



# Next Gen

Dunn Environmental Education Steering Committee (DEESC)

Welcome to our sixth edition of the DEESC newsletter. It has been five years since the inception of the committee that set out to make a difference in the education of the youth of Dunn County. Thank you to all that have supported us so we can change lives.

## DEESC Members:

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July, 2019

## Our Mission Statement

The mission of the DEESC is to develop awareness in students that will inspire them to create a sustainable interaction with the environment and its natural resources

2019  
NACD  
Poster  
Contest  
Theme



Dunn County  
Land and Water  
Conservation  
Division (LWCD)

Dunn County Solid  
Waste & Recycling  
Division (SWR)

USDA-Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service (NRCS)

## Conservation Awareness Poster Contest Winners



Colfax Middle School Students (L to R):  
Brook Perry, Josephine Doerr, Amy Wenzel

The theme for the 2019 National Association of Conservation District's Conservation Awareness Poster Contest was, "Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper". The Dunn County Land and Water Conservation Division sponsors the contest at the local level with members of the Dunn Environmental Education Steering Committee (DEESC) administering it.

This year's contest brought in 11 entries from Mrs. Halpin's 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA Class at the Colfax Middle School and 31 entries from Mr. McMahon's Science Class at the Menomonie High School. The students were enthusiastic and did a wonderful job portraying the theme in their posters. In the 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade level, Amy Wenzel took a first place at both

the local and West Central Area level. Her poster went on to represent Dunn County at the State competition that was held in March in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Josephine Doerr placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and Brook Perry placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at the local level. These students represented the Colfax Middle School. The poster submitted by Jenna Blomquist, a Menomonie High School student, placed 1<sup>st</sup> at the local level in the 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade level and went on to represent Dunn County at the West Central Area level. Ving Chang and Nicole Luoma placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively at the local level. All 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners received Menomonie Chamber Bucks from the Dunn County Land and Water Conservation Division.



Menomonie High School Students (L to R): Ving Chang, Jenna Blomquist



Menomonie High School Student:  
Nicole Luoma



**Dunn County Fair: July 24-28, 2019**

**Chippewa Valley Farm-City Days @ Denmark Dairy**  
 September 6, 2019 (Kid's Day)  
 September 7, 2019 (General Public)

**Tri-County Land Judging Contest**  
 (Hosted by Dunn County)  
 October 10, 2019 (Tentative)

**Conservation Awareness Poster Contest**  
 December 9, 2019 (Deadline for Poster Submittal)

**Conservation & Environmental Awareness Speaking Contest**  
 Tuesday, January 28, 2020 (Location TBD)  
 Thursday, January 30, 2020 (Snow Date)



## 2019 Conservation & Environmental Awareness Speaking Contest

Each year, students are invited to participate in the Conservation Speech Contest by giving a speech that promotes the conservation of natural resources and the protection or enhancement of environmental quality.

On January 29, 2019, Destiny Haldeman, a Menomonie High School student, presented her speech, "Lead in Wisconsin Water" at the Dunn County Conservation & Environmental Awareness Speaking Contest. She went on to represent Dunn County in the Senior Division at the West Central Area Speaking Contest that took place on February 11, 2019, in Eau Claire.

This event is sponsored by the Dunn County Land and Water Conservation Division with assistance from the Dunn Environmental Education Steering Committee.

## Fifth Annual Environmental Field Day

There has been a growing interest in western Wisconsin regarding natural resources. With this interest, the Dunn Environmental Education Steering Committee (DEESC) created the Environmental Field Days for our younger natural resource users. The Environmental Field Days started in 2015 and have become an annual event for local Dunn County schools.



In May of 2019, the DEESC held their fifth annual Environmental Field Days for approximately 122 fifth grade students from Boyceville and Colfax. The event was held at the Bjornson Education-Recreation Center in Knapp, WI. The DEESC held a similar field day at the Elk Mound Middle School for 85 fifth graders.

The event consists of eight stations (soil formation, soil health, wildlife, forestry, recycling, water quality, native plant species, and invasive plant species.) At each station, the students received hands on experience and participated in activities with professionals in their respective fields. Students participated in activities such as building their own soil profile, learning about soil formation in a soil pit and about ground penetrating radar equipment, determining water quality by identifying macro-invertebrates in a cold-water stream system, learning what can be recycled in Dunn County, identifying invasive and native plant species, recognizing common wildlife species, timber cruising with a Forester, and much more.

The stations were taught by staff from the Dunn County Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD), Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling, Lower Chippewa Invasive Partnership (LCIP), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Thanks to all of the students who participated and staff who assisted with this event and made it a successful learning experience!

**"The earth will continue to regenerate its life sources only as long as we and all the peoples of the world do our part to conserve its natural resources. It is a responsibility which every human being shares. Through voluntary action, each of us can join in building a productive land in harmony with nature."**  
 ~ Gerald R. Ford

## Menomonie Team Comes Out on Top at the Area Land Judging Contest



Dunn County was slated to host the 2018 annual Land Judging Contest, but the weather did not cooperate and it had to be cancelled. Fortunately, students were able to join the Chippewa/Eau Claire FFA Land Judging Contest that was held on Wednesday, October 17 at the BJ Ramsier Farm south of Cadott. Approximately 100 students representing 7 schools and 3 counties participated in the event. Schools participating were Bloomer, Boyceville, Cadott, Chippewa Falls, Cornell, Menomonie, and Spring Valley.

Students examined four soil pits to determine the texture, structure, depth, slope and drainage of the soil. They were also tasked with determining soil fertility and nutrient management requirements. Using that information, they then identified soil erosion and land use limitations and capabilities of soil and recommended the farm management and conservation practices.

The Menomonie team of Kaden Styer, Bryant Kluge, and Brooks Brewer, with individual scores ranging from 235-262, came away with first place and a team score of 736 points. Jean D'Angelo, Agriscience Instructor, led the team which had four of the top ten high-scoring individuals of the event.



With a team score of 719.5 points, Kenny Clark, Austin Hatfield, and Josh Marzofka took second place honors under the direction of Glenn Knudtson, Agriscience Instructor at Boyceville High School. Kenny had the top score of 255 points with other members of the team contributing 239.5 and 225 points respectively. Boyceville's team had two of the top ten high scoring individuals.

Top scorers for the Chippewa Falls team were Jacob Maier (237.5), Michelle Asselin (223), and Makaeh Quimet (218). Their team score of 678.5 gave them third place in the competition.

Receiving fourth place with a team score of 673.5 was the Spring Valley team under the direction of Agriscience Instructor Carter Turner. Claire Anderson had the top individual score of 228 with Riley Gillis-Stoffel and Trevor Link contributing with scores of 227 and 218.5 respectively.

Earning honorable mention were the Cornell team with 586 team points, Bloomer with 566 points, and the Cadott team with 562.5 points.

## Missouri Valley 4-H Club Pollinator Plot Prep

The Missouri Valley 4-H Club worked in collaboration with Dunn County Land & Water Conservation Division, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pheasants Forever, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to prepare a field to be planted into long-term pollinator habitat. Members learned about the importance of our native pollinators, how to help protect their habitat and food sources, and how to hand seed a field.

