



September 2020 Educator Update

FoodWise Education - Kelly Hammond, Penny Schmitt & Hannah Wendels

- Team continues planning for a series of virtual educational events in the FY21 year, events to include classes from newborn feeding (Healthy Babies) to older adults (Strong Bodies). Classes are scheduled on feeding toddlers and preschoolers, cooking with kids, family nutrition and elementary-age lessons on MyPlate and nutrition basics.
- Pilot-testing new curriculum, FoodSmarts, with WIC FitFamilies. First Cohort of 5-Weeks with FoodWise starts on August 31st via Facebook private group and will feature pre-recorded videos, discussion topics and an interactive Zoom conversation at the end of each week.
- Weekly promotion of classes via food pantry box pickup; allowed opportunity to connect but did not improve class turnout.
- Team participated in: Curriculum development workshops, online education training, Extension Food Security Coalition, Harvest of the Month committee and the Hunger and Poverty Prevention Partnership (HPPP) meeting.
- Policy, Systems and Environmental (PSE) work on creating a pilot project for standard EBT/FoodShare access at Farmers Markets throughout the state continues; the draft proposal was shared with state representatives and state partners.
- Fruit and Vegetable prescription vouchers were distributed to Head Start and Strong Start family-visitation programs, these \$20 vouchers are redeemable at the Stevens Point Area CO-OP.

4-H Positive Youth Development Programming - Connie Creighton

- Facilitated several 4-H Clubs Zoom meetings.
- Worked on Rosholt Fair with fair board and fair volunteers to help keep the youth and families safe. Got youth building organized and set up for displays and judging so youth participating have a positive experience.
- **Camp in a Bag**
Developed and Implemented 'Camp in a Bag' program targeting youth in grades K-5th.
 - Five 4-H teen leaders were recruited to be camp counselors they helped teach and implement the virtual camp.

- Camp was open to 4-H and non 4-H youth.
 - Twelve families and twenty-one campers, four who were not in 4-H, participated.
 - Families could participate in the five Zoom camp sessions or they could do the entire experience on their own as a family
- **Nature:**
 - Nature Bingo a hands-on activity for families to try at home
 - All About Owls - Owl Pellets Dissection – Counselors lead this activity on two zooms.
 - **Crafty Fun:**
 - Making Camp Shirt: Tie-Dying led by Counselors
 - **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math):**
 - Cloud Dough or Ooblek
 - Straw Rocket Making – two different Rockets available.
 - **Outdoor Fun: Hands-on activities for families to do on their own**
 - Bubble...Bubble...Toil & Fun
 - Poodle Noodle Sprinklers
 - **Camp Fire Program:**
 - Camp Songs and Camp Skits – This was done at each camp plus families could plan their own camp-fire program!



Agriculture Education - Ken Schroeder

- Co-hosted 3 Youth Conservation Field Days with The Farmers of Mill Creek, John and Melissa Eron, Portage County Land and Water Conservation, and Portage County Water Quality Specialist. Topics included cover crops, soils, water quality, prairies, and pollinators. Approximately 75 youth attended from pre-K to 8th grade.
- Publishing Fall issue of the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Newsletter.
- Harvested hops nitrogen rate research plots.
- 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

- Encouraging town and village officials to attend training workshops this month on topics including budgeting procedures, borrowing, tax collection, transportation grants, bidding, and navigating concerns related to COVID-19.

- Developed a housing simulation exercise to teach audiences about the significance of processes, market forces and local controls that shape our available housing stock.
- Provided technical assistance and support enabling the Central Sands Groundwater Coordinating Collaborative to convene its quarterly meeting remotely in August.
- Convened (in August) three more professional development webinars for Extension colleagues to utilize program evaluations; promote active learning; introduce the concepts of Universal Design for Learning, and Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum; and featuring efforts in several counties to support entrepreneurs of color.

Human Development and Relationships Education - Sherry Daniels

- Continued holding virtual StrongBodies classes every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, with Penny, FoodWise. Twenty-seven community members are enrolled.
- Held a RentReady training with seven participants. Working with them on budgets and credit improvements.
- Worked with community partners to gather community support for beginning the Triple P parenting programming Portage County.
- Continued meeting as a Salvation Army (Hope House) advisory board member.
- Continued working with a state team, Preparing for the Loss of a Loved One, on curriculum development. Scheduled first state-wide training to deliver this program.
- Recorded myself reading two books from Money as You Grow Bookshelf that were broadcasted on state Facebook page and forwarded to all Head Starts throughout WI.

Area Director Update - Jason Hausler

- Continued serving on the Deans COVID Task Force, evaluating our ongoing organizational response to the pandemic and assisting with program development and guidance.
- Worked on and submitted the 2021 Budget Request to finance. Budget hearing with Executive Holman and Finance was conducted on August 19th.
- Assisted staff in pursuing and getting approval within Extension to host in person programs for Extension user groups, such as 4-H and Master Gardener Volunteers.
- Preparing for Portage County Board Presentation on September 15th.