



## January 2021 Educator Update

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

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

- Virtual Strong Bodies programming continues every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in collaboration with Human Development and Relationships Educator, Sherry Daniels.
- Developed a plan to recruit parents of school aged children for Strong Bodies programming, working in collaboration with Boys and Girls Clubs and Backpacks for Hope, offering parents a stress relief from the challenges of balancing e-learning and life.
- McKinley 3rd grade students starting virtual lessons with FoodWise in January.
- Working with Head Start to offer a series of virtual lessons, "Kids in the Kitchen", in which parents and children will join via zoom together showcasing an interactive cooking demonstration to do with their preschooler at home.
- Working with Hmong speaking Nutrition Educator in Marathon County to offer "Kids in the Kitchen" class in Hmong language to Head Start families in Portage county that are interested.

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

- Participated in a 3-day virtual Extension Conference.
- Facilitated four 4-H Club zoom meetings, helped clubs plan, and organize community service activities where 4-H members rang the bell for the Salvation Army, caroled outside of nursing homes, made toys for the humane society, made tie blankets for nursing home residents, and one club made a video to be shared at nursing and assisted living homes.

(Link to video posted below)

- "Merry Christmas" from Plover Clovers 4H Club:

<https://youtu.be/WdxB1os1WkM>



- 4-H Teen Leaders met, via zoom, to select items for their Operation Bootstrap family basket. They worked with an adult 4-H volunteer leader to shop online for the kids and family.
- Facilitated the Market Animal Committee zoom meetings.

- Part of a team planning a multi-county virtual Winter leader Camp Planning Zoom Meetings
- Participated in three State Charter Training Programs plus I held a separate Charter Leader Training for a General Leader.
- Attended virtual Upham Woods Camp Work Group meeting.
- 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. 16 individual entries and one family entry.

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

- Involved with planning and hosting the Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo, a virtual learning series December 2020 - March 2021. The focus is on encouraging profitable farming by building resilience, diversifying farming operations, reducing inputs, and increasing farmer's return on investment. Two programs in December were Rick Clark, a 5th generation farmer focused on building soil health through no-till and cover crops and Jason Cavidini, Assistant Superintendent on UW-Madison Marshfield Ag Research Station talking about integrating regenerative practices into Wisconsin Farms, including no-till, cover crops, and managed grazing of livestock. For information on upcoming programs see the program Facebook page @WIFarmProfitabilityExpo
- Presented information and hosted discussion on renting irrigated land as part of a December 18th UW-Madison Division of Extension virtual program on Farmland Markets and Leasing Contracts.
- Received confirmation of continued support from the WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection producer-led watershed protection program. Was successful in grant writing efforts receiving \$31,750 for the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed and \$30,000 for the Farmers for Tomorrow River Watershed to continue the education and outreach efforts encouraging adoption of soil and water conservation practices in these watersheds in 2021.
- Participated in the Extension All Colleague Virtual Conference throughout the month of December.

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

- Completed a series of strategic planning sessions with Door2Dreams, a group formed to help adults with disabilities and their families plan, design, and support new ways of living independently within their communities.
- Participated in a series of web conferences supporting Extension's current program planning and outreach efforts regarding community economic development, organizational leadership and development and housing education.
- Gained current information about the state's Energy Innovation Grant Program.
- Reviewed research on how community stakeholders have been engaged in natural resource-oriented scenario planning efforts to expand knowledge that can be used to inform governance and strategies for sustainable development.

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

- Continued holding virtual StrongBodies classes every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, with Penny, and Hannah (Wood County) FoodWise. Forty-four community members are enrolled.
- Held a RentReady training in December with four 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.
- 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.
- Continue to set-up and lead Right From the Start Networking group to discuss ways to support young children in Portage County.

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

- Participated in the Bi-Weekly Department Head calls with Executive Holman.
- Continued serving on the Dean's COVID Task Force and assisting staff with programming checklists for in person meetings/events.
- Continued preparation for the Fairs Advisory Committee meeting at the end of January, reaching out to WCA representatives for their involvement.
- Participated in the All-Colleague Virtual Conference throughout the month.