



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
PORTAGE COUNTY

September-October 2021 Report

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



Alpaca exhibitors at the 2021 Portage County Rosholt Fair

Facilitated a series of three fair governance meetings with the superintendents, educators, youth, and partners of both the Amherst and Rosholt Fairs. This is the Fair Youth Exhibit Committee. The purpose of this committee is to interpret the rules and regulations contained in the Official Premium List for the Portage County Fairs, to identify problems which occur during the fairs and to make recommendations for resolving/preventing future problems. One of the goals of the committee is to bring community partners together with youth leaders developing a youth/adult partnership where youth have a voice in the administration of both junior fairs. This committee is composed of 32 youth and adults.

- A program for youth at the Boys and Girls Club where they learned to make Texas Caviar and other vegetable-based snacks with fresh peppers and onions. The purpose of this program is to introduce youth to a way to eat healthy raw garden vegetables that they can add to their diet.
- Conducted virtual new leader training for five adult volunteer leaders where they learned about Extension, expanding access, risk management, 4-H policies, and positive youth development. Volunteer in Preparation Training (VIP) is a mandated for all new 4-H volunteers. This training strengthens our partnership with adults serving as 4-H volunteers, chaperons, project leaders, general leaders, activity leaders, and other leadership roles.
- A two-evening virtual Camp in a Bag program was held in August, for younger 4-H and non-4-H members. Campers learned to create and design tie-dye shirts and made bird feeders from scratch. The Cloverbud/Explorer camp is designed to engage youth, third grade and younger, in hands-on activities while learning new skills. Four 4-H and three non-4H youth and one 4-H teen leader participated. The 4-H teen leader helped plan and teach both sessions. Camp supplies were assembled and distributed to participating families.



Agriculture

Ken Schroeder, Agriculture Agent

- A presentation to the Leadership Portage County Class where attendees learned about agriculture in Portage County and the advancements and continued efforts by farmers and stakeholders to reduce the environmental impacts of agriculture.
- Create & distribute Farmers of Mill Creek and Farmers for Tomorrow Newsletters for farmers, agribusiness professionals, and area residents where they gain knowledge about soil and water conservation opportunities to help reduce the environmental impact of agriculture.
- Planning the 2022 12-month Producer-Led Watershed Outreach programming for Central Wisconsin farmers, crop consultants, and youth active in agricultural course work in collaboration with area DATCP Producer-Led Watershed groups, and local Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Departments. The goal of this effort is to educate stakeholders about conservation best management practices that will maintain and improve surface and groundwater quality and help reduce the overall environmental impact of agriculture.
- Planning for 18-month Agricultural Conservation Outreach programming for Central Wisconsin farmers, crop consultants, and youth active in agricultural course work in collaboration with area DATCP Producer-Led Watershed groups, and local Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Departments. The goal of this effort is to bring youth and farmers together in an educational space where each audience can share their experiences with implementing and troubleshooting soil health practices, and to increase adoption of soil health practices.
- Ongoing 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. Results from this research will help farmers and crop consultants improve white mold control and weed management in soybeans.
- Ongoing Producer-Led watershed protection projects for the Tomorrow/Waupaca River Watershed and Mill Creek 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 to the reduce the environmental impact of agriculture.



Community, Natural Resources & Economic Development

Nathan Sandwick, Community Development Educator

- Promoting two upcoming statewide leadership development programs to Portage County residents. Individuals who participate in the programs will gain community leadership and civil leadership skills and become part of a growing network of community leaders throughout Wisconsin.
- Assisting in the development of grant project-oriented outreach strategies and convened another meeting of Central Sands Groundwater County Collaborative. A post-doc researcher to conduct its current grant-funded study has now been hired.
- Facilitate a local government strategic planning effort where state specialist Daniel Foth and local educator Nathan Sandwick helped task force members select and prepare for three upcoming community engagement efforts (a newsletter, a community survey, and an open house event). This step sets the stage for effective community-engagement later in the process.
- Co-lead an ESRI Business Analyst Workshop and prepared a written step-by-step tutorial illustrating how the tool can be used to perform market analysis comparing multiple locations.

FoodWise

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

- Strongbodies classes offered online and in person at ADRC; Penny facilitated a strongbodies training in Madison for new leaders around the state
- Worked with ADRC, Farmshed and Hunger Task Force to pilot a new Stockbox program for seniors. Program provides once a month box of pantry staples for low-income seniors. Over 200 area seniors were provided boxes the first month, totaling 6,000 pounds of food. Continued partnerships for the upcoming months including housing authority with transportation through CurbWise.
- Team preparing for both virtual and in-person classes (elementary, preK and adult classes) to start in October



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Human Development and Relationships

Sherry Daniels, Human Development and Relationships Educator

- A series of virtual training sessions for volunteer community financial coaches where they learn how to provide financial coaching for community members via Zoom.
- Developed a rental education curriculum for homeless people/families to learn about budgeting, credit, and what it takes to be a good renter. The goal of this program is for the homeless to gain permanent non-predatory housing.
- A training event for homeless individuals where they learned how to create a spending plan and check their credit along with their credit score, in order for them to be better tenants and to get stable housing.
- A virtual training was developed to teach university students how to be good financial coaches to their peers for the Financial Security Association on campus, so every student has access to a financial coach.
- Developed and delivered a new curriculum that helps residents throughout Wisconsin to make end-of-life financial, healthcare, and final wishes decisions to reduce the stress experienced by survivors.

Upcoming Programs

- [Triple P Parenting Discussion Groups & Seminars | Oct. 5th, 12th, 19th & Nov. 2nd – 7:00-8:30PM via Zoom](#)