

CHIPPEWA COUNTY
AGRICULTURE & EXTENSION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 7, 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	

Others Present: Kristen Bruder, Jordan Blue, Jerry Clark, Ryan Sterry, Sandy Tarter, Macy Lien, Margaret Murphy, Jeanne Walsh, and Andy Albarado. Recorder: Lisa Merrell.

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

4. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Joel Seidlitz, District 9
SECONDER:	Pamela Guthman, District 2
AYES:	Ives, Seidlitz, Guthman, Goettl
ABSENT:	Peterson

1. Approve the agenda
2. Approve the Minutes

Agriculture & Extension Committee - Regular Meeting - Jul 10, 2025 7:45 AM

3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - October 2nd, 2025

5. REPORTS

1. Update on FoodWise Program - Kristen Bruder

Bruder stated they administer the SNAP Education part of the FoodWise program. The program was zeroed out so they are winding down the program across the state. It affected four staff, two were laid off as of October 1st, and two as of December 1st.

The grant concludes on September 30th, but the UW allowed them to do a little more of a layoff based on seniority. The lay off on the first of the month would also allow one more month of benefits for affected employees.

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2. Recognition of FoodWise Program - Kari Ives

Ives drafted a proclamation to show the County's appreciation for the work done in the FoodWise Program. They have affected a lot of people through the program.

3. Extension Educator Reports

Crops and Soils - Jerry Clark

Clark presented his report, and noted that they just completed a nitrogen optimization field day on Monday. Small grain harvest has just wrapped up. They will be holding a Water Quality Field Day next week in Cadott for the Yellow River/Moon Bay area.

Livestock- Ryan Sterry

Sterry said they are looking at bringing sheep and goats back into the program this fall. He has been trying to attend events over the summer.

Community Development - Garret Zastoupil

Health and Well-Being - Sandy Tarter and Macy Lien

Lien stated they are going to the Farmer's Market with WIC to do a lesson on food preparation and bring some recipes. Tarter noted that they will be sharing some of their resources with the WIC Department and she will be trying to hand off as much as she can to some of their partners in the fall.

Horticulture - Margaret Murphy

Murphy stated she has been spending a lot of time answering yard and garden questions. She is planning for some programs in September and October on fall cleanup, and a prairie walk in September out at Lake Wissota State Park. A Horticulture garden course starts in September.

Human Development and Relationships - Jeanne Walsh

Positive Youth Development - Jordan Blue

Blue stated they have been very busy in the last month. They had two education stations at the Fair, and they had close to 350 people visit, with lots of interest in their 4-H program. Day camps have been very successful; because of the addition of their AmeriCorps members, they have been able to do more. They recently did a Discover Wisconsin experience where they went to the Duluth/Superior area and learned about the area, the culture. They are hoping to continue these trips next year.

4. Area Extension Director Report - Kristen Bruder

Bruder stated the UW has taken some pretty major hits with some federal money being pulled, and the state budget was not looking good, but at the end of the day, there were no cuts to the UW. There were some increases in some areas that didn't affect Extension, but because they are part of the larger UW, all divisions had to take a cut and Extension's portion is \$1.5 million. They are looking at what they might look like.

They got approved for another AmeriCorps member for October through the end of August.

5. AmeriCorps Presentation - Kristen Bruder

Blue provided a report on the AmeriCorps program. Because of the programs they did this year, membership increased from 355 to 468, which was a 31.83% increase in one year. His goal is they would

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love to see 500 members. Chippewa County has one of the largest 4-H programs per youth capita in Wisconsin.

Bruder noted that October is National 4-H Month and they would love the opportunity to bring some youth forward to speak to the County Board at that time. They did something similar in Dunn County and it went very well.

Guthman asked if there were threats of cuts for the programming that supports AmeriCorps? Bruder stated at this time there is not, the funding was established for 2026, but it will be a matter of what the funding looks like in future years. The challenge might be finding applicants for the jobs.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

8. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 AM.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Joel Seidlitz, District 9
SECONDER:	Timothy Goettl, District 6
AYES:	Ives, Seidlitz, Guthman, Goettl
ABSENT:	Peterson

CHIPPEWA COUNTY
AGRICULTURE & EXTENSION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 10, 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	Present	
Joel Seidlitz	Chippewa County	District 9	Present	
Pamela Guthman	Chippewa County	District 2	Present	
Timothy Goettl	Chippewa County	District 6	Absent	

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: Pamela Guthman, District 2
SECONDER: Matthew Peterson, District 10, Vice-Chair
AYES: Ives, Peterson, Seidlitz, Guthman
ABSENT: Goettl

1. Approve the agenda

2. Approve the Minutes

Agriculture & Extension Committee - Regular Meeting - Mar 27, 2025 7:45 AM

3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - Thursday, August 7, 2025

5. REPORTS

1. Update on the Community Hospital - Karl Green and Bill Oemichen
 Karl Green and Bill Oemichen provided an update on the Community Hospital.

Supervisor Guthman asked that the feasibility study results be shared with the County Board.

Question was asked if the County Morgue would be opening again at the old St. Joseph's location when the Community Hospital opens. The County Coroner has a meeting scheduled to discuss this option.

2. Overview of Resolutions and Proclamations - Karl Green and Bill Oemichen

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jul 10, 2025 7:45 AM (Consent Agenda)

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Karl Green presented to the board on resolutions and proclamations.

3. Committee and Extension Discussion - Kristen Bruder

4. Area Extension Director Report - Kristen Bruder

Area Extension Director Kristen Bruder informed the committee that 4 Extension employees between the three counties (Chippewa, Eau Claire and Dunn) would be laid off due to federal funding that is no longer available. This will affect the FoodWise program.

5. Extension Educator Reports

Each Educator provided a report on their specific areas.

Crops and Soils - Jerry Clark

Livestock - Ryan Sterry

Community Development - Garret Zastoupil

Horticulture - Margaret Murphy

Health and Well-Being - Sandy Tarter and Hillaire Roth
Hillaire Roth has moved to a position in Eau Claire County.

Human Development and Relationships - Jeanne Walsh

Positive Youth Development - Jordan Blue

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Extension Department 2025 Budget Review

RESULT:	FORWARD BUDGET TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Pamela Guthman, District 2
SECONDER:	Joel Seidlitz, District 9
AYES:	Ives, Peterson, Seidlitz, Guthman
ABSENT:	Goettl

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

The Americorps members will try to attend the next meeting to pro

8. ADJOURN

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jul 10, 2025 7:45 AM (Consent Agenda)



**STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION
UPDATE ON FOODWISE PROGRAM - KRISTEN BRUDER**

5.1

UW-Extension Area Director, Kristen Bruder, will provide an update to the committee on the FoodWise Program.

With the recent elimination of federal SNAP-Ed funding the FoodWise program will be shutting down this fall.

FoodWise provided free, research-based nutrition education to individuals and families with limited resources. It helped people navigate grocery stores on tight budgets, partnered with food pantries and farmers markets, and brought health-focused programming to schools and rural communities.

Here in the Chippewa Valley, we will lose four amazing educators—people who have spent years building relationships, showing up in communities, and changing lives through their work.

Chippewa County Board

Kari Ives, Agriculture & Extension Committee Chair,
District 21
kives@chippewacountywi.gov



5.2.a

July 17, 2025

FR: Kari Ives, Agriculture & Extension Committee Chair

RE: Recognition of FoodWise Program

On behalf of the Agriculture and Extension Committee, Matthew Peterson, Joel Seidlitz, Pam Guthman and Timothy Goettl, I extend our sincere appreciation to all the dedicated educators of the FoodWise program. In particular, we recognize Sandy Tarter, Hillarie Roth and Macy Lien for their outstanding commitment, leadership, and hard work in delivering high-quality nutrition education and community support in Chippewa County.

Access to nutritious food and health education is essential to the well-being of all residents—especially individuals and families with limited incomes. In Chippewa County, 9.2% of residents—more than 6,200 individuals—rely on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, and 42% of children in local schools qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

Administered through the University of Wisconsin—Madison Division of Extension and funded by the USDA SNAP-Ed program, FoodWise provides research-based nutrition education and support to empower individuals and families to make healthier food and lifestyle choices.

In Fiscal Year 2024, FoodWise in Chippewa County reached 604 learners and made 2,972 direct educational contacts through strong partnerships with schools, early care centers, senior housing communities, WIC clinics, food pantries, and other local organizations.

The program improved access to nutrition education by translating outreach materials into Hmong and Spanish, and by addressing barriers at key sites such as Romeis Apartments, where low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities received tailored education, recipes, and guidance for using pantry foods.

Collaborative efforts with the CHIP Chronic Disease Prevention Action Team and the Monday Market at the Y led to increased access to healthy, local food—resulting in a 56% increase in EBT sales, \$291 in Market Match tokens distributed, and transportation support for residents facing mobility and access challenges.

Through sustained partnerships and innovative outreach, FoodWise has played a vital role in promoting community health, food security, economic support for local farmers, and collaborative leadership in Chippewa County.

Unfortunately, due to the elimination of federal funding, the FoodWise program is scheduled to end on September 30, 2025. This marks the loss of a critical resource that has had a meaningful and measurable impact on the lives of hundreds of local residents.

Sincerely,

Kari Ives
Agriculture & Extension Committee Chair

Attachment: FoodWise Recognition Draft (9115 : Recognition of FoodWise Program - Kari Ives)



Crops & Soils

Jerry Clark | Regional Crops and Soils Educator

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



An on-farm research study to better understand manure application, commercial nitrogen application rates, and nitrogen credits on corn yield and potential effect on groundwater. Results from this study will help farmers, agriculture industry professionals, and agency professionals in adjusting manure and commercial nitrogen applications to optimize corn yield and protect groundwater resources. Total Reach: Educational field days are planned throughout the summer and fall 2025. Collaborating with: Christine Clark, Joshua Kamps, Lindsey Rushford, Liz Gartman, Scott Reuss

An on-farm study to better understand the effect of nitrogen application rates on nitrogen cycling and corn yield. Results from this study will help corn growers in that they can implement and adapt nitrogen management practices to optimize economic return, improve efficiency of nitrogen fertilizer resulting in more sustainable corn production and farm profitability.

A field event for farmers, agronomy professionals, and conservation agency staff where participants learned current season pest and crop management strategies to scout for pest populations and minimize crop protection inputs to increase crop enterprise and farm profitability.

Total Reach: 5 - farmers and agriculture specialists. Collaborated with: Matthew Bolen & Teal Polzin

A West Central Wisconsin Land and Water Summer Tour for conservation professionals where participants learned about local conservation production practices, research, and technology to increase understanding of the environmental impact of agriculture on the landscape and strategies to protect environmental resources. Total Reach: 31 conservation professionals

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

A field event for farmers, agronomy professionals, and conservation agency staff where participants learned soil nitrogen and forage management strategies to minimize nitrogen application rates and ensure forage inventory to increase farm profitability and protect groundwater resources.

Total Reach: 8 - farmers, consultants, conservation professionals. Collaborated with: Ryan Sterry & Teal Polzin

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Extension

 UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
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Extension Chippewa County

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Groundwater quality is a major concern in Dunn, Chippewa, and Eau Claire counties. Use of nitrogen in agriculture production fields is often needed for higher crop yields. Application of additional nitrogen and above-average rainfall can increase the risk of nitrogen moving to groundwater. Adaptive Nitrogen Management research and education provides an opportunity for on-farm research and experiential learning into the impact of nitrogen management. With over 100,000 head of dairy and livestock in Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire counties, forage is a major feed component and mid-summer is an excellent time to start a forage inventory to ensure forage supply is adequate for winter and spring. A nitrogen and forage management field day was held to inform farmers of nitrogen and forage management strategies. Speakers included Ryan Sterry Regional Livestock Educator, "Building forage inventory and using the Forage Inventory Tool"; Teal Polzin, Farm Pulse Coordinator, "Grain and Risk Management Resources"; and Jerry Clark, Extension, Regional Crops and Soils Educator, "Adaptive Nitrogen Management Results." Farmers, agronomy and conservation professionals indicated the program increased their awareness of nitrogen application rates and impact on farm profitability. Discussion on current weather patterns and forage quality was a priority concerning forage inventory

Livestock

Ryan Sterry | Regional Livestock Educator

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


Planning a September beef cow-calf field day hosted on a commercial beef operation and taught by livestock, and crop and soil educators. The goal is to increase cow-calf producers' understanding of heifer reproduction and fall forage management to improve their farm's economic viability. Collaborating with: Jerry Clark, Sandy Stuttgart, Bill Halfman, Melissa Ohlrich

Planning a September in-person, full day, lambing school for Northwestern Wisconsin. The goal is to help producers prepare ahead of winter lambing. This workshop will cover essential topics, including biosecurity, animal health, parasite management, and nutrition, to ensure your flock thrives. Focused on sheep, but goat producers are also welcome to participate. Learn about the necessary lambing supplies, the phases of lambing, and effective lamb processing techniques. Thanks to generous support from the American Sheep Industry Association, hands-on activities include a realistic lambing simulator. Collaborating with: Carolyn Ihde

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A webinar, one session part of Badger Dairy Insight, for dairy farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned about updates to Heifer synchronization protocols to promote increased heifer pregnancy rates. Total Reach: 79 registered attendees.

Planning a hybrid (Zoom classroom session followed by in-person hands on session) workshop series for dairy and beef producers and farm workers in September 2025. The goal is to provide information and techniques to boost cattle caretakers' confidence in preparing the cow for calving, obstetric techniques, and newborn calf care so that their health and reproductive programs maintain their farm's economic viability. Spanish translation has been requested. Collaborating with: Sandy Stuttge, Heather Schlessner, Matt Lippert

Community Development

Garret Zastoupil | Regional Community Development Educator



Continued development of the Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative and its efforts to re-open the former St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls as a full-service interim healthcare facility, and to build a new full-service hospital in Lake Hallie, Wisconsin to replace the 34% of regional health care lost with the closure of the two HSHS hospitals in Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls and 19 Prevea clinics across the region. Collaborating with: Bill Oemichen, Karl Green, Kristen Bruder

Planning for the launch of the "Chippewa Valley Nonprofit Exchange," a collaborative effort to consolidate nonprofit resources and professional development opportunities. The Exchange aims to strengthen nonprofit capacity by developing and sharing resources.

Attachment: July 2025 Monthly Report 7.29.25 (9116 : Extension Educator Reports)



Health and Well-Being

Sandy Tarter | FoodWise Regional County Coordinator

Macy Lien | FoodWise Chippewa & Dunn Educator

Hillarie Roth | FoodWise Eau Claire Educator



Two in-person nutrition lessons in partnership with the Chippewa County WIC for parents and caregivers. These interactive lessons aimed to engage families in hands-on learning, including tasting opportunities with foods available at local farmers markets. and emphasized the importance of fresh foods during early childhood. (Led by Hillarie Roth in partnership with Macy Lien)

A 6-lesson nutrition education series with residents at Romeis Apartments. This effort will help residents with foundational knowledge of the food groups and developing sustainable eating habits focusing on meal planning on a budget, reading food labels, portion control, and making balanced food choices. Residents prepared healthy meals together and engaged in recipe creation that incorporated ingredients readily available in the onsite food pantry and commodity food boxes. (Led by Hillarie Roth in partnership with Macy Lien)

A 6-week series with Boys & Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley at the North River Fronts Kids Garden from June - August in collaboration with the Master Gardener Volunteers. This effort integrates nutrition education with gardening and expects to increase exposure to locally grown fruits and vegetables by tending a garden, helping youth learn parts of the plants, engaging in interactive activities, and providing tastes of a variety of fruits and vegetables. (Led by Hillarie Roth in partnership with Macy Lien)



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

For over 30 years UW-Madison Extension has been providing local nutrition education throughout our state that has been funded by the federal SNAP-Ed grant program. Our FoodWise educators have been

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a cornerstone of Extension's mission to improve the health and well-being of Wisconsin residents. FoodWise reaches over 133,000 people with nutrition education and community-based strategies to support healthy eating and active lifestyles – partnering with schools, food pantries, farmers markets, and community centers to engage children, families, and seniors. Despite extensive advocacy efforts by Extension, UW-Madison's University Relations, and partners such as the Wisconsin Counties Association, the congressional budget reconciliation bill signed into law on July 4 eliminated all SNAP-Ed funding effective September 30, 2025.

FoodWise is one of six SNAP-Ed implementing agencies in the state, and Extension is currently navigating the difficult process of winding down our SNAP-Ed-funded programming including a layoff notice process for affected employees. We will continue FoodWise programming through September 30, 2025. We will also be exploring all possible pathways to sustain some of the program's capacity through alternative funding sources, including leveraging our infrastructure, expertise, and remaining EFNEP funding.

This is not just a loss of funding – it is a loss of services that have been vital to communities across Wisconsin. FoodWise's staff of more than 90 educators across the state have directly helped families with limited incomes make a healthier choice for their future. The impact will be felt in schools, food pantries, and community centers where our educators have helped families make healthier choices and stretch limited food dollars.

FoodWise has always been about more than just nutrition education. It's about empowering communities to thrive. We know that SNAP-Ed makes Wisconsin healthier. We are proud of the work we have done and the lives we have changed for the better. Thank you for supporting our staff, our programs and our mission.

Extension's commitment to your community remains and we will continue to bring university resources to residents in your area across our program areas. Please reach out to Sandy Tarter, FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator, sandy.tarter@wisc.edu, and Area Extension Director Kristen Bruder, kristen.bruder@wisc.edu, with your questions.

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Attachment: July 2025 Monthly Report 7.29.25 (9116 : Extension Educator Reports)



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Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | Regional Horticulture Educator

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



A garden program for participants of a community based residential facility where participants created a mixed garden design of vegetables and flowers in a small plot. Classes focus on continued maintenance of the garden and strategies for managing pests/problems that may arise. The goal of this effort is to teach the basics of vegetable gardening as well as to encourage people to include plants and gardening in their lifestyle even when space is limited to experience the many benefits that gardening provides. Total Reach: 14-20 participants. Collaborated with: Sandy Tarter

Garden class on planting containers for the public. Participants learned best practices on caring for container plants, ideas for container designs and planted both sun and shade containers for display at a public library. This effort was designed to promote success with container gardening and to encourage people to include plants and gardening in their lifestyle even when space is limited to experience the many benefits that gardening provides. Total Reach: 12 individuals at the program plus, members of the public that pass through the area

Program for families visiting Lake Wissota State Park on the types of animals that roam the Park and how they use their habitat. Participants learned how to be a wildlife detective by examining the clues they leave behind, especially their scat. This effort was designed to increase awareness about the importance of natural areas and the community of fauna they support as well as to encourage people to explore nature. Total Reach: 9 people in attendance / participants took materials with them to share with other family and friends

Provide garden articles published in the Extension in the Valley, tri-county monthly newsletter that focuses on Agriculture and Horticulture news. In the current issue, participants learned about common issues of tomatoes, growing eggplant, upcoming programs and were provided links to more horticulture articles and information found at UW Horticulture Division of Extension. This effort is designed to keep participants connected to current horticulture topics. Total Reach: The reach is to over 700 email recipients. (Collaborated with: Amber Gilles, Jerry Clark, Ryan Sterry)

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Human Development and Relationships

Jeanne Walsh | Human Development and Relationships Educator



A 7-session course that helps adults of all ages to make end-of-life financial, healthcare, and final wishes decisions in order to reduce the stress experienced by survivors and to ensure that their wishes are honored. Total Reach: Direct contacts include social media, flyers at area businesses, posters, individual phone calls, emails, media releases for newspapers in Clark and Chippewa County and 7 participating individuals. Collaborated with: Crystal Walters

A 6-session rent smart 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 supports. 98 participants trained to be leaders of this program.

A jail reentry class for individuals currently incarcerated. Participants learn about values, the importance of relationships, and how to set specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound goals. The goal of this program is to increase post-incarceration success. 6 participating individuals.

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. 5 participating individuals.

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. 14 participating individuals.

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. 14 families served.



Positive Youth Development

Jordan Blue | 4-H Program Educator

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



At the Northern Wisconsin State Fair, over 400 youth and their parents or guardians participated in interactive Education Stations. These stations were led by AmeriCorps Members Chloe and Lily in the Kids Corner, and by Jordan in the Youth Building. The addition of Chloe and Lily has significantly expanded our capacity to engage and inspire more families through hands-on learning experiences. As a result of these program offerings, we've seen a noticeable increase in engagement through our 4-H Interest Form, with over 25 inquiries received via forms, emails, and phone calls from individuals seeking enrollment opportunities. This growing interest reflects the positive impact of our outreach and the community's enthusiasm for getting involved in 4-H.

The Cloverbud Stuffed Animal Show gave 11 youth in grades K-2 a chance to step into the show ring, speak confidently in front of an audience, and respond to questions from a supportive adult. This engaging experience helped our youngest members build confidence, develop independence, and begin exploring the fundamentals of showmanship in a fun and encouraging environment.



Area 6 Chippewa County Day Camp welcomed 26 youth participants in grades K-3 for a day of hands-on learning and community exploration at Irvine Zoo in Chippewa County. AmeriCorps Members Lily and Chloe led and developed the program, creating engaging activities that encouraged curiosity, connection with nature, and discovery of local resources. This program was a collaborative effort between AmeriCorps Members in Chippewa County and Student Interns in Eau Claire and Dunn County.

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Discover Wisconsin brought together 27 youth from Chippewa County for a 3-day, 2-night adventure across Superior, Wisconsin, and Duluth, Minnesota. Designed to immerse participants in Wisconsin's rich history and vibrant culture, the experience focused on Youth Empowerment, College & Career Readiness, and Experiential Learning. Supported by a dedicated team of five adults, youth engaged in meaningful activities that fostered personal growth, broadened their horizons, and created lasting memories.



A 4-H Summer Awards Celebration, a meaningful event that honors the accomplishments of graduating seniors and celebrates Cloverbuds as they advance to the next stage of their 4-H journey. This special evening highlighted the growth, dedication, and milestones of our youth, while bringing together over 80 youth and their parents or guardians, along with the broader 4-H community, to reflect on a year of learning, leadership, and achievement.

Preparations are underway for three upcoming Foods and Nutrition programs led by AmeriCorps Member Lily Schwartz. Using the MyPlate resource, these sessions will empower youth to develop healthy eating habits and learn how to build nutritious, balanced menus for themselves.

Planning for a program designed to spark creativity and collaboration, LEGO Club invites youth to participate in three engaging evenings of structured LEGO Imagination and Creation. Each session encourages hands-on problem-solving, teamwork, and innovative thinking as participants bring their ideas to life through fun and purposeful building challenges.

As the 4-H year draws to a close, comprehensive planning and development efforts are underway to ensure a smooth transition into the next program cycle. This includes organizing volunteer training to equip leaders with the tools and knowledge they need, conducting Annual Financial Reviews to maintain transparency and accountability, and completing chartering requirements for twelve active clubs. Simultaneously, scheduling, program planning, and recruitment efforts are beginning to take shape, laying the foundation for another impactful year of youth development, leadership, and community engagement.

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Value Added

Investment in Chippewa Extension Brings Additional Resources.

Co-Chairing the Chippewa Valley Suicide Prevention Workgroup, which covers suicide prevention efforts in Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire Counties. The goal of this group is to collaborate on efforts to reduce deaths by suicide in the region. (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.