

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

Amy Boelk, 4-H Program Educator

- A summer 4-H camp at Upham Woods for youth in grades 3–7, where campers explored nature, developed leadership skills, and formed lasting friendships through hands-on outdoor activities. Through this program, youth-built resilience, teamwork skills, and a sense of belonging in a safe, supportive environment. Total Reach: 70 youth
- A Rosette Making Workshop for the local Home and Community Economics group of ladies in the Stevens Point area to teach them how to make intricate ribbon rosettes so that they could spend the morning creating Rosettes to benefit our 4-H Youth at the upcoming Speaking and Demo contest and other future events.
- Management, recruitment, leadership and oversight of a 4-H AmeriCorps Member to work in Portage County in an effort to increase 4-H programs offered to youth throughout the Summer.
- Planning for transition of the Portage County Market Animal Project (a current 4-H chartered group) to develop a 501c3 for their animal auction at the annual fair in order to better streamline the work their group is doing for youth livestock education versus animal auction and facility/capital improvements on the fairground. The goal is to transition the auction and financial elements of their group to a 501c3 non-profit, so that the remaining 4-H livestock group can focus on more robust educational outcomes for all youth in the county, not just those auctioning animals at the Rosholt Fair. Total Reach: 15 adult volunteers, 50+ youth in livestock-related projects



Agriculture

Additional Agriculture work being conducted in Portage County

- Extension Mini Clinics are being planned for Cranberry Summer Field Day, to showcase current UW research on weed management screening trials, protoventuria leaf spot and virus testing, and physiology research trials. -*Allison Jonjak, Cranberry Outreach Specialist*
- A Virtual Brown Bag was hosted, providing cranberry growers with real time field updates on pollinator behavior, insect sweeping result trends, and heat stress management. - *Allison Jonjak, Cranberry Outreach Specialist & Amaya Atucha, Fruit Crop Production Specialist*
- An updated suite of nutrient management publications is being prepared to enable cranberry farmers to reference the most up-to-date information regarding nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, and micronutrient needs and efficiency for cranberry production. The current publication suite is from 2000, and does not address modern hybrids in sufficient depth. - *Allison Jonjak, Cranberry Outreach Specialist & Amaya Atucha, Fruit Crop Production Specialist*

Community, Natural Resources & Economic Development

Katie Livernash, Community Development Educator

- Planning for a regional rural housing summit hosted in Stevens Point in collaboration with state and regional CDI educators, and local, regional, and state housing partners. The goal is to engage developers, local government, and housing practitioners around rural housing solutions and best practices in order to increase affordable workforce housing and local economies in their area.
- Serving as a member of the founding board for the Portage County Community Land Trust start-up, where the goal is to establish a community land trust that ensures long-term housing affordability and stability in Portage County. Total Reach: 5 board members, 4 work-group members.
- Partnering on a Wisconsin Partnership Program - Community Impact Grant with CAP Services, Inc. and the UW Center for Community and Non-Profit Studies to grow and improve CAP Services' housing repairs programming. A goal of this project is to improve the accessibility and timeliness of their services in order to improve housing conditions for low to moderate income individuals and improve health equity in housing.
- Extension is serving on the local project team for the Portage County Safe Streets and Roads for All Action Plan creation, whereas this effort seeks to engage community members through demonstration and education activities as well as through public input during the planning process.



Extension

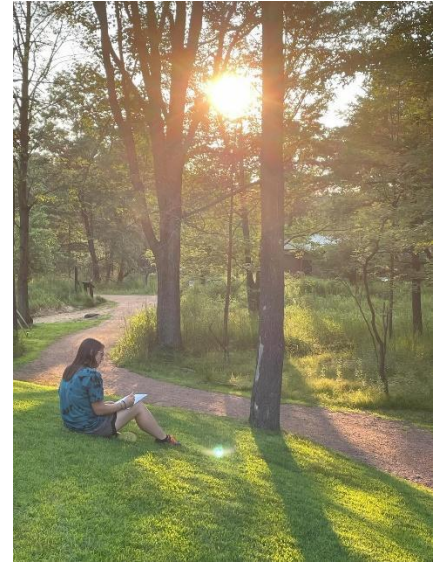
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The goal of this plan is to eliminate roadway fatalities and serious injuries through the development of a comprehensive safety action plan.

Additional Community, Natural Resources & Economic Development work being conducted in Portage County

- An in-person hike and class for women woodland owners and women interested in stewarding woodlands, where participants hiked through woodlands to learn about seasonal phenology and techniques to draw and observe natural happenings in woodlands. Through learning phenology and nature journaling participants can identify woodland patterns or problems that may arise, they can also create a new connection with their land - helping them and their families stay involved in management. Total Reach: 19 women registered for this event, who collectively own 440 acres of woodlands. - *Olivia Kovacs, Regional Natural Resources Educator Columbia County*



- This volunteer training was offered to the public at Schmeckle Reserve (UWSP) so that citizens could learn to support bumble bees in their garden, identify bees, and how to submit photos of bees to the WDNR Bumble Bee Brigade. Total Reach: 23 people registered (not required) and 25 attended (not including planning/instruction team of 5) - *Jason Riddle, Center for Wildlife Specialist & Becky Sapper, Distinguished Master Naturalist Program Director*



A series of four summer school lessons on natural resources for outdoor adventure summer school participants in 3rd and 4th grade, where they learned about a variety of natural resources topics so that they can better understand and appreciate the outdoor world. Total Reach: 20 students and 4 teachers. - *Jen Mcnelly, Wood County Natural Resources Groundwater Educator*



A study to better understand nitrate occurrence in the streams of the central sands and link that occurrence to land use. Results of this study will help county and regional planners, academic researchers, and regulatory agencies in making informed decisions on groundwater quantity and quality. - *David Hart, Hydrogeologist*



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; Michelle Van Krey, Healthy Communities Coordinator; Penny Schmitt, FoodWise Nutrition Educator

- Shared leadership in the Giving Gardens committee of Partners HP, where emphasis is placed on promoting and supporting efforts to maintain community gardens, improve food security, and provide educational programming in Portage County.
- A series of StrongBodies strength training sessions in partnership with Berkshire At The Grove, where older adults also receive nutrition and health education. Participants engage in regular strength training exercises to improve muscle strength, balance, and flexibility so they can stay healthy and socially connected.

Additional Health & Well-Being work being conducted in Portage County

- Covering Wisconsin creates education, outreach, and promotions messaging and tools for the public that are disseminated through myriad formats and venues around Wisconsin (e.g. toolkits for community partners, social media campaigns, bus placards and billboards, streaming digital ads, resource events and fairs, trainings for professionals, and health insurance literacy "How To" sheets). Through this programming, we help people in Wisconsin obtain, effectively understand and utilize health insurance, reducing the number of uninsured and underinsured people in our state. - *Colleen Harryman, Outreach Specialist Dane County*
- I conducted a virtual workshop on 'using data to inform grant-writing' virtually. This workshop focuses on locating public health data and evidence-based approaches to support grant-writing. This workshop results in increased capacity of community partners to utilize evidence-based practice and practice-based evidence in program development and implementation, and increased community capacity to identify and address health inequities through the development and strengthening of processes and resources. Total Reach: 11 participants from around the state participated - *Pearly Wong, Regional Community Health Coordinator, Sarah Boulton, Regional Community Health Supervisor, Selena Freimark, St. Croix County Regional Community Health Coordinator & Sheena Cook-Fuglsang, Vernon County Regional Community Health Coordinator*
- Navigator enrollment assistance provided to anyone in Wisconsin, where 97,013 consumers were assisted with health insurance questions or enrollment. Through this effort, our Navigators completed 4,041 qualified health plan enrollments through the federal Health Insurance Marketplace and assisted 5,615 consumers with Medicaid, resulting in widespread access to health care and improved health outcomes. - *Adam Vanspankeren, Outreach Program Manager, Allison Espeseth, Outreach Program Director & Elizabeth Rothe, Outreach Program Coordinator*



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Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, August 6th, 6:00-8:00pm- 4-H Style Revue Workshop at Annex Building
- Wednesday, August 6th, 6:35pm - WI Rapids Rafter's Game, Sponsored by 4-H Teen Leaders Association
- Tuesday, August 12th, 6:30pm – 4-H Virtual Blackout Poetry Workshop
- Tuesday, August 12th, 6:00-8:00pm, 4-H Family Swim Party, Donald Copps Municipal Pool
- Monday, September 1st, 2:00pm- 4-H Style Review on Stage at Rosholt Fairgrounds
- Wednesday, September 10th, 5:00-8:00pm- 4-H Club Leader Training Night
- Sunday, September 21st, 1:00-4:00pm- 4-H Volunteer Retreat