

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

## 4-H – Positive Youth Development

*Connie Creighton, 4-H Youth Development Agent*

- We held two Cloverbud/Explorer 4-H Day Camps in July at the Boston School of Forest for youth in grades K-3. Both 4-H and non-4-H youth were invited to attend. We had thirteen campers, three counselors, and four adult volunteers participate in the July 25th day camp while eleven campers, five teen counselors, and four adult volunteers participated in the July 27th day camp. Day camps provide leadership opportunities where our teen leaders teach, lead, and mentor our youngest 4-H members at camp.



Campers participated in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) activity of boat making and racing. The goal of day camps is to provide hands-on activities that engage and challenge our young people while providing an environment that encourages a sense of belonging.

- Over sixteen youth and adults participated in a cake decorating workshop held in Rosholt. We have 96 youth who have signed up for this project.
- At the Portage County Amherst Fair youth & adult leaders have various opportunities to take on leadership roles, examples: Ambassadors, 4-H Food Stand leaders, fair superintendents, exhibit building volunteers (helping judges, fair check-in, help with display placement).
- 4-H Teen leaders sponsored and organized a family swim event at the Donald Copps Municipal Pool in Stevens Point. Over 50 people attended.



## Agriculture

*Ken Schroeder, Agriculture Agent*

- Nitrogen Optimization Project Update - Corn growing rapidly thanks to irrigation. It is tasseled and cobs developing. Aerial photos still show treatment differences 3 weeks after fertigation started.
- Hop Potassium Rate Research Project Update - petiole testing completed Thursday July 11th. Cones are forming and we will likely be harvesting the end of August to early September.



Presented on drip irrigation and soil moisture management at the summer hop field day at Alne's July 28th in Elk Mound.

- Aug 22, 2023 - Portage County Ag Tour 11:30am to 4:00pm. Tour stop Flyte Family Farms. For more information and to register call the Portage County Business Council 715-344-1940.



A 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.



A Producer-Led watershed protection project for the Tomorrow/Waupaca River Watershed farmers, agribusiness professionals, and area 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.

## Community, Natural Resources & Economic Development

### **Additional Natural Resources work being conducted in Portage County**



A regional gathering for producer members and collaborators of producer-led watershed protection groups in the North Central Region, where participants get to connect, collaborate, and have candid conversations about being in a producer-led watershed group. The goal of the gathering is to strengthen relationships between



groups, identify regional conservation concerns, and discuss the desires of each group.  
- *Anna James, Natural Resources Educator, Wood County Extension & Guolong Liang, Commercial Vegetable Agriculture Water Quality Outreach Specialist*



Denotes educational or planning efforts that work toward improving water quality in Portage County, Central Wisconsin, and the State as whole. While these efforts are highlighted in this report, there is more work being done by Extension to address water quality concerns outside of what is here. For more information about these efforts, or other efforts Extension has undertaken regarding water quality, please reach out to our office.

## FoodWise

*Mallory McGivern Nutrition Administrator; Penny Schmitt, FoodWise Nutrition Educator*

- A 5-week nutrition education series for second grade summer school classrooms at McKinley Elementary School, where students learn about the importance of eating five food groups, label reading, and reducing sugar intake. The goal of this effort is to create a positive healthy eating experience and help them make healthy choices in school and at home.
- A quarterly nutrition education series utilizing the Around the Table curriculum for adults as part of the Portage County treatment court program where adults learn about analyzing their eating habits, planning meals within a budget and incorporating more fruits and vegetables into their routines. The goal of this effort is to encourage long-term healthy eating behaviors.
- A quarterly nutrition education series in Portage County utilizing the Feeding for Healthy Eating curriculum for adults with young children as part of the Children's Wisconsin LEAP (Learning Essentials about Parenting) program where they learn about incorporating healthy eating habits into the family routine, including family meals and eating more fruits and vegetables. The goal of this effort is to encourage healthy eating behaviors at home.

## Human Development and Relationships

*Sherry Daniels, Human Development and Relationships Educator*

- A course for renters where participants learn how to find and apply for rental housing, understand their responsibilities as a renter, how to communicate effectively with their landlords, and manage housing expenses. Through this, homeless populations and those who have negative rental records are able to increase their ability to find and keep safe affordable housing, thereby increasing their stability and decreasing their reliance on public supports.
- A quarterly networking group (Right From the Start, RFTS) where professionals working with families who have young children can share resources and make connections. Through this, professionals can better serve the communities and young families they work with, promoting family and community strengths.



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
PORTAGE COUNTY

# August 2023 Report

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- A program for families and individuals, where participants learn how to create financial goals and gain money management skills. The goal of this program is to enable participants to prepare for and take charge of household financial situations that occur due to changes in income or unforeseen hardships.