



Dashboard Report

January 2026 - March 2026

This dashboard provides a snapshot of how Extension is connecting with community members through both in person and online engagement across the county and region. These numbers reflect the frequency and breadth of those connections rather than unique individuals or depth of impact, and should be considered alongside program outcomes to fully understand Extension's value.

142	Number of coalition, partner, and workgroup meetings
134	Number of presentations, programs (online and face to face), and outreach events
4,070	Number of participants served in presentations, programs (online and face to face), and outreach events
236	Number of public requests for information from the Dunn Extension Office
Online Presence - Newsletters <i>Clover Courier: Is a monthly 4-H newsletter that is distributed to 1.8K subscribers.</i> <i>Tri-County Connection: Is a quarterly newsletter to distributed to 1.5K subscribers</i> <i>Extension in the Valley: Is a monthly newsletter dedicated to agriculture and horticulture, distributed to 1K subscribers.</i> <i>Family & Relationships Newsletter: Is a quarterly newsletter delivered to 174 members of the community.</i> - Social Media <i>Dunn County 4-H Facebook: 35.5 K Views, 16 New Followers, 830 Total Followers, 465 Content Interactions</i> <i>Dunn County Extension Facebook: 12.2K Views, 24 New Followers, 996 Total Followers, 229 Content Interactions</i>	



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Upcoming Events:

- Parasite patrol plus FAMACHA (sheep and goat workshop) - April 25 Govin's Farm
- [Central Wisconsin Housing Summit](#), Steven's Point, April 15
- "Fathers Communicate" meets April 14th, Luisa is co-facilitating this class, a part of [Focus on Fathers Series](#) which offers a new online topic each month
- Parents Forever, a three to four hour court-ordered local co-parenting class May 21
- Question Thinking Workshop for Dunn Co. DHS staff April 16
- [Transitioning to Native Plantings Conference](#) May 16 CVTC Energy Center
- [Academy for Lifelong Learners](#) June 2 UWEC
- Pollinators at Lake Wissota State Park June 27

Agriculture

Jerry Clark | *Regional Crops & Soils Educator*



Sign up to receive the Extension in the Valley agriculture and horticulture e-newsletter [HERE](#).

A summit for community members where participants learned about surface and groundwater quality and effects on human health and the environment to make decisions to keep themselves safe and protect the environment.

A training program for private applicators where participants learned about safe handling and application of restricted-use pesticides to protect themselves and the environment.

A training session for manure applicators and farmers where participants learn to apply manure safely and accurately to keep themselves safe, protect the environment, and increase farm profitability.



A presentation for the UW-Madison Alumni Association San Diego Chapter as part of Founder's Day Celebrations where members learned about research with malting barley and hops for the craft brewing industry to increase knowledge about Extension's work and connect with UW-Madison alumni in San Diego.

Spotlight

Ground and surface water quality is a significant concern in Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire counties,

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where up to 20% of private wells exceed safe nitrate levels. A Healthy Water Summit brought together 59 community members to increase awareness of how land use impacts water quality and to highlight local resources for protecting human and environmental health. Post-event evaluations showed increased knowledge and strong interest in taking personal and community action, with plans underway for future educational efforts.

Ryan Sterry | Regional Livestock Educator



An outreach and public relations effort for farmers where farmers and general public increased awareness of extension resources to connect and build relationships and improve their lives and farms. (In collaboration with: Amber Gilles, Bill Halfman, Deanna Wiersgalla, Jeanne Walsh, Jerry Clark, Joy Weisner, Kristen Bruder, Kristin Peterson, Margaret Murphy, Margo Dieck, Teal Polzin, & Zachary Rozmiarek)

A presentation to the Chippewa Valley Bankers Association, where lending professionals learned about farm demographics, trends, and production outlook in the Chippewa Valley (with Jerry Clark).

A presentation for Agricultural Education students at UW-River Falls, where members learned about dairy and livestock programming, Extension career paths, and increased knowledge about Extension's work and mission.

An on-farm meeting with small ruminant producers, where participants learned about improving health and nutrition before weaning in goat kids (with Carolyn Ihde)

Spotlight

The Chippewa Valley Bankers Association reached out for a presentation on the local agricultural economy and agriculture industry trends. The association also wanted a discussion on the outlook for commodity markets. A Chippewa Valley Agriculture Outlook was provided by Ryan Sterry and Jerry Clark to discuss the current economic state of Chippewa Valley Agriculture. Topics discussed included current Chippewa Valley farm demographics in Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire Counties from the 2022 Census of Agriculture. Topics also included current corn, soybean, dairy, and livestock market prices and trends, technology adoption and cost of production. Thirty-three Chippewa Valley Banker Association members attended the presentation. An email received from one of the coordinators of the event stated, "Thank you both again for coming. Very informative and timely information."



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Horticulture

Margaret Murphy | *Regional Horticulture Educator*

Extension in the Valley agriculture and horticulture e-newsletter, view newsletters [HERE](#).



A garden program for garden club members that addressed garden undertakings now and before spring planting. The discussion included soil preparation such as soil testing and adding soil amendments; mulches, composting and what to plant when. This effort was designed to promote and/or remind gardeners of best practices when getting their gardens ready for the gardening season.

A program on container gardening for the public on how one can grow flowers, herbs, vegetables, or even some fruits in containers. Topics included selecting containers, growing mixes, plant care and container design. This effort was to promote gardening to suit many tastes even when space or mobility is limited.

A nature-based activity for people living with dementia and their care partners where individuals engaged in an activity to learn about owls found in Western Wisconsin. This effort was designed for participants to learn about the fascinating lives of owls, what makes them different from other raptors and encourage participants to spend time outdoors looking and listening for owls and other birds.

A presentation for the public on how individual landscaping decisions play an important role in the health of our water resources. Participants learned how rainfall and surface runoff moving across the landscape can carry soil particles, excess nutrients, and contaminants into nearby rivers, streams, and lakes, adversely affecting water quality. This effort was designed to raise awareness about these issues while offering practical strategies for homeowners to help reduce runoff, and capture rainwater, slowing its movement to allow greater absorption into the ground. These approaches not only help protect local waterways but also promote healthier, more sustainable home landscapes.

A garden program for the Dunn County HCE where participants learn about a variety of houseplants with a focus on succulents. This effort is designed to help participants understand the specific needs of indoor plants and help support good practices with plant selection and plant care.

A gardening activity for youth where participants started a small garden in a pot and learned how to care for their container plants and explored the important role plants play in our everyday lives. This effort was designed to help engage youth in gardening, participate in positive socialization and understand the many benefits gardening and plants offer.



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A garden program for the public that focuses on accessible and adaptive gardening strategies, to help people of all abilities continue to enjoy gardening as their needs change over time. Participants learn creative, practical ways to stay connected to gardening at every stage of life.

Community Development

Garret Zastoupil | *Regional Community & Leadership Development Educator*



Planning for a regional satellite site for the Center for Community and Nonprofit Studies (CommNS) semi-annual conference for community leaders and nonprofit professionals in collaboration with Clear Vision Eau Claire. The goal is to provide local access to statewide plenary sessions paired with interactive regional workshops, so that Chippewa Valley organizations can build their capacity for positive community change without the barriers of travel. (Planning with: Elizabeth Mccrank, & Sarah Schlosser)

Planning for a Business Model Canvas workshop for women in agriculture in collaboration with regional crops and livestock educators and the statewide Farm Pulse project. The goal is to provide entrepreneurs with a creative, iterative framework to strategize business growth and connect them with cross-institute Extension resources, so that they can strengthen their farm businesses and build a foundation for formal business planning in a fluctuating market. (With: Teal Polzin)

Planning for a leadership development program for local government employees in collaboration with HR leaders and city and county officials. The goal is to identify and leverage existing resources to design a comprehensive program framework, so that local governments can build organizational capacity, foster positive workplace cultures, and attract and retain the talent necessary to effectively meet the public's needs.

Spotlight

This initiative began with a request from Eau Claire County Human Resources to explore leadership development resources amid widespread retirements, limited training budgets, and workplace culture challenges impacting retention. In response, Extension conducted a statewide survey through the Wisconsin Counties Association to identify gaps and needs. A regional team of local government leaders is now developing a cost-effective framework to strengthen leadership capacity, improve workplace culture, and support succession planning.



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Health and Well-Being

Sandy Tarter

FoodWise Coordinator



Joy Weisner

FoodWise Educator



Collaboration with the Eau Claire Downtown Farmers Market and Menomonie Farmers Market to introduce the Double Up Food Bucks program to their teams and local vendors at their spring meeting. This program will support sustainability with the Market Match program, infuse added value to vendors, and increase food access to people with FoodShare.

Planning for the Farm Fresh Produce Program in collaboration with Chippewa County Public Health-Nutrition Division staff. The goal is to expand the Farm Fresh Produce program where pantry participants will have increased access to produce from local farmers.

Reviewed and updated the 2021 Hunger Prevention Coalition contact list of 85+ former participants to support my HWB colleague's outreach for the upcoming (May) 2026 Partnership Summit: Building a Unified Strategy for the Chippewa Valley.

Collaborating efforts with Positive Youth Development (PYD)/4-H Educator and HWB Educator to collect nutrition tips/healthy recipes/physical activity information that can be shared with families facing mental health challenges to be shared with local Chippewa Valley agency partners.

Weekly meetings with WI Nutrition Incentive Network and Double Up Food Bucks team to bring state funding for nutrition incentives to area farmers markets offering a Market Match/Double Bucks program. This effort will help support families with FoodShare to access fresh fruits and vegetables.



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Human Development and Relationships

Luisa Gerasimo | *Human Development and Relationships Educator*



I was invited to provide a **stress-relief presentation for Hmong elders** where participants learned about stress, both positive and negative and were provided an opportunity to practice stress reduction techniques to reduce the negative impacts of stress.



This month I launched a cooperative project (with our local libraries and our county play group) that will supply free **children's book bins in local laundromats**. The goal is to help families access books, increase time spent reading to children, and point local families to resources available via Extension Family Engagement and Relationships and local libraries.



Making Reading Memories is provided for selected parents in jail. The parents learn about the importance of reading to and interacting with their children. They select a book from a collection provided by grant funding and then 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.

Fathers in Focus is a monthly parenting program open to all. In April I will be co-facilitating a course on the importance of communication. Participants learn skills to build their children's social and emotional learning. This series is designed to improve understanding of positive parenting practices, while providing social connections for fathers and father figures. (With: Pattie Carroll, Adam Trunzo, Amanda Griswold, Beverly Doll, Bob Wiegel, Heidi Ungrodt, Mary Campbell Wood, Renee Koenig, Truong Tran)

Resilient Co-Parenting is a monthly topic-specific series for parents and caregivers experiencing separation, divorce, or changes in the custody of their children, where they learn skills to improve communication and problem-solving, support children emotionally, and keep kids out of the middle of conflict. This series is designed to improve understanding of positive parenting practices that are useful during stress, while providing social connection for parents experiencing family transitions. (In collaboration with: Hannah Zellmer, Adam Trunzo, Amanda Griswold, Beverly Doll, Heidi Ungrodt, Jill Vanairsdale, Kaera Aubart, Mary Campbell Wood, Missy Bablick, Renee Koenig, Todd Wenzel, Tracy Henegar)



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Spotlight

The leader of the Hmong Friendship Center requested assistance in responding to high stress levels in the Hmong community of elders that he supports. I researched how the Hmong people define or explain stress and worked with the leader of the Hmong Friendship Center to design a short and simple program to help elders learn and practice stress relief measures. The program was offered by me in English, and the director of the program interpreted my words into Hmong. The program had to be designed to be less detailed to provide the time for interpretation. Hmong elders were able to learn about stress, discuss where stress is felt in the body and then learned several techniques, including guided breathing, to cope with stress. The leader of the group asked me to return in two weeks to provide reinforcement to the lesson. In the second session we focused on how using your hands to create something can reduce feelings of stress. Elders made sculptures from play dough, colored mandalas, used fidgets and spent time chatting while sharing supplies.

Positive Youth Development

Zachary Rozmiarek | 4-H Program Educator



The April Clover Courier can be viewed [HERE](#).

"Around the World in 80 Minutes" the Dunn County Spring Break Stay-cation was held in Menomonie. Youth "traveled" to seven different locations around the globe where they learned about culture, landmarks, and traditions. They made a

craft at each station that they took home with them. This program was planned and presented by Ann Lee, the 4-H assistant.



Dunn County 4-H is collaborating with The Neighbors of Dunn County on a new program called Generation Celebration. 4-H youth will learn interviewing and public speaking skills. They will use those skills to interview a resident at The Neighbors and present their story. Currently, we have met with the Neighbor's staff, set up a schedule, and promoted the event.

A meeting was held to organize a rabbit agility project. The idea was brought up a few years ago, but it didn't gain much traction. We met to set up a practice schedule and decide details about the competition that will take place during the fair. Since this is new to Dunn County, we were able to have

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the youth have a voice in the planning process. This not only gives them an opportunity to gain skills working with their animal, but also a chance to lead and make decisions.

The sessions for Art U 2026 have begun! This program is a collaboration between Area 6 4-H and UW-Stout Art Education Department. There are 8 Art Education students from UW- Stout that are presenting lessons to the 4-H youth. The majority of the lessons are presented online with the exception being that the members who are in 7th grade and older receive their lessons in person on the UW Stout Campus. The online format removes barriers to participation which is why this is the largest program that is offered to youth from all three counties in the area (Dunn, Eau Claire, Chippewa). It also gives valuable virtual teaching experience to the UW-Stout interns.

Value Added Programming

A four part Focus on Forage webinar series for forage growers, livestock producers, agency staff and agricultural consultants where research based forage management solutions are shared to optimize forage yield and quality to improve animal performance and overall farm profitability. (Liz Gartman)

Area Extension Director

Kristen Bruder | *Area Extension Director – Dunn, Chippewa, and Eau Claire Counties*



Please reach out with questions and ideas. The role of the AED is much like the department head in the county. 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.

Upcoming events

[Event Calendar – Extension](#)

Extension in the News

Livestock Program: [Cattle Feeders Workshop](#)

Human Development & Relationships: [Feeling Stressed? Join WeCOPE](#), [Raising a Thinking Child Class](#),

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[Emotional Regulation in Action](#)