
Ashland & Bayfield Counties

AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

Brought to you by the University of Wisconsin - Madison
Division of Extension



Greetings,

UW Extension is pleased to bring you the fourth edition of the Ashland/Bayfield Counties Agricultural Newsletter to the farmers, gardeners, and homesteaders of the Chequamegon Bay region of northern Wisconsin.

Inside this Edition

- *Introduction* - pg 2
- *One Woman Farm* - pg 4
- *Cleansweeps Information* - pg 6
- *Wisconsin School Garden Day* - pg 8
- *Going Native with the MGA* - pg 10
- *Resources* - pg 14



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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
BAYFIELD COUNTY

**IT'S FINALLY SPIRNG IN
THE NORTH WOODS!
DAFFODILS AND TULIPS
ARE IN BLOOM AND THE
GROWING SEASON IS
UPON US. WITH OUR
SPRING EDITION OF THE
QUARTERLY EXTENSION
NEWSLETTER FOR
ASHLAND AND BAYFIELD
COUNTIES, WE BRING
YOU GARDEN AND
GROWING TIPS GALORE
ON LOCAL FARMING AND
NATURE TOPICS.**

In this edition, we present Clare Hintz of Elsewhere Farm, Mary Gruhl, Master Gardener extrordonaire, and news on current events like Wisconsin School Garden Day. Read on to learn more!

Ashland/Bayfield Ag Extension Staff



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Jason has been in the Agriculture Agent position since 2007 with a focus on fruit crops, nutrient management, commercial horticulture, and recently hazelnuts. He is currently Co-Leader of the Upper Midwest Hazelnut Development Initiative, and in 2020, 80% of his time will be dedicated to helping develop the emerging hazelnut industry in Wisconsin.



Sarah DeGraff
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Sarah DeGraff is the Agricultural Extension Educator, for Ashland and Bayfield County. Sarah hails from Grand Rapids, MI and has experience working on and managing vegetable farms as well as running vegetable variety trials through UW-Madison on the Spooner Agricultural Research Station in 2019.



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BAYFIELD COUNTY



ARE YOU A HIGH TUNNEL OWNER OR
PROSPECTIVE OWNER SEEKING INFORMATION
ON GROWING VEGETABLES UNDER PLASTIC?

HIGH TUNNEL SEMINAR SERIES

High Tunnel 101: The Basics May 26

High Tunnel Pest Management June 2

High Tunnel Disease Management June 9

6:00PM Each Wednesday

Register here for this free virtual event series:

<https://uwmadison.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMlcuuppjMqE9aI7ZNOKdiOSYQlIXf3LgP>



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BAYFIELD COUNTY

**CHRIS
DUKE**



**DR RUSS
GROVES**



**DR AMANDA
GEVENS**



One-Woman Farm

An Interview with Clare Hintz of Elsewhere Farm



Give us a bit of background on your farm: why did you start it? When? How has it grown since, and in what ways is it different from what you first imagined?

I've wanted to be a farmer since I was in sixth grade, though growing up in Chicago, "farming" was not a word in my vocabulary! When I got to college, three books influenced my direction: *The Violence of the Green Revolution*, by Vandana Shiva; *What Are People For?* by Wendell Berry, and *Permaculture: A Designer's Manual* by Bill Mollison. These books helped me realize that I could be a positive environmental and social force through growing food.

I spent a lot of time in my farm apprenticeships and master's program planning my farm: it was going to be a conventional, tractor-based, row-crop vegetable and fruit farm. That dream lasted about two months into an early production season, when we had 7 inches of rain in 24 hours, and I couldn't plant until July. I knew I'd never be able to farm in a tractor-based system and reliably earn a living. So I went back to my Permaculture training, which led me back further to traditional ways of farming vegetables in Bad River and in Mexico.

My farm now is a mix of extremely intensive no-till vegetable beds interspersed with irrigation ditches to catch extreme water events, and perennial fruit polyculture with seasonal grazing from my American Guinea Hogs and laying hens. Last year the extreme drought led me to buying an irrigation system. Climate change is impacting twenty years of being able to rely on natural soil moisture for my crops. I've also noticed a huge decline in bee populations, which has impacted squash production, though not yet my tree crops. I am planting a lot more herbal refugia as a result.

What new innovations to farm practices, management, or infrastructure do you rely on most?

There's a lot more literature about no-till vegetables in the last two years that has both confirmed what I was already doing and helped refine it. Silage tarps do an amazing job of pre-season weed control,

Learn more about
Elsewhere Farm!
**Visit the website
[HERE!](#)**

Interested in joining
**Elsewhere Farm's
Summer
CSA?**

[Click HERE](#)
to learn how you
can join for the
2021 season!



and have allowed me to be completely no-till. I also completely rely on high tunnels and a greenhouse to extend my season. I was the first weekly winter CSA in our area, growing fresh greens from December through March. My American Guinea Hogs are a small but essential part of my farm, making my orchards virtually no-mow, which protects ground nesting birds. The pigs also destroy insect pests, making it much easier to be organic. They also put on weight no matter what the weather and give me a consistent product.

You are a literal one-woman farm – how do you manage your farm so that you are able to do this? What caused you to want to set up your farm business this way and what inspires you to continue, especially since you have an advanced degree and could be a full-time researcher or professor at a university?

Using Permaculture design principles and working in synergy with nature allows me to be a one-woman farm. I don't work alone; I work with all the other beings on my farm! I would much rather incubate other small businesses than hire workers. More business owners in a community translates to more civic engagement. Farming takes a lot of skill and knowledge... I loved my PhD work, but I've learned more about systems and nature from my farm than from any of my classroom learning.

Running the farm also ground-truths much of my ongoing theoretical work in sustainability.

Farming Food systems can be very ecologically and socially destructive, or also requires interdisciplinarity, which is hard to find support for in a university setting. they can be an enormous source of positive change... I love the impact I can have as a farmer demonstrating ecological stewardship, a viable livelihood, and commitment to social justice. Just as an example, my soils have gone from an organic matter content of around 3 percent to ten percent in the twenty years I've been farming here. That's a lot of carbon that's not in the atmosphere!

In what ways do you contribute to the farming community and especially new or would-be farmers? What advice do you have for those just starting out – especially those who don't come from a farming background?

Currently I'm incubating two other small farm businesses in the area, and I have spent many years mentoring interns, not to mention formally teaching people Sustainable Agriculture at Northland College and mentoring PhD students in Permaculture at Prescott College. I still get a lot of phone calls from new farmers about what I'm doing. I didn't come from a farming background, and the organic farmers in Chequamegon Bay were hugely supportive of me and all my beginner questions. I'm just passing it along.

My advice for would-be farmers is to intern on as many farms as you can, have a solid business plan, don't expect your new business to pay for itself for at least ten years, and know who your network of support are.

There are a lot more resources now than when I got started... Land Stewardship Farm Beginnings, MOSES mentorships, FSA loans, and the Young Farmers Coalition, and a lot more land access models.





Cleansweeps

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

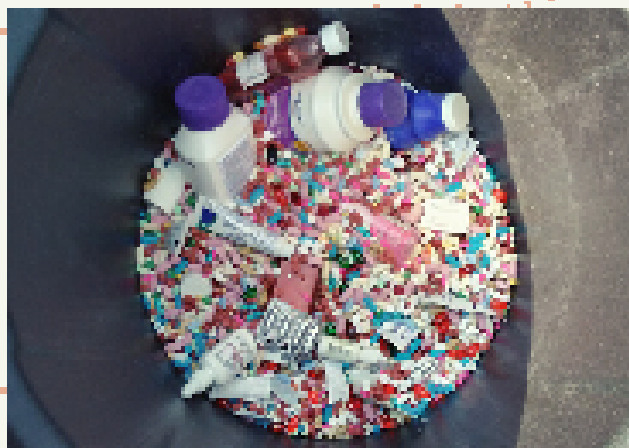
From 2:00 to 6:00 PM

JUNE 22 Bayfield County Garage in Washburn

*This site also includes an agriculture and marine plastic wrap collection!

JUNE 23 WITC Ashland Campus

For information on what will be accepted please go to the Extension Ashland County website at <https://ashland.extension.wisc.edu/> or call 715-682-7017.



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ASHLAND, WI 54806

Sponsored by Ashland & Bayfield Counties, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension of Ashland & Bayfield Counties, and Northwest Regional Planning Commission.
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2021 NW Wisconsin Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Tuesday, June 15 th	Taylor	Medford - Hwy Shop 208 N Eighth St. (no Rx)*	2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Kyle Noonan Taylor County Zoning Department (715) 748-1485
Wednesday, June 16 th	Rusk	Ladysmith - Hwy Shop N4711 Hwy 27	2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Charmaine Riddle Rusk County Recycling (715) 532-2167
Tuesday, June 22 nd	Bayfield	City of Washburn – Co. Hwy Garage, 311 South 1st Ave E	2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Theresa LaChapelle Bayfield County UW Extension (715) 373-6104
Wednesday, June 23 rd	Ashland	City of Ashland - WITC south parking lot 2100 Beaser Ave.	2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Lissa Radke Ashland County UW Extension (715) 682-7017
Tuesday, July 13 th	Burnett	Siren - Burnett Co. Hwy Shop 8150 St. Rd. 70	2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Warren Johnson Northwest Regional Planning Commission (715) 635-2197
Wednesday, July 14 th	Washburn	Minong – Transfer Station Hwy53, W5775 Transfer Dr	2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Warren Johnson Northwest Regional Planning Commission (715) 635-2197
Tuesday, August 31 st	Douglas	Parkland Town Hall – 6221E Veterans Dr.	2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Warren Johnson Northwest Regional Planning Commission (715) 635-2197
Tuesday, September 1 st	Ashland	Town of La Pointe - MRF 412 Big Bay Rd. (no Rx)*	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Marty Curry Town of La Pointe (715) 747-5715
Tuesday, September 21 st	Price	Phillips - County Highway Garage (STH 13). (no Rx)*	2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Evan Lund Price County Land Conservation & Zoning (715) 339-2550
Wednesday, September 22 nd	Sawyer	Hayward – Sawyer County Fairgrounds 14655 Co. Hwy B	2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Ariga Grigoryan Sawyer County UW Extension (715)-634-4806

CLEANSWEEP WILL ACCEPT

Household hazardous waste will be accepted at the above locations and only at designated times. Items will be taken for free from residential properties, with the exception of fees charged for bulbs and batteries. Acceptable items include materials such as, oil-based paints, aerosol spray paints and lubricants, solvents, pesticides, fertilizers, household and hazardous cleaners, corrosives, flammables, mercury, lead tackle and shot, old gas, antifreeze, and other chemicals you wouldn't consider dumping. Mercury containing thermostats, switches and thermometers, and lead based paint will also be accepted.

FEE ITEMS

The items below will be accepted at the collection events for a fee.

- .75¢ per circular bulb (CFL)
- .75¢ per 4' or less tube
- \$1.00 per 4' and longer tube
- \$2.50 per shatter shield tube
- \$4.50 per tanning bed/UV bulb
- \$2.00 per H.I.D. light bulb
- \$2.00 LED bulb any size
- Lithium Ion Batteries \$5.00 lb.
- Lithium Metal Batteries \$6.00 lb.
- All other batteries \$1.00 lb.

CLEANSWEEP WILL NOT ACCEPT

- Latex Paint
- Empty paint cans
- Oil Filters
- Motor Oil
- Explosives, Flares or Fireworks
- Freon 11 & 12
- Radioactive Materials (including smoke/Co2 alarms)
- Ammunition
- Compressed Gas Cylinders-any size
- Recyclables
- Appliances
- Asbestos
- Biological or Infectious Wastes
- Sharps or EpiPen's
- Spray Foam Cylinders
- Incandescent Light Bulbs
- PFAS Containing Items

WHO CAN ATTEND

Residents from each participating county can utilize any of the cleansweep collection events. However, the Town of La Pointe collection is restricted to town residents only. Proof of residence may be required.

Businesses qualified as Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQG) and Agricultural Producers (farmers/farms) wanting to dispose of chemicals should contact Zach Davis, Veolia Environmental Services at zach.davis@veolia.com. Preregistration is required at least two weeks in advance of the event, including a full list of materials and prepayment/authorization. Farmers/Farms may dispose of up to 200 pounds for free.

UNWANTED Rx MEDICATION DISPOSAL

Residents having expired and unwanted medications may bring items to the events listed above. Please leave pills in packages and containers with labels attached to assist in identification of medications. No sharps or EpiPen's will be accepted.

* Price County, Taylor County, and the Town of La Pointe will not have an unwanted Rx medication collection event.

May 20, 2021 is WISCONSIN SCHOOL GARDEN DAY!

Wisconsin School Garden Day honors and celebrates educators, students, families, community leaders, and all people who have made garden-based education a reality and an asset in communities throughout the state! Wisconsin School Garden Day brings recognition to our state's hundreds of garden programs at schools, early care and education sites, after school programs, organizations, and more. Additionally, this year we recognize the families who are engaging their children in garden-based learning during school closures.

The Ashland/Bayfield/Iron County FoodWise program is celebrating school gardens throughout the month of May.

On May 4th, Nutrition Educator Deb Leonard partnered with Ms. Linda at Hurley Head Start to celebrate School Garden Day with their youth. She invited Extension Iron County Agriculture agent, Darrin Kimbler, to speak to the youth about gardens and how they are a great place to get healthy foods. He also showed them his 1-week old Icelandic lamb. Deb even read everyone a book about vegetables and the group sang a song about carrots.

On May 19th, FoodWise Coordinator Stephanie Bakker will partner with Katherine Rakowski, AmeriCorps Farm to School Specialist for Bayfield School, and Lorie Erickson, Bayfield School ECSE/4K Coordinator, to provide a virtual school garden day learning experience for Bayfield School 4K students.



These students are from the Red Cliff Early Childhood Center and the Bayfield Family Forum Head Start. Students will be introduced to the school garden that many of them will be involved with the following year when they enter Kindergarten. They will also participate in some garden activities and will be receiving seed packets to grow their own plants at home.

CELEBRATE WISCONSIN SCHOOL GARDEN DAY in your home by checking out the link below for ideas on how you and your family members can participate where ever you are!

<https://wischoolgardens.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-WI-School-Garden-Day-Activity-Guide.pdf>

To learn more about the Ashland/Bayfield/Iron County FoodWise program, please contact stephanie.bakker@wisc.edu or call the Extension Ashland County office at 715-682-7017.





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Badger Crop Connect

TIMELY WISCONSIN CROP UPDATES

May 26, 2021 from 12:30-1:30 pm

Register here: <https://go.wisc.edu/bccspring2021>

Soybean Update and Roller Crimping Rye

(1 CM CCA CEU available)

Local Update

Dan Marzu, Langlade & Lincoln County Ag Educator

Soybean Crop Progress - Know the Growth Stages

Shawn Connely, UW-Madison Extension Soybean and Small Grain Specialist

Agronomic Management with Roller Crimped Winter Cereal Rye

Erin Silva, UW-Madison Extension Organic Agriculture Specialist



NEW: Wisconsin Local Foods Database!

The AmeriCorps Farm to School (F2S) team has completed the Wisconsin Local Foods Database, a statewide resource to help connect Wisconsin farmers to school nutrition directors. The database contains detailed information on farms throughout Wisconsin in order to help school nutrition directors easily find and maintain partnerships with local farm businesses (and vice versa). Any farmer/producer or school food service director can sign-up to be a part of the database. For any questions, please reach out to Kara Ignasiak at kara.ignasiak@dpi.wi.gov.

The Wisconsin Local Foods Database is a project of the AmeriCorps Farm to School program, which is housed at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

[Explore the database here.](#)

**WITH
THE
MGA**



MASTER GARDNER ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT MARY GRUHL SPEAKS ON NATIVE GARDENS

I was introduced to the Master Gardener's program by Susan Nelson. At that time, I was helping Susan in the Northern Great Lakes Visitor's Center seed garden with weeding, planting and cleaning. I did this with her for several years, and eventually, she suggested I might enjoy the UW-Madison Master Gardener group. I took the Master Gardener training course through UW-Madison Extension and was certified in 2016. I am now president of the Ashland/Bayfield MGA.

As for typical projects I've been involved in, a few years ago I facilitated the session on Entomology two years in a row for the Master Gardener Level I training program. I have also facilitated workshops for our MG group on Mason Bees, which included a presentation followed by guiding participants in building their own mason bee house with supplies I provided.

GOING NATIVE

In May of 2019, my husband helped me build the bee structure that is now located at NGLVC. We installed it with the help of Ella Cross and Susan Nelson. Last week I helped Susan clean out the structure and replace new nesting materials and mason bee tubes.

Every fall for the past 3 years, I have helped Susan collect seeds and prepare winter sowing containers. We did this again this past fall but modified our strategy to incorporate social distancing protocols required by the state Extension, with masks on and keeping our distance because of COVID regulations determined by the UW-Madison Master Gardener Program.

Mary's Native Home Garden

Three years ago, I started my own native garden using seeds from the native plants at the NGLVC. My husband is a beekeeper, so this was a great incentive to start a pollinator garden. Each year I am expanding my garden. I presently have three areas with natives.

This past winter, I planted 28 different native plants (winter sowing) and will be planting these in new areas on my property. I have also been giving young plants to friends. I have had excellent results with winter sowing. The number and types of insects visiting my gardens has increased significantly since the gardens have matured.



Watering tree - a fun example of what to do with a tree that has to be cut down

Planting native plants and watching the insect activity throughout the summer is a very satisfying experience. I strongly suggest that gardeners add natives to their gardens. The great thing about natives is that once they are established there is virtually no maintenance.

Additionally, any of these plants provide nesting in the stems for many types of insects. Leaving these plants uncut during the winter allows the insects to winter over. When they emerge in the spring, they are ready to pollinate your plants.



Being part of the Ashland/Bayfield Master Gardener Association has introduced me to some incredible gardeners who are ALWAYS ready to share their gardening experiences and plants. Our Master Gardener group has monthly meetings where we invite speakers or when possible, we go visit various gardens around the area. **For anyone who loves gardens be it vegetables or flowers, being part of your local Master Gardener Association is a great way to share and learn.**

Learn more about the Master Gardener Program and how YOU can get involved!

Visit the Master Gardener website:

<https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/>



In an effort to support the local food system and increase the availability of local products, the Chequamegon Food Co-op offers biannual, no interest micro-loans. These small, no interest loans are capped at \$5,000 and have up to a 3-year payback period. **Proposals for the spring cycle have now passed, but the fall cycle is due by October 1, 2021 with funding decisions made by October 15.**

Chip in for the Kitchen will provide grant funding to local producer to subsidize the cost of using commercial kitchens. The Chequamegon Food Co-op wants to help offset these costs to support our local producers and our local foods economy. The grant is a matching 50/50 grant available for local producers. Applications will be continually accepted as funding is available starting in March 2021. Applications can be found in-store at the customer service desk or online [HERE](#)

CHIP IN FOR THE
KITCHEN



HELPING LOCAL PRODUCERS ACCESS COMMERCIAL KITCHENS



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING WITH
EDUCATORS, FAMILIES, KIDS, AND ALL OF THE PEOPLE
WHO ARE KEEPING YOUTH GARDENING GOING!



You can participate in Wisconsin School Garden Day by engaging in some type of garden-based education activity or celebration on May 21, 2020 (or another day that week)

This year, we will be celebrating together separately. We encourage everyone to celebrate Wisconsin School Garden Day in a way that best fits them and/or their programs. Any activity that involves kids engaging with a garden or gardening—including, but not limited to, activities around planting, observing, art, literature, STEM, weeding, and planning—can be a way to celebrate Wisconsin School Garden Day.

There are so many ways to celebrate, even without access to a garden. You and your child can:

- Draw a picture of a plant, a flower, a pollinator, or a garden
- Write a short poem about gardens or gardening, like a haiku, an acrostic, or a limerick
- Go for a walk and observe neighbors' gardens or the trees and animals in a local park

If you're looking for more inspiration and information:

<https://wischoolgardens.org/wisconsin-school-garden-day-2020/>



Information & Resources

Local Farm & Food Resources

- Ashland County Extension [Website](#)
- Bayfield County Extension [Website](#)
- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Grant Programs
- USDA Ag Services: Farm Business Marketing Resources and Assistance
- UW Extension Horticulture
- FEAST by the Bay: local farms & food resources - [website](#)
- SFA local, in-season recipes
- SFA Webinars on premium crop production, silvopasture, resources for beginning farmers, applying for grants and financial assistance
- The Cutting Edge: in Search of New Crops for Wisconsin [PODCAST](#)
- Midwest Grazing Exchange [Website](#) <https://woodlandinfo.org/>

Events

June 2021

28th North American Agroforestry Conference Details and registration [here](#)

August 2021

13th: Virtual Summer Conference, WI Farmers Union. Register [here](#)

Resources for Farmers/Grants:

- SFA How to apply for grants webinar
- SFA How to apply for an AGRI grant webinar
- USDA Local Food Grants webinar [LINK](#)



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