



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
PORTAGE COUNTY

PORTAGE COUNTY EXTENSION

August 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

- **Producer-Led Watershed Project:** Assisted with planning and hosting 2 lunch and learn field days:
 - Farmers of Mill Creek July 3rd (15 attendees). Presented information on cover crop options for prevented plant acres, roller crimper use and Producer-Led grant cost-share options.
 - Farmers for Tomorrow River July 10th (25 attendees). Presented information on cover crop options for prevented plant acres and talked about cost-share options for conservation practices from the Producer-Led grant. Also, had a demo of inter-seeding cover crops and viewed a field that was inter-seeded 3 weeks prior.
- **Wild Parsnip:**
 - Gave a presentation along with John Eron on Wild Parsnip identification and our efforts to manage it in Portage and Wood Counties to 20 legislative representatives at the State Capitol July 16th and hosted one of 5 statewide roadside invasive plant workshops focused on wild parsnip management (50 roadside managers from Portage and surrounding counties attended).
 - Printed, laminated and distributed 60 4x6 wild parsnip id truck cards to Portage County highway department.
- Helped with and participated in the annual Hancock Ag Research Station Potato Field Day July 18th. About 200 potato growers and industry professionals attended.

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

- **Lessons and events:** Completed lessons at Mckinley Summer school. One parent wrote on their evaluation " (my child) wants to buy a veg we never had purchased before and snack on it. Child loves to be a "food adventurer" now. Great program- keep up the excellent work! (It) worked on our child for trying new vegetables not exposed to at home typically! "

- Upcoming: StrongBodies Class in Rosholt. Preparing a Community Foundation Grant for EBT at the Farmers Market in 2020. Planning a new class with new curriculum "Kids in the Kitchen". (Schmitt & Hammond)
- Meetings and training: Fruit and Veggie Network, Portage County Healthy Weight Team. Participated in developing training workshop for peers on a new program "Cooking with Families" (Schmitt & Hammond), will be presenting at the Regional conferences. Attended a Health and Well Being Institute conference in Madison(Schmitt).

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT EDUCATOR – CONNIE CREIGHTON

- Youth Garden Program at Madison View B&GC is going strong. Garden isn't producing much, but youth picked some (maybe a handful) of sugar peas, beans, cherry tomatoes, and radishes. 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. The two AeroGardens (hydroponic) are going strong and they are already harvesting lettuce and next week they will infuse water the mint that is growing. We made salsa with a large group on the 30th which went very well. Connie Creighton, Sam Minch, & Sherry Daniels collaborate on this program.
- The AeroGarden program at Junction City B&GC is going strong. We are still working with their Nature Club we planted two hydroponic gardens. Our plan was to work with the program every 1st and 3rd Wednesday, but because of their enthusiasm for the program we go every Wednesday and repeat the program that is done at Madison View. As with Madison View the lettuce is coming up strong. Connie Creighton, Sam Minch, & Sherry Daniels collaborate on this program.
- Amherst Fair was July 18 - 21. On Saturday during rabbit and dairy judging we were hit with a severe thunderstorm and possible tornadic activity. No one was hurt but power lines and trees littered the fairgrounds. Except for the swine/turkey auction and the rabbit & horse judging on Saturday the fair was canceled. The amount of help and community volunteering was wonderful, but this is a catastrophic hit to the fair that will be hard to recover from.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EDUCATOR – NATHAN SANDWICK

- Continuing work on SolSmart Certification: compiled content for a presentation for municipal officials. The chance to explain and advance community planning efforts to improve energy security had to be postponed while many town officials dealt with storm-related damages and prolonged power outages.
- Expanded access to emerging research-based information about embodied energy and indirect emissions associated with consumption of a wide variety of goods and services produced in various regions of the world.
- Currently on-boarding several new members on Extension's Community Vitality and Placemaking Team which I co-lead. In July, one of the team's specialists helped

CREATE Portage County lead a Creative Placemaking workshop in Stevens Point where artists and arts administrators generated a host of downtown improvements ideas.

AREA EXTENSION DIRECTOR – JASON HAUSLER

- Assisted staff with pulling together the 2020 budget and participated in our budget hearing with finance and Executive Holman.
- Finalized the Priority Based Budgeting documents with staff, submitting them to Chris Holman for his consideration.
- Begun conversations and scheduling for mid-year performance reviews with staff.
- Assisted with the Facilitation of the New Colleague Onboarding program, hosted in Portage County, highlighting local educators and specialists with UW-Stevens Point.