



July - September HIGHLIGHTS

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Agriculture and Natural Resources

Kelly Leo

The third quarter proved to be very busy for the Ag and Natural Resources division of Williams County Extension. Summer continued to be busy for all stakeholders. Grasshoppers and weed management dominated time and resources for area producers. May and June were wet and cool which really helped to control grasshopper progress this summer which was definitely a benefit compared to the previous two years. Unfortunately, the faucet turned off for the remainder of the summer with little appreciable precipitation, pushing western North Dakota into a pretty significant drought. Tree and lawn calls were very busy throughout the summer as well. The significant heat proved detrimental to trees in late July and early August with pest damage and heat stress causing early dieback and needle drop in some conifers. We are still seeing the effects of the 2021 drought that has caused long-term damage to many trees.

Water testing occurred in late July and August for some livestock producers as water quality declined rapidly with hot temperatures and little to no recharge of water due to drought conditions. There were several confirmed cyanobacteria blooms on livestock and recreational water in Williams County during this time. As of late, I have assisted with nitrate testing of forages due to risk for elevated nitrates in certain forages. This is a vital service to producers to prevent death loss in cattle from nitrate poisoning. Additionally, wheat midge soil survey and soybean cyst nematode survey have been underway.

Here are some additional activities and events

that occurred during third quarter of 2024:

July - ND State Fair activities were busy. I was the ND State Fair 4-H Meat goat superintendent and worked with NDSU 4-H Youth Development Specialists and staff members as well as other Extension Agents to organize and conduct the NDSF 4-H Meat Goat show during the ND State Fair. This was a great experience and I enjoyed learning the process at the State Level. There were 15 Williams County youth participants in the livestock events at the ND State Fair along with about 200+ static exhibits and 10 youth participating in contests; a testament to the talent of our Williams County 4-H youth.

WREC Field Days hosted a large number of participants. I assisted with Stop the Bleed training during this event which is a valuable training for everyone, especially in rural areas where first responder access and response times prove challenging in the event of an accident or bleeding event.

Williams County Extension co-hosted a Soil Health/Regenerative Ag tour in conjunction with Williams, Divide, and Ward County Soil Conservation District; Williams and Divide County Ag Improvement Association; and Mountrail County Ag Department. The tour focused on regenerative ag practices to enhance soil health. Presentations were by ag producers and this event was very well-attended by over 50 producers from Williams, Divide, Mountrail and Ward Counties.

August - Fall program planning and wrapping up all the 4-H State Fair participation kept us very busy. I was very busy with water testing, tree and horticulture calls and insect pest calls and questions.

September - I attended multiple trainings during the month of September including Emergency Response Preparedness for Foreign Animal Diseases and Mass

Livestock Mortalities. This training is valuable for Extension Agent response to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, anthrax or other mass mortality events.

I also took part in the ND Soil and Water Conservation Society annual meeting and workshop in Dickinson. This was a very valuable training for soil health principles of practice.

QPR suicide prevention training was the last week of September which is valuable for all individuals in preventing suicide.

The next few months will prove very busy for programming including post-fire response workshop, Special Assignment Pizza, general pesticide recertification training, Western Beef Summit, New 4-H Family Orientation, 4-H Volunteer Training, Williams County 4-H Fall Banquet, National Hard Red Spring Wheat Show planning, Bread Fair planning as well as a few other events.

Parent Educator
Blanche Waggoner

Happy Fall All! During July and August, I did a lot of networking and planning for upcoming sessions. Some events I attended were the Connecting Communities BBQ's, the Mainstreet ND Summit, and the Williams County Opioid Coalition meeting. I also was able to present and share resources at the Williston Basin School District kindergarten screening, the ND job fair and the Behavioral Health departments. Overall contacts for the quarter were around 850.

September has been busy with classes. Currently, I am co-facilitating with Dakota Family Solutions offering **Love and Logic**. We will be wrapping up this week. We have five participants. I am also **co-facilitating Powerful Tools for Caregivers** via zoom. We have nine participants from across North Dakota attending. I am offering a Positive

Discipline book study at the New Hope Church in Williston. We have five participants.

I will be co-facilitating **Keep Connected** for parent/caregivers and their middle school youth via zoom in November and December. I will be in the Watford and Ray area to offer **Coffee Talks for Caregivers**. Please watch for flyers and posts on our Parent & Family Resource Center- NDSU Extension-Region 1 Facebook page. As always, please check our website <https://www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/extension/extension-topics/family> for upcoming classes and events across the state.

Family and Community Wellness

Katelyn Jespersen

Greetings, from your local resource for everything wellness! I hope you enjoyed the last days of warm weather as we enter into the fall season. These past few months I have spent a lot of time networking, connecting with people and organizations in our communities, and planning for future programming.

Some of the highlights of this quarter include attending several Williston Area Chamber of Commerce events, participating in the Main Street Market with the Williston Downtowner's Association, advertising Extension programming at the local job fair hosted by Job Service, and making connections at local Wellness Fairs. I have been able to contribute to larger associations by providing insight to health and wellness needs of our communities through the Opioid Coalition, the Multi-Partner Health Collaborative, and Vision West. I also have been able to continue with my "Wellness Wednesday" articles to provide helpful tidbits of information for the public, and I have received great feedback of appreciation and anticipation for the weekly wellness topics. Among other things, I continue to seek out new ideas to learn from and incorporate into the needs of our community.

Current and future programming includes several plans within the works. I am currently in the middle of Stepping On – a falls prevention workshop for seniors. This class is always so well received and has amazing results with improved balance, coordination, and quality of life. I plan to keep hosting these sessions for as long as there is a need for fall prevention education. Coming up in November, I have a Powerful Tools for Caregivers virtual class scheduled. Watch for advertising and details for registration that will be coming out shortly. I also have a few schools that are looking to schedule On the Move – nutrition and healthy living classes for their students, which is always so much fun to see kids excited to learn about being healthy! Upcoming events in which I have the opportunity to spread wellness education includes Special Assignment Pizza, Marketplace for Kids, and some professional development classes for local organizations.

4-H & Youth Development

Scott Dai

Hi all, I'm the county's new 4-H Youth Development Agent! I'm eager to use my experiences in STEM education, agroecology, outdoor education, and environmental science towards creating impactful youth development programs for our community. I've used my first two months towards getting to know our existing 4-H program, forming community relationships, and understanding our youth's needs.

August – I attended Basic 4-H Training, a two-day training that introduced Extension professionals to positive youth development principles, 4-H planning, and state/national opportunities. I am eager to bring the concepts from this training to our county.

September – I used my forestry background to lead a station during Eco-Ed Days at the Williston REC, hosted by the Williams County Soil Conservation District. About 476 6th grade students learned about trees – students were particularly surprised that some detergents can contain chemicals from trees. I also visited Trenton’s After-School Program to lead an activity on robotics.

Next quarter, I will be participating in a STEM day hosted by the Bakken Skills Center to teach youth about greenhouse designs and different environmental challenges producers may face in growing crops. I will also be helping out in our annual Special Assignment Pizza event along with the rest of the Extension staff.

If there are any suggestions or insights about how 4-H can address key community issues, please don’t hesitate to reach out — I am excited for my new position, and I welcome all feedback concerning how I can serve youth members in our community.



Clever Clovers 4-H Club participating in Clean Williston

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NDSUExtensionWilliamsCounty

Williams County Extension Calendar

October

- 16 - Powerful Tools for Caregivers
- 16 - Stepping On Class
- 18 - First Aid/CPR Grenora
- 17 - Positive Discipline Book Study
- 21 - Bio Girls
- 22 - Pesticide Training Rectification
- 23 - Stepping on Class
- 23 - Powerful Tools For Caregivers
- 24 - Positive Discipline Book Study
- 28 - Bio Girls
- 29 - Positive Discipline Book Study
- 30 - Stepping on Class
- 30 - Powerful Tools for Caregivers

November

- 4 - Bio Girls
- 11 - Bio Girls
- 12 - Powerful Tools for Caregivers
- 12 - 15 Western Beef Summit
- 13 - 14 Special Assignment Pizza
- 15 - 4-H Awards Banquet
- 18 - Bio Girls
- 19 - Powerful Tools for Caregivers
- 20 - Western Beef Summit
- 25 - Marketplace for Kids
- 25 - Keep Connected
- 26 - Powerful Tools for Caregivers

December

- 2 - Keep Connected
- 3 - Powerful Tools for Caregivers
- 9 - Keep Connected
- 10 - Powerful Tools for Caregivers

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