



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
PORTAGE COUNTY

PORTAGE COUNTY EXTENSION

June 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

- Set up on-farm research trials:
 - Adaptive Nitrogen Management Strategies for Corn - marked out plots and nitrogen application rates from 0 to 200 lbs./acre. Pulled soil samples for pre-plant nitrate testing and routine soil analysis. This is part of UW-Madison soil scientist Carrie Laboski's statewide research project.
 - Sustainable Soil Nitrogen Fertility Management for hops in the Midwest - marked out plots and applied fertilizer treatments. N rates of 0 to 200 lbs./acre.
 - Working with 3 farmers in the Tomorrow River Watershed to set up Nitrogen Use Efficiency trials as part of a statewide benchmarking project for corn.
- Assisting with planning the 40th Annual June Dairy Brunch and Open Farm to be held on Saturday June 15th, 2019 on the Edelburg Family Farm, 1499 County Road A, Amherst Junction.

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

- Teaching events include: Completed 12-week StrongBodes series in Amherst and at the YMCA. Completed 3 part Yuck to yuck series. Finished 1-grade nutrition lessons at McKinley school. Completed evaluations for programs.
- Started planning to transition to summer and FY20 programming.
- Policy/Systems/Environmental Work: Facilitate Fruit and Veggie Network meeting on May 30th. Continue work with Farmshed/PCCAN/Farmers Market Manager to utilize EBT and FVRx (Fruit and Vegetable Prescription program). FoodWise representation at Right From the Start Coalition and Healthy People Portage County.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT EDUCATOR – CONNIE CREIGHTON

- The 2019 4-H Clothing Revue was held on May 7th. Seven exhibitors exhibited 9 projects. Youth demonstrated the skill and knowledge that have gained through the project.
- May 6th and 7th the 4-H Camp Counselor Planning session was conducted remotely using Zoom.
- Attended a day-long workshop on May 14 - *Uplifting through Understanding: The Hmong Journey yesterday, today, and tomorrow.*
- May 20th we met and started planning for the Amherst Fair 4-H Teen Leaders Food Stand
- Taught a Market Animal Project program on May 21st - Ethics, Sportsmanship, and Respect.
- Area 7 colleague meeting in Marshfield on May 7

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EDUCATOR – NATHAN SANDWICK

- Supported Extension colleagues' and other partner agencies' efforts to gather information and develop resources to address needs for affordable housing.
- Delivered multiple presentations about the Extension Community Vitality and Placemaking Team's approach to conducting design team visits in Wisconsin communities.
- Continued compiling information and resources to post on a website that will serve as a landing page for information about opportunities for investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

FAMILY LIVING EDUCATOR – SHERRY DANIELS

- I completed the 7-week Raising a Thinking Child class this month. Sixteen parents with twenty-seven children completed the program. All had with very positive feedback on the changes they have made in parenting.
- Financial Wellness of Portage County has kept me busier this month as I am still meeting every week with three high-need, long-term clients. We are making progress but due to the complications in their financial situations it is slow.
- Working with the Hope House, I have two clients that I am helping find suitable housing options for their situations. I also have become a Board Member for the Hope House this month.

AREA EXTENSION DIRECTOR – JASON HAUSLER

- Continued working with a State Extension Team and the Wisconsin Association of Fairs to help delineate better role alignment at county fairs. Guidelines for Extension Educators have been drafted and endorsed by the Association of Fairs.
- Worked on setting up the Deans Exchange (monthly state webinar) in Area 7 - specifically in Stevens Point. This will happen on Monday, June 3rd at the Annex Building.
- Assisted the Portage County team to draft and submit our Civil Rights Action Plan, which is a result of our internal audit in April. While this is an ongoing and changing process, this plan will guide our work.