



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
PORTAGE COUNTY

PORTAGE COUNTY EXTENSION

July 2019 Update

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

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

- Teaching events include: McKinley Summer school lessons and planting of the school giving garden. 4 classrooms of K-3rd grade. (Schmitt & Hammond).
- Training and planning: FoodWise Cooking with Families committee meeting as part of a team to help plan future cooking with kids classes (Schmitt & Hammond) Complete StrongBodies training in LaCrosse on 6/14 (Hammond) Started planning with partners to develop a StrongBodies class in Rosholt (Schmitt & Hammond)
- Policy, Systems and Environmental work: Share strategic planning survey with Breastfeeding Coalition, partnership with Nathan Sandwich (Hammond). FoodWise representation at Fruit and Veggie Network meeting and Healthy People Portage County, Healthy Weights Team (Hammond & Schmitt).
- EBT at the Farmers Market: Continue to work with partners to bring EBT back to the Farmers Market in 2020. Complete first Farmers Market Tour in Wisconsin Rapids, possibility to build Stevens Point Program and learn more about local Farmers Markets.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT EDUCATOR – CONNIE CREIGHTON

- Started Garden Program at Madison View B&GC in June. We program at the garden weekly. The 4-H Summer Assistant, Sam, has taken the lead on selecting the lesson plans he wants to teach. We also placed two AeroGardens (hydroponic) at the center. One garden is leaf lettuce and the other is herbs. Connie Creighton, Sam Minch, & Sherry Daniels collaborate on this program. 16 non-duplicated participants in June.
- Started AeroGarden program at Junction City B&GC. Working with their Nature Club we planted two hydroponic gardens. Our plan is to work with the program every 1st and 3rd Wednesday. Connie Creighton, Sam Minch, & Sherry Daniels collaborate on this program. 5 participants
- June 7th we worked Summer Special Olympic Craft area. Eighteen youth and adults participated in the morning event. Since 1997, Portage County 4-H teen leaders and adults have helped organize, prepare materials for, and work at a 4-H Craft area at the

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Wisconsin Special Olympics. Through this process, youth and adults work with a diverse population group, increasing their understanding of the Special Olympians. The teens and 4-H adult leaders are very enthusiastic about the program. The Special Olympics program provides 4-H youth and adults the opportunity to work with the diverse Special Olympics audience in a creative way.

- 4-H Intermediate Camp - Joint Camp at Upham Woods with Waupaca, Wood, Lincoln & Taylor Counties. 9 Counselors, 9 Adults, 39 Campers = 57
- 4-H Junior Camp - at Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES) - Joint Camp with Waupaca, Wood, & Taylor. 34 Campers, 8 Counselors, 9 Adults = 51
- Cake Decorating Workshop 17 attended

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EDUCATOR – NATHAN SANDWICK

- Prior to going on family leave, Nathan joined various agency partners in a discussion about expanding knowledge and capacity for cooperative housing development that may help address some affordable housing needs observed in various Wisconsin communities.

FAMILY LIVING EDUCATOR – SHERRY DANIELS

- Co-facilitated (with Jackie Carattini, Wood County) the Real Colors training twice: on June 11 ten statewide Public Health employees and on June 26 thirty-two employees of Portage County Health and Human Services.
- This is the fourth year of working on the Youth Garden Program. I worked with 4-H on setting up two AeroGardens (hydroponic) at the Madison View Boys & Girls Club.
- Began planning to develop a StrongBodies class in Rosholt with FoodWise and the ADRC. Assisting the current StrongBodies locations (ADRC, Plover, Junction City, and Amherst) on completing the necessary paperwork to transition into the third quarter of 2019.
- Continued work with RentReady Wisconsin (a workgroup of Hunger and Poverty Prevention of Portage County) to lower homelessness in Portage County. This month I was able to assist one person, who was homeless, get placed in a rental property.

Area Extension Director – Jason Hausler

- Assisted staff with completing the 2018 Annual Report. Plan is to share the report with the entire county board in August. I will work with Chris Holman in the coming weeks to discuss what that looks like.
- Begun 2019 budget discussions within the office, and will begin significant work on it in July. Our final budget will depend on where the position reclassification requests fall and any additional expenses from IT, etc.
- Assisted with the statewide new colleague onboarding program, which will be visiting Stevens Point on July 9th and 10th.