



NDSU

EXTENSION
WILLIAMS COUNTY



April-June HIGHLIGHTS

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Agriculture and Natural Resources

Kelly Leo

April Programs -Quarter 2 was busy with a variety of events for adults and youth alike.

4-H archery practices wrapped up in April and the State Indoor Archery Championship was held in Bismarck. There were quite a few youth that attended the State shoot from Williams County. This program has continuously prepared excellent youth archers through the years thanks to the dedicated volunteer archery coaches that instruct youth from November through April every year.

April 7th was the first session of a ten-week dog obedience/showmanship class with the assistance of a new volunteer leader and about 30 youth taking part. The sessions ended June 18 with youth prepared to show off their dogs at the Upper Missouri Valley Fair.

I had one classroom request for the 4-H Embryology in the Schools Enrichment program this year with 32 youth taking part this year. The program was down in numbers this year due to the shortage of hatching eggs due to HPAI affecting the poultry industry. This program took place in April and early May with traveling to the 4th grade classroom at St. Josephs School. This was a four-week program that taught students about the science of embryology of chickens. We were fortunate to hatch some chicks and send those home with youth. The program was successful and will continue next year with additional schools.

I conducted the final Livestock Quality Assurance certification course for the 4-H year with around 20 youth in attendance for a total of over 100 youth trained in animal quality assurance this year.

I held a cat care and showmanship workshop for 4-H youth in preparation for showing at the Upper Missouri Valley Fair in June. This was well attended by youth enrolled in the cat project.

The Extension staff attended a spring Extension conference in Fargo where we networked with colleagues and engaged in professional development opportunities for three days. This is in addition to the fall conference that all Extension staff attend in October or November every year.

May Programs – Much of May is spent planning for the Upper Missouri Valley Fair and 4-H Achievement Days events, thus much time is spent on all the details for this large event.

I attended a poultry Pullorum testing training in Bismarck May 8th. This certification allows local testing of poultry for exhibition and flock health.

I was also fortunate to attend an artificial insemination school for sheep/goats at Hettinger Research Extension Center to be a better resource to small flock producers in Williams County.

Much of May was also spent planning for the West Farm Safety Camp. I was able to host the camp in Williston this year so there was much planning that occurred throughout May to make sure all equipment, housing, transportation, meals, etc. were in place for the camp in early June.

June Programs – I held a producer Field Walk June 4th in some pasture areas that were burned October 2024 to assess recovery and grazing/rest recommendations with Range Specialist, Kevin Sedivec. The tour was very helpful in assessing the impact of the fire to the native rangeland as well as to determine if the areas should be rested or grazed in 2025. It was well-attended and participants received a lot of hands-on training.

The West Farm/Tractor safety camp for youth as held June 10-12 at the Williams County Highway Complex and Williston State College. This eve

nt was jam packed event that lasted three days. Youth were trained in all avenues of Farm/Ranch Safety by Extension personnel and volunteers from the community. The fourteen youth gained their ATV safety certification and their Hazardous Occupations Order in Agriculture certification to operate farm equipment. The program was a great success and will hopefully be hosted in Williston again in the near future for the western side of the state. This is an annual training event for youth desiring to work on a farm/ranch.

Fair planning consumed much of May and June as always. 4-H livestock enrollment increased again this year; thus, the fair participation was up as well with lots of new families participating in fair events and activities. The 4-H fair events kicked off with the Horse Show June 20 and indoor static exhibit judging Monday, June 23. There were about 48 judges and assistants from the community that volunteer to evaluate the 4-H youth and their 530 projects. This event certainly couldn't happen without the amazing support of the community. The remainder of the fair happened June 24-29 during the Upper Missouri Valley Fair. 4-H and open livestock shows happened Wednesday through Saturday with well over 100 youth participating in these events. The fair was a huge success again this year thanks to all the great volunteers and the support of the Upper Missouri Valley Fair Board to provide the venue for the 4-H achievement days. As fair closed out, I was on the road to Billings, MT to attend the National Association of Agriculture Agents annual conference, June 29-July 2.

This event is rarely this close to home so I was excited to be able to attend this excellent professional development opportunity without traveling across the nation.

Spring is an especially busy time for tree and horticulture calls and there have already been many calls and home visits to diagnose biotic and abiotic damage. Water testing has started again and will continue throughout the summer for producers upon request as the runoff after rain paired with hot days will be a concern for cyanobacteria blooms in stock ponds and reservoirs. Additionally, there have been several calls regarding nitrate concerns in forage, thus I will be out testing forages in the coming weeks due to the hot, dry weather. Upcoming programs include the Williston Research Extension Center Field Days July 16-17 and ND State Fair July 18-27.

These are just the highlights as there certainly hasn't been a slow month. I hope to continue to bring great programs to Williams County!

Family and Community Wellness

Katelyn Jespersen

The past few months have been especially busy between hosting programs, attending trainings, and prepping for our county fair! In April, Blanche and I co-hosted a **Powerful Tools for Caregivers** program virtually that served participants from across the western half of the state. This program has proven extremely helpful to those who are caring for loved ones also learn how to take care of themselves throughout the stages of caregiving. Also in April, Kelly and I co-hosted a **Stop the Bleed** program in Williston. We plan to continue hosting this training periodically as there remains a need for more people to be trained to handle severe bleeding in our rural areas. During the **West Farm Safety Camp**, I taught **Stop the Bleed** sessions to the youth as well as **First Aid** sessions that covered packing first aid kits and basics uses of each item. As the school year wrapped up, I was able to host six **Babysitter Trainings**, getting 68 youth trained in babysitter basics, child development, and first aid/CPR/choking.

Aside from hosting programs, I remained busy with professional development and fair prep. In April, I attended the **Extension Spring Conference in Fargo** where I was able to collaborate with other agents and learn about programming updates. In addition to the conference, I attended a couple of trainings to further enhance the learning opportunities.

These trainings included a two-day deep dive into the book “**Crucial Conversations**,” which had great insight into handling difficult or high-stake conversations with plenty of take away information; and a one-day **Farm Safety Training**, which included skid steer and tractor driving courses at the Bobcat center in Bismarck. From mid to late June our office was in full Fair mode working on celebrating all our 4-H members’ achievements for the year.



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Parent Educator Blanche Anderson

Hello! It is hard to believe that we are half way through the 2025 year. The spring was filled with classes, trainings and events.

April –April was a big month for Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota events. I attended some Community Events to share resources and information. Community Easter Egg Hunt held at the Williston Community Library and the Kids Day Out Community Event held at the Williams County Fair Grounds. For both events, I had a table set up with information for parents regarding Child Abuse Prevention, Families Flourish ND swag, Parenting classes and resources in the area. We hosted two Helping ND Families Flourish events. Sadie Kieson-Opperud, LMSW spoke and shared information about self-regulation, safety and family engagement. I spoke on the topic of brain development. The events were hosted at the McKenzie County Public Library and the Williston Community Library. We offered childcare at both events. I also spoke about our class offerings at the Crosby Baby Shower that was hosted at the Divide Courthouse. During the month of April, I offered a virtual book study. We discussed the book “What Happened to You?” The book study was a big success with participants from across North Dakota. I attended the 3-day NDSU Spring Conference in Fargo. I also attended a virtual training for a new parenting class NDSU Extension will be offering.

May- The Parent Educators had our annual 2-day meeting in Dickinson. During this time, we discussed many things, a few were our program plans, grant funding and our State Parent Advisory Council schedule.

June- All about the fairs and training. I judged statics for the McKenzie County Fair. I also assisted where needed during the week of the Williams County Fair. After attending a four day zoom training, I am certified in Positive Indian Parenting. I am excited to be able to offer this class for our areas. As always, please check our website for upcoming classes and events being offered in North Dakota.

<https://www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/extension/programs/parent-education/upcoming-courses-events>



4-H & Youth Development

Scott Dai

We had Williams County participants in our District Communication Arts Contest. We have three entries that will be advancing to the State Fair with their prepared speeches, demonstrations, or readings!

The last of our 4-H contests, Clothing Revue, had 16 entries and 12 participants. Our participants learned how to present themselves and their garments with poise, confidence, and style, thanks to a workshop led by a 4-H parent. We had everything from 4th of July clothing, a dress with a picture of a dog, and pillowcases! One of our 4-H parents helped organize our 4-H float at the annual Williston Band Day. There were lots of kids that showed up to decorate and walk with our float! I also experienced my first county fair. It was a great learning experience and it was great to connect with our 4-H members and families.

With the end of this quarter, I've spent almost a year with my position. After observing the program for about a year, my main objectives are to reach more Williston youth members and expand non-animal opportunities. To do this, I aim to start engaging with Williston schools and empowering 4-H members to take leadership on educational opportunities.



Upcoming Events

July

15- Static Exhibits to ND State Fair

17- Extension Advisory Council meeting

18-26 ND State Fair

August

Babysitting classes- TBA

September

2-3 ANR Agent Livestock In-service

8- Parenting Class-ND Train Williston

8- 4-H Council Advisory Meeting

16- NDSU Ext. Commissioner Update

25- Kids' Ag Experience Day-Minot

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