



NDSU

EXTENSION
WILLIAMS COUNTY



January-March HIGHLIGHTS

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Agriculture and Natural Resources

Kelly Leo

The first quarter of every year is very busy for agriculture programming and meetings. It starts the recertification cycle for general and commercial pesticide which keeps agriculture agents busy through the end of March. Additionally, many commodity groups and organizations hold meetings during this season for agriculture producers and agriculture industry professionals. Extension often plays a large role in these meetings as presenters and hosts for such meetings. That was certainly true for me this past quarter. Here are just some of the programs offered by NDSU Extension Williams County this past quarter.

January January is a big planning month for the Annual Hard Spring Wheat Show and Bread Fair so much of the month was spent preparing for this large annual event. A post-fire crop producer meeting and Williams County Ag Improvement Association meeting was held January 16 in cooperation with the Williams County Soil Conservation District which included a great lineup of speakers and education for Williams County producers. I also presented at KMOT Ag Expo in Minot to educate youth on careers in the agriculture industry, which was attended by several hundred youth from schools near Minot. 4-H archery resumed on Monday nights with great attendance at this weekly program that begins in November which tends to serve anywhere from 30-45 youth per week for four months. I trained 34 4-H youth in YQCA during January which is a national program designed to educate youth on proper care and stewardship of animals. The 72nd National Hard Spring Wheat Show was January 28 at the Grand Williston Hotel. We hosted over 140 producers and industry representatives again for this amazing event. There was an incredible lineup of speakers and vendors for the annual event. Livestock Judging for 15 Williams County 4-H youth also kicked off in January with practices for the upcoming competitions. The number of youth really expanded from the small group of last year.

February The 5th Grade Bread Fair activities kicked off in February. This program serves over 1,500 youth in eastern

Montana and western North Dakota and has a huge impact in educating youth on the importance of ND agriculture in the food supply. This program reaches every 5th grade student in Williams County. General pesticide recertification was held toward the end of February which reached 22 producers for this first training and I also assisted Mountrail County with another session. In the 4-H realm, archery practice and competitions continued throughout February as well as livestock judging competitions every weekend in February. In conjunction with the Williams County Soil Conservation District, we hosted a soil health/regenerative ag producer meeting which served about 35 producers from the area. In that same week of February, we also held the MonDak Pulse Day event with about 40 producers in attendance. There were a lot of great speakers and information for our pulse crop producers.

March March continued with the busy schedule of Bread Fairs, archery practices/competitions and livestock judging state competition. I delivered a Livestock Quality Assurance training to 4-H youth towards the end of March that was a great, hands-on training for proper care and handling of animals. In addition, I also conducted a cat care and showmanship clinic. I held one additional general pesticide training in March with a good number of agriculture producers attending to finish out the pesticide training season. I also presented at a few commercial trainings offered in March that were hosted by our office as well. I attended the Western Crop and Pest School in Bismarck to receive additional training in crop pests and control measures. March 22 was the Annual Spring Tree and Garden Workshop at the Williston Research Extension Center. This was very well attended again this year with 40 participants with a full day of educational programs for homeowners in the MonDak region. In the same weeks, I hosted the Spring Fever Garden Forums on Monday nights for local gardening enthusiasts. Finally, I held a Design Your Succession Plan class for 11 agriculture producers in Williston. This event was very well attended and families seemed to really learn valuable information for succession planning. There is already a wait list for this class for next fall.

Dog obedience classes for 4-H youth will happen on Mondays in April and May. There will be a final Livestock Quality Assurance Training for all 4-H youth exhibiting at the Upper Missouri Valley Fair in June. I am planning for a small animal workshop in May as well.

Fair preparations begin in earnest throughout the next quarter as the Upper Missouri Valley Fair in the last full week of June. West Farm Safety Camp will be held in Williston this year June 10-12 for youth to receive their certification in equipment operation and farm safety. These are just a few of the upcoming events. Hope you all have a productive spring season!



Family and Community Wellness

Katelyn Jespersen

The year is off to a great start! These past few winter months have been filled with many activities. I have been in the schools helping with the annual **Bread Fair** activities that is continually increasing in student reach and is always a popular program we offer. I have also been in schools doing some **On the Move** programs in which elementary students learn about MyPlate, the five food groups, staying active, and making healthy choices. I always love getting to visit students in the classroom and they are always so excited to learn through these engaging experiences.

I have also been involved in several groups, teams, and coalitions that are planning for future programs. There has been a lot of focus on setting goals for the next five years by looking at community needs assessments, watching legislature, learning about new emerging issues, and providing proactive educational programs to meet the needs of people.

As we roll into spring, be on the lookout for upcoming programs, including some new ones! Currently scheduled are **Powerful Tools for Caregivers** and **Stop the Bleed** trainings. I will be scheduling **Babysitter Trainings**, so those will be SPRING-ing up in May. I have also joined the Williston Area Chamber of Commerce and plan to help host professional development opportunities through business workshops. Finally, I hope to bring the new and improved **BBQ Bootcamp** back to the community along with the new **Aging Mastery Program**. If you would like to learn more about any of the programs I can offer or would like to bring something to one of your groups, please reach out and I will be happy to help!

Parent Educator

Blanche Waggoner

Happy Spring! The grass is greening up and the sun is shining! The first part of the year I co-facilitated **Keep Connected** for parent/caregivers and their middle school youth via zoom and **Powerful Tools for Caregivers** via zoom. It is so nice to be able to offer classes and events through zoom as it gives us a chance to connect with participants across the state. I also offered **Coffee Talks with Caregivers** in Williston, Crosby and Watford City. This is a chance for community members to visit with each other to discuss community needs and resources that may assist with the needs. I am offering a **virtual Coffee with Caregivers** on May 14th at 12:00 CT.

April is Prevent Child Abuse month. We have many events and classes going on across the state. We have local events in Watford City, Crosby and Williston. There are many virtual events happening also. Springtime brings community events! Look for our table, we always have resources and information for families. 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.



4-H & Youth Development

Scott Dai

Happy Spring! In terms of 4-H, this is the time for our Spring Contests, where 4-H members participate in presentations, speeches, and demonstrations to learn valuable public speaking skills. So far, there have been two contests: Project Expo and Communication Arts. There were some incredibly informative and funny presentations in those contests, and I am very grateful for the amount of work and effort that went into all these presentations.

I have also been making some club visits to lead activities. I led one activity on Parliamentary Procedure, where 4-H club members make Trail Mix through Robert's Rules of Order, and another activity on making catapults out of popsicle sticks.

In terms of public outreach, I helped out with delivering Bread Fair to elementary schools across Williams County, and I also traveled to Minot to help out with Ag Expo. I'm slowly but surely learning more about the different groups in our community through getting more involved in county functions. If there is anything you know youth members are asking for, please contact me!

#iam4H



April

- 4 - Powerful Tools for Caregivers (6 weeks)
- 5 - PCAND Event – Watford City
 - 4-H Cat Workshop
- 7 - “What Happened to You” Book Study (4 weeks)
- 8-10 - Extension Spring Conference – Fargo
- 16 - Stop the Bleed – Ray & Williston
 - PCAND Event – Crosby
- 17 - Extension Advisory Council Meeting
- 25 - Kids Day Out Event – Williston
- 26 - Walk a Mile in Her Shoes Event – Williston
- 27 - PCAND Event – Williston
 - 4-H Livestock Quality Assurance

May

- 6-7 - Parent Educator Spring Meeting – Dickinson
- 13 - Positive Discipline Intro Class – Crosby
- 13-14 - Crucial Conversations Training – Bismarck
- 22 - Commercial Pesticide - Public Health
- 31 - Positive Discipline Intro Class – Watford City

June

- 10-12 - Youth Farm Safety Camp
- 23-29 - Fair Week / 4-H Achievement Days



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