

CHIPPEWA COUNTY
AGRICULTURE & EXTENSION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 5, 2023
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	
Annette Hunt	Chippewa County	District 18 (Vice-Chair)	Present	
David Bischel	Chippewa County	District 4	Present	
Matthew Peterson	Chippewa County	District 10	Present	
Joel Seidlitz	Chippewa County	District 9	Present	

Others Present: Kristen Bruder, Jerry Clark, Lyssa Seefeldt, Addison Vang, Sandy Tarter, Hillarie Roth, Margaret Murphy, Jeanne Walsh, and Heidi Vanderloop Benson. Recorder: Lisa Merrell.

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

4. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	David Bischel, District 4
SECONDER:	Matthew Peterson, District 10
AYES:	Ives, Hunt, Bischel, Peterson, Seidlitz

1. Approve the agenda
2. Approve the Minutes

Agriculture & Extension Committee - Regular Meeting - Feb 1, 2023 7:45 AM

3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - June 7, 2023 at 7:45 am

5. REPORTS

1. Extension Educator Reports

Agriculture - Jerry Clark and Lyssa Seefeldt

Clark introduced Lyssa Seefeldt, who is an ag educator located in Eau Claire. As of March 1st, they became regional with Dunn, Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties. Seefeldt will be handling dairy and livestock, and Clark will be handling crops and soils.

They are transitioning into the growing season, and will be starting some on-farm research projects this year.

Agriculture & Extension Committee

Minutes

April 5, 2023

Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

7:45 AM

Seefeldt stated that she is looking to connect with dairy farmers to find out the needs in the area, so if there is anyone the committee members feel she should connect with, they should let her know.

Community Development - Addison Vang

Vang presented his report, and noted that April 10th at 10 a.m. they will be holding their FEED program for Spring, the fourth in a series of seven. The April 10th meeting will showcase the Chippewa Valley, and he will be facilitating. Vang stated Collab is the main business incubator that they will be showcasing, as well as Wild Flour Bakery, which has used Collab's services.

Vang provided an update on the EIT program (Entrepreneurs in Training), which supports formerly incarcerated individuals to provide them skills and leadership around starting a business. Over the last two years there have been two individuals from the program from this area.

Health and Well-Being - Sandy Tarter and Hillarie Roth

Roth is wrapping up a five part series at Parkview Elementary with their third grade and kindergarten students, and next week she starts in the second and fifth grade, teaching nutrition. She will be working with Jeanne Walsh to do a crockpot and nutrition class with our drug rehab and homeless veterans in the area. She and Margaret Murphy are potentially partnering to teach a container gardening class to some of the Head Start families in the County.

Tarter stated they are planning their summer activities now. They are also watching the Farm Bill, which is up every five years and could affect funding for their programs.

Horticulture - Margaret Murphy

Murphy reported the community garden in Chippewa Falls is full, and about 30% of their gardeners will be new. They do have plots in Bloomer that are available.

Human Development and Relationships - Jeanne Walsh

Walsh stated she has seen an uptick in people interested in what to do with excess vegetables they get, and part of her job is working on food preservation.

The Meth Town Hall meetings continue. She explains the Adverse Childhood Experiences. The next meeting is tonight in Bloomer at 5:30.

Positive Youth Development - Heidi Vanderloop Benson

Vanderloop Benson stated 4H is ramping up towards summer. Her big project moving into summer is Camp, which is in full swing in terms of selecting counselors and starting registration.

Area Extension Director - Kristen Bruder

Bruder stated she will be working with the County Administrator, with the blessing of the Committee, to bring their secretary in the office, Amber Gilles, back to 100% by the end of the year. They have funding for it, so they wouldn't have to ask for additional county dollars to do it. Bruder explained some of Gilles' tasks, including doing the 4H newsletter and also starting an Ag newsletter.

At the next meeting they will bring forward the budget, and part of that will be looking at a summer intern position for 4H. Bruder stated if there is anything she can do, or their educators can do, to help educate the County Board members on their work, she hopes the committee will be open to meeting with her to discuss those things.

Agriculture & Extension Committee

Minutes

April 5, 2023

Regular Meeting

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Bruder stated broadband has a lot of funding coming in from the federal government, and what Wisconsin has said is Counties should let them know what they need and they have given seed money to develop partnerships to tell them the needs, so they can tell the federal government and hopefully get some funding. They are bringing in some state resources to help Chippewa County develop a committee and start looking at what the needs are.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

2024 Budget

8. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 AM.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Joel Seidlitz, District 9
SECONDER:	Annette Hunt, District 18 (Vice-Chair)
AYES:	Ives, Hunt, Bischel, Peterson, Seidlitz

CHIPPEWA COUNTY
AGRICULTURE & EXTENSION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2023
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	
Annette Hunt	Chippewa County	District 18 (Vice-Chair)	Absent	
David Bischel	Chippewa County	District 4	Present	
Matthew Peterson	Chippewa County	District 10	Absent	
Joel Seidlitz	Chippewa County	District 9	Present	

others present in room 302 were Jerry Clark, Ken Schmitt, Amber Gilles, Margaret Murphy, Heidi Benson, Jeanne Walsh, Addison Vang, Sandy Tarter, Kristen Bruder, Jaclyn Sadler, Randy Scholz, Hillarie Roth and Megan Nelson. On the phone was Heidi Johnson.

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

4. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Joel Seidlitz, District 9
SECONDER: David Bischel, District 4
AYES: Ives, Bischel, Seidlitz
ABSENT: Hunt, Peterson

1. Approve the agenda
2. Approve the Minutes

Agriculture & Extension Committee - Regular Meeting - Oct 5, 2022 7:45 AM

3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - April 5, 2023 at 7:45 am

5. REPORTS

1. Introduction of the Agriculture Model - Heidi Johnson
 Heidi Johnson attended via telephone. Kristen Bruder introduced Heidi and gave a brief explanation of the new Agriculture model. The new model will have experts that cover a larger geographic area instead of having each Ag Educator needing to know all areas. The crops and dairy educators will cover 3 to 5 counties. Outreach Specialists will cover a bigger geographic area but will be more specialized (ie. cranberries, beef, water quality).

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Jerry Clark will be the Regional Crop Educator/Specialist and Lyssa Seefeldt will be the Regional Dairy Educator/Specialist. Both will cover Dunn, Eau Claire and Chippewa counties.

Financial impact - The two positions would be divided amongst the three counties. Currently, Chippewa County is charged \$45,000 for one Ag person. The proposal is that each position would be divided by 3 for each county. Each county would still pay \$45,000 but Extension would be saving \$15,000 that could be re-invested into the budget for an intern program for 4H and for moving the .8 position to a 1.0 position.

Next Steps - not adding positions and not asking for more funding. The contract will need to be amended and re-signed by all parties.

2. Area Extension Director Report - Kristen Bruder

Kristen Bruder introduced Megan Nelson, Dairy Program Manager, Hillaire Roth, FoodWise Educator and Amber Gilles, Support position.

Kristen Bruder would like to move the .8 position to a 1.0 position in the budget for 2024. There is enough work for the position to be a 1.0 position. To increase programming they need additional support.

3. Stakeholder Engagement for Extension Strategic Planning Process - Kristen Bruder

Kristen Bruder asked the committee the Strategic Planning Partner Questions.

Answers to Questions

1. What is one word or image that comes to mind when you think about your partnership with Extension?
Resources, Value, Education, Need, Complicated

2. What do you value about this partnership?
Enhances what the county does but reaches out to other populations. Education on the nitrate issues. The knowledge Extension brings in education. Positive interaction for county government.

3. What can we do together to improve or strengthen our partnership?
Increase Social Media and marketing, share information with others, County Facebook partners, ADRC newsletter, smaller community newspapers

4. If Extension had the capacity and resources to do so, what accomplishments would you like to see over the next 5/10/15 (whatever period of time) years?

Water shed, Big Ag, well- quality, promote 4H, Quality of Life issues, educating on civics

5. Extension works alongside communities to access university resources that can be applied to solve problems and improve the quality of life for all residents of Wisconsin. In order to do this effectively Extension needs to diversify our funding, expand our reach to underserved and new audiences, and work closely with our partners.

1. What actions should Extension take in order to diversify funding, expand our audiences, and leverage our partnerships?

Get in front of more people, develop new partnerships and program, use free events calendars, increase relationships and people may open their pockets

2. What challenges might we face?

Building houses on crop land, open eyes that Extension isn't a waste of time, pushback

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Feb 1, 2023 7:45 AM (Consent Agenda)

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3. How, through our partnership, can we overcome these challenges and accomplish mutual goals?
share information and participation in events

4. Extension Educator Reports
Please see attached report for the educator reports
- Agriculture Education - Jerry Clark
- Community Development - Addison Vang
- Health and Well-Being/FoodWise - Sandy Tarter
- Horticulture - Margaret Murphy
- Human Development and Relationships - Jeanne Walsh
- Positive Youth Development/4-H - Heidi Vanderloop Benson

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

8. ADJOURN

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
AYES:	Ives, Bischel, Seidlitz
ABSENT:	Hunt, Peterson

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Feb 1, 2023 7:45 AM (Consent Agenda)



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
CHIPPEWA COUNTY

Extension Chippewa County

February & March 2023 Report

Agriculture

Jerry Clark | Regional Crops and Soils Educator

Lyssa Seefeldt | Regional Dairy Educator

A seminar for hop growers where participants learned current crop production and marketing strategies to increase profitability and sustainability.

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 decide about a business opportunity or new enterprise.

Training sessions for manure applicators and farmers where participants learn to apply manure safely and accurately to keep themselves safe and protect the environment.

A research-based educational article for dairy farmers, and agri-business professionals, where participants will learn about current ventilation recommendations for dairy cattle, resources for identifying the most energy efficient fans for their facilities, and how proper ventilation and fan selection can help improve Dairy's carbon footprint.

A Menomonie regional Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Update Meeting, in collaboration with WI Department of Natural Resources (DNR), for WPDES (WI Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permitted farms, farmers owner/operators, crop and dairy managers, agriculture engineers, crop consultants, agronomists, professional and on-farm nutrient applicators, government agency personnel, and other interested individuals. This effort is designed to discuss and teach individuals the latest research and regulatory updates to improve environmental sustainability and farm business viability by protecting ground and surface water through dairy management, welfare, and feeding efficiency; manure storing and handling; and nutrient management.



Attachment: February_March Monthly Highlights.docx (7629 : Extension Educator Reports)



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
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February & March 2023 Report

Community Development

Addison Vang | Community Development Tri - County Educator



Planning for the second in a series of educational programs targeting underserved Hmong and marginalized small farmers where they learned about the importance of food safety. Participants will leave with vegetable washing stations for use at their own farms. The goal is to reduce challenges and barriers to support and/or expand underserved farm operations with good agricultural practices and economic growth.

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.

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.

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 Regional Coordinator

Hillarie Roth | FoodWise Chippewa & Dunn Educator

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.



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Multiple emails and connections to plan nutrition education in K, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grades at Parkview Elementary. The goal of this effort is for students to learn about the importance of hand-washing, eating healthy, being active, exploring fruits and vegetables, and how food impacts our health.

Multiple emails and connection to plan nutrition education with a new partner, Downsville Elementary. The goal of this effort is for students to learn about eating healthy, being active, exploring fruits and vegetables, and the importance of hand-washing.

A collaborative effort with Chippewa Health Improvement Partnership- Chronic Disease Prevention Action Team and multiple local agencies to promote our 2023 On the Go in the Snow-Chippewa Winter Challenge. The goal of this effort is to help promote community engagement and to explore the unique opportunities for physical fitness this time of year, along with stress reduction action steps to reduce chronic diseases.

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 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.

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.

Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Tri- County Educator



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.

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.

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Planning a gardening presentation in collaboration with the Bloomer Public Library for the public. The goal of this effort is to teach participants tips and strategies on gardening with kids to encourage youth participation in the garden.

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.

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 to develop, provide, and assess a community resiliency program, Chippewa Strong, which is designed to bring resiliency by promoting wellness resources and activities for families in Chippewa County. The goal is to increase family resiliency through 2 in-person community wide events.

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 program for justice-involved families where parents in prison 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.

Series of sessions for social workers, home visitors and community agency staff where they learn about financial competency skills. The goal of this effort is to build their knowledge and confidence when engaging clients in financial conversations.



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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.

In person 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, 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.

Chippewa County Homeless and Hungry 2-hour workshop to provide eviction prevention education and safe rental practices to landlords.

A financial coaching program for qualifying justice involves 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.

One session course that helps adults to make end-of-life advanced medical and legal directives in order to reduce the stress experienced by survivors and to ensure that their wishes are honored.

Planning for a four 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.

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.

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February & March 2023 Report

Positive Youth Development

Heidi Vanderloop Benson | 4-H Program Educator



A training for adults who are interested in becoming 4-H volunteers, where adults learned what Extension is, how volunteers contribute to Extension programs, volunteer roles and responsibilities, what makes a quality youth development program, and what resources are available to 4-H volunteers. This effort is intended to prepare all future 4-H volunteers.

Planning for Art U that is a virtual art instruction program in partnership with UW-Stout in order to provide project learning in the spark of Art.

A meeting for the 4-H Leaders Association where adult and youth 4-H Leaders gather to plan and discuss events and programming for the 4-H membership to provide a common space and time to discuss and connect.

Planning for a new goat project committee for 4-H youth in collaboration with adult volunteers. The goal of this effort is to meet the needs of a sizable increase in the project so that there is life skill development and project based learning available.

Continued meetings and conversations for 4-H youth and adult volunteers surrounding visioning of the Quality Meats program. This effort is designed to support youth adult partnerships and youth voice in the meat animal project.

A Tri-County 4-H Performing Arts Festival where young people practiced speaking and performing in front of an audience and received feedback in order to develop public speaking, cooperation, and leadership skills.

A series of meetings (virtual and in-person), interviews, and training sessions where youth and adult camp volunteers learned/prepared for summer camp in 2023.

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 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.

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Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
CHIPPEWA COUNTY

Extension Chippewa County

February & March 2023 Report

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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