



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
PORTAGE COUNTY

PORTAGE COUNTY EXTENSION

March 2019 Update

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

AGRICULTURE EXTENSION EDUCATOR – KEN SCHROEDER

- Participated in third annual Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant workshop.
- Attended and shared hops research on nitrogen rates at annual hop growers conference.
- Held 3 private pesticide applicator certification classes, 2 at Annex and one off-site at Russet Potato Exchange training room.
- Presented along with Matt Hintz (Farmers for Tomorrow Watershed lead farmer) info on Portage County Producer-Led watershed projects to UWSP Soil and Water Conservation Society student group.

FOODWISE PROGRAM (KELLY HAMMOND - COORDINATOR; PENNY SCHMITT - EDUCATOR)

- Promoted Portage County FoodWise team with a professional video shoot featuring Penny Schmitt teaching a parent/child “Snack and Learn” class, February 19 at Jefferson Elementary. Promotion video will be used to showcase FoodWise programming with shareholders and statewide.
- FoodWise representation at Healthy People Portage County, Hunger and Poverty Prevention Partnership, Portage County CAN annual planning meeting and Right from the Start. Partner meetings included: Woman, Infant Children (WIC), Head Start, Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and Giving Gardens (continued onboarding and partner development).
- Penny Schmitt February teaching events included: McKinley 1st grade, Boys and Girls Club Parent series, Pathway to Parenting Classes and subbing for StrongBodies classes as needed. Teaching event promotion activities for Amherst and YMCA StrongBodies at Head Start, ADRC and WIC.
- Professional Development: Performance Management Training, February 21 and FoodWise Coordinators conference, February 26-28 in Madison.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT EDUCATOR - CONNIE CREIGHTON

- 4-H Teen Leadership Winter Camp was held the 8-9th of February at the Lions Camp in Rosholt. This year we expanded our camping program from three counties to six county 4-H Youth Development Programs: Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Portage, Shawano, & Waupaca. Eight chaperones and twenty teens participated in camp. Youth practiced cooperation, leadership, outdoor survival skills and communication skills. Teens grew in their ability to initiate new friendship. Portage County had four teens attend camp. Activities/programs included: teens working in groups to start a fire to roast marshmallows; tower building activity; tubing; the Wayne Game, and snowshoeing to name a few programs.



Winter Camp participants from all six counties



Portage County camp participants

- 4-H dog and market animal educational project meetings were held in in February. Dr. Barb Kasproicz held a Practical Application workshop for beef, sheep and swine exhibitors. Sixteen youth attended. Dr. Barb covered basic health care for market animals. The dog project started meeting in February at Camp Bandy. We have added dog agility to the program.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EDUCATOR - NATHAN SANDWICK

- Convened UW-Extension's "Foundations of Community Placemaking" in-service; presented resources for building community capacity, and profiling local placemaking efforts.
- Facilitated a series of organizational development sessions involving leaders and members of a civics group serving the Stevens Point area.
- Helped establish shared sense of opportunity and a local work group's next steps to improve local financial stability and affordability of housing as part of a Community Change Project.

FAMILY LIVING EDUCATOR – SHERRY DANIELS

- Recruited volunteer leaders to build the capacity of the StrongBodies program. On February 28th, five community members completed the train-the-trainer program. We now have leaders and back-up leaders for all four StrongBodies locations with the capacity to expand out to other rural communities.
- In collaboration with UWSP I trained 11 volunteers to become volunteer financial coaches on campus for the Financial Security Association.
- Raising a Thinking Child 7-week training, done all online, is set up starting on March 26th. Now recruiting for parents with children ages 4-7 to sign up for the classes.

AREA EXTENSION DIRECTOR – JASON HAUSLER

- Worked with Lisa, Dave Ray, and others to ensure Drainage District information and materials were sent out in a timely fashion - in accordance with state statutes and legal precedence.
- Assisted staff with preparing information and documentation for our Civil Rights review, scheduled for Tuesday, April 16th in the afternoon.
- Prepared for Joint Legislative meeting on March 11th, presenting on the Extension transition to UW-Madison.