

Agenda

Eau Claire County
Extension Committee
March 17, 2021 at 4:00PM
Virtual meeting via WebEx

Join from the meeting link

<https://eauclairecounty.webex.com/eauclairecounty/j.php?MTID=mc425bbc05f24224c0c4e68b2f5d33a42>

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 145 672 8213

Meeting password: RgGJxEUN649

Join by phone

+1-415-655-0001 US Toll

For those wishing to make public comment, you must e-mail Kristi Peterson at **kristin.peterson@co.eau-claire.wi.us** at **least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting**. You will be called on during the public session to make your comments.

1. Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment
4. Review/Approval of Committee Minutes – **Discussion/Action**
 - a. February 17, 2021
5. Increase Horticulture Educational Services -
Discussion/Action
6. Upcoming Fair Committee Meeting –
Update/Discussion – Don Mowry
7. Area Extension Director Report - Catherine Emmanuelle
 - a. Extension Farming Resources shared at
Committee on Administration
 - b. Community Educator update
 - c. Monthly Highlights/State Reporting System
8. Wisconsin Extension Association Update –

Supervisor Bates

9. Scheduling of Future Meetings / Agenda Items

a. April 21, 2021

10. Announcements

11. Adjourn

Minutes

Eau Claire County

Extension Committee

Date: February 17, 2021 at 4:00PM

Virtual meeting via WebEx

Members Present: Supervisor Deluka, Supervisor Bates, Supervisor Mowry, Supervisor Janssen, Supervisor Christopherson

Others Present: Kristi Peterson, Margaret Murphy, Catherine Emmanuelle, Debbie Kitchen, Lisa Vetsch, and Administrator Schauf

1. Call to Order at 4:00 pm and confirmation of meeting notice
2. Verbal Roll Call by Kristi Peterson
3. Public Comment- none
4. Review/Approval of Committee Minutes – **Discussion/Action**
 - a. January 20, 2021 Supervisor Bates moves to approve and Supervisor Deluka seconds. Motion passes
5. Fair Committee proposals – **Discussion/Action**
 - a. Bylaws (Action) motion to approve supervisor Supervisor Christopherson, Supervisor Bates seconds. Motion passes
 - b. Eau Claire County Fair Committee Structure (Informational)
 - c. Eau Claire County Fair Mutual Respect Policy (Action) motion to approve Supervisor Deluka, second Supervisor Christopherson. Motion passes
6. Financial Overview – Quarter 4
 - a. Overview provided
7. Area Extension Director Report - Catherine Emmanuelle
 - a. Horticulture Educator Update – Administrator Schauf provided an update as well as aligned process details for current and future years.
 - b. Hiring freeze on Community Educator – hoping to thaw very soon
 - c. Intern grant opportunity
8. Increase Horticulture Educational Services - Discussion/Action
 - a. No action taken at this time as the committee would like to wait until the meeting on February 26
9. Wisconsin Extension Association Update – Supervisor Bates
 - a. An update was provided, and the committee recommended Supervisor Bates, being on the WEXA committee to be nominated to the statewide organization
10. Scheduling of Future Meetings / Agenda Items

a. March 17, 2021

11. Announcements - none

12. Adjourn at 5:49 pm



Horticultural Education: Potential Service Increase

Extension Committee Meeting
February 17, 2021

Policy Considerations



- What level of service of Extension Horticultural Education does the county desire?
- What is the funding source for a potential increase in level of service for Horticultural Education?
- If the county desires a service increase, when would the county desire to initiate this change?
- What is the desired duration of the service increase? (Such as for 2021, 2022, etc.?)
- If the county increases service increase, is there appetite and support for levy increase requests, such as educational fee increases, supplies (office, mileage, professional development, etc.) to maintain and/or increase support to Extension programming



Scenario #1

- Keep service level at 0.25 FTE
- Additional fiscal impact: none
- Current fee is 25% of \$42,330 = \$10,582.50 for Eau Claire County, plus \$125 professional development (both on the 136 contract)
- Current expenses \$500 (mileage/conference/meetings), \$75 (office supplies), \$ 62.50 (printing)
- Service level change: remains the same



Scenario #2

- Increase service level *from* 0.25 FTE to 0.50 FTE with 100% county funding
- Additional fiscal impact: **\$19,890.20**
 - \$19,185.20 yearly (educational fee) (assumption: current salary & benefit elections), plus \$125 professional development.
 - Additional expenses \$500 (mileage/conference/meetings), \$ 40 (office supplies), \$ 40 (printing)
- Service level change: increase of approximately 5 more days a month
- Effective date: not contingent upon Dean's approval, can enact right away, need time to process paperwork (estimated a few weeks)
- Service level change description: detailed on next slides

Service level change

- **Youth gardens** - expand work with school gardens and the youth garden at North Riverfront Park by developing lesson plans and activities with master gardener volunteers that goes beyond the current work which focuses mainly on planting, maintenance and harvesting. The master gardener volunteers have requested assistance with this.
- Explore the feasibility of developing a **train-the-trainer program** to assist schools that want to build a strong team to start or continue to expand a school garden (similar to School Garden 101 program created by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach)
 - A multi-session class that provides school staff with horticultural skills and shows them how to connect gardening principles to school activities. It will also help school staff work together to develop and build a school garden. Participants will also learn how incorporate garden produce into classrooms and cafeterias.

Service level change continued

Expand work that enhances local food access

- **In community gardens**
 - Jeffers Rd garden
 - Increase fresh produce donations to area food pantry
 - Create opportunities for garden community event
 - Create community food area that would include perennial fruits, vegetables, pollinator garden
- Network with community partners to identify need to establish new community gardens or smaller space vegetable gardens.
- Explore participation in the Growing Together WI program which encourages collaboration between FoodWise education staff and Master Gardener Volunteers to promote healthy food access and availability through garden spaces.
 - Can include development and maintenance of community garden spaces for limited income audiences, garden produce donations to food pantries, and teaching limited income audiences how to grow their own food.
- Partner with local food networks to expand local food producer markets and increase community awareness of local food availability through education/community events.



Scenario #3

- Increase service level *from* 0.25 FTE to 0.50 FTE with state- county co- funding
- Additional fiscal impact: **\$11,287.50**
 - \$10,582.50 yearly (educational fee) plus \$125 professional development
 - Additional expenses \$500 (mileage/conference/meetings), \$ 40 (office supplies), \$ 40 (printing)
- Service level change: increase of approximately 5 more days a month
- Effective date: contingent upon Dean's approval, not sure when an effective date would be
- Service level change description: same as described for Scenario #2. Difference is that the work would start contingent upon the Dean's approval for increase for the position.

Departmental Funding Considerations



- If the Community Development Educator position is vacant until June 1, 2021, it is likely that \$5,996.75 may be available from salary savings. However, there are other departmental budget considerations.
- Please note:
 - In non-Covid years, the county Extension department has hosted up to three agriculture-related in-person educational events that generated approximately \$ 3,000 to \$4,400 revenue. This amount fluxuates year-to-year. These events are likely to be virtual in 2021, and that revenue would not come in. We would use some of the salary savings to cover any difference.
 - 2021 mileage, office supplies, printing, conference/meeting supplies are barebones. Over \$11,000 of increases (insurance, IT, Extension educational fees) were absorbed in the 2021, without a levy increase. The current level of funding and service are not sustainable without reducing staffing positions or increasing the levy contribution.
 - A 2021 budget assumption was that if less in-person programming due to Covid-restrictions, the barebones mileage, supplies, printing, conference/meeting expenses would be cushioned due to decrease of in-person programming expenses. It is very likely that the department will be requesting increases in 2022 and/or 2023 as the current funding amount is not sustainable for the service delivery.
 - Extension will have a 3% increase in 2022 and 3% increase in 2023. This is estimated to be an increase of \$4,560 (2022) and \$4,667 (2023) to retain the existing staffing model.



Questions and Conversation

EXTENSION DUNN COUNTY FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
DUNN COUNTY

Check Out What We've Been Up To:

- A podcast series, AgriVision, for farmers and ag professionals, where host Katie Wantoch chats with fellow Extension educators to answer Farm Management questions and share knowledge and expertise on how farmers can improve their farm management skills. Episodes are now available at <https://farms.extension.wisc.edu/programs/agrivation-podcast/>.
- Planning for a 3-county cooperative program for 4th to 8th graders, where youth get to meet other families virtually for 5 weeks to participate in hands-on 4-H activities. The goal of this program is to introduce more families to 4-H and to re-involve youth who have been waiting for 4-H to start meeting again.
- Planning for a Tri-County Speaking Festival for all ages of 4-H youth in collaboration with 4-H educators. The goal is to put on a virtual version of the usual speaking festival.
- Planning for summer camp(s) for 4-H families in collaboration with Eau Claire 4-H educator and several volunteers from both counties. The goal is to plan options for shared summer camp(s) that may be traditional overnight style, or could be day camps with small pods if health restrictions continue to not allow overnights.
- A series of 3 parenting for parents of 3-12 year-olds where we explored positive parenting techniques to build parents' toolbox for use in a variety of parenting situations.
- A 4-hour online class for parents in a legal court case for divorce, placement change, child support or paternity, where they learn about the effects of family transitions on children and how parents can minimize problems for their children through cooperative co-parenting strategies.



Art & Craft camp supplies delivered to 4-H families



Nancy teaching food safety with virtual classes.

Testimonials:

"Thanks for the offer to put things together for us last minute. We appreciate all you do for 4-H!!!" - Lara L.

"I am a foster parent and I wish our training classes with the agency were this good. You gave simple yet informative info and provided examples of situations. Good!" - Kristen S., Triple P Participant

"I'm 66 and drive shuttle busses to the Minneapolis airport....The busses we use have a very shallow and tall luggage area that requires lifting up to 50 lb luggage over my head to stack a third row of bags, quite a ways up. Since I've been working out 4 - 5 times a week using the Strong Bodies curriculum, this has been easy and I've been able to do it without hurting past shoulder and back injuries. Thanks for your part in the program." - Dunn County Resident

SELECT UPCOMING EVENTS: For more visit dunn.extension.wisc.edu/calendar/ and extension.wisc.edu/events/

March 8th - Heart of the Farm Coffee Chats: Developing your Farm Product Brand - tinyurl.com/yym8Lmq4

March 13th, 8:30am-12:30pm - Parents Forever

March 15th, 6-6:45pm - Learning to BREATHE in collaboration with the statewide 4-H Virtual Learning Community

March 15th, 7-8:00pm - Kick-off of a 6 Session Course for Parenting with Love & Logic

Farm Ready Research series: Extension's agriculture winter webinar meeting series for farmers and ag professionals. extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/farm-ready-research/

March 9th, 1-2pm - Beef: Pasture Weed Management

March 16th, 1-2pm - Badger Dairy Insight: Improving Dairy farm efficiency through genetics

March 17th, 7:30-8:30pm - Small Ruminant - Direct Marketing: Building Your Brand for the Future

March 19th, 11am-Noon - Farm Management Fridays: Your farm startup: Where to begin and who can help?

Dunn County Staff Highlights



Katie Wantoch | Associate Professor and Agriculture Agent, Specializing in Economic Development

Farm Ready Research is Extension's 2021 winter agriculture webinar meeting series for farmers and ag professionals. More information on upcoming webinars is available at <https://extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/farm-ready-research/>.

1. The January 8th webinar "Navigating Your Farm Business through 2021," featured Extension staff Mark Stephenson, UW Center for Dairy Profitability, Kevin Bernhardt, Extension Farm Management Specialist/UW Platteville Professor, and moderator Katie Wantoch discussing economic factors and considerations for the best path forward for farm business. There were 196 participants registered for the program, with approximately 85 livestream participants and over 115 views. Participants indicated they agreed (50%) or strongly agreed (50%) that they increased awareness of factors that influence farm business viability, and were neutral (14%), agreed (43%) or strongly agreed (43%) are likely to consider tools, methods, or strategies for the future of my farm's profitability (or farms they work with). As a result of the program, participants said they were going to: *"Thinking about all our assets as I update our financial statement to make sure they are making me money."* *"Look at cost of production and make a list of where to start and what to do this Year."* *"Compare 2021 and 2020 balance sheets and complete 2020 income statement for evaluation purposes."* The recording of this webinar can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sK1tYtnUo48&feature=youtu.be>
2. Katie also moderated the January 15th webinar, "In It for the Long Haul -Cash Flow during a Crisis," with Kevin Bernhardt, Extension Farm Management Specialist/UWRiver Falls Professor, and Heather Schlessler, Marathon County Extension Ag Educator discussing important cash flow analysis considerations, concerns and tools to help in planning cash flow during uncertain times of the ongoing covid19 crisis. There were 203 participants registered for the program, with approximately 81 livestream and 33 (and counting) recorded viewings. As a result of the program, participants said they were going to: *"Understand stresses of clients that farm."* *"Enhance tools currently being used."* *"Telling my clients about the cash flow plan spreadsheet they can use."* Participants said they agreed (28%) or strongly agreed (48%) that they have a better understanding of cash flow management options during a crisis. In addition, participants said they agreed (40%) or strongly agreed (56%) that they are aware of resources and tools available for planning or analyzing cash flow. The recording of this webinar can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4uJB-hMFZ0&feature=youtu.be>



Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Outreach Specialist






February has been a month of learning. Margaret attended the virtual Wisconsin Community Garden conference where she enjoyed talks on how to develop connections with the community both inside and outside of the garden as well as making connections in multicultural gardens. Margaret is in the process of reaching out to gardeners for the 2021 community garden season and is looking forward to implementing a few new ideas.

Margaret also attended the virtual Community Growing Stronger Conference on Organic & Sustainable Farming. She often receives inquiries on organic and sustainable gardening methods and has found the information very useful. Topics included climate change impacts on crops/farming, invasive insects & the future of organic fruit, how to become organic certified, regenerative practices and much more.



Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) have successfully launched their Growing Together 2021 virtual garden seminar. Currently, there are 360 registered. The seminar talks are every Saturday, February 20 through March 13

Margaret is also working with 4-H on two projects. One is on teaching kids how to start tomato seeds indoors and the other is a multi-county garden minicamp that will include connecting with kids virtually throughout the growing and harvest season as they work in their gardens. The focus will be on pumpkin growing, which kids will have started from seed.

Dunn County Staff Highlights

	<p>Sandy Tarter FoodWise Coordinator</p>  <p>Nancy Fastner FoodWise Educator</p>	 <p>Pamela Warren-Armstrong FoodWise Educator</p>	 <p>Joy Weisner FoodWise Educator</p>
	<p>FoodWise area team has been leading Strong Bodies classes with nutrition and aging mastery chats after. Currently there are 59 participants from Dunn County. Registration for our next series from April - June is open and our Tues/Thurs class survey is: https://go.wisc.edu/uk33x3. Our SB flyer is being distributed to partners and agencies across the county and can be found here: https://dunn.extension.wisc.edu/files/2021/03/April-to-June-2021Series-StrongBodies-flyer.pdf</p> <p>Nancy is working with Stepping Stones to create easy cooking videos for their website. She will demonstrate ways to incorporate foods found in the food pantry.</p> <p>Nancy led two Cooking Matters lessons for Head Start parents from Colfax Center and Chippewa County. Participants enjoyed discussing ways to reduce food waste and ideas of how to include their children in food preparation.</p> <p>Joy and Pamela just wrapped up a 6 week nutrition series with 3rd graders at River Heights Elementary. These students enjoyed interactive virtual lessons on how to read a nutrition facts label, tips on healthy snacking and ideas on how to “Power up with Breakfast!” Their school newsletter that teachers sent to families is here: https://dunn.extension.wisc.edu/files/2021/03/FoodWise-Newsletter-Winter-2021.pdf</p> <p>Another collaboration Pamela and Joy are involved with is Menomonie Head Start. They hope to lead a Cooking Matters series for the parents and their children. These classes involve teaching parents how to stretch their food dollars and how to feed picky eaters.</p> <p>Sandy is working with the Health Dunn Right-Chronic Disease Prevention Workgroup and WestCAP to implement a new Market Match program this summer at the Menomonie Farmers Market. FoodShare participants will be able to get their purchased tokens “matched” and so will get double tokens to purchase fresh produce for their families. This match is made possible by a Community Foundation grant.</p>		
	<p>Stephanie Hintz Human Development & Relationships Educator</p> <p>Another great month full of programming! My usual programs and initiatives are still going swimmingly, this month I want to highlight two activities that are new and my spark interest.</p> <p>Triple P Seminar: In a collaboration with Extension educators in Eau Claire and Pierce counties, we hosted a series of 3 parenting for parents of 3-12 year-olds where we explored positive parenting techniques to build parents' toolbox for use in a variety of parenting situations. This parenting education opportunity was offered virtually and opened to all across the state of Wisconsin. The first seminar is an introduction to positive parenting techniques, the core principles include having a safe and positive learning environment, using assertive discipline, having realistic expectations, and taking care of yourself as a parent. The second seminar is titled “Raising Confident, Competent Children,” and emphasizes techniques to foster good communication, social skills, problem solving skills and independence. The second seminar is titled “Raising Resilient Children” focused on the 6 key building blocks for success which include recognizing and expressing feelings appropriately and developing coping skills in stressful situations for children. Overall, parents strongly agreed that they felt they were more knowledgeable</p>		

Dunn County Staff Highlights

	<p>with topics presented during the Triple P parenting series.</p> <p>ADRC Needs Assessment Survey: The ADRC reached out for guidance on developing their needs assessment. The goal was to create a short survey that was accessible. You should fill out this survey if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- You are currently utilizing our services.- You may be thinking about your own future aging plan.- You may know of a parent, grandparent or neighbor who could benefit from our services. <p>Take the survey here: https://forms.gle/77qyq48Z5KuJ48YT6</p>
	<p>Luisa Gerasimo 4-H Educator</p> <p>February was Black History Month so we posted several times per week on our Facebook site to showcase history our families may not have encountered before. I used some wonderful images from the Smithsonian for this effort. I also participated in a number of trainings on topics related to equity to educate myself.</p> <p>Planning is underway for fun 4-H activities that will be shared widely, as well as a huge effort to launch a youth saving program across the whole state. More on that in a few months I hope. Dunn County hosted the virtual version of the Tri-County Speaking Festival on 2/25 which meant all hands on deck! Next up is a STEM camp followed by a unique arts offering making use of UW-Stout Arts Integration Menomonie art educators in April.</p> <p>Several clubs created and then delivered Valentine's to the elders near them and one club managed to go sliding together in a distanced and masked manner. Other clubs met virtually. I spent one whole day delivering arts and crafts supplies to Dunn families signed up to take the Arts and Crafts Mini-Camp that starts late this month.</p>
	<p>Vacant Community Development Educator</p> <p>The Community Development Educator position is currently vacant. The position remains in a hiring freeze. No additional updates at this time. Please contact Catherine Emmanuelle with any questions catherine.emmanuelle@wisc.edu 715-450-0823. For information on Extension's Community Development efforts see https://extension.wisc.edu/community-development/, and how Extension is responding to COVID-related work supported by Community Development Educators, see https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/covid19/category/topics/communities/.</p>
	<p>Michelle Bachand Support Specialist</p> <p>February was a busy month in 4-H as the virtual programs are going full swing. There was purchasing, assembly and delivery of supplies for the Art & Craft camp, planning of Art U, and cross county registration and organization of participants for the Virtual Tri-County Speaking Fest. Assisting with the Tri-County Speaking Fest was a new experience, acting as the virtual door monitor. I was tasked with setting up the meeting room, moving youth into their virtual rooms to perform before the judge and receive feedback, and providing technical help if needed.</p> <p>A new parenting program, Triple P, was launched by Stephanie and her HD&R colleagues. I assisted with distributing parenting tip sheets and completion certificates to those that attended the 3 week series.</p> <p>Budgetary Update: This month we have brought forth a budget adjustment request to properly account for the new expenses and revenue associated with the virtual 4-H programming.</p>

Dunn County Staff Highlights



Catherine Emmanuelle | Area Extension Director - Chippewa, Dunn, & Eau Claire Counties

You may notice our monthly highlights format is new! We are taking our pilot statewide recording results work and blending it with our monthly highlights. Please feel free to give me feedback on how this new format works for you. We are one of the first counties to try this out, so we have lots of room to refine and iron as we roll out the new process. Hats off to our Extension team to help lead this effort in Wisconsin.

Our educators continue to prioritize virtual programming. We are eagerly awaiting statewide program guidance for summer programming, which will continue to be based on state and local public health guidance.

As you may know, Governor Evers has shared his budget proposal. While state employees aren't in a position to advocate for budget proposals, I want to share resources that may be of interest:

- [UW-Madison State Budget site](#)
- [Campus Toolkit](#)
- [Extension agriculture position in budget proposal](#)

If you have any questions about the state budget or Extension's position proposal, please let me know.

Lastly, the Division of Extension, in a pandemic or not, provides evidence-based information on emerging community topics. Extension has provided unbiased [vaccine webinar information](#) on vaccines, available in English and Spanish, and an [FAQ](#) on vaccine-related questions.