

CHIPPEWA COUNTY
AGRICULTURE & EXTENSION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2022
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	Absent	
Joel Seidlitz	Chippewa County	District 9	Present	

Others present: Jason Hausler, Jerry Clark, Jeannie Walsh, Heidi Vanderloop, Addison Vang and Nancy Fastner.
Recorder: Amanda Richardson

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

4. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Annette Hunt, District 18 (Vice-Chair)
SECONDER:	David Bischel, District 4
AYES:	Ives, Hunt, Bischel, Seidlitz
ABSENT:	Peterson

1. Approve the agenda
2. Approve the Minutes

Agriculture & Extension Committee - Regular Meeting - Jun 1, 2022 7:45 AM

3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - October 5, 2022

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

6. REPORTS

1. Area Director Report - Jason Hausler
Jason Hausler, Interim Extension Director, informed the committee on the accepted position of the Administration Specialist that has been vacant since last September. The employee will start August 22nd. He also stated interviews for the Extension Director should be completed by the end of the month and have a permanent employee by October.

Agriculture & Extension Committee

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

August 3, 2022
7:45 AM

2. Extension Educator Reports Discussion - Jason Hausler

Jason Hausler, Interim Extension Director, questioned the committee how they would like to see the staff reports going forward. Supervisors Bischel and Seidlitz stated they like to have written reports over oral reports as they like to be able to read and go back if needed. Hausler also indicated that written reports are a good way to have an archive. After discussion it was concluded there would be written reports and anything that needed to be addressed out of the report can be given orally. Supervisor Hunt noted that she enjoyed the field trips to actually see things they do hands on and suggested to have one every 6 months or so.

3. Human Development & Relationship - Jeanne Walsh

Jeanne Walsh, Human Development & Relationship Educator, gave a report on June and July highlights. (Copy on file)

4. FoodWise - Sandy Tarter/Nancy Fastner

Nancy Fastner, FoodWise Nutrition Educator, updated the committee on their summer projects (copy on file) Fastner stated she will be retiring in September and that the position was approved to refill.

5. Community Development - Addison Vang

Addison Vang, Community Development Educator, gave a report on the June and July highlights. (Copy on file)

6. Horticulture - Margaret Murphy

7. 4-H - Heidi Vanderloop

Heidi Vanderloop, 4H Program Educator, briefed the committee on the June and July events from hosting the animal science days, 4H camp and the Northern WI State Fair. She stated they are currently in the transition of going into the fall programs with the 4H awards ceremony on August 18th at the Bloomer North Park.

8. Agriculture/Crops & Soils - Jerry Clark

Jerry Clark, Agriculture Educator, gave a report on Agriculture and Extension Education. (Copy on file)

7. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

8. **ADJOURN**

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

CHIPPEWA COUNTY
AGRICULTURE & EXTENSION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 1, 2022
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)	Excused	
David Bischel	Chippewa County	District 4	Present	
Matthew Peterson	Chippewa County	District 10	Present	

Others Present: Randy Scholz, Jerry Clark, Catherine Emmanuelle, Jeanne Walsh, Sandy Tarter, Margaret Murphy, Nancy Fastner, Heidi Vanderloop, and Addison Vang. Recorder: Lisa Merrell.

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approve the agenda
2. Approve the Minutes

Agriculture & Extension Committee - Regular Meeting - Feb 2, 2022 7:45 AM

Agriculture & Extension Committee - Special Meeting - Feb 24, 2022 7:45 AM

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Set Regular Meeting Date and Time
Ives noted that typically the committee has met at 7:45 am the first Wednesday of every other month.

Motion (Peterson) to move the meeting to 10 a.m. on the first Wednesday. Motion died for lack of a second.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jun 1, 2022 7:45 AM (Consent Agenda)

Agriculture & Extension Committee

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

June 1, 2022
7:45 AM

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

2. Extension Department 2023 Budget Review

Emmanuelle noted that she will no longer be working in Extension after today, she has accepted a job with the University of Eau Claire. Typically this committee works on approving this budget in August, so they typically would have two more months to work on this, but the County bumped it up to this meeting. They wanted to have this first conversation and the committee can approve it or not, and then Scholz will work with the Interim Area Extension Director on any adjustments before the final budget goes to the County Board.

There was a small change to the telephone line item, which she thinks will change a little bit. The big change is around the support staff position, they moved it to a contracted position. They had a County-funded support staff person, but that changed last August when that person left. The interim AED will get the position posted and do the hiring. She anticipates some of these numbers will move around, but she doesn't see any additional levy increase in the end.

RESULT:	FORWARD BUDGET TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	David Bischel, District 4
SECONDER:	Matthew Peterson, District 10
AYES:	Ives, Bischel, Peterson
EXCUSED:	Hunt

6. REPORTS

1. Area Extension Director - Catherine Emmanuelle

Emmanuelle provided a synopsis of the Extension office, including their purpose, their organizational chart, the statewide network they are able to use, and information on number of staff positions and funding.

2. Human Development & Relationship - Jeanne Walsh

Walsh explained that she does a lot of financial education through the County. Walsh highlighted some of the agencies she works with in the community to provide access to resources for community members. Walsh noted some of the recent collaborations she has done.

3. FoodWise - Sandy Tarter/Nancy Fastner

Tarter noted that the money for the FoodWise program comes from the USDA through the Department of Human Services to them. They are fully federally funded, but appreciate the office space, IT support and telephones they are provided by the County. Their goal is to do outreach to the community to make healthy food choices, and helping people feed their families. They work with low income families and partner with schools and food pantries in the three county region.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jun 1, 2022 7:45 AM (Consent Agenda)

Agriculture & Extension Committee

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June 1, 2022
7:45 AM

Fastner reported on some of her recent programs in the schools, and talked about some of the summer programs she will be working with, including working with ADRC and WIC participants on using their vouchers at the Summer Farmer's Market.

4. Community Development - Addison Vang

Vang stated his primary focus is on community food systems. He has been working on a statewide project to support Hmong farmers. It started about a year before he started here. They gathered information on how to support Hmong farmers on a statewide level. They did an assessment, did some community outreach to disseminate information to different partners, and now they are applying for grants and getting on the ground and applying the information they learned on how to support their Hmong farmers.

Another project he has been working on is a Hmong economic development conference focused on supporting Hmong businesses and Hmong entrepreneurs across the state.

5. Horticulture - Margaret Murphy

Murphy stated it is the time of year they work on their plan of work for the next 12-18 months. They are focusing on preventative work, teaching best practices in horticulture, how you manage your landscapes and gardens.

They work a lot trying to remove invasive species, so they look at sustainable landscaping and promote native species for their native insects and pollinators. She fields hundreds of calls throughout the summer, and also provides outreach in the way of presentations.

6. 4-H - Heidi Vanderloop

Vanderloop provided an overview of the Chippewa County 4-H programs, and noted that there was a 20% increase in membership this year, compared to last year.

7. Agriculture/Crop & Soils - Jerry Clark

Clark stated that there are quite a few research projects going on in Chippewa County this year, and we have 15 acres of land by Seymour Cray Boulevard that they use to put in a lot of the projects they don't want to bother farmers with, including malting barley, winter rye, and industrial hemp, as well as a pre-emergent herbicide study.

They have started a webinar-based education program with different timely agronomic topics. They have had 100-120 people attending, it is geared to crop consultants but farmers attend also.

Avian influenza has been in the area, Chippewa County as not had a positive yet, but he is working with Public Health, Emergency Management and Land Conservation and they have been meeting weekly to prepare backyard folks on how to protect their flocks.

Emmanuelle pointed out, they have their bread and butter issues that come up, but this is an example of how they always need to be able to pivot to emerging issues like this.

Emmanuelle stated that Jason Hausler will be at the next meeting. He will be the interim Area Extension Director.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

8. ADJOURN

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jun 1, 2022 7:45 AM (Consent Agenda)

Agriculture & Extension Committee

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

June 1, 2022
7:45 AM

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 AM.

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

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jun 1, 2022 7:45 AM (Consent Agenda)

Jeanne Walsh, Human Development & Relationship Educator Chippewa County

As the Human Development & Relationship Educator I focus on increasing the financial security of individuals and families within the Chippewa community and the state. June and July highlights include:

- Food, Fun, and Finance workshops within the Chippewa Valley. In partnership with Workforce Resources, these 3 workshops provided activities for participants to gain knowledge regarding building personal spending plans, saving money, and setting goals. All participants completed a personal spending plan and set a realistic goal. All participants earned a pizza lunch and a \$20 gas card.
- Rent Smart Workshop. This workshop helped individuals with poor rental history to better understand how to budget for rent and know and understand their rights and responsibilities as a tenant.
- Development of justice involved financial curriculum with state Extension colleagues.
- Cross-institute pilot workshop. This workshop focused on farm & specialty crop budgets, taxes, financial planning, farm resources, and communicating financial and relationship goals.

Professional development highlights include:

- Receiving the Associate Certified Coaching Credential from the International Coaching Federation.
- Attending the National Association of Drug Court Professionals conference.

Nancy Fastner, FoodWise Nutrition Educator

Sandy Tarter, FoodWise Coordinator

FoodWise is federally funded by SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education)

As a Nutrition educator in FoodWise, I work to advance healthy eating habits, active lifestyles and healthy community environments for families with limited income through nutrition education at the individual, community and systems levels.

This summer my projects included:

- Collaboration with WIC to provide in-person Fruit and Vegetable lessons at the Chippewa Falls Farmers Market. The curriculum is a nationwide “Share our Strength-Cooking Matters” program. WIC participants receive farmers market vouchers from WIC to increase fruit and vegetable intakes. Parents received their vouchers from WIC, attended a fruit and vegetable lesson, a scavenger hunt and a tasting with me. We focused on tasting fruits and veggies is fun, and easy recipes. The cooking matters grant gave participants a \$10 gas card following the lesson to encourage parents to use the vouchers.
 - This summer I have reached 36 adult WIC participants, and their children. 1 more session is scheduled in August
 - Participants reported getting some great ideas, tried fresh kohlrabi, and received recipes and incentives.
 - June 22nd the Chippewa Herald came and ran a nice article on WIC and FoodWise collaboration.
- Boys and Girls Club at the Community Garden
 - 6 lessons from Growing Healthy Kids curriculum are being held at the Community Garden. Students learn how the different plants parts affect their body and taste veggies from the garden that they are growing with Horticulture.
 - 20 youth are signed up for this program and taking home secondary education to their families.
- Strong Bodies State Program continues virtually
 - Of the 169 signed up statewide, 56 are foodwise eligible, and approximately 8 are from Chippewa County.
 - Chippewa FoodWise staff lead classes and Nancy continues to track participation for our FoodWise program.

Policy, System & Environmental work group - CHIP-Chronic Disease Prevention Team. Projects:

- EBT at the Farmers Market-working to development a new Farmers Market that supports the SNAP/EBT token program for FoodShare participants to use benefits in purchasing produce and other food at a Farmers Market.
- Summer Activity Passport: Collaboration with Eau Claire Healthy Communities & Health Dunn Right promoting outdoor activities, Farmers Markets, physical activity. Drawings available for participation.
- Activities: State Fair- Diabetes prevention, Y on the Fly, Food is Medicine with Mayo and the Food Pantry, Safe and Healthy Food Pantry Project with St. Francesca’s Resource Cent

Retirement note from Nancy – After 8 wonderful years working with the FoodWise program and Chippewa Extension team, it is bittersweet to announce my last day will be September 6th. I continue to be in awe of the passion and expertise of my colleagues. Thank you for the opportunity to work here in Chippewa County with you all.

FoodWise County agreement with Chippewa County has been signed for FY23. We appreciate the county's continued support of our program which includes office space for nutrition educator, technology/phone support, and minimal office supplies. The value of our program in respect to FW staff salary, benefits, training, mileage, programming supplies, etc for Chippewa County is minimally \$72,000. Of course the value of education to our program participants cannot be represented with a dollar figure. Sandy has submitted our detailed plan of work the state and has approval to rehire a nutrition educator. This will be completed in October with more information to come.

Addison Vang, Community Development Educator Eau Claire, Dunn, and Chippewa Counties

As the Community Development Educator with a focus on Community Food Systems, I have been networking and assessing the existing food system in the Chippewa Valley and the state. June and July highlights include:

- I have been doing outreach to the farmers markets to introduce myself and to promote some of the workshops I have been doing. I plan to continue this effort until the end of the growing season to build relationships with these small farmers as well as other food-related business owners.
- Tour of a small farm with a targeted audience of Hmong-speakers, in partnership with DATCP, USDA, and FairShare. The tour included information on growing in high tunnels using Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) grant to support the purchase. The goal is to reduce challenges and barriers to underserved farm operations on the use of and awareness of financial resources to purchase a high tunnel. A NRCS staff was the guide on tour and provided information on the EQIP grant. A DATCP staff member also was onsite and provided information on food safety and demonstrated how to build a simple wash station. Outreach was conducted to small farmers in Chippewa County. We had 13 attendees with 10 being Hmong. Interpreters were onsite to provide Hmong and English translation.
- I have continued planning a statewide conference to support a Hmong economic development conference/summit called the HMong Economic Advancement, Research and Equity (HERE) Conference on September 14-16th, 2022 to be hosted at the Pablo in Eau Claire, WI. We are anticipating attendance throughout the State and the rest of the nation. The goal is to build a network of Hmong and underrepresented entrepreneurs and business owners to learn and support one another.
- Monthly meetings with the Chronic Disease Prevention Action Teams under the Chippewa Health Improvement Partnership coalitions. This effort helps guide the action teams in providing community awareness and activities concerning healthy food access and food security.
- A statewide effort to support Hmong farmers that includes collaboration with partners throughout the state. The goal is to reduce challenges and barriers to support underserved farm operations with access and awareness of resources, finances, and markets.
- I will also be partnering with Sawyer County on the workshop “HOW TO CONDUCT SWOT ANALYSIS.” It is part of a series of workshops and registration can be found following the link: shorturl.at/FX589.

Horticulture Educator Program Report - August 3, 2022

Margaret Murphy

In my work as a county based horticulture educator serving Chippewa, Dunn and Eau Claire counties, I support the adoption of environmentally-sound horticultural practices through outreach and education directly to the public and through local volunteers in the state [Master Gardener Program](#).

The UW Madison Extension horticulture program focuses on several environmental challenges faced in Wisconsin including pollinator decline and pollution contributed to by the potential overuse of horticulture chemicals in the yard and garden setting.

Current or recent programs that support education in these focus areas include:

- *Growing and Caring for Plants in Wisconsin: Foundations in Gardening* course. Registration is now open for the this online introductory course where participants learn key concepts for selecting, growing, and maintaining plants in Wisconsin. This course utilizes [Integrated Pest Management](#) and [Plant Health Care \(PHC\)](#) frameworks, which promote yard and garden maintenance techniques that reduce pesticide and fertilizer overapplication leading to reduced likelihood for environmental contamination and pollution, encourages plant selection that can reduce invasive plant species and promotes pollinator habitat. This is an approved learning opportunity for individuals interested in the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program. Visit <https://bit.ly/3ANdrMV> for more information. I will again be a lab instructor for the optional labs offered in this course.
- During National Pollinator Week (June 20-June 24)
 - Hosted a pollinator garden tour with information table at Lake Wissota State Park.
 - Held a Pollinator Night at the Menomonie Community Garden.
 - Altoona Public Library provided a section dedicated to pollinator information including books, seeds, activities and Extension publications.
- On July, 14 staffed the Master Gardener table at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair to answer garden questions and provide pollinator information.
- On July, 26 held a 'Walk and Talk' on garden pests and management at the Chippewa Falls Community Garden.

I continue to work with staff and volunteers at Lake Wissota State Park to create a native rain garden plus, develop signage for the rain garden and neighboring pollinator garden.

Master Gardeners Dave Weaver and Andy Heren together with myself developed a local radio show, *Gardening in the Valley*. The show features Master Gardeners who discuss a timely garden topic. The show premiered in February. It airs at 7:30 a.m. on 96.3 FM WHYS the first Saturday of each month. You can also listen at whysradio.org. On August 6, listen to Master Gardener/Master Naturalist, Sue Crisp, talk about pollinators and native plants. September 3 features Master Gardener, Jeannie Chromey, who will discuss planting fall bulbs.

The 6-week garden programs I do in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club and FoodWise at the Chippewa Falls Community Garden and River Heights Elementary in Dunn County will be finishing up in mid-August. I will also be teaching at the North Riverfront Park Youth Garden in Eau Claire County on August 8 and 9. Through hands-on activities, youth garden programs encourage youth to be life-long gardeners, teach them best practices in the garden and connect them to the natural world such as learning about the impact and habitat needs of pollinators.

I am currently serving on two Search & Screen Committees

- Master Gardener Coordinator – This is a state position that provides leadership for the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program. We are discussing final candidates
- Area 6 AED – completed preliminary interviews

Lastly, horticulture inquiries are keeping me busy. Questions continue to cover a wide range of topics including lawns, fruit, plant ID, invasives, shrubs, flowers, landscaping, vegetables, insects, pruning, emerald ash borer, trees, soil sampling, caterpillars, woodpeckers and snakes.

Agriculture and Extension Education Committee Report

July 25, 2022

Agriculture Agent – Jerry Clark

Educational Programs and Teaching

Tractor and Machinery Safety

I assisted Bloomer and Chippewa Falls High School Agriculture teachers to teach tractor safety held at Bloomer High School. I taught a session on Instruments and Controls to 32 youth participants and 1 adult. Youth 12 to 16 years of age need certification from a tractor and machinery safety course to work on a farm owned by someone other than their parents or legal guardians.

Agricultural Romance: Flirting with Farming

I coordinated a pilot program to focus on farm and enterprise budgeting and the stress it can inflict on relationships with spouses and partners. The program focused on new and beginning farmers and new crop enterprises for existing farmers. Topics and speakers included: Carl Duley, Buffalo County Extension Agriculture Educator and Jerry Clark Chippewa County Extension Agriculture Educator, “Farm and Specialty Crop Enterprise Budgeting”; Katie Wantoch, Dunn County Extension Agriculture Educator; “Farm Taxes: Know the Basics”; Jeanne Walsh Chippewa County Extension Human Development and Relationship Educator and Kristin Woodard, Relationship Manager, Security Financial Bank, “Financial Planning” and “Communicating Farm and Relationship Goals.”

Evaluation of the program indicated a need to focus on the importance of communication and strengthening the relationship between spouses and partners. Plans are to reevaluate the program and offer the program again in the fall or winter of 2022-2023.

Research Projects

Weed Management Roller Crimper Study – Chippewa County Farm Plots

Weed Management Pre-emergence Herbicide Study – Chippewa County Farm Plots

Kernza Planting Date Study – Chippewa County Farm Plots

Industrial Hemp Variety and Seeding Rate Study – Chippewa County Farm Plots

Adaptive Nitrogen Management in Corn Study – Eagle Point

Forage Grass and Manure Application Study – Edson

Professional Development

I attended the North American Manure Expo in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania on July 13-14. Over 1000 attendees from 12 states and Canada attended the two-day program. I led the Manure Spill Demonstration which was attended by 250 participants from 12 states and Canada. I am serving as the chair of the Expo in 2023 as it will be held at the UW-Madison Arlington Research Station.

I attended the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference held in West Palm Beach, Florida on July 17-22. I presented results of my educational program on “Reducing Employee and Environmental Risk with For-Hire Manure Applicators. I also presented a poster with colleague Katie Wantoch from Dunn County on our work with Motivational Interviewing.