



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
PORTAGE COUNTY

July 2020 Educator Update

4-H Positive Youth Development Programming - Connie Creighton

- I facilitated a series of meetings conducted by adults and youth on the Portage County Market Animal Committee (MAC) discussed how to support new learning opportunities for project members, how to engage youth in the learning process while keeping them connected to each other using social-distancing. The Portage County Market Animal Committee, youth and adult leaders, met four times in June to ensure youth who enrolled in the project were engaged in learning and following the Safe At Home guidelines. The committee problem solved and worked on holding their fair auction virtually. The MAC also met with twenty-nine project youth and parents through Zoom to update them on the project and COVID-19 challenges they are working with. I facilitated the discussions and brought a state specialist to one of the meetings to aid them in their decision making process.
- I facilitated a series of Club meetings where 4-H youth and adult club leaders engaged club members and families in club business, reconnecting and engaging them with each other while educating them on COVID-19 programming. Since April several Portage County 4-H Clubs met and organized their own meeting via various web-based programs, but three 4-H Clubs met via zoom in April, May & June where the 4-H Youth Development Agent organized and participated in the meeting. Each of the three clubs were the Almond Busy Bees (16 participants in April, 7 in May, & 8 participants attended in June) the Plover Clovers (18 participants in May & 18 in June), and the Tomorrow River Voyagers (18 participants, 21 participants, and in June 15 participants). Club officers conducted 4-H business and discussed how to adapt their programming to fit the social distancing directive. Many programs were canceled or postponed and several new programs were discussed and implemented. I educated families on county and state programming and provided a welcoming environment activity.
- I held a 4-H Family Fun Night in June. Six families signed up and two participated. I also had an adult volunteer leader who helped to facilitate the program. Two mother and daughter teams participated and reported they had a good experience and would do it again. They participated in an Egg Drop, the Wayne Game, Hidden Figures... The night was offered as something new families could do together and families could meet other 4-H families.

Agriculture Education - Ken Schroeder

- Provided farmers with Extension resources to help them complete their applications for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) and the Wisconsin Farm Support Fund. I assisted farmers with their applications.
- Facilitated three virtual “Lunch and Learns” in the month of June for the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed in place of field days and in-person meetings due to COVID-19. I provided educational materials in the form of webinars, zoom meetings, and reading materials. Lunch was provided through funds from our DATCP Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant.
- Working with colleagues developing a statewide professional development program Understanding Research Design and Interpretation for Agriculture and Horticulture Agents/Educators throughout the state.
- Fertilizer treatments are being applied to the corn nitrogen plots and the hop plots.



Community, Natural Resources & Economic Development Education - Nathan Sandwick

- Began working with Extension Lakes to develop and likely pilot a series of workshops and resources designed to increase the capacity of lakes organizations and their effectiveness at securing surface water grants.
- Reached out and connected with a newly-formed non-profit group focused on developing local supports and resources that may help young adults with special needs transition towards greater independence. The group presently seeks to secure favorable futures for loved ones and others with special needs by expanding availability of suitable housing and transportation options.
- Prepared and shared a presentation for the Portage County Community Economic Development Plan Team about several economic development goals previously adopted in local plans.

Human Development and Relationships Education - Sherry Daniels

- Penny and I have held StrongBodies classes every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Nutrition lessons on Monday and Wednesday and mindfulness lessons on Friday.
- Completed two out of three 1.5 hours of Financial Wellness lessons with nine Drug Court participants.
- Continued Financial Wellness of Portage County by matching coaches with clients to meet and discuss via Zoom.
- Part of the statewide grant to deliver Triple P Parenting classes throughout Portage County with a letter of strong support from the Portage County United Way.
- Lead the Right From the Start Networking Group by setting up and completing Zooms every two weeks, providing additional support for young families in the community during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Researching and developing curriculum with a statewide group to deliver a series of financial wellness lessons for older adults, titled Financial Wellness After the Loss of a Loved One.

Area Director Update - Jason Hausler

- Crafted office safety plans for each office in Area 7 and have been having discussions with office teams as to best safety practices when returning to the office.
- Continue discussions with the Wisconsin Association of Fairs on how Fairs may be able to move forward this year, while also guiding Extension staff on how to help and assist within our current health guidance.
- Assisting Educators and staff to complete the 2019 Annual Report, which we hope to have published in the next month.
- Continue serving on the Dean's COVID Task Force, examining opportunities and challenges related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Work has been focused on getting the resources and work of the University out to those that need it during this time, along with how we, as an organization begin to move forward with programming opportunities that may be in person, purely virtual or a hybrid of some sort.