, can create a spending plan that allows them to manage their monthly income and expenses, and can make a plan to become debt-free.*

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

*Budgeting for the New Year workshop at Chippewa Falls Library. A workshop where participants learn effective strategies to manage their money. Through this, they set and create a plan for achieving their financial goals, can create a spending plan that allows them to manage their monthly income and expenses, and can make a plan to become debt-free.*

*Declutter to Save Money and Reduce Stress at Chippewa Falls Library. This workshop provided participants effective strategies for managing their finances and stress. Through this workshop participants learned strategies to reduce their clutter and created goals to eliminate items no longer needed.*

*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.*

Attachment: January 2025 Monthly Report (8800 : Extension Educator Reports)





### Positive Youth Development

Jordan Blue | 4-H Program Educator

To view the Chippewa Chatter, E - Newsletter, [Click Here](#).



Planning for Art U 2025, a collaborative program involving Chippewa, Dunn and Eau Claire County 4-H, the UW-Stout Art Education Department, and Arts Integration Menomonie. Art U is an 8-week program led by UW-Stout Student Interns under the guidance of a professor. This program has been highly successful, offering a virtual option for younger participants and an in-person option for older youth, ensuring its continued success. With over 40 youth registered, youth will explore the arts, ignite their sparks and have an opportunity to experience a college campus.

Planning and delivery of a project discovery day, Clover College, for over 50 youth in grades K-5 in collaboration with Chippewa County 4-H leaders and volunteers. The goal is to introduce youth to various 4-H projects through hands-on activities, so that they discover their interests and sparks, building excitement for future 4-H participation.

Planning and delivery of the 2025 Tri-County Speaking and Demonstration Festival for 4-H youth, including Cloverbuds, in collaboration with Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire County 4-H programs. The goal is to help youth develop communication skills, share their passions, and boost confidence through speeches, demonstrations, and interpretive readings, so that they build essential life skills and inspire others in a supportive environment.



Planning for the "Career Quest" program for youth in 5th-8th grade in collaboration with Chloe Nicolaus, AmeriCorps Member serving in Chippewa. The goal is to provide both 4-H members and non-members an opportunity to explore career pathways. Through the launch of the National 4-H Beyond Ready campaign, our goal is to equip youth with the tools and mindset to thrive in a world where 85% of the jobs they will pursue in 2030 haven't been invented yet. Preparing youth for this future requires a multi-faceted approach that fosters not only academic success but also resilience, adaptability, and a strong sense of purpose.

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**Extension**

 UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
 CHIPPEWA COUNTY

# Extension Chippewa County

**January 2025 Report**

*Planning and delivery of a series of Cloverbud Project Club Programs for Cloverbud K-2nd grade participants, where youth will engage with peers in Chippewa County. Studies show that 4-H youth introduced to programs early on are more likely to participate in science, technology, and engineering programs, and make healthy choices later in their journey. This program is geared for the 70 cloverbuds currently enrolled in the 4-H Program and community youth.*

*A multi-month camp counselor training for 22 youth in 8th-13th grade, with volunteers, where participants will learn leadership skills, team-building techniques, and effective communication strategies. Through this program, participants will develop confidence, responsibility, and the ability to mentor younger campers, preparing them for future leadership roles and fostering a sense of community.*

*Planning an eight-week afterschool program with the Cornell School District for 70 participants and a bi-weekly in-school club meeting for a 20-student classroom at New Auburn. 4-H Classroom Clubs and After-school clubs are offered in partnership with the school. These clubs allow students to explore areas of interest with support from the 4-H Extension Educator and AmeriCorps Member.*

*Planning for a relaunch of the Wisconsin 4-H Arts Ambassadors program for youth in collaboration with State Expressive Arts Specialist Jay Johnson and Lafayette County 4-H Program Educator, Hailee Kammerud and other volunteers from across the state. As an Arts Ambassador, the goal for the youth is for them to be immersed in opportunities to ignite their spark, communicate the work of the Arts Ambassadors, and grow as leaders in their communities, so that they can develop essential communication, marketing, and media skills while making a positive impact in their local areas.*

*Planning for a project learning day, Clover University, for youth in grades 6th-13th in collaboration with volunteers and Area 6 4-H staff. The goal is to provide hands-on learning experiences in various project areas, where participants will gain new skills and knowledge. Through this event, youth will develop practical abilities, foster a love for project learning, and build confidence in their capabilities, contributing to their overall personal growth and future success.*

Attachment: January 2025 Monthly Report (8800 : Extension Educator Reports)





### Value Added Programming

*Investment in Chippewa Extension brings additional resources.*

*Preparation and planning for a conference for waterfront property owners and watershed professionals where attendees learn about shoreline management practices, aquatic invasive species, ecology, capacity considerations for lake associations, tools to approach resident and tourist conflict, and other topics relevant to the water resources of northwest Wisconsin. The goal of this effort is to enable behavior change and connect professionals to each other and new resources, leading to improved water quality in northwest Wisconsin. (Sarah Brown)*

### 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.*