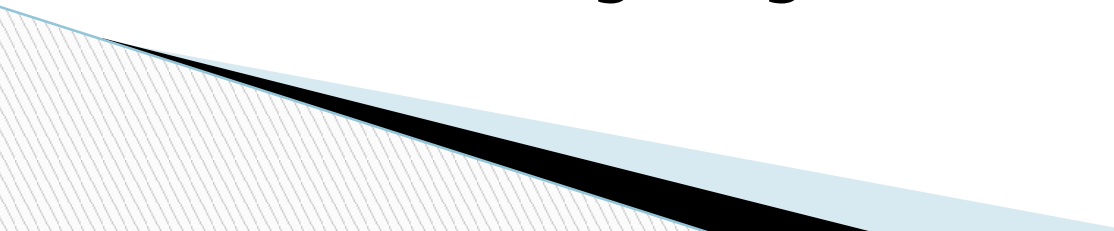


Exploring Job Options in Rural Wisconsin

Presented by: Ami Cooper
Easter Seals Wisconsin
Rural Rehabilitation Specialist

How & Why?

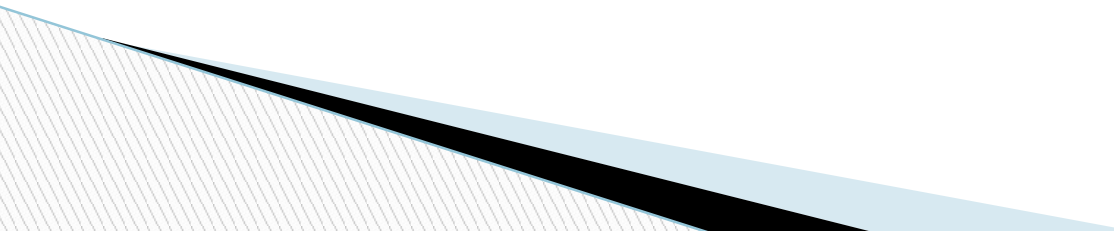
- ❑ Easter Seals FARM Program has a long standing working relationship with the Division of Workforce Development's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
 - ❑ New laws and grant opportunities equal new focus: Creating a new program focusing on High School aged students in their transitioning stages of life
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Test run

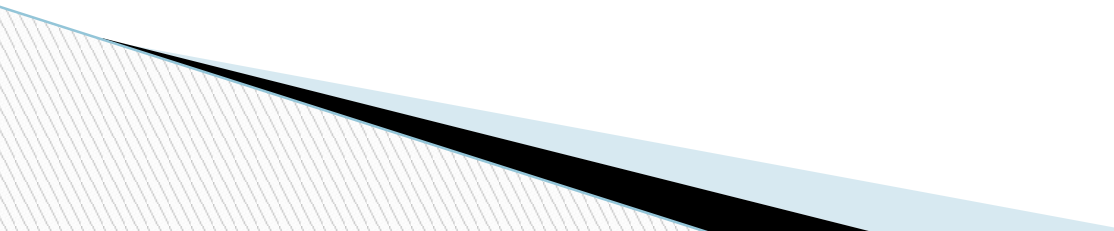
- ❑ Tested out the concept of the course in two areas of Southern Wisconsin, providing six 90 minute sessions for both areas
- ❑ After the launch of the classes; FARM and DVR met to discuss changes and improvements to be made including:
 - ❑ Marketing materials
 - ❑ Challenges faced
 - ❑ New Name




Our Mission

- ❑ To educate High School students (age 14-21) with disabilities about the vast agricultural career opportunities in Wisconsin
 - ❑ Provide fun activities while building knowledge about careers available in the growing \$104 Billion agricultural industry
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End Goals

- ❑ To engage students to want to learn more about a position with an agricultural business through participating in a job shadow or a short term work experience
 - ❑ Easter Seals FARM specialist work with DVR to offer assistance with finding worksites with opportunities available for students
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During the Classes

- ❑ Students will learn about:
 - ❑ How the snacks and food we eat relates back to agriculture
 - ❑ Agribusinesses and Cooperatives
 - ❑ The different career pathways in the Agriculture industry
 - ❑ How their interests could fit into an Ag career, what pathway suits them best
 - ❑ Resume building
 - ❑ Interviewing skills
- 

SNACKING AROUND WISCONSIN

Wisconsin agriculture provides us with many snacks and additions to our daily diet. Here's a fun way to learn about Wisconsin agriculture and products that are raised or grown on over 64,000 Wisconsin farms. What other things could you add that are grown or raised in Wisconsin?



Corn Chex® - made with corn meal, whole grain corn and corn starch. Wisconsin produces field (dent), sweet and pop corn. There were **3.8 million** acres of corn planted in 2019.



Dried Cherries – Made from cherries. Door County is the 4th largest producer of cherries in the nation. In 2018, **10.2 million pounds** of cherries were harvested there.



Honey Nut Cheerios® - Made from whole grain oats, honey, modified corn starch and oat bran. Wisconsin farmers planted 265,000 acres of oats in 2019. Honey from 51,000 bee colonies in 2018 totaled **2.30 million** pounds.



Cheese Popcorn – contains popcorn and cheddar cheese. Wisconsin ranks **#1** in cheese production, making 26% of the nation's cheese; producing over 600 types, styles, and varieties of cheese, nearly double the number of any other state! Each American eats an average of **42 quarts** of popcorn each year!



Pretzels – made from wheat flour and corn syrup. Wheat is the 3rd largest crop produced in the United States. Wisconsin harvested **150,000 acres** of wheat in 2019.



Shoestring Potatoes – made from white cooked potatoes. Wisconsin farmers harvested potatoes on **68,000 acres** in 2019; ranking third in the nation for potato production.



M & M's® - the milk chocolate contains skim milk and lactose (milk sugar). Wisconsin's dairy industry contributes **\$45.6 billion** to the state's economy annually. That's why we are known as America's Dairyland!



Craisins® - made with dried cranberries. Wisconsin ranks **#1** in the nation, producing **62%** of the nation's cranberry crop in 2018. The cranberry was named the state fruit in 2004.

Also included

- ❑ Tours of local Ag businesses
- ❑ Guest speakers and presentations

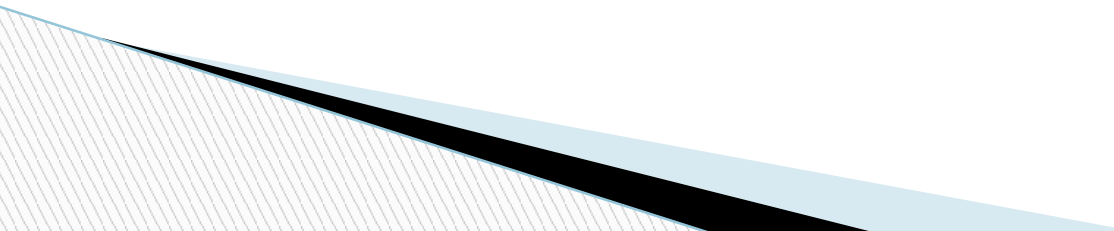


ESW FARM & Camp Join Forces

- ❑ Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek holds 4 Transition weekend camps throughout the school year.
- ❑ Camp and ESW FARM Program work together to bring Exploring Job Options in Rural Wisconsin to Transition weekends



Going Virtual

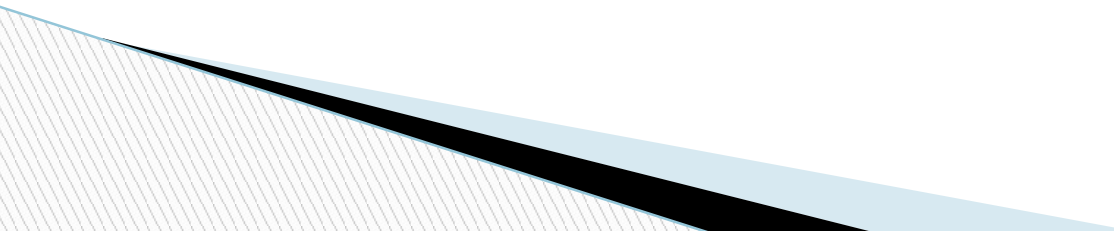
- ❑ As a result of COVID-19 the course went virtual
 - ❑ Opportunity to provide the course to less students at once or provide one-on-one classes as travel was not involved
 - ❑ Hybrid option
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Outcomes

- ❑ Students have learned more about themselves and their interests
 - ❑ Interests of various students have been:
 - ❑ Working with animals
 - ❑ Truck driver
 - ❑ Dispatcher
 - ❑ Writing
- ❑ 2021 provided first job shadow



Funding Sources

- ❑ DVR
 - ❑ AgrAbility
 - ❑ Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Matching Grant
 - ❑ Socially Disadvantaged (SDA) Grant
 - ❑ Nelson Family Foundation Grant (camp)
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Current & Past Challenges

❑ Time

- ❑ Gaining interest from teachers, but having trouble with follow through
- ❑ Amount of time to get a student through the process to become a DVR client

❑ Class size

- ❑ Feasibly takes 5 students to form a class

Discussion

- ❑ Does your state AgrAbility program work with students?
 - ❑ Yes: In what manner?
 - ❑ What are some of the challenges you run into? Successes?
 - ❑ No: Are you considering starting a program that works with students?



Questions?

