



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
PORTAGE COUNTY

October 2020 Educator Update

FoodWise Education - Kelly Hammond, Penny Schmitt & Hannah Wendels

- Direct education: Team has completed a pilot hybrid social media/Zoom education series with WIC Fit Families called *5 Weeks with FoodWise*. Over 12 families participated in a private group for 5 weeks, which included customized videos, content and discussion time on families eating healthy on a budget.
- Fall Virtual class schedule has been released and is available on Facebook and via the [Portage County Extension Website](#).
- Strong bodies classes continue to be offered virtually, 3 days a week, via Zoom.
- FoodWise, along with local coalition PCCAN, has had conversations with Hunger Task Force of Wisconsin, Hunger Solutions of Minnesota, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Farmers Market Association of Wisconsin on a state-wide proposal to improve access and funding for Foodshare users at Farmers Markets across the state. New partnerships have been developed to transition this locally-led effort to a state-wide program.
- Hammond has started preparing for maternity leave, starting early November, as well as a transition to 80% FTE starting Oct 1. Wendels will be transiting to 100% FTE. Jason Hausler and Jill Sanders will step in to support the team during maternity leave.

4-H Positive Youth Development Programming - Connie Creighton

- Facilitated four 4-H Clubs Zoom meetings, one club face-to-face outdoor COVID safe meeting, and a face-to-face outdoor 4-H Adult and Teen Leader Association meetings. 4-H Clubs are finishing up the 2020 4-H year and planning for the 2021 4-H year by brainstorming how to hold officer elections, recruit new 4-H members, and planning next year's club calendar.
- Currently wrapping up the 2020 fair season.
- Planned and developed October 4-H programming: Virtual pumpkin carving beginner and intermediate classes and virtual 4-H members, family members, and adult pumpkin carving, decorating contest.



Pictured: Members of the Tomorrow River Voyagers 4-H Club doing litter pickup on their assigned Adopt A Highway stretch in Amherst.

Agriculture Education - Ken Schroeder

- Myself and three colleagues convened 3 statewide professional development zoom sessions in September on Understanding Research Design and Interpretation for Agriculture and Horticulture Agents/Educators throughout the state.
- Assisted Farmers of Mill Creek and Farmers for Tomorrow Watershed Councils in writing grants for continued project funding from the DATCP Producer-Led Watershed Protection program. The grant requests totaled \$40,000 for each group. These funds will support the on-going efforts to educate farmers on the benefits of conservation practices in improving soil and water quality. Funds also provide cost-share benefits to farmers adopting conservation practices.
- Served as in-the-field interviewer for the DATCP Producer-Led webinar featuring the Farmers for Tomorrow River lead farmer Matt Hintz.
- Provided educational support for the Farmers for Tomorrow Watershed Council cover crop field day September 21st. Focus was on benefits and opportunities of using multi-species cover crops following a small grain crop and the available manure nutrient testing program.



Community, Natural Resources & Economic Development Education - Nathan Sandwick

- Prepared a summary report of a community survey and helped identify key group discussion topics to support an Extension-coordinated community design effort that now has over a dozen professional community planners and designers from three states volunteering their time and expertise to serve a small Northern Wisconsin community that suffered significant losses of downtown buildings to fires last year.
- Helped Extension's affordable housing study group establish a shared sense of priorities and current focus through two team planning sessions held in September.
- Responded to inquiries about current supports for broadband development in underserved areas of Portage County, offered to support efforts among groups of neighbors to get broadband, connected with colleagues at UW Center for Cooperatives and UW Law & Entrepreneurship Clinic that could help, and shared

information about a new WEDC/PSC program to provide additional technical assistance to communities pursuing funding for broadband development.

Human Development and Relationships Education - Sherry Daniels

- Completed the Financial Coach Training for UWSP students involved in the Financial Literacy Association. It was necessary to convert the training to virtual learning. This training is now a requirement for every student seeking a Financial Literacy Certificate.
- Daniels completed a 3-day training to bring Triple P Parenting to Portage County. Now working to get accredited so I can deliver this evidence-based program, along with my community partners, United Way and CAP Services.
- Daniels was interviewed for 45 minutes on Wisconsin Public Radio (WPR), answering questions on financial solutions for families during COVID (potential 30,000 listenership).
- Working with Staywell Wisconsin I did a podcast on Financial Wellness during COVID. There were 1,473 participants when it went live, but any state employee can listen to the recording and get credit towards earning a \$150 gift card for completing the state wellness program.
- Daniels delivered a training at the 2020 National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) Virtual Annual Conference. It was a joint presentation on how to deliver evidence-based training via virtual platforms.
- Continued holding virtual StrongBodies classes every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, with Penny, FoodWise. Twenty-eight community members are enrolled and attend on a regular basis.

Area Director Update - Jason Hausler

- Presented at the Portage County Board of Supervisors meeting on September 15th, highlighting the 2019 Portage County Extension report and updating the Board on current initiatives.
- Supported colleagues with professional development opportunities related to the “7 Habits of Highly Effective People”, along with learning more about working with Plain Faith communities (Amish and Mennonites).
- Continued participation on the Deans COVID-19 Task Force, as well as the Programming/Workplace subcommittee, to ensure safe practices are followed as we engage with in-person programming.
- Finalized the 2021 Extension contract with the Dean’s Office, which is now ready to move forward pending budget adoption by the Board of Supervisors.