



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
BAYFIELD COUNTY



**“Bringing the resources of the University of Wisconsin-Madison to Bayfield County.”**

# 2020 Highlights - The Annual Report

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*Photo by Theresa LaChappelle*



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## Welcome!

January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

Dear Partners and Friends:

2020 will go down in history as being a challenging year for all of us! Extension is about outreach education, and the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic certainly made it difficult to engage directly with community members.

Ever resourceful, our Bayfield County Extension educators and staff rose to the occasion and adapted their communication methods and program delivery modes. Despite the hurdles, we had another year of great Extension programming in Bayfield County and all of Wisconsin! We worked to continue connecting local people with the knowledge and research of the University of Wisconsin. We utilized our local, regional and statewide networks to support communities in responding to emerging issues, including COVID-19, and bring new ideas and great resources to Bayfield County.

We developed this report with data and stories from 2020. We highlight positive outcomes from all of our major educational programs covering agriculture, horticulture, community and economic development, 4-H and youth, nutrition, and individual and family well-being. Our staff works to address high priority local needs through our educational programming and our collaborations with community groups, volunteers and program partners. We could not be effective in our work without the valuable contributions of our various partners. Strong partnerships are at the heart of our programs -- we can achieve more together!

THANK YOU to the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors, the County Administrator and the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee for the continued support of UW-Madison Extension programming in Bayfield County during 2020. We appreciate the opportunity to serve Bayfield County residents and local efforts to strengthen our people, our communities and our economy.

On behalf of the Extension Bayfield County staff,

Mary Pardee  
Area Extension Director



# Extension

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## Investing in Extension

In 2020, the work of the Bayfield County Extension office was completed by 11 educators (some shared with Ashland County), 1 full-time office manager and part-time clerk, and 4 research/program assistants. Not all those folks were on staff at once - needs change with the time of year, funding availability and special opportunities. Over the course of a year, Extension touches a lot of community needs!

The success of Bayfield County Extension programming relies on 4 aspects:

- County funding
- State funding
- Donations, Grants & Fees
- Volunteers

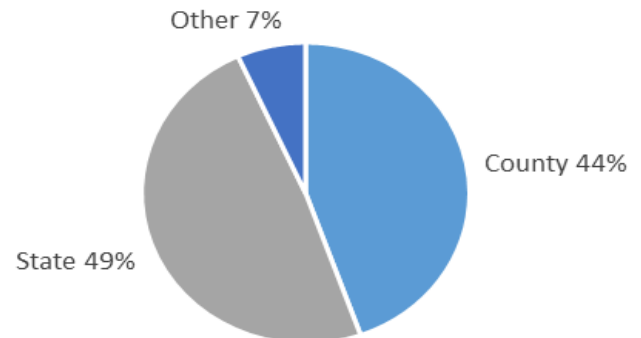
In Extension, educators are co-funded by the county and state. Bayfield County also supplies funding for a Youth Program summer assistant and a 4-H Operations & Communications Associate. In addition, county funds help to outfit Extension with office supplies, technology, program and travel costs, as well as excellent office staff to support the programs.

FoodWise, our nutrition education program, is paid for by federal SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education) funds that come through UW-Madison Division of Extension. Bayfield County FoodWise is part of a three-county project which also includes Ashland and Iron Counties. County funds are not involved in the salaries of the FoodWise Coordinator, FoodWise Educator, or Area Extension Director. Additional grant funds are a source for agriculture research assistants.

The charts show the basics of where our funding comes from.

Local educators are part of a statewide network that supplies programming support, topic expertise, professional development and funding. Bayfield County also benefits from the expertise of statewide Extension specialists on topics such as economic development and climate change.

### Extension Funding 2020



|        |                                  |                   |
|--------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| County | Co-Funded Staff Fee              | \$ 158,684        |
|        | Support Staff                    | \$ 85,282         |
|        | County Educational Staff         | \$ 6,373          |
|        | Office & Technology              | \$ 4,081          |
|        | Educational Program Support      | \$ 14,364         |
|        | Committee Expense                | \$ 2,302          |
|        | <b>TOTAL</b>                     | <b>\$ 271,086</b> |
| State  | Co-Funded Staff Salary/Fringe    | \$ 201,819        |
|        | FoodWise Staff & Program Support | \$ 51,538         |
|        | Program Support                  | \$ 2,857          |
|        | Office & Technology              | \$ 2,400          |
|        | Professional Development         | \$ 3,299          |
|        | Director Salary/Fringe           | \$ 30,123         |
|        | LTE Program Staff                | \$ 4,080          |
|        | <b>TOTAL</b>                     | <b>\$ 296,116</b> |
| Other  | Donations, Grants, Fees          | \$ 41,327         |
|        | <b>TOTAL</b>                     | <b>\$ 41,327</b>  |
|        | <b>TOTAL EXTENSION FUNDING</b>   | <b>\$ 608,529</b> |

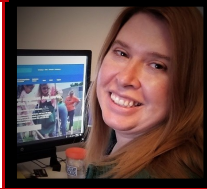


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## Staff Members



**Mary Pardee**

Area Extension Director ~ Area 1  
[mary.pardee@wisc.edu](mailto:mary.pardee@wisc.edu)

### Educators



**Stephanie Bakker**

FoodWise Coordinator Ashland,  
Bayfield & Iron Counties  
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**Sarah DeGraff**

Agriculture/Horticulture  
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**Donna Ganson**

4-H Program Coordinator  
Retired in 2020



**Jason Fischbach**

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**Mary Johnson**

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**Liz Lexau**

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**Ian Meeker**

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**Kellie Pederson**

Community Development  
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715-373-3290



**Sarah Tarkington**

FoodWise

Ariadna Chediack—Agriculture Research Assistant  
Hannah Figgins—Agriculture Research Assistant  
Taylor Hanson—Superior Adventures Program  
Melissa Kummerow—Literacy Link

### Support Staff



**Theresa LaChappelle**

Office Manager  
[theresa.lachappelle@wisc.edu](mailto:theresa.lachappelle@wisc.edu)  
[tlachappelle@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov](mailto:tlachappelle@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov)



**Kaylie Lukas**

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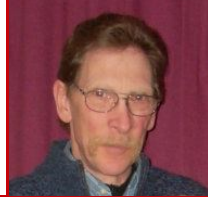
## Committee Members

### Jeff Silbert

Chair

[jeff.silbert@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov](mailto:jeff.silbert@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov)

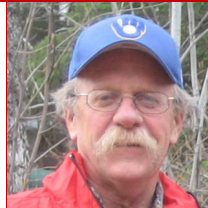
District #6 - City of Washburn,  
Wards 1 & 2



### Jim Crandall

[james.crandall@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov](mailto:james.crandall@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov)

District #12 - Towns of Drummond  
and Barnes



### Tom Snilsberg

[tom.snilsberg@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov](mailto:tom.snilsberg@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov)

District # 9—Town of Iron River



### Fred Strand

Vice-Chair

[fred.strand@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov](mailto:fred.strand@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov)

District #8 - Towns of Delta, Hughes,  
and Oulu



### Steve Sandstrom

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District #1—Town of Russell



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## Office Manager/Support Staff

Theresa LaChappelle continued to serve in her role as Office Manager, while Kaylie Lukas joined our team as a Clerk 1 in January. LaChappelle and Lukas continue to serve as the first point of contact with the public. They answered and directed phone calls, greeted visitors, provided information and resources, sent off soil, forage & insect samples, and interacted with other Extension Staff, other County employees and residents of the area on a daily basis.

As you know, March of 2020 brought quite a few changes as we all learned to adapt our work strategies due to Covid-19. LaChappelle started on the new adventure of tele-commuting from home. Tele-commuting allowed her to work from home while still having access to the phone lines and digital files that she needed to continue completing her tasks seamlessly. The County Clerk's office was extremely helpful during this time collecting the mail, and packages that came to the Courthouse.

Lukas was unable to perform her office duties from home during this time. However in May when employees were allowed back to the office, Lukas was ready to jump back into working from the office and to receive additional training from LaChappelle. When Covid-19 numbers spiked again in November, LaChappelle returned to tele-commuting, while Lukas continued to work from the office. Along with the use of the telephone and email, other newer technology was used to stay in touch. The ability to share screens, files, and video chat allowed the office staff to communicate very efficiently and also allowed LaChappelle to maintain and order the proper levels of office supplies.

LaChappelle also assisted with the coordination of the bi-monthly Extension Committee meetings. This included the setting up of and hosting the virtual meetings on MS Teams, which she also attended, participated and recorded the minutes of the meetings.



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## Healthy Choices, Healthy Lives



FoodWise is federally funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). We advance healthy eating habits, active lifestyles and healthy community environments for Wisconsin residents with limited incomes through nutrition education at the individual, community and systems levels.



## The Challenge

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the food security of **Bayfield County** residents due to income and job loss, as well as significant changes in local, regional, and national food systems. Based on increases in **Bayfield County** residents participating in FoodShare and federal Pandemic EBT benefits, we see a greater need for members of our community in accessing food that is healthy, safe, and affordable. FoodWise educators support our community by providing education on how families can stretch their food dollars in these difficult times and continue to put healthy meals on the table in their homes.

**Bayfield County** has seen a  
**16% increase in**  
**Food Share participation**  
(including adults and children)  
from prior to the pandemic.



*Based on comparison of FoodShare participation in February 2020 and September 2020. Data from Wisconsin Department of Health & Human Services.*

## Community IMPACTS

In response to COVID-19, we have:



- Created a monthly FoodWise newsletter that we distribute to our partners. Each month we highlight a different local food resource story, provide some new recipes, share tips on different health and wellness topics, and include the Harvest of the Month flier that is put together by the Chequamegon Food Co-op.
- During the summer we shared weekly recipes that were healthy, budget-friendly, and seasonal on our Extension County Facebook pages.
- Published an article in local newspapers on food security and what local entities are doing to help.
- Maintained strong partnerships within our community through regular communications and resource sharing.
- Transitioned direct education programming to virtual lessons!

## ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER



UW-Madison Division of Extension works alongside the people of Wisconsin to deliver practical educational programs where people live and work – on the farm, in schools and throughout urban and rural communities. In Bayfield County, FoodWise partners with schools, after-school programs, early childcare centers, senior meal programs, food distribution programs, and Farm-to-School to help make the healthy choice the easy choice in our communities.

# Learning about Nutrition Education from Home

Like many programs and partners during COVID-19, we have had to make changes to our programs. One of those changes includes shifting our direct education programming to a mostly virtual format.

We have had a number of successful virtual events. One example of this in **Bayfield County** was with the **Bayfield School District**.

Since COVID-19 hit, Bayfield School has been having their students learn virtually from home. At the start of the school year, some teachers reached out to our program about presenting a nutrition education lesson for students while they learned remotely. Nutrition Coordinator, Stephanie Bakker, provided a lesson for all classes K-5. Topics included tips they can use to improve wellness while learning from home.

After students participated in this nutrition education event, they were more prepared to make healthy choices.



*Students learning from home were able to attend a nutrition education event hosted virtually by the Ashland/Bayfield/Iron County FoodWise program.*

# Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch-Bayfield School/Farm-to-School

For the past handful of years, the Ashland/Bayfield/Iron County FoodWise team has partnered with the **Bayfield School Farm-to-School program** to host a **Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch** day for its elementary students. This event celebrates National Farm-to-School month in October every year.

This past year, the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch took place at the school garden site. Students started out by learning about some fun apple facts, played apple related games, and participated in a scavenger hunt. At the end, students and staff got to CRUNCH into locally grown apples and sip a cup of cider.

The Ashland/Bayfield/Iron County FoodWise team is engaged in a variety of policy, systems, and environment work. Partnering with Farm-to-School to provide education on local produce and making it more accessible to others is just one example of our mission.



*Bayfield School students got to crunch into locally grown apples at the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch event.*



**Stephanie Bakker**  
FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator  
Ashland, Bayfield, Iron County



**Deborah Leonard**  
FoodWise Nutrition Educator  
Ashland, Bayfield, Iron County



**Sarah Tarkington**  
FoodWise Nutrition Educator  
Ashland, Bayfield, Iron County

## CONTACT US

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UW-MADISON EXTENSION

FoodWise education is funded by the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – SNAP and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program – EFNEP. An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.



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## Youth Development and 4-H

The Extension Institute of Positive Youth Development prepares the youth of today to become the effective, empathetic adults of tomorrow. Our research-based youth enrichment programs like teens in governance build youth and adult capacity and partnerships that help both sides grow. 4-H clubs, camps and afterschool programs give young people the hands-on experiences they need to develop an understanding of themselves and the world.



### Superior Days

The mid February trip to Madison for Superior Days was one of the last face to face educational experiences before COVID. Ian Meeker trained and chaperoned 8 youth delegates. Evaluations from youth delegates confirms what has been observed for years, youth delegates increase their sense of civic engagement and gain confidence working in partnership with adult delegates. While reflecting on Superior Days youth delegates said: *"Superior Days gave me a first hand experience about how our democracy and government works and is divided into different agencies."*

*"It [Superior Days] changed my view about my role as a citizen and the importance of being aware of what is happening and it changed my sense of how anyone can get access to being elected if they have the support of the people. Before Superior Days I felt that access to elected office was only for wealthy people with family connections to elected officials."*



### COVID Adaptations & Success Stories

#### Superior Adventures

Took advantage of physically distanced outside experiences. The Superior Adventures led 11 separate adventures reaching 83 participants including 19 parents who took advantage of our youth and parent canoe days. After the experience one parent reflected: *"I really appreciated the opportunity to receive paddling tips, white water instruction and witnessing the confidence my son developed paddling the Brule River."*

#### The Virtual 4-H Cultural Arts Festival

This year's 4-H Cultural Arts Festival featured twenty 4-H exhibitors and all the exhibits were shared via YouTube.

#### Bayfield County 4-H Market Sale

The Bayfield County 4-H Market Sale participants learned and improved their on-line presence as they prepared for a virtual 4-H Market Sale. This real life lesson in group decision making, adaptation and teamwork led to a very successful sale where 17 steer, 2 lambs and 7 hogs were sold.



## 4-H CANSKI

For 16 years 4-H CANSKI has provided youth access to the lifelong sport of cross-country skiing. 4-H CANSKI provides ongoing instruction, social skiing opportunities and community and leadership development for skiers of all levels. Through, grants, donations and reinvesting club rental fees, 4-H CANSKI is able to affordably provide on average 130 youth in grades K-12 with boots poles and skis. The club has skiers from Washburn, Bayfield, Ashland, Bad River and Red Cliff. Access to the former VFW building in Washburn played a key role in helping distribute the equipment.

Cross country skiing improve balance and fitness. 4-H CANSKI also develops an appreciation for access to remote trails, a connection to place, and a connection to other community members.



*Calvin Weisfenning double poles out of the start at the Middle School State Meet*

An equally important outcome of this 4-H club's organizational design is how well it delivers the Essential Elements of : **Independence, Belonging, Mastery and Generosity**



*Playing games on skis is a great way to teach Agility and Balance*



4-H has given me confidence in speaking and leading others. It has also given me some of my closest friends.

By adjusting our delivery model into smaller physically distanced groups 4-H CANSKI provided an opportunity to get kids outside and active during COVID and encouraged more adults to volunteer as coaches.



4-H is the embodiment of everything that is good in a community and a county.



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## Community Development

The Community Development Program provides educational programming to assist leaders, communities, and organizations to realize their fullest potential and build the vitality that enhances quality of life for residents. We educate in leadership development, organizational development, food systems, community economic development, local government education and much more. In short, the Community Development Program plants & cultivates the seeds for thriving communities and organizations.



### Chequamegon Bay Regional Housing Coalition

Since 2019, the Community Development program has provided coordination and backbone organizational support for the Chequamegon Bay Regional Housing Coalition. The Coalition is made up of municipal, tribal and county representatives working together to collectively assess and address regional housing issues. In 2020, the Coalition has focused on a coordinated effort of data collection and analysis in order for the region to make more informed decisions on housing.

Phase 1 of the data collection effort has been to develop a community housing survey. The survey will query needs and attitudes on regional housing. The survey development committee included representatives from the county, municipal and private housing sector. Fourteen municipalities contributed funds to underwrite the cost of a mailed survey that went out to 6,700 residents across Bayfield and Ashland County. Results will be public in 2021.



The Coalition also worked together to submit an application as a Pilot Community with the WHEDA Rural Affordable Workforce Housing Initiative. This successful application will bring additional support and resources to region in making informed decisions and increasing equitable access to regional housing opportunities starting in January 2022.

### Weathering the Storm

Early in the pandemic, the Community Development program hosted an on-line workshop for local small business owners to learn more about COVID-19-related loan programs in order to maintain financial stability during the pandemic

Sixty-three businesses registered and received information for the Weathering the Storm program, with forty-eight businesses attending the interactive webinar.

Businesses were able to ask questions of a regional SBDC Director in order to better understand the EIDL and PPP programs and how they might best be applied to their individual business situation.

This program helped to elevate the level of understanding of these programs which will likely lead to more businesses being able to survive the pandemic.

**WEATHERING THE STORM:**  
Guidance for **Small Businesses**  
Considering Applying for  
\*Economic Injury Disaster Loans  
\*Paycheck Protection Program

**Monday, April 6, 2020**  
**NOON - 1:00 pm**  
**via ZOOM**

**REGISTER ONLINE:**  
UW Extension Bayfield County  
<https://bayfield.extension.wisc.edu/>  
Meeting link will be sent with confirmation.

**for more info:**  
[kellie.pederson@wisc.edu](mailto:kellie.pederson@wisc.edu)

Andy Donahue, Director  
Small Business Development Center  
Andy will provide a 30-minute overview of the programs and resources available.  
Q&A to follow



An EEO/AAE employer, University of Wisconsin Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.



### A switch to online!

As a Community Development Educator for Bayfield County, Kellie Pederson's professional mission is to *"inspire brave and bold collaboration in order to address systemic issues."* This work became infinitely more challenging in 2020, as organizations were forced to operate remotely. Developing systems for online collaboration and facilitating online discussions was an unexpected focus of Kellie's work during the pandemic.

## Chequamegon Bay Area Economic Development Summit

In October of 2020, the Community Development program hosted the Chequamegon Bay Area Economic Development Summit. The Summit was co-sponsored by a variety of regional partners, including tribal, governmental, private and non-profit agencies and organizations. The Summit featured Economic Development Specialists from the UW-Madison. These Specialists provided relevant regional data and hosted discussion on a variety of critical topics, including: Implications of a Changing Workforce, Supporting an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem, The Evolution of the Chequamegon Bay Regional Economy. More than 80 people attended the 2-day virtual event.



### October 22 & 23 2021



Sponsored by:



### Chequamegon Bay Area Economic Development Summit

**\*\*NEW DATE\*\***  
Thursday, October 22 & Friday, October 23 • 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Via Zoom  
No cost to register • Link sent at registration

**Thursday, October 22**  
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Regional Economic Overview  
Implications of a Changing Workforce

**Friday, October 23**  
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Entrepreneurship &  
Evolving the Chequamegon Bay Region Economy

Registration Website: <https://tinyurl.com/ChequamegonSummit>  
Or use the QR Code for Registration





## Capacity Building with Local Non-Profit Organizations

The network of non-profits that serve the Chequamegon Bay region provide essential services and support the development of key assets and amenities. Each year, the Community Development program provides capacity-building support to a variety of non-profit organizations.

Capacity building activities include:

- increasing leadership capacity of advisory boards
- developing long-range and strategic planning capacity
- increasing capacity to work collaboratively with regional partners

Additionally, in 2020, many organizations worked to build organizational resilience and sustainability as they pivoted

to meet the myriad of challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through direct service as a Board Member, Bayfield County Community Development Educator, Kellie Pederson, supported capacity building efforts with the following non-profit organizations and committees during 2020:

*Red Cliff Business Development Corporation  
Ashwabay Outdoor Education Foundation  
StageNorth Groundlings  
Washburn School District Long Range Planning Committee*

## Chequamegon Bay Region COVID-19 Cooperators Response Team

In the early part of the pandemic, the rapid switch to an all-digital environment created difficulty for key stakeholders to establish reliable, consistent group communication with one another during a critical time. Close coordination between county and tribal leadership public health officials and hospitals was vital to ensure the well-being of rural residents and support the wise use of limited resources.

In an effort to open channels of communication with regional partners, Extension volunteered to provide early coordination and technical support of daily Regional Cooperator's meetings, (including training in the use of google docs and zoom technology) until formal, County-based systems could be established to manage the process. These meetings continue to provide important opportunities for coordination between counties, Tribal Nations and local hospitals in responding to COVID 19. The success of the collaboration, and the positive communication patterns established in these meetings has created stronger relationships and familiarity between local leaders and paved the way for further coordinated efforts on new and emerging topics.



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# Families & Finances

## (Human Development & Relationships)

The Human Development & Relationships Institute provides the tools Wisconsinites need to thrive as well-rounded, capable individuals and families. We support families in caring for each other in ways that promote growth and understanding. Our programs promote aging-friendly communities, coach effective parents and help families put technology, mindfulness and financial awareness to use.

### Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

#### Building Resilience:

Five Protective Factors

**Oganawenimaan:**

#### Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Series



This series, offered in collaboration with the Red Cliff Community Health Center Behavioral Health Unit, focused on support for grandparents and other relative caregivers of children during COVID-19. Participants connected with each other via Zoom to discuss research-based parenting/caregiving practices and ways to reduce stress during this time. Topics included self-care, emotion coaching with children, reducing power struggles, building resilience and finding community resources.

### Financial Resources During COVID-19

Area families and individuals experienced extreme financial impacts due to COVID-19. Extension Bayfield County used resources identified and vetted by the Extension Financial Security Program to help area individuals and families stay informed about assistance programs. Information was shared locally through email distribution, social media, and one-on-one financial consultations by phone or Zoom.

+ I have no money coming in. Where do I start?

+ Can I get unemployment benefits?

+ Am I eligible for any public health insurance or food assistance?

+ What are options for my small business or farm?

+ Is the government going to send me a third payment?

### Co-Parenting Education

Co-parenting has been taught in a face-to-face class in the area for several years to help divorcing or separated parents keep kids out of the middle of conflict. During COVID-19, the program transitioned to an interactive online format via Zoom. The class includes follow-up with text messages and a newsletter to reinforce skills.



As a result of the class, participants report more confidence in their ability to communicate with the other parent and that they've learned new ways to avoid arguing in front of children. They also report more confidence in helping children adjust emotionally to divorce or separation.

## Literacy Link



When parents are incarcerated, children suffer due to the stress of separation and disruption in social and economic stability in the family. These stressors can have long-term impact on academic performance, mental and physical health and economic success.

The Literacy Link helps reduce the stress of separation and set the stage for academic success by connecting children and parents in justice-involved families through reading and other literacy-building activities.



During the COVID-19 sheltering in place period face-to-face education in the jail was not an option. Extension staff worked with the Bayfield County to develop remote implementation methods. These methods will continue to be useful even after the pandemic. Evaluations continue to show positive learning and attitude change with these new methods.

### Making Reading Memories

Through this program, parents in jail are videorecorded reading a book they select for their child. The book and video are then sent to the child, so they can view it multiple times and read along with their parents. Book offerings represent diverse families, authors and themes.



Through partnership with the Bayfield County Jail, Extension was able to record participants via Zoom instead of face-to-face. Families report that the program helps keep parents and children connected and encourages a love of books.

### Family Literacy Kits

Family Literacy Kits were developed and launched to help children stay in touch with their parents who are incarcerated during the pandemic.

Parents in jail are invited to choose a book and write a letter to their child at home. The book and letter are then mailed to the child, along with information for the child's caregiver on how to support children and care for themselves while the family is coping with the incarceration of a loved one.

The kit also includes crayons or colored pencils and a stamped envelope for children to write back to their parent in jail.



## THE LITERACY LINK



### Trauma Informed Parenting/Caregiving

Extension Bayfield County collaborated with Extension Ashland and Douglas Counties to offer two regional training series for parents and professionals who care for children who have experienced trauma. In each 8-session *Strengthening Families and Systems* series, participants learned about the impact of trauma on children along with concrete ways to build relationships with these children, increase their resilience, and help them thrive despite their adversity.





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## Agriculture

If it happens on a farm or in a field, the Extension Institute of Agriculture works with you to achieve better results. Our innovative dairy management programs range from genetics to farm and business management. Extension researchers work hand-in-hand with row crop, forage and fresh produce growers to provide best practices for every aspect of the growing phase. We also advise communities on using sustainable practices to create inviting spaces free from invasive species. Our work supports people, communities and businesses.



### On-Farm Vegetable Variety Trials

Vegetable variety trials in field and greenhouse for commercial vegetable growers established replicated field trials to generate research-based information on the best vegetable varieties for our region in order to support local food production. Crops grown in 2020 included mini peppers, green top carrots, small butternut squash, and broccoli on four different farms in the area.



*Carrot varieties are carefully labeled in the farmer's field.*



*Collecting data at the farm, right after the vegetables are harvested is crucial.*



*Butternut squash grows in the farmer's field as part of the local on-farm vegetable variety trials.*

### Master Gardeners Association

Bayfield County Master Gardeners kept busy in 2020 despite COVID restrictions on group or in-person gatherings.

With only seven certified members in Bayfield County, these MG's put in a total of 109 volunteer hours. The time was spent volunteering at many different projects including planting, weeding, watering and maintaining various community gardens, assisting elders by creating raised garden beds, and assisting with garden chores, plus more.

These volunteer hours are valued and valuable. The time donated by these volunteers are valued at \$24.06 per hour for a total of \$2,622. They had contact with 135 individuals and earned 93 continuing education hours.

Educational programs, including "Attracting Pollinators", "Honeybees" and "Wild Mushrooms", were organized by the MGA volunteers and delivered over Zoom to a community audience.

### COVID-19 Outreach Education

2020 was the year of educational outreach to local farmers, farmer market managers and foods cooperative members, as we all needed to adapt our plans to be compliant with Covid-19 guidelines.



An outreach education effort was presented for farmers market managers and vendors. Participants gained knowledge and information about adapting their markets to the Covid-19 impacts in order for the markets to stay open and thrive this summer.

We also helped Bayfield Fruit Growers learn about and adapt their farm operations to the new social distancing guidelines related to Covid-19, while also connecting with assistance programs.

We also helped beginning gardeners take on their new hobby with a four-part training program in the spring at the height of the lockdown.

## New Crop Development

In 2020, Jason Fischbach, Agriculture Agent for Ashland/Bayfield Counties was working primarily on the Upper Midwest Hazelnut Development Initiative (UMHDI), a multi-state project to develop a hazelnut industry locally and across the Upper Midwest.

### A Kick-Off of the NW Wisconsin Hazelnut Grower Cluster

Two new hazelnut germplasm trials were established locally in 2020, one outside Washburn and one near Marengo. The trials will help local growers see the new varieties in action and provide important performance and adaptability data. Bayfield County will be establishing a “Go-First” farm at the former Ag Station property to help jumpstart the local hazelnut industry.



### Hazelnut Processing in Ashland

2020 was an important year for the Hazelnut Processing Accelerator in Ashland. We acquired two new pieces of equipment and now have the capacity to turn in-shell hazelnuts into saleable kernels very efficiently. To date, we have processed about 10,000 pounds from 20 different growers.



### 2020 Hazelnut Outreach

A series of outreach education and events for aspiring hazelnut growers took place in 2020. This included a three-part Hazelnut 101 Fact Sheet Series. Three in-person hazelnut informational meetings (pre-Covid) had a total of 156 individuals in attendance. There were also three virtual hazelnut informational meetings held with a total of 85 individuals in attendance.



The 11th Annual Upper Midwest Hazelnut Growers Conferences was held in-person on March 6 & 7, 2020 in Decorah, Iowa. Over the two-day conference there were 110 individuals in attendance. As part of the Conference, Jason Fischbach presented information on performance trials, the processing accelerator, and other data. Ariadna Chediack gave presentations on Nut Weevils and Rodent Damage in Hazelnuts.



### Kernza® - A New Perennial Forage and Grain Crop

Kernza is the tradename for improved varieties of intermediate wheatgrass. A new variety of kernza, “MN Clearwater” is being trialed near Marengo. The seeds are planted in early-fall and the grain and straw harvested in

mid-summer. Depending on the growing season, a forage harvest may also be possible from the regrowth. As a perennial, crops are expected for at least 3 years.

### The Cutting Edge: A Podcast in Search of New Crops for Wisconsin

Ongoing low commodity prices and ever-increasing input costs are driving more and more interest in crop diversification. To help keep growers informed on new and emerging opportunities, Jason developed a team and produced a new podcast in 2020. Thirteen episodes were produced in 2020 to discuss production and market potential of industrial hemp, hazelnuts, hops, Kernza, malting barley, Prairie STRIPS, naked barley, hemp for CBD, elderberry, winter spinach, and chestnuts. Two podcasts focused on field practices and harvesting of hazelnuts.

Podcasts are available on the Cutting Edge website <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/grain/cutting-edge/> or via Google Play or Apple Podcasts.





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## Office Manager/Support Staff –continued

### Financial Operations

Online registrations and payments were being offered to our citizens on a more frequent basis for workshops and classes. This was especially true this year, as most events were moved to an online platform. This involved LaChappelle setting up registration forms which many times needed to include payment options.

The Office Manager and Clerk 1 maintained the office accounting including spreadsheets, vouchers, and invoices, as well as processed all receipt collections, deposits, invoices and bill paying. The record keeping for grants, special projects and workshops was also maintained. LaChappelle served as a liaison to the Bayfield County Clerk's Office and the County Auditors, and also created financial reports for the Bayfield County Extension Committee.



### Educational Outreach, Office Operations & Technology

As the office website and social media coordinator, LaChappelle created content, posted and updated the sites with timely materials and new educational offerings to the Extension Bayfield County website, the Extension Bayfield County Twitter and Instagram accounts, as well as the four Bayfield County Extension Facebook pages: General Office, Master Gardeners Association, Superior Adventures and 4-H, and also added items for Extension into the Calendar of the Bayfield County Website,

Lukas handled the data and the sending out of the monthly "Just In Time" (JIT) Newsletter to the 79 parents of new babies born in Bayfield County in 2020. And the "JIT" newsletters that had been requested by 37 Bayfield County parents of two-year old to five-year old children were sent out on a bi-monthly basis.



LaChappelle also ensured that the Bayfield Head Start and the Red Cliff Early Childhood Center received editions of two newsletters specifically created by UW-Extension for parents of preschool age children. "Parenting the Preschooler" and "Money Smart for Head Start". These newsletters were sent to contacts at each of the organizations on a monthly basis while their classrooms were in session.

LaChappelle was also in charge of creating the layout for the joint newsletter of the Extension Bayfield County Office and the Bayfield County Human Services Aging and Disability Office. The newsletter entitled "Caregiver and Family News: Living Well in Our Best Years" had two issues that went out in 2020. The newsletter reaches out to local seniors, caregivers, and their families with pertinent information regarding many facets of their lives.



Caregiver and Family News: *Living Well in our Best Years*

*"Bringing the resources of the University of Wisconsin to Bayfield County."*



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