



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
PORTAGE COUNTY

February 2021 Educator Update

FoodWise Education - Kelly Hammond, Penny Schmitt & Hannah Wendels

- Kelly Hammond returned from Maternity Leave on January 26
- Strongbodies fitness and nutrition lessons continued Monday and Wednesdays. Arranged for state specialist, Beth Olsen to speak to the class and provide nutrition information. New Strong Bodies class (targeting parents of school-aged children) will start Feb 2nd.
- Shared pre-recorded lessons with 3rd grade virtual learners at McKinley school
- Worked with Head Start to start a monthly Kids in the Kitchen lesson via Zoom with parents and kids.
- Taught a nutrition lesson for Children's of Wisconsin: *Parents and Teens Connecting* class.
- PSE Work includes: Attended Healthy Weight Team meeting, implementing a FoodWise training series *Healthy Schools Bootcamp*.

4-H Positive Youth Development Programming - Connie Creighton

- Part of a team planning a multi-county virtual winter leader camp program – Forty-six 4-H members, 4 from Portage County, are enrolled.
- Planned and organized the 4-H Awards Program held virtually January 19th at 6:30pm. Fifty-three families signed up to participate. The program was facilitated by the past president of the 4-H Teen Leader's Association and program material developed by support staff Lisa Henriksen.
- Held virtual interviews, January 7th, for 10 youth leaders interested in receiving the Key Award, the Leader of Tomorrow Award, and/or serving as a County 4-H Ambassador.
- Developed and held a Hula Hoop making workshop – 8 youth from 4 families participated in the program.
- Facilitated several 4-H Club zoom meetings, helped clubs plan and organize community service activities, facilitated 4-H Adult and Teen Leader Associations zoom meetings, facilitated Market Animal Committee zoom meetings and the MAC member kick-off program.
- Working with four 4-H teen leaders and an adult volunteer leader to plan the 4-H Club Officer Training zoom program to be held virtually on February 4th.

Agriculture Education - Ken Schroeder

- Myself and three colleagues will be convening several statewide professional development zoom sessions from February through June 2021 on media interviewing and writing, grant writing, and changing viewpoints for Agriculture and Horticulture Agents/Educators throughout the state.

- 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. January 6th, Aaron Pape, a grazer and farm business instructor from Peshtigo, WI talked about how grazing livestock and best management practices, and January 27th, Scott Stipetich, Precision Ag and Conservation Specialist with Pheasants Forever presented on how farm specific data can serve as a guide to identifying areas where management changes and conservation programs can improve profitability of low-yielding areas. For information on upcoming programs see the program Facebook page @WIFarmProfitabilityExpo
- Setting up Private Pesticide Applicator exam dates for those needing to get certified for the first time and/or needing fumigation certification.
- Working with Portage County Master Gardener Volunteers to host a virtual Garden Dreams event March 1 and 7:00 PM. Speaker will be Mark Dwyer, former Director of Horticulture at Rotary Botanical Gardens presenting on Designing the Four Season Garden.

Community, Natural Resources & Economic Development Education - Nathan Sandwick

- Provided information to interested residents and colleagues about current supports for broadband development, and emerging prospects in underserved areas.
- Engaged with Extension's Climate Leadership Team to help determine how they might plan to support educators and communities addressing related challenges and opportunities.
- Supported another meeting of the Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative.
- Researched additional planning techniques for use as a facilitator to better assist organizations, businesses and communities facing uncertain outlooks and major unknowns about the future. Started to discuss (with collaborators) and apply findings including structured approaches for adaptive planning and robust decision-making that may be used in upcoming strategic planning efforts.

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 January with five participants. Working with them on budgets and credit improvements. Have now placed twelve individuals/families in non-predatory rentals. No defaults in the program so far.
- Working with partners from CAP Services and UnitedWay to schedule our first Advisory Board meeting, 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 (Advance directives, Home finances, Estate planning, and Arriving at Decisions for the end of this life. This is a six-part training on decisions that need to be made before the 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 and families in Portage County.

Area Director Update - Jason Hausler

- Co-Chair statewide Fairs Advisory Committee which kicked off in January. Goal is to improve communication between all parties affiliated with Fairs leading to more vibrant community events for the public and our clientele.
- Assist staff with program planning checklists to engage with in person programming.
- Prepare for and begin Performance Reviews for staff, Conduct Area wide meetings and professional development opportunities and attend appropriate county department head or administrative meetings.
- Work with staff to prepare for the Situational Analysis process, concluding with a report out to county stakeholders by the summer of 2021.