



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
PORTAGE COUNTY

January 2020 Educator Update

FoodWise Education - Kelly Hammond, Penny Schmidt & Hannah Wendels

- **Teaching events:** Completed StrongBodies classes at the YMCA and Rosholt, both classes will have participants ongoing with new instructors, Grocery Store tours at Plover and Wisconsin Rapids WalMart, series of 6 lessons to 6th grade students at McKinley Elementary. Complete series of Healthy Baby classes. Winter-themed recruiting events with Head Start and Childrens Wisconsin.
- **Policy, Systems and Environmental work:** Met with Senator Patrick Testin about using FoodShare at Farmers Market, meeting scheduled with Katrina Shankland in January. Through the community coalition, Healthy Weight Team, will be helping to coordinate the Stevens Point Weight Race through providing general nutrition education and collecting data on participants. Starting evaluation for Fruit and Veggie Prescription program. Other meetings include: Health and Hunger Poverty Prevention Partnership (HPPP) and Fruit and Veggie Network
- New projects for 2020 include hosting the state's first FoodWise online nutrition class, which will be the popular Yuck to Yum class on parent/child feeding behaviors, class will begin at the end of January.

4-H Programming - Connie Creighton

- **County Club Officer Training:** Nine 4-H members participated the County 4-H Club Officer Training session. Two teens from the 4-H Teen Leader's Board helped teach the training which occurred in December 2019. Eight youth completed an evaluation of the program and when asked to state something they learned, participants replied: "You should greet people before meetings"; "secretary restates the motion before it's passes"; "How motions are made" (2); "Using checks and balances."

Youth who participated in the class increased their knowledge about parliamentary procedure, learned about how to run an effective meeting, and how putting fun into meetings enhances the members' experience and aids in providing a welcoming environment. The leadership skills youth gain when they assume an officer role in their club are a valuable part of positive youth development.

- Attended Youth Mental Health First Aid workshop. This workshop taught and strengthen my skills on how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. This 8-hour training provides adults who work with youth the skills they need to reach out and provide initial support to adolescents (ages 12-18) who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to the appropriate care.

Agriculture Education - Ken Schroeder

- Had a successful Farmers of Mill Creek Cover Crops Field Day and Bus Tours December 4th. 85 to 90 farmers and others interested in learning about conservation efforts in the Mill Creek watershed attended. This included 50 youth from 3 area schools, Lincoln High, Auburndale High and Northland Lutheran High School. Presentations included updates from the Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards, Mill Creek Farmer-Led Watershed project and the 9-Key Element plan for Mill Creek. Additional presentations on the youth education pollinator project and a presentation by the Auburndale High School students on their cover crop project and the no-till drill. Bus tours stopped at a no-tilled rye cover crop field with conservation plantings, the cover crop planting time demo plots and the cover crop variety demo plots. The tours demonstrated firsthand some of the challenges with cover crops this year and emphasized the benefits of earlier planting dates for better ground cover.
- Progress continues on the farmer appreciation dinner for February 13th. Donations from the business community are coming in to support the event.

Community, Natural Resources & Economic Development Education - Nathan Sandwick

- Helped get a current trade area analysis for Stevens Point's downtown underway; there is also local interest in a complementary activity to take stock of existing downtown businesses.
- Continuing to help organize quarterly gatherings of local groups active in promoting various aspects of health and wellness; this work stems from the Prosperity 2040 initiative.
- Supported colleagues teaching undergraduate and graduate level courses on sustainable development by serving as a guest speaker for one, and sharing content for use in updating the curriculum.
- Arranged for colleagues serving on sub-committees to help make preparations for the next annual conference of the Wisconsin Joint Council of Extension Professionals.

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Como empleador que brinda igualdad de oportunidades en el empleo y acción afirmativa (EEO/AA, por sus siglas en inglés), la University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension, proporciona igualdad de oportunidades en el empleo y en sus programas, incluyendo los requisitos del Título VI, Título IX, y de la ley federal para personas con discapacidades en los Estados Unidos (ADA, por sus siglas en inglés).

Tus Tswv Hauj Lwm Ntawm (EEO/AA), ntawm lub Tsev Kawm Ntawm Qib Siab (University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension) pab rau kev ncaj ncees txog kev hauj lwm thiab kev pab cuam, xws li nyob rau hauv Title VI, Title IX, thiab ntawm tsab cai Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) yuav tsum kom muaj.

Human Development and Relationships Education - Sherry Daniels

- Underwent surgery to repair my right humerus on December 9. Out eight days for recovery.
- Received approval from the Hunger and Poverty Prevention of Portage County to support moving the RentReady of Wisconsin program forward, with their financial support.
- Need Agriculture and Extension Board approval to receive a grant from the Department of Children and Families for \$2,675. This is for the start-up of a Portage County Kinship Support Group. Set the first meeting date of this group for Saturday, January 25, from 10:30-noon. Marketing the availability of this support group to partners who have clients who would benefit.

Area Director Update - Jason Hausler

- Presented at the Wisconsin Association of Fairs Convention in early January to discuss the changing roles and responsibilities of Extension Educators at County Fairs. While some have assumed that this means Extension is “pulling out” of the Fairs, that is **not** the case. Rather, we are redefining our partnerships with fairs to ensure that everyone knows what to expect from each other. Extension believes strongly in the partnership with fairs and we will be involved for many years to come.
- Continued work with Ken Schroder to get the Farmer Led Watershed MOU signed and returned to DTCAP. Working with State Officials and Executive Holman to get it taken care of.