

PORTAGE COUNTY UW-EXTENSION

December 2018 Update

A report generated for the Portage County Ag & Extension Committee, highlighting programs or initiatives engaged in or executed by UW-Extension Colleagues

AGRICULTURE EXTENSION EDUCATOR – KEN SCHROEDER

- Hosted a successful one-day Urban Forestry workshop providing basic instructions and training for urban forestry clientele on how to plant trees to achieve optimal health and maximum benefits over time. 34 people attended, coming from Portage County and the surrounding counties of Clark, Lincoln, Marathon, Outagamie, and Wood Counties.
- Wrote and received two Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection Producer-Led Watershed Protection grants to promote adoption of conservation practices through on-farm research and demonstration plots, field days, and cost-share incentives. The Farmers for Tomorrow/Waupaca River watershed grant totaled \$40,000 while the Farmers of Mill Creek watershed grant is for \$36,525.
- It is private pesticide applicator training time again. We will be holding 3 classes in 2019, February 1 and 15, and March 15.
- Hosting a Produce Safety Training January 10th at the Annex. This is a certification class that provides training **required** by the FDA for produce growers that fall under the Produce Safety Rule.

FOODWISE – JODI FRIDAY, PENNY SCHMITT, MARY HIGLEY

- Participated in the Portage County monthly staff meeting and open house; participated in the Hunger & Poverty Prevention Partnership meeting; held a monthly FoodWise Team meeting establishing new processes for documenting Civil Rights actions, PSE efforts and a team evaluation plan. I continue to do a large amount of direct education in Wood County due to the lack of a full time educator. (Jodi)
- Offered several 3-part nutrition education series at various locations including; St. Bronislava Church, St. Vincent De Paul Marshfield, and Health and Human Services FSET in Wisconsin Rapids. Offered 2 nutrition education shopping tours at Walmart. Attended Portage County Open House. Currently recruiting new participants for nutrition education at St. Vincent de Paul Stevens Point and Cedar Rail Senior Apts. Wood Co. (Mary)
- Held a 3-part nutrition education series for parents of young children. Currently teaching a 6-part nutrition education series at McKinley elementary school in 6th grade classrooms. Currently teaching a two 12 week StrongBodies classes, one at ADRC Plover Senior Meal

Site and one at the YMCA (the YMCA provides us a space to hold the class to eligible participants). Provided nutrition education at two Children's' Hospital of WI parenting classes. Attended Portage County Open house and Hunger & Poverty Prevention Partnership meeting, as well as, FoodWise and office team meeting. As a member of Healthy People Portage County Healthy Weight Action Team I attended planning and process meetings. (Penny)

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT EDUCATOR – CONNIE CREIGHTON

- Volunteer recognition program was held in November 2018. One program was the 4-H Leaders Banquet which had a total of 68 attendees. Twenty-five 4-H volunteer adult leaders were recognized for their years of leadership in the 4-H program, with a combined total of 270 years of volunteer service in the Portage County 4-H program.
- Over 60 adults and 100 youth attended the 4-H Award program. Youth were recognized for their role in leadership events, programs, and positions. Fourteen 4-H youth received special recognition for the leadership they showed in club and county programs & projects. Fifty-six first year members and 63 4-H members were recognized for their participation in leadership events and programs.
- Hosted the 2018 State 4-H Dog Show. Two Portage County 4-H Dog Leaders, Paula Kropidlowski and Nadene Seymour, planned, organized, and implemented a successful 4-H state dog show event. There were over 250 participants representing 33 counties and 27 dog breeds including mixed breeds. There were 4 obedience rings and 1 rally ring setup Friday for the 25 obedience classes and 9 rally classes. On Saturday evening, after the state 4-H dog agility show in Amherst, they held the dog quiz bowl which consisted of 21 teams, 5 members per team, totaling about 105 youth. On Sunday 3 rings were left for 10 showmanship classes. Most of these classes had between 10-15 participants. I observed 4-H members, leaders, volunteers, and parents, who participated in the four-day event, strengthen and develop friendships, leadership, and team building skills with 4-H'ers around the state.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EDUCATOR – NATHAN SANDWICK

- This fall, Nathan compiled information about energy use throughout the Village of Plover and engaged a UW-Extension energy specialist and interested Plover area business and community leaders in discussion about potential community strategies to facilitate pursuits of energy savings, related business ventures, and local development opportunities.
- Two organizations that Nathan had been working with in recent months updated their strategic plans. Grassworks is a nonprofit organization whose board adopted a new plan identifying several current goals aligned with their mission to provide leadership and education to farmers and consumers for the advancement of managed grass-based agriculture to benefit present and future generations. A work group of Stevens Point Fire Department staff prepared a draft update to the 2013 plan focusing on goals that they and other colleagues can work on as a department over the next few years.
- A few Portage County UW-Extension colleagues presently support a series of exploratory and increasingly goal-oriented deliberations as part of the Community Change Project to

address calls to action from the 2017 LIFE Report for Portage County issued by United Way. Nathan serves as part of the work group focused on community strategies to advance goals

FAMILY LIVING EDUCATOR – SHERRY DANIELS

- StrongBodies programs going strong at the ADRC, Junction City, and Plover. Received approval this month to start a StrongBodies class in Amherst at the Jensen Center on April 1. FoodWise (Penny) will teach the first ten weeks at this new location. Recruiting for volunteers to attend the training on February 28 to become trainers for this program.
- Facilitated a train-the-trainer Taking Care of You program. There were 17 attendees throughout the state, two of which were from Ascension Medical locally.
- Financial Wellness of Portage County added one new client this month bringing the year-to-date total families served 25. The trend over the last couple of months is female clients who only want financial coaching from another female so I trained another female financial coach for the program. Personally, I am coaching two long term financial clients and meeting weekly with them.

AREA EXTENSION DIRECTOR – JASON HAUSLER

- Wrapping recruitment for a new FoodWise Coordinator for Portage and Wood Counties. Thank you to Chairman O'Brien for assisting with final interview in November. The new coordinator will start at the beginning of 2019.
- Working with committees and county partners in Area 7 to finalize UW-Extension Contracts for 2019. Thank you to David Ray and Calvin Winters for their support of the Portage County contract, which will come before the committee on the 6th of December.
- Assisting staff with preparing for our 2019 Civil Rights Review in April. This is a review that happens every 3-4 year to ensure we are making reasonable and intentional efforts to reach all constituents in Portage County with our programming.