



4-H Program/Community Youth Development Educator

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Project Discovery Days!

Additional exploration opportunities across Area 2...

Collaborative work has increased opportunities for members and families in Barron, Burnett, Rusk, Sawyer and Washburn counties! Participants have indicated that they value these programs and would like them to continue. During the months of January, February, and March we offered programming for K-2 grade (Cloverbuds), all ages (Card Making), and 5-8 grade (Mining).



Junior Leaders in Action

The Junior Leaders donated another cart full of warm blankets to the [Rusk County, WI Sheriff's Office](#) and [Ladysmith Police Department](#) with the help of the community! Some were even hand quilted. May these blankets provide not only warmth but comfort to those who receive them.



Breanne taught 2 sessions for Livestock Members. Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a national multi-species quality assurance program for youth ages 8 to 21 with a focus on three core pillars: food safety, animal well-being, and character development.



Annual Leader Training – Learn Together, Lead Together: Equal Voices, Roles and Participation

Each year, chartered clubs and groups are required to attend an annual leader training. This year's theme was: **Learn Together, Lead Together: Youth-Adult Partnerships!** This was broken into 2 sessions. Breanne was on the planning committee and helped deliver the 2nd training and hosted an in-person site for Rusk County club and group leaders to attend. Leaders left with ideas to use in growing youth adult-partnerships in clubs and the community.

Winter Family Fun Day – at Trails End Camp



All five counties in Area 2 participated in **Winter Family Fun Day** which took place at Trails End Camp in Bruce. The project was supported by youth leadership from Rusk County, as well as county educators. Families could learn about our natural resource projects and were able to identify Wisconsin trees in the winter - while snowshoeing on a guided walk! During a reflection, youth and families described what they learned and found value in this outdoor learning opportunity. Families look forward to using the resources provided which included a winter tree identification book, and a local resource created by Anna DeMers that included pictures of tree species taken in our local areas. This event will be held in a different county each year.

Winners announced from Parent/Leader Banquet

Leader of the Year – Elisha Augustine
Business Friend of 4-H – Little L Dairy Supply
Business Friend of 4-H – Kwik Trip of Ladysmith
Friend of 4-H – Zenny & Donna Mahun



Breanne has also been developing a resource for new and current statewide audiences that supports and promotes **Virtual Learning Community** submissions including: curation of website resources, presenter mentorship, and new outreach efforts. The goal is to increase access to content and experiences that meet youth needs to build relationships, connect, and learn. Breanne is also involved with the Program Quality group that is made up of a few groups to enhance the quality of programming that is being delivered not only statewide but countywide. Breanne is involved in designing, developing and implementing relevant and ongoing opportunities for youth and families to engage in and strengthen the understanding of 4-H values. This **Wisconsin 4-H Movement** is to help youth understand the values of *being yourself, belonging together, building connections, discovering skills, exploring new opportunities and giving back to your community*. She is also involved with the Club Leader Support group which is currently working on releasing a new set of sample bylaws for clubs to use.

Upcoming in Rusk County Positive Youth Development!

- **Youth in Governance:** Breanne has been actively recruiting for youth on the County Board as the term for the current youth in the program's term will end on March 31st.
- **All Things Spring:** She is planning for All Things Spring for the month of April with 24 youth that signed up.
- **Summer Camp:** Summer Camp is just around the corner and planning is in full swing! Currently, we are partnering with Sawyer County to reinstate overnight 4-H camp at Trails End in Rusk County. Youth have an opportunity to participate as camp counselors if they are 8th grade and older while the younger youth will be able to attend as campers.
- **Discover WI:** This summer Rusk County 4-H as well as Sawyer, Barron, Washburn and Burnett counties will be providing **Discovery Wisconsin** for youth in grades 6th-10th grades in which they will travel to the Green Bay area and create educational experiences outside of their local county. The 4-H/PYD educators are working on the itinerary. This will be a two day/one night experience for youth.
- **Youth Leadership Training Retreat:** The Youth Leadership Training Retreat will provide a fun yet informative way for youth to develop their leadership skills while learning about prevention. By building leadership skills and providing positive youth development we can give youth the tools they need to be able to make positive decisions. We hope to reenergize our youth and help them make connections with each other and positive role models in our community. This will take place at the end of July.

Intern Update: Alissa was with us for the month of January and will be returning in May to intern with Breanne again this summer. During her time in January, she spent a lot of time reorganizing the office in order to inventory supplies, prepare for summer programming and create efficiencies. During this time, we also moved some offices around in order to better serve the public and provide a better welcoming environment. Not only did all of this get done, but our basement area was gone through and reorganized also! Alissa also spent time updating marketing materials and updating club and group lists that are not out-facing to the public. The office looks forward to having Alissa back for the summer!



FoodWise



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Learn Grow Give:

Collaboration is beginning with Rusk County 4-H and the Rusk County Community Garden to develop a program to encourage 4-H members who want to learn to garden! This will give 4-H families the opportunity to participate in the garden, even if they do not have the resources to do so. Their learning and participation will glean them fresh produce to share with their family and show at the fair. We are looking forward to seeing success in this endeavor!

RUSK COUNTY GARDEN
LEARN • GROW • GIVE
4-Part Mini Gardener Series

OPEN TO ALL YOUTH | COST \$5
(donation includes)

Rusk Community Garden Volunteers will provide hands on demonstrations and learning activities that are sure to be a hit with young "budding" gardeners and their adult guests. All youth participants will receive their own plant journal, seeds and other needed materials.

PART 1 Understanding the Needs of a Seed! Learn everything you need to know about growing and starting seeds by starting your own mini-greenhouse AND helping to start seeds for the Rusk Community Garden! April 30 at 10AM Rusk County Sr./Youth Center	PART 2 Growing Environment Learn about growing, what to watch for, and when you can start enjoying your mini-greenhouse crop. May 21 at 10AM Virtual check-in via Zoom
PART 3 Planting & Maintenance Help us plant at the Community Garden and learn about planting and maintaining your plants! Saturday, June 11 at 10AM Rusk Community Garden	PART 4 Harvesting Learn about harvesting your garden plants and tips and tricks for showing vegetables at the Rusk County Jr. Fair! Saturday, July 16 10:00 AM Rusk Community Garden

All Participants will have the opportunity to help at the Rusk Community garden. Anyone interested in learning more, but doesn't have a garden space to grow can use the community plot.

REGISTER BY APRIL 15
Register here: <https://go.wisc.edu/478534>
REGISTER EARLY, LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE
 Questions? Contact Kathy Splett: 715-537-6250 or kathy.splett@wisc.edu

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Come & Join Us
Meet other WIC moms and learn about kids developing good eating habits!

'Zooming' WIC Moms with UW-Extension

THURSDAY, JUNE 2
1:30 PM VIA ZOOM

"Zooming' WIC Moms with Extension"

FoodWise is partnering with WIC (Women, Infants and Children) to teach classes for mothers of small children. This Zoom platform offers moms the opportunity to be able to conveniently attend a class quarterly, to learn about child nutrition, get to know other moms and have fun without the cost of a sitter.



Community Garden: Plans are underway to purchase and construct a garden shed with shelving to store our supplies. A grant was received by Marshfield Clinic Health System, which will also allow us to purchase fertilizer for our garden with these funds.

Do you want a garden spot in the Rusk County Community Garden?



Do you Love Gardening

And eating fresh vegetables and fruits?

IF YOU DO, CONSIDER LEARNING TO
GROW YOUR OWN, IN YOUR OWN
GARDEN PLOT!

SIGN-UP

SATURDAY, MAY 14TH, 2022
10:00-11:00 AM,
AT THE
Rusk County Community Garden

500 W. 9TH ST. (NEXT TO CONNECTIONS FOOD PANTRY)

RENT A 10'X20' PLOT FOR
\$20.00
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

 **FOOD WISE**
Healthy Choices. Healthy Future.





Extension Director

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We are looking forward to Summer – which always includes some of our favorite things like: 4-H Summer Camp, the Rusk County Community Garden, the Fair, return of the Amazing Alissa (intern), and much, much more!

Please make sure to keep reading below about how Extension is supporting Rusk County in various ways – not just by the one educator on your contract! If you have any questions about the work that is being done in Rusk County thru Extension Educators, please don't hesitate to contact me or those in the office.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
RUSK COUNTY

First Quarter 2022 Report

Other Ways Extension is serving Rusk County:



Heart of the North Legislative Day is an opportunity for adults and youth to come together to identify and research the needs of northwestern Wisconsin in preparation for an advocacy day with our local and state senators and representatives. Leadership and collaboration in creating an experience for adults and youth in northwestern Wisconsin to educate local and state representatives and senators. This event's intent was to raise awareness of the health and wellbeing needs of the region and advocate for health strategies to

meet those needs. Danette Hopke and Anna Demers (Washburn County) as well as **Breanne Jakobi** were involved in these efforts this year. This virtual event's purpose this year was to bring youth voice into typically adult spaces and encourage adults to seek out young people and mentor them on local issues and government. Danette's role was to co-lead the health and well-being issue team with a youth. To identify and address the needs of our region on this topic we spoke with local public health departments, healthcare systems, and school leadership to gain their perspective and ideas. We also examined local data related to substance use, mental health concerns, other risk factors and studied current legislative efforts related to this topic area. An issue statement was developed around the three key common topics areas that were identified: the nursing staff shortage, extended wait times for mental health services, and methamphetamine use and its impact on individuals, families and communities. On **February 3rd** we presented our issues statements to our state representatives and senators. The outcome of these efforts includes raising awareness among these individuals of the issues facing northwest Wisconsin with a **valuable youth perspective included**. One Senator noted: *'it is sobering and important to hear the lived experience, without this we are removed from the issues faced outside our own area'*, and another acknowledged the importance of understanding 'the unique ways that our region is impacted by each of these topics'.

Northwest Graziers Network: A series of emails, telephone consultations, personal conversations and zoom meetings to assist the Northwest Graziers Network steering committee re-start, re-organize and strategize how to meet its mission to provide outreach, education, mentoring and networking to farmers, agency staff, local businesses and community members related to the topic of managed rotational grazing, direct marketing, farm profitability and environmental services. To assist individuals the NW Graziers steering committee, Kevin provides one-on-one consultation, to the NW Graziers Network in organization development strategies to meet their needs. This includes providing guidance on Extension's outreach and educational roles in addressing forage and grazing management, livestock management, farm management and profitability and marketing. In addition, Kevin assists with helping connect NW Graziers Network with resources from other University staff and programs to support the organizations research and outreach needs.