



*We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.*

## 4-H – Positive Youth Development

*Connie Creighton, 4-H Youth Development Agent*

- A series of club meetings where 4-H youth and adult club leaders engaged club members and families in club business, reconnecting and engaging them with each other while educating them on COVID-19 programming.
- Meetings of the 4-H leaders board/association occurred in June and July where they discussed 2021 4-H programs to support and how they relate to the Extension COVID-19 updated guidelines.

## Agriculture

*Ken Schroeder, Agriculture Agent*

- An on-farm research project to evaluate the effects of Roller/Crimper termination of a cereal rye cover crop compared to tillage termination on White Mold and Weed Suppression in soybean production. Herbicide and white mold treatments applied in July. Results from this research will help farmers and crop consultants improve white mold control and weed management in soybeans.
- An ongoing Producer-Led watershed protection project for the Tomorrow/Waupaca River Watershed farmers, agribusiness professionals, and local residents where they learn about and adopt soil and water conservation practices to reduce nitrates entering the groundwater and the overall environmental impact of agriculture.
- An ongoing Producer-Led watershed protection project for Mill Creek Watershed farmers, students, and local residents where they learn about and adopt soil and water conservation practices to reduce the environmental impact of agriculture.

### ***Additional Agriculture work being conducted in Portage County***

- Live radio interviews on local radio stations where the listeners learned about current agriculture programs and issues. The purpose of this effort is to increase understanding of food production systems. - *Matt Lippert, Wood County Extension Agriculture Agent*
- On-site management consultation for producer-led partners where Extension assisted with plant identification, removal of non-native plants, and provided information on management decisions. Through this effort, we ensure the visited plots continue to provide the Farmers of the Mill Creek Producer-led group with successful educational prairie areas. - *Rachael Whitehair, Wood County Extension Natural Resource Educator*



## Community, Natural Resources & Economic Development

*Nathan Sandwick, Community Development Educator*

- Continue to study housing trends (local and national data, historic and recent) to help interested residents, landlords and community leaders recognize (and effectively address) some of the causes and the immediate concerns about housing stress.
- Preparation for an upcoming series of building energy walking tours in collaboration with one of Focus on Energy's energy advisors. The effort will promote learning about potential savings opportunities along with applicable project funding and financing options.

## FoodWise

*Kelly Hammond, FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator; Hannah Wendels & Penny Schmidt FoodWise Nutrition Educators*

- Virtual programs (StrongBodies) for older adults and limited-income populations in Central Wisconsin where participants learned about strength training and nutrition topics. This effort is designed to improve social isolation, improve strength and improve nutritional knowledge.
- A 10-week class for parents of teens to support reunification or at-risk parent/child relationships. Participants learn about nutrition and parenting information to improve their relationship with their children and their health.
- Programs for parents of at-risk teens (Pathways to Parenting). Participants learn about nutrition and parenting information to improve their relationship with their children and their health.
- Planning for back to in-person StrongBodies lessons for seniors in collaboration with the ADRC of Portage County. The goal of this effort is to increase attendance and offer in-person programming, so that the community has improved access to physical activity resources.
- A meeting for area food pantries and additional resource organizations where they learned about the collaborations' services and began setting goals for new ways to partner and expand access to food resources.

## Human Development and Relationships

*Sherry Daniels, Human Development and Relationships Educator*

- Virtual meetings for front-line workers who assist families with community resources to discuss new and changing opportunities available for the families they work with.
- A series of virtual training sessions for ageing adults where they learn ways to practice both physical and mental exercise daily. The module ("Exercise & You") has been proven to help those attending to exercise in mental and physical activities more regularly.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
PORTAGE COUNTY

# August 2021 Report

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## Upcoming Programs

- [Encouraging Financial Conversations: Tuesday/Thursday starting Sept 2 - 21 from 12:00 pm-1:00 pm.](#)