



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
PORTAGE COUNTY

PORTAGE COUNTY EXTENSION

May 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

- Authored the 2019 Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Envirothon current issue team presentation scenario along with Dan O’Connell. Served as judge for the event competition April 12 at the Wisconsin Lions Camp. We had 16 teams from around the state compete.
- Wild Parsnip Identification and Management presentations. Gave 3 presentations - at the Jensen Center to the general public, at the Portage County Highway Department to 50 county highway workers, and at the Plover Town Hall to road crews from the Towns of Plover, Grant, and Dewy as well as the Village of Rosholt. I was assisted by John Eron, Portage and Wood County Weed Commissioner.

FOODWISE (KELLY HAMMOND - COORDINATOR; PENNY SCHMITT - EDUCATOR; MARY HIGLEY-EDUCATOR)

- April is program planning month for FoodWise, with the release of the 2020 Budget and priorities. Mary Higley also returned from FMLA on April 1 and has contributed to teaching events and civil rights review documents.
- Teaching events include: Strongbodies nutrition and strength classes at the YMCA and Amherst Senior Meal Site, with 28 participants. Plan and present a curriculum training workshop for nutrition educators (Schmitt).
- Policy, Systems and Environmental work: co-facilitating poverty workgroup for HPPP to develop poverty-alleviation programming. Continue work with Farmshed/PCCAN/Farmers Market Manager to bring EBT back to the Market for summer 2019 (Hammond). FoodWise representation at Right From the Start Coalition and Healthy People Portage County.
- 2-day New Colleague Cohort training in Madison, April 15-16 (Hammond)

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT EDUCATOR – CONNIE CREIGHTON

- Camp Counselor Training, Saturday April 13th 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Five county 4-H programs are holding summer camp together; Portage, Waupaca, Wood, Marathon, and Taylor County. With the counties being so spread out our goal was to facilitate a training where teens were not traveling great distances. The training was held in two places, at the Marshfield Research Station and the Waupaca Courthouse. We utilized Zoom technology to video conference the two sites together. The training using this technology worked amazingly well. Youth in both site were actively engaged in hands-on learning, including: learning new camp songs, learning about ages and stages, and teaching them how to provide a safe environment for the campers.
- After prom event (MORP), sponsored by Portage County Alliance for Youth (PCAY), was held April 27 (11:30 p.m. - 4:00a.m.) at Rogers Cinema 7. My role was to recruit, contact, provide orientation, and organize volunteers before, during, and after the event and to be the main contact for the Cinema, making up the movie map and informational flyer for that night. 156 youth, 29 volunteers and law enforcement from all three agencies attended the event.
- Co-taught with Sherry Daniels True Colors to the Stevens Point Co-op, Saturday, April 6, 2019. Twelve people attended the program.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EDUCATOR – NATHAN SANDWICK

- Finished a series of short, facilitated discussions among members of the Portage County Health Care Center Committee. Provided an initial synthesis of purposeful activities for determining a lasting solution for the Health Care Center’s services.
- Joined many community members in a “future regions” scenario planning exercise, Portage County Prosperity 2040. Offered organizers a few ideas for reaching multiple participation goals including openness, broad representation, and having a manageable group size.
- Assembled some information about the use of TIF in Portage County and Wisconsin communities, acknowledging context including state laws that constrain local budgets.

FAMILY LIVING EDUCATOR – SHERRY DANIELS

- This month I assisted Penny in starting the StrongBodies class in Amherst at the Jensen Center. We regularly have at least 20 participants and we were able to invite the nine people on the waiting list. I am now coordinating four locations holding two classes every week, led by trained community volunteers.
- Completed weeks 3-7 of the Raising a Thinking Child class series. Only one class left. We started with 12 families being involved weekly and will end with 10 families. With this on-line learning environment for parenting classes the dialogue has been outstanding and the learning remarkable.
- Completed my first Real Colors Training, with Connie, for the Stevens Point Co-op. We had 12 people who attended at 7:30 am on a Saturday morning.

AREA EXTENSION DIRECTOR – JASON HAUSLER

- Continued planning and preparation for both the May 7th Area Meeting and the Joint Ag & Extension Meeting.
- Participated in the Portage County Civil Rights Review on April 16th. Staff did a great job demonstrating their intentional efforts to reach all audiences in Portage County.
- Participated in and finalized all 2018 performance reviews for Area 7 colleagues.
- Had a very positive discussion with Executive Holman regarding Extension and the Priority Based Budgeting documentation he is asking departments to complete.