

## **Agenda**

Eau Claire County Extension Education Committee  
January 17, 2024, at 4:00PM  
227 1<sup>st</sup> Street West Altoona, WI 54720 Room 103/104

Those wishing to make public comments can submit their name and address no later than 30 minutes prior to the meeting to Kristi Peterson [kristin.peterson@eauclairecounty.gov](mailto:kristin.peterson@eauclairecounty.gov) or attend the meeting in person. Comments are limited to three minutes; you will be called on during the public comment section of the meeting.

A majority of the county board may be in attendance at this meeting, however, only members of the committee may take action on an agenda item.

### **Join from the meeting link**

<https://uwmadison.webex.com/uwmadison/j.php?MTID=mef10dae35d45a06f4105c2bbc80bab34>

### **Join by meeting number**

Meeting number (access code): 2633 044 8920

Meeting password: bRxxKbgT393 (27995248 from phones)

### **Join by phone +1-415-655-0001 US Toll**

1. Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice.
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment [Form Builder List View | Eau Claire County \(eau-claire.wi.us\)](#)
4. Review/Approval of Committee Minutes – Discussion/Action
  - a. December 20, 2023
5. Fair – Discussion/Action
  - a. Application form
  - b. Financial update
  - c. MOU
  - d. Organizational discussion
6. Monthly Highlights – December

PLEASE NOTE: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities through sign language, interpreters, remote access, or other auxiliary aids. Contact the clerk of the committee or Administration for assistance (715-839-5106). For additional information on ADA requests, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 839-6945, (FAX) 839-1669 or 839-4735, TTY: use Relay (711) or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703.

7. Kristen Bruder – AED Updates
8. Scheduling of Future Meetings
  - a. Wednesday, February 21, 2024
9. Future Agenda Items
10. Announcements
11. Adjourn

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## Minutes

Eau Claire County  
Extension Education Committee  
December 20, 2023, at 4:00PM  
227 1<sup>st</sup> Street West Altoona, WI 54720 Room 103/104

1. Call to Order at 4:00pm and confirmation of meeting notice.
2. Roll Call: Lepsch, Johnson, Deluka, Christopherson and Babb arrived at 4:02pm  
Others Present: Meg Mueller, Kristi Peterson, Kristen Bruder, Jerry Clark, Lyssa Seefeldt, Margo Dieck, Chauncey Ellefson and Sarah Brown-Jager  
Virtual: Margaret Murphy and Erika Gullerud
3. Public Comment - none
4. Review/Approval of Committee Minutes – Discussion/Action
  - a. October 18, 2023 – Supervisor Johnson moves to approve - all in favor
  - b. November 15, 2023 – Supervisor Christopherson moves to approve all in favor
5. Educator Introduction – Margo Dieck, Health and Well-Being
6. Fair – Discussion/Action
  - a. Financial Update – A financial overview was provided. Preliminary numbers to Extension by September and final numbers December.
  - b. MOU – Match terms to be with lease for Expo building with optional five-year extension.
  - c. Application form postponed to date definite so we can review prior. Christopherson makes a motion to table for January. all in favor
7. Educator Presentation – Jerry Clark and Lyssa Seefeldt, Agriculture Educators
  - a. Lyssa shared the technology Emma and all the newsletter success as well as you-tube and other webinars.
  - b. Jerry discussed some seeding hemp and barley projects as well as new technology with drones.
8. Q3 Financials – Kristi Peterson, Office Coordinator gave an update.
9. Monthly Highlights – October and November were reviewed.
10. Kristen Bruder – AED Updates
  - a. 136 Contract signed.
11. Scheduling of Future Meetings
  - a. Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 4:00pm

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12. Future Agenda Items
  - a. Fair MOU
  - b. Fair application
  - c. February DATCP Report

13. Announcements - none

14. Adjourned at 5:30pm

Sincerely Submitted,

Kristi Peterson, Clerk

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Fair application questions:

Today's Date

Fair Committee

Are you a current employee of Eau Claire County or employed at a firm that is a vendor or has an affiliation with Eau Claire County?

The majority of Boards/Commissions/Councils and Committees meet on a monthly basis (date and time is determined by the committee.) Can you commit to attending meetings in accordance with the schedule of the Boards/Commissions/Councils and Committees you are applying for?

Yes

No

Full Name:

Age 18 or Older:

Residence Address:

Home number:

Cell number:

Email:

Do you currently reside/live within Eau Claire County limits?

Yes

No

Number of years:

Education:

Do you have relatives employed by Eau Claire County?

Yes

No

If yes, please list name, department, and relationship.

Do you have relatives that serve on Eau Claire County Boards, Commissions, or Committees?

Yes

No

If yes, please list name, Boards, Commissions, or Committees, and relationship.

List County Boards, Commissions, or Committees on which you have served.

Are you current serving on any of these Boards, Commissions, or Committees?

Yes

No

If yes, please list here.

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE:** Committee members, voting and non-voting, must not be of immediate family relation and living in the same household. The Committee will consist of Two (2) non-voting members and Nine (9) voting members. Please select the position(s) you qualify for and describe your qualifications.

1. The 4-H Program Educator as a non-voting member.

Yes

No

If yes, please describe qualification.

2. The Fair Coordinator as appointed by the Friends of the Fair, as a non-voting member.

Yes

No

If yes, please describe qualification.

3. One (1) member who is either an FFA or agricultural teacher (active or retired); a FFA Alumni; or a member of a livestock group such as Wisconsin Simmental Association, Wisconsin Pork Producers, or Eau Claire County Livestock Project. This person will act as the Livestock Liaison between Fair Committee and the livestock project.

Yes

No

If yes, please describe qualification.

4. Two (2) youth members, of which one must represent the Expo exhibits i.e., photography, arts & crafts, etc. and one must represent livestock exhibits.

Yes

No

If yes, please describe qualification.

5. One (1) member of the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors, serving on the Extension Committee, to be appointed by the Extension Committee.

Yes

No

If yes, please describe qualification.

6. Two (2) members who are employed by a business or a representative of a youth service agency or organization that provides services to youth such as the Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.

Yes

No

If yes, please describe qualification.

7. Two (2) members who are citizens at large and who have an interest in the fair. 8. One (1) member who is a member of the Friends of the Fair, other than the Fair Coordinator or One (1) member who is a member of the 4-H Leaders Association.

Yes

No

If yes, please describe qualification.

Do you have immediate family member(s) that are living in the same household with you who are current committee members or a current applicant?

If yes, list name(s) of family members.

Members of the Fair Committee will not be voting members or executive board members of other organizations involved in fair activities e.g., Friends of the Fair or Livestock Committee unless they are appointed as a representative of that organization under section A and/or F. If they are serving a term with these other organizations at the time of

their appointment to the Fair Committee, they will step down from the other committees within 30 days of appointment. If the committee member does not step down within 30 days of appointment, they will be removed from the Fair Committee.

Are you a current voting member or executive board member of other organizations involved in fair activities e.g., Friends of the Fair or Livestock Committee?

Yes

No

If yes, list the organization and if are you willing to step down within 30 days of being appointed to this committee.

If selected, how would you work to better our community?



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ("MOU") BETWEEN EAU CLAIRE COUNTY THROUGH ITS EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE, THE FAIR COMMITTEE, AND THE FRIENDS OF THE FAIR FOR OPERATION AND MONETARY SUPPORT OF THE EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FAIR**

**I. PARTIES**

This Agreement is between Eau Claire County, Wisconsin, a quasi-municipal corporation, ("County"), through the Eau Claire County Extension Education Committee (hereinafter "Extension Education Committee") and its sub-committee, the Eau Claire County Fair Committee (hereinafter "Fair Committee") located at 721 Oxford Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54703 with the Eau Claire County Friends of the Fair (hereinafter "FOF"), located at PO Box 434, Augusta, WI 54722.

**II. TERM OF MOU**

Services under this Agreement shall commence upon the approval and signature of all parties for the 2024 Eau Claire County Fair. Thereafter, by mutual agreement the parties may extend the term of this MOU for one (1) additional successive two (2) year term commencing upon the expiration of the initial term.

Parties may by mutual agreement terminate or modify said MOU upon any substantial change to the bylaws or committee structure.

Said MOU may be terminated upon breach of the other party by 30-day written notice.

**III. PURPOSE OF MOU**

The purpose of this MOU is to agree on responsibilities for all parties regarding the Eau Claire County Fair organization, operation, and payment of all expenses relating to the Fair.

**IV. RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Parties agree:

1. The Fair Committee operates the Eau Claire County Fair and is responsible for all Bylaws, rules, policy, and approval of contracts for the Fair.
2. The Eau Claire County Fair Committee is a working committee comprised of volunteer members providing hands-on assistance in the production of the annual County Fair. Members are organized and given terms to limit conflicts of interest and ensure diversity among membership.
3. Terms: The Extension Committee appointed an entirely new Fair Committee Board for the 2024 Eau Claire County Fair. One half of the newly elected board shall serve a one-year term. One half of the newly elected non-youth board shall serve a two-year term. Thereinafter, said election, non-youth Fair Committee members shall serve two-year alternating terms; youth members shall serve a one-year term. The current Bylaws for the 2024 Eau Claire County Fair describe the makeup of the Fair

Committee as the following: Two (2) non-voting members and nine (9) voting members created from the following:

- a) The 4-H Program Educator as a non-voting member.
  - b) The Fair Coordinator is appointed by the Friends of the Fair, as a non-voting member.
  - c) One (1) member who is either an FFA or agricultural teacher (active or retired); a FFA Alumni; or a member of a livestock group such as Wisconsin Simmental Association, Wisconsin Pork Producers, or Eau Claire County Livestock Project. This person will act as the Livestock Liaison between the Fair Committee and the livestock project.
  - d) Two (2) youth members, of which one must represent the Expo exhibits i.e., photography, arts & crafts, etc. and one must represent livestock exhibits.
  - e) One (1) member of the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors, serving on the Extension Committee, to be appointed by the Extension Committee.
  - f) Two (2) members who are employed by a business or a representative of a youth service agency or organization that provides services to youth such as the Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.
  - g) Two (2) members who are citizens at large and who have an interest in the fair.
  - h) One (1) member who is a member of the Friends of the Fair, other than the Fair Coordinator or One (1) member who is a member of the 4-H Leaders Association.
4. All Fair Committee meetings are open to the public, have time allotted for public input and agenda and minutes are posted at least, but not less than, 24 hours before the public meeting.
  4. Per Eau Claire County Code 2.04.450, the Extension Education Committee has oversight of its sub-committees.
  5. The Extension Committee shall be responsible to the county board for the departmental policy and oversight of the county extension department and its board authorized functions, including the Eau Claire County Junior Fair Committee.
  6. The committee shall exercise those powers and duties authorized under Wis. Stat. § 59.56(3). All agreements under Wis. Stat. § 59.56(3)(c) 2., shall be approved by the county administrator.

7. The Fair Committee is a sub-committee of the Extension Education Committee.
8. The Eau Claire County Fair is thus overseen by Eau Claire County.
9. Friends of the Fair (FOF) is a not for profit 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to secure the resources needed to provide the financial stability that will assure the future of the Eau Claire County Fair as a family and youth focused community event. FOF receives and disperses funds to operate and support the Fair through donations, fees, and sponsorships.
10. Donations, fees, and sponsorships for the Fair are paid directly to FOF.
11. Premium dollars paid through the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (hereinafter "DATCP") as well as administration of those dollars are the responsibility of the FOF. The FOF shall administer all payments for pre-fair and fair premium events, as dictated by the DATCP, which governs Wisconsin county fairs. The FOF shall be responsible for making the appropriate payments for judges, awards, operating supplies, extra help, and other expenses.
12. FOF shall be responsible for providing a written financial accounting for the Eau Claire County Fair. This may include but is not limited to profit and loss statements, balance sheets, expense reports, and/or income tax returns. A yearly preliminary report shall be provided to the Fair Committee and Extension Committee during the September meetings. A yearly final written report shall be provided to the Extension Committee during the December Extension Committee meeting.

**V. RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FAIR EXPENSES**

For services rendered under this contract, the Fair Committee shall have authority to approve all contracts over one-thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) associated with the fair prior to presenting the contracts to FOF. Once approved by the Fair Committee, FOF will be given the approved contract for release of payment. The FOF shall pay:

1. Rental of Exposition Center Facilities.
2. Approved operating costs associated with the Fair.
3. Eau Claire County shall annually provide ten-thousand dollars (\$10,000) in funding to the FOF for the Eau Claire County Fair as described in article II. The \$10,000 in funds are provided by Eau Claire County are specifically for the rental of the Exposition Center, tent rental, and sanitation for the Eau Claire County Fair.

**VI.** Eau Claire County is not responsible for any expenses, direct payments, or invoices regarding the Eau Claire County Fair, including items cited in V (3).

**VII. CANCELLATION OF FUNDING**

For any year in which FOF does not hold the Eau Claire County Fair, rent the expo center, or is in breach of this contract, Eau Claire County is not required to submit funding to FOF.

**VIII. NOTICES**

Notices required or deemed advisable under this Agreement shall be placed in writing and delivered personally or by registered or certified mail upon the "County" to: Eau Claire County Administrator, 721 Oxford Avenue, Suite 3520, Eau Claire, WI 54703 and upon the "FOF" to: Friends of Fair, President, P.O. Box 434, Augusta, WI 54722.

All parties are required to notify each other of any address change.

**IX. MUTUAL INDEMNIFICATION**

The parties agree to fully indemnify and hold one another harmless from and against all claims, actions, judgements, costs, and expenses, arising of damages or injuries to third persons of their property, caused by the fault of negligence of the said party, its agents, or employees, in performance of this Agreement. The parties shall give each other prompt and reasonable notice of any such claims or actions and the other party shall have the right to investigate, compromise and defend the same.

**X. LIABILITY**

It is mutually agreed by the "County" and FOF that, as related to this Agreement, any loss or expense or resultant legal liability, involving personal injury or property damage, will be the responsibility of the party whose officer, employee or agent may have caused the loss or expense by his or her respective actions, acts, activities, or omissions which occurred or may occur in connection with this agreement.

**XI. WAIVER OF BREACHES**

No waiver of any breaches of this Agreement shall be held to be a waiver of any other or any subsequent breaches. All remedies afforded in this Agreement shall be considered a cumulative and in addition to any other remedies provided by law.

**XII. SEVERABILITY**

Should any article or any part of any article of this Agreement be rendered void, invalid or unenforceable by the court of law, for any reason, such a determination shall not render void, invalid or unenforceable any other article or part of any article in this Agreement.

**XIII. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

The laws of the State of Wisconsin shall govern this Contract and executed amendments thereto. Venue for all legal proceedings arising out of this Contract, or breach thereof, shall be exclusively in Eau Claire County Circuit Court, Eau Claire, WI.

#### **XIV. SECTION HEADINGS**

The headings of the several sections and any table of contents appended hereto, shall be solely for convenience of reference and shall not affect the meaning, construction, or effect hereof.

#### **XV. STATUTORY PROTECTIONS**

It is agreed by the parties that nothing in this Contract, including but not limited to indemnification and hold harmless clauses, shall in anyway constitute a waiver on the part of the "County" of any immunity, liability limitation or other protection available to the "County" under any applicable statute or other law. To the extent that any provision of this contract is found by any court of competent jurisdiction conflict with any such legal protection, then whichever protections, either statutory or contractual, provide a greater benefit to the "County" shall apply unless the "County" elects otherwise.

#### **XVI. PUBLIC RECORDS LAW**

Both parties understand that the "County" is bound by the public records law, and as such, all terms of this agreement are subject to and conditioned on the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 19.31 et seq. "FOF" acknowledges that it is obligated to assist the "County" in retaining and producing records that are subject to Wisconsin Public Records law, and that the failure to do so will constitute a material breach of this agreement, and that they "FOF" must defend and hold the "County" harmless from liability under that law. Except as otherwise authorized, those records shall be maintained for a period of seven (7) years after receipt of final payment under this agreement.

#### **XVII. NON-ASSIGNMENT OF AGREEMENT**

The parties agree that there shall be no assignment of transfer of this Agreement, nor of any interests, rights or responsibilities contained herein, except as agreed it in writing.

#### **XVIII. MODIFICATIONS TO AGREEMENT**

There shall be no modifications to this Agreement, except in writing, signed by all parties.

#### **XIX. INTEGRATION OF AGREEMENT**

The entire agreement of the parties is contained herein, and this Agreement supersedes all previous MOUs and agreements, whether written or oral and all negotiations as well as any previous agreements presently in effect between the "FOF" and the "County" relating to the subject matter of the MOU.

**XX. AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT**

By signing below, the parties affirm and acknowledge that they have read and understand this Agreement and its attachments, if any, consisting of six (6) typewritten pages; they have authority to enter into this Agreement on behalf of the entity, corporation, or County they are signing for; they are knowingly, freely, and voluntarily entering into this Agreement; and that they accept and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of this Agreement and its attachments, if any, as outlined in this Agreement.

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY BY:**

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Kathryn Schauf, Date  
County Administrator

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Steve Erdman, Date  
President of Friends of the Fair

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Missy Christopherson, Date  
Chair of Extension Education Committee

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Traci Martinson, Date  
Chair of the Fair Committee

## Agriculture

For updated Valley E-Newsletters click [here](#)

### Lyssa Seefeldt | Regional Dairy Educator



Planning for development of factsheets/articles, longer publications, and videos on nutrition, genetics, & reproduction topics. The goal of this effort is to increase farmer, nutritionist, veterinarian, and other agribusiness professionals' understanding of management of these topics to help improve farm sustainability and economic viability.

Dairy e-newsletter for farmers, nutritionists, veterinarians, other agribusiness professionals, and other interested individuals to inform participants of new dairy management articles/factsheets, connect with dairy educators, and learn about upcoming programming to help them learn about new research and management techniques to improve their overall farm sustainability.

### Jerry Clark | Regional Crops & Soils Educator



A field event for beef farmers and pasture managers where participants learned cattle health, handling management, and pasture and soil management to improve beef cattle health, farmer safety, and pasture and soil management to increase beef and pasture production efficiency and improve farm profitability. The goal of the program is to increase knowledge and improve understanding of beef herd health and pasture management practices.

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 N management practices to optimize economic return, improve efficiency of N fertilizer resulting in more sustainable corn production and farm profitability.

## Horticulture

### Margaret Murphy | Horticulture Educator



A presentation about the benefits of gardening for the first annual Age Your Way Conference in Chippewa Falls, where participants learned and discussed how gardening is a great way to incorporate many mental, physical, and social benefits into your life. This effort was designed to encourage people to include plants and gardening in their lifestyle to experience many of these benefits.

A 2023-2024 horticulture-inspired program with ADRC-Eau Claire for people living with dementia and their care partners offers hands-on, nature-inspired experiences that provide opportunities to stimulate the senses, enjoy social interactions, and provide physical activity and the use of fine motor skills while imparting a sense of purpose.

A winter garden program for youth in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley Menomonie Center. The goal of this effort is to teach and inspire young kids about garden-related topics through hands-on activities and get them ready for spring gardening.

## Community Development

Vacant

## Health & Well-Being

Sandy Tarter  
FoodWise Coordinator



Joy Weisner  
FoodWise Educator



Jael M. Wolf  
Bilingual FoodWise Educator



A collaborative effort with Chronic Disease Prevention Action Team under the Eau Claire Health Alliance to promote the 2023-2024 Winter Wellness Initiative. This effort helps promote community engagement that includes increased physical activity as an action step to reduce chronic diseases.

Provided advisory oversight and letter of support to Master Gardeners Association for their KidsGardening Grant application. This funding would contribute to their 2-year project to replace raised beds and enhance the watering system for the North River Fronts Kids Garden where FoodWise provides programming to the Boys and Girls Club youth.

Provided support and local farmers market data to the statewide GusNIP planning committee. This is a federal grant application effort to acquire a nutrition incentive match for FoodShare eligible families purchasing fruits and vegetables at the Eau Claire Downtown Farmers Market.

A 6-week nutrition education series to 3rd graders at River Heights Elementary to learn about the importance of eating five food groups, physical activity, and included hands-on activities. This effort was designed to encourage students to try more fruits and vegetables at each meal.

A 6-week nutrition education series for 1st graders in River Heights, Flynn, and Longfellow Elementary. The goal of this effort is for students to learn about eating healthy, being active, exploring fruits and vegetables, and the importance of handwashing.

A 4-lesson series for women in LSS Affinity House addiction treatment program where they learn about nutrition and food resource management principles. The goal of this effort is to help limited resource participants make healthy food choices on a budget.



### Margo Dieck | Health and Well-Being Educator



Meetings with Eau Claire Extension colleagues to learn more about who they are, the work they do, and opportunities for collaboration between programs. Discussion also included talking about the mental health trends they see in the work they do and gathering a list of partners and community meetings to explore.

### Positive Youth Development

#### Rachel Hart-Brinson | 4-H Program Educator



Writing and revising a weaving curriculum. This curriculum is to fill a need for project learning in fiber arts to support young people who have a spark in art or fiber.

Planning for a Virtual Cultural Baking program. This series engages young people in the Spark of baking, teaches different baking techniques, and provides opportunities to discuss cultures around the world.

The Annual 4-H Awards Banquet was held Dec 3. The Awards banquet is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the work of young people and volunteers over the past year to provide a positive youth development experience. Partners in 4-H, Distinguished Leaders, and other volunteers were recognized. Youth were awarded scholarships for educational experiences and clubs were recognized for their good work over the year.

A Houseplant Project workshop that incorporated youth teaching. This meeting allowed young people to practice sharing knowledge and provided participants with information on how to care for and practice propagating house plants.

Developing a GooseChase game in partnership with two high school students to provide an engaging experience for young people and their families and build engagement across the county.

Meetings with Eau Claire Area School District and the Altoona School District to discuss partnerships in providing Juntos programming to meet the needs of Spanish-speaking families and provide a positive youth development opportunity for young people and increase families' sense of belonging.

A Speaking Contest was held for Dunn, Eau Claire, and Chippewa Counties. Youth participated in a variety of events that allowed them to improve their public speaking and presentation skills. They were given feedback which celebrated their strengths and provided education on areas to improve. Awards were given to the top speakers in each category.

Planning for a refresher of the Building Safe Spaces training for 4-H volunteers. The goal of this effort is to develop a short, interactive training course for volunteers that will refresh them on the content of the original Building Safe Spaces training. The content of this training is important for volunteers because it helps us ensure a safe space for youth to participate and aligns with the Youth Protection policy.

### Area Extension Director

Kristen Bruder | Eau Claire, Chippewa, 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.*

### Value Added Programming

*Facilitation of monthly meetings of the Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition. The goal is to implement a watershed plan aimed at improving the water quality in the Eau Claire River Watershed. (Daniel Zerr)*

*Technical assistance for a partnership group (Rain to Rivers) which raises awareness and encourages action to reduce stormwater impacts. The goal of this effort is to increase storm water management awareness and implementation. (Daniel Zerr)*

*Facilitation of bimonthly meetings of the Red Cedar River Water Quality Partnership, with the goal to implement a ten-year watershed plan aimed at improving the water quality and soil health of the Red Cedar River Watershed. (Daniel Zerr)*

*A series of 3 county steering committee meetings, outreach activities and research projects intended to create a community health needs assessment which will inform community priorities and activities in the coming years. (Luisa Gerasimo)*

*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. (Jeanne Walsh)*

*Educational programming as part of a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant supporting underserved HMoob and marginalized small farmers in Western Wisconsin, where participants learn about the importance of food safety, soil health, and gain awareness of farm agencies and food-business resources. The goals are to reduce challenges and barriers to support and expand underserved HMoob farm operations through good agricultural practices and economic growth. (Addison Vang)*

*An all-day educational event for new farmers, part-time and full-time operators, low-income startups, graziers and non-graziers featuring guest speakers, farmer/local resources panel, commercial and agency exhibitors, and farmer-to-farmer networking with emphasis on grazing fundamentals, cattle stockmanship and handling facilities, wildlife and grazing ecology and future grazing opportunities and programs. The goal is for people to be*

# Extension Eau Claire County

## December 2023 Report

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*able to make informed decisions about the pros and cons of grazing, and to meet other people with similar interests and goals related to grazing and pasture management. (Kevin Schoessow)*

*A live, on-line meeting series, for farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned the latest research and applications regarding effective animal handling and the impact that plays on efficiency on the farm. The goal of this effort was to increase knowledge of the latest UW-Madison research and provide a comprehensive understanding of effective dairy animal handling, grouping strategies and their impact on efficiency in the parlor and beyond. (Jackie Mccarville)*

*A meeting series for crop farmers and ag professionals, where they learned about crop insurance and grain marketing, crop input planning, farmland rental rates and lease agreements, and ag income taxes. These meetings were designed to assist crop farmers in identifying strengths and weaknesses of their farm business to assist them in making decisions that will improve their farm profitability. (Katie Wantoch)*

*A pasture walk on an organic dairy farm was held for local dairy producers to learn about sustainable practices in pasture management and the management of pasture grazed dairy cows and replacements. (Matt Lippert)*