



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
PORTAGE COUNTY

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## August 2020 Educator Update

### **FoodWise Education - Kelly Hammond, Penny Schmitt & Hannah Wendels**

- Program is transitioning all nutrition education to an online/call-in format. New classes being offered will include: Shopping and Cooking for Health, Yuck to Yum, 5-Weeks with FoodWise, Cooking with kids and healthy babies. Classes will be offered via Zoom and registration will be available via Facebook and through the website.
- Strongbodies continues to be offered via an online format, the online course has been popular with community members
- Team continues to engage in professional development and state-wide committees, including the Food Security Taskforce, Policy Systems and Environment within Retail Spaces and curriculum workgroups.
- Team continues to work with a regional team on developing a successful EBT at the Farmers Market model. There was a proposal submitted to Katrina Shankland for review, and will be following up to determine next steps to improve access to FoodShare (Foodstamps) at farmers markets and farmstands throughout Portage County and Wisconsin.
- Successful PUP Project (pop up produce) distributed over 300 gardening kits, including soil, seeds/seedlings and buckets to families through WIC, Head Start, Interfaith Food Pantry and Boys and Girls Club of Portage County

### **4-H Positive Youth Development Programming - Connie Creighton**

- Several Portage County 4-H Clubs and Groups continue to meet via zoom where I organize and help facilitate the meeting. The Almond Busy Bees, the Plover Clovers, Rosholt Pioneers, Tomorrow River Voyagers, Portage County 4-H Adult and Teen Associations, the Market Animal Committee, and the 4-H Fair Exhibit Committee have met in July and August.
- I held a 4-H Charter training via Zoom to educate clubs on changes with Charting this year and revisit the purpose of Charting 4-H Clubs and Groups and what SMART Goals are.
- 4-H Clubs and Groups are requesting to hold meetings or events in person. I have worked for two 4-H clubs and the Market Animal Committee to get meeting and activity exemptions of 10 people or less, following social distancing guidelines. Approval came from the AED and the Positive Youth Development Program.

- Follow-up to the two 4-H record book zooms held in May: Four revised project sheets were approved. Two of the sheets approved were submitted by the 4-H teen leader who presented her ideas at the May record book meeting

### **Agriculture Education - Ken Schroeder**

- Inter-seeded various cover crop species into growing corn as on-farm demonstration plots to serve as cover crop educational tools.
- Assisted the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council with a Low-Disturbance Manure Injection demonstration. Low-disturbance manure injection methods reduce runoff and promote better nutrient uptake with less losses allowing application of manure to a growing crop ready to utilize the nutrients.
- On-going one-on-one conversations with farmers on benefits of no-till and cover crops encouraging exploration and adoption of these conservation practices as part of the Farmers of Mill Creek and Farmers for Tomorrow River Watershed projects.

### **Community, Natural Resources & Economic Development Education - Nathan Sandwick**

- Helped organize and promote a program for restaurant managers in Central Wisconsin on “Navigating Your Restaurant through COVID-19”, presented by experts at Extension and the Small Business Development Center. Enlisted some much-appreciated help from Portage County’s Department of Health and Human Services to recruit participants from Portage County and respond to any health-related questions.
- Informed several local lake district leaders of Extension’s emerging lake organization capacity and leadership program.
- Customized, for use in Portage County, a model that shows current and projected housing variety and availability of housing units for households across the income spectrum.
- Hosted four professional development webinars for Extension colleagues throughout the state featuring suggestions for instructional design, and using needs assessments to inform decisions.

### **Human Development and Relationships Education - Sherry Daniels**

- Early this month Mark Kordus and I held another RentReady if WI training with four participants. A significant amount of time this month was spent helping them with their budgets and improving their credit. One participant has been living in a local hotel for three years, unable to rent.
- Several requests for Pressure Canner testing have been received this month. They were tested “touchless”. I picked up the lids at the front door while the owners waited in their cars.
- Virtual StrongBodies classes have continued every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The state opened up the class to everyone this month, so Portage County did the same. There was a need to create touchless paperwork, registration

process, and participation testing. I am collecting testimonials from participants and plan to submit an article to local papers and television stations.

- This month the third and final financial wellness class took place with Drug Court participants. They pulled their credit reports and we reviewed what changes they could make to improve their credit scores.
- My proposal to speak at the National Extension Association of Home and Family Community Educators (NEAFCS) was accepted. The topic I am working on is getting measurable results while training via Zoom.

#### **Area Director Update - Jason Hausler**

- Continue serving on the Deans COVID task force, ensuring program delivery and support to educators during this challenging time.
- Working with staff on the 2021 Budget, meeting the needs of Portage County residents while being fiscally responsible.
- Conduct mid year reviews for staff, benchmarking their programming goals for 2020 to date and making adjustments as needed to meet the needs of Portage County residents during the pandemic.
- Participate in Bi-Weekly Department Head meetings with the County Executive and relaying that information to educators and staff.