



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
PORTAGE COUNTY

PORTAGE COUNTY EXTENSION

November 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

- **Outreach:** Gave presentations on: Dairy challenges in Portage County to Kiwanis, Agriculture in Portage County to the Leadership Portage County trainees, and a presentation on Concerns with Stormwater Runoff and Things You Can Do to the SPASH Agriculture youth. Interviewed with Channel 7 on Farm Safety and Harvest Challenges.
- **Mill Creek and Tomorrow River Watershed Projects:**
 - Held a lunch and learn meeting on Dave Eron’s farm to talk about corn silage moisture and ran on-site moisture tests on corn silage samples brought in by farmers so they could better judge timing of harvest for best feed quality and storability. Also talked about opportunities for farmer participation in the 2 watershed projects.
 - Setup and planted on-farm cover crop planting time and variety demonstration plots for Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed project field days and individual viewing.
 - Helped facilitate and present at a Youth Pollinator and Cover Crop Field Day for 30 youth ages 3 to 6 at Eron’s Event Barn.
 - Published the November issue of the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council Newsletter.

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

- Teaching events: Pathways to Parenting Adult education classes, completed a series of 4 Cooking with Kids lessons, ongoing StrongBodies classes at YMCA and Roscholt, Grocery Store tours at Plover WalMart, Completed Yuck to Yum series of 3 classes at the YMCA.
- Policy, Systems and Environmental work: worked with state Hunger Relief Federation to improve the Stevens Point Area School District school breakfast program (a grab and go program will be pilot tested in January in 2 schools), Worked with Aspirus to bring their

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Fruit and Vegetable Prescription program to the Stevens Point area Coop as a redemption site (secured \$500 in vouchers for area programs), applied for a grant to expand access of EBT/Foodshare use at the Farmers Market (did not receive grant, but will work with community partners to determine next steps).

- New hire: hired a Wood County Nutrition Educator as part of the Wood/Portage County Team, start date 11/11.
- community events: Attended Head Start Parent's Night/Open house, Hunger Relief Summit, Healthy Weight Team, Fruit and Veggie Network.

4-H Youth Development Educator – Connie Creighton

- Summer Youth Gardens: AeroGarden program at Junction City B&GC. Worked with their Nature Club we planted two hydroponic gardens. Connie Creighton, Sam Minch, & Sherry Daniels collaborate on this program.
 - We averaged 6 youth in the Nature Club weekly
 - A total of 12 un-duplicated youth over a six week period.
 - Out of the 4 youth surveyed at the end of the program all 4 tried a vegetable they hadn't eaten before. From one week to the next the youth tended to remember a lot from the previous activity. Especially the layers of the soil and the parts of the plant. All 6 youth would like to continue hydroponic gardening.
- Madison View B&GC Youth Garden. The 4-H Summer Assistant, Sam, took the lead on selecting the lesson plans he taught.
 - The two AeroGardens (hydroponic) are produced herbs and lettuce that they harvested for over 3 weeks.
 - We had a total of 18 youth with 51 contacts over the 9 week period.
 - Out of the 8 youth surveyed at the end of the program 6 tried a vegetable they hadn't eaten before.
 - When asked if gardening was fun 3 said No and 5 said maybe. When asked what their least favorite part was they replied. "Weeding (x2); Walking to the garden; Tasting Fruit; When it's hot having to sit in the sun."
 - We always did a verbal review of what they did in the past. For the most part the participants retained the information especially the programs that went over the parts of the plant and the soil layers.
 - Connie Creighton, Sam Minch, & Sherry Daniels collaborate on this program.
- In October I made contact with the Hmong UPLIFT Program out of Cap Services and inquired if they were interested in having 4-H youth and adults do a pumpkin carving program for the group. This was an important opportunity to expand Extension programming to Hmong youth and adults.
 - Megan Wecker, Extension Educational Technology Specialist & 4-H Volunteer Leader, volunteered time to help plan, set up, & train volunteers for the event.
 - Four 4-H Leaders and two 4-H youth worked with 18 Hmong youth, 4 Hmong College students, and 2 Hmong Cap Services Staff.
 - Spoke with the Hmong parents (through a translator) about Extension and 4-H and what we offer to families in the community. Out of that conversation the

Hmong program coordinator contact our Agriculture Agent about talking to the parents about programs and services he offers and can supply.



- Other Programs/Meetings: Rosholt Fair Program & Fair Youth Exhibit Committee; Portage County Coalition for AODA Prevention: Executive Committee Meetings, Coalition Meetings, & AODA Work Group; Portage County Alliance For Youth – working on the future of coalition.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EDUCATOR – NATHAN SANDWICK

- Facilitated a dialogue among local wellness-related coalitions, and continue to help organize efforts to build the capacity of these groups to expand access to, and awareness of, opportunities for people to enhance their well-being. This is one of several shared goals recognized during recent Future Regions/Prosperity 2040 sessions in which many community members were engaged.
- Assisted three local groups in recent months with organizational development, visioning, strategic planning or implementation efforts.
- Supporting colleagues throughout Wisconsin's Cooperative Extension System by helping to plan next year's Wisconsin JCEP conference.
- Completed several educational efforts supporting Portage County's achievement of SolSmart designation as a solar friendly community (bronze designation as of October 8th, 2019). These efforts sparked further collaboration and exploration among local government officials interested in community energy planning, renewable energy or measures to improve resilience in light of power outages.

FAMILY LIVING EDUCATOR – SHERRY DANIELS

- Began and lead an Advanced StrongBodies class at the ADRC from 4:30 to 5:30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Currently fourteen people are enrolled.
- Did recruitment and StrongBodies presentation at ADRC's Fall Prevention Day.
- Attended the grand opening of the Anderson College to Career event at UWSP in the College of Professional Studies. This is where the student financial coaches set up meetings with their peers for coaching.
- Participated in the Financial Fair held at UWSP. I presented to 98 students on the importance of budgeting.
- Currently coaching three families for FWPC on a weekly basis.

- Participated in my first national conference for National Educators of Family and Consumer Science in Hershey, PA. This was funded with non-county grant dollars.
- Working on the Rent Ready of Wisconsin program with the Salvation Army, CAP Services, and the Community Development Manager of Stevens Point. So far I have worked with three clients; two of which are now renting.
- Identified a need for a community Relative Caregiver Support Group. Completed a grant request for start-up funds to the WI Department of Children and Families.

AREA EXTENSION DIRECTOR – JASON HAUSLER

- Assisted Portage County Staff in preparing for the Area 7 All Colleague meeting, which was held on October 29th in the Annex. Colleagues learned about some of the transitions regarding Volunteer Management, Promotional and Marketing and Civil Rights documentation. It was a great learning day (picture enclosed).
- Attended County Board meetings to hear about the overall county budget and communicate with county staff.
- Assisted Portage County FoodWise Coordinator, Kelly Hammond, in hiring a new FoodWise Educator that will serve the Portage/Wood project. Hannah Wendels will start on November 11th in Wood County but will be working very collaboratively with the Portage County team.
- Continued conversations with the Wisconsin Association of Fairs, during their Fall District Meetings around the state, about the role of Extension with County Fairs. Begun conversations with Connie and Lisa about the changes and how they will impact our work moving forward.

