



December 2020 Educator Update

FoodWise Education - Kelly Hammond, Penny Schmitt & Hannah Wendels

(Report prepared by Jill Sanders, FoodWise Regional Program Manager)

- Kelly Hammond gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Jane Sidney, on November 11th! All are doing well. Jason Hausler and Jill Sanders are providing support to the team during Kelly's leave.
- Direct Fall Virtual education:
 - Back to School! FoodWise Educators worked virtually with McKinley's 6th graders (3 classrooms) teaching a series of nutrition lessons.
"The lessons were awesome! Our kids were very engaged and thoroughly enjoyed the lessons. We look forward to working with you again in the future."
- 6th Grade Teacher
 - McKinley 3rd grade students starting virtual lessons with FoodWise in January!
 - FoodWise launched 2 new virtual parent series, "Yuck to Yum", and "Healthy Babies", with current recruitment and promotion through partners including WIC, Head Start, and Family Outreach and Support Services.
 - FoodWise partners with Children's Service Society to provide virtual lessons to "Pathways to Parenting" participants, educating about healthy low-cost meal planning and promoting family mealtime.
- Strong Bodies classes continue to be offered virtually, 3 days a week, via Zoom. Because the class was promoted this Fall with ADRC, McKinley 6th grade parents, and on the webpage and Facebook site, at least 20 new people registered and started the current Oct. - Dec. session.
- Portage County has seen a 22% increase in Food Share participation (including adults and children) from prior to the pandemic. It is more important than ever that FoodWise educators support our community by providing education on how families can stretch their food dollars in these difficult times and continue to put healthy meals on the table in their homes.

4-H Positive Youth Development Programming - Connie Creighton

- Facilitated 4-H Club Zoom meetings, helped clubs plan and organize community service activities, and facilitated Market Animal Committee Zoom meetings and 4-H Adult and Teen Leader Zoom 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 calendars.
- Working with 4-H Clubs and Groups to complete the Charter process.
- Planned and developed December 4-H programming: Virtual Gingerbread House contest open to 4-H members and family members.
- Recruited three youth leaders and a volunteer adult leader to teach 4 sessions at Fall Forum. We worked through the Expanding Access Team. Our county 4-H group planned and four taught hands-on interactive sessions on the opening night of the conference about creating a welcoming inclusive environment in their 4-H Club meetings. A total of 87 youth and adults attended our sessions. Of the 51 participants who completed a survey 80% of them reported that they will use some of the tools they learned in the sessions while the remaining 20% reported that they may use the tools they learned. 84% reported that the teaching team created a welcoming environment while teaching the sessions.

Agriculture Education - Ken Schroeder

- Adaptive Nitrogen Management for Corn Research Project - Collected data and hand-harvested corn plots.
- Myself and three colleagues convened 5 statewide professional development zoom sessions in October into November on Understanding Research Design and Interpretation for Agriculture and Horticulture Agents/Educators throughout the state.
- Arranged and provided educational input for the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed field day October 14 on drone application of cover crops. Farmers learned about a new way to apply cover crop seed without any soil compaction or damage to their growing crop.



Community, Natural Resources & Economic Development Education - Nathan Sandwick

- Followed-up with UW-Center for Cooperatives and referred staff to informative resources concerning broadband development, including findings from our Portage County Broadband

Needs Assessment, Wisconsin Broadband Plan (2019), and Minnesota Broadband Vision; and attended portions of a virtual Broadband Conference convened by the Blandin Foundation.

- Building on earlier preparations for a virtual community design team visit led by Extension's Community Vitality and Placemaking Team in Three Lakes, Sandwick assisted in developing and refining a community vision statement that helped guide the work of volunteer designers and other experts and community members engaged in the effort. Much of the design work and a community presentation occurred in mid-November and a report is forthcoming.
- Agreed to review and offer comments on a timely addendum to CAP Services' community needs assessment, and did so. The addendum gives an overview of the situation in our 5-county region during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Presented a downtown-oriented trade area analysis to leaders of the Stevens Point Alliance and provided the corresponding report to share with members and others who may be interested. Extended an opportunity for training especially geared for retailers interested in learning how social media can be used for marketing.

Human Development and Relationships Education - Sherry Daniels

- Continued holding virtual StrongBodies classes every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, with Penny, and Hanna (Wood County) FoodWise. Forty-one community members are enrolled.
- Held a RentReady training in November and December with seven participants. Working with them on budgets and credit improvements. Placed three more individuals/families in non-predatory rentals. No defaults in the program so far.
- Completed the necessary training to be accredited in Triple P Parenting to teach Levels two (seminars) and three (discussion groups). Working with partners from CAP Services and UnitedWay to get a community board to support the Triple P parenting programming in Portage County. Developing a training schedule for 2021.
- Continued working with a state team, on curriculum development titled Planning Ahead, which is a six-part training on decisions that need to be made before end of life. Scheduled first state-wide training to deliver this program. Making plans with the Portage County Aging and Disability Center to deliver the program in 2021, virtually, at this point.

Area Director Update - Jason Hausler

- Worked with the County Executive to sign the 2021 Extension Contract for services and routed for signatures with UW-Madison. Executed contract was returned on November 24th.
- Worked with Extension Leadership and the Wisconsin Association of Fairs to pursue a statewide fairs advisory committee. This project is moving forward with Extension taking a leading role, with the first meeting scheduled for the end of January 2021. Goal is to improve communication between all parties involved with county fairs and developing a sustainability plan for the future of county fairs.
- Continue to serve on the Extension COVID Task Force - adjusting our guidelines for in person programming due to COVID cases on the rise
- Researched and connected with Extension staff and others regarding Drainage Districts processes around the state.