



EXTENSION FOCUS

SAUK COUNTY

JULY 2020

Positive Youth Development

Here in Sauk County, Meg (Positive Youth Development Educator), 4-H volunteers and community partners have continued to adapt face to face programming to meet current restrictions due to COVID.

- Meg served as an advisor and collaborator to the Sauk County Fair board with the creation of the Sauk County Virtual Exhibit Expo. The Virtual Exhibit Expo provides youth an opportunity to showcase and receive feedback on exhibits demonstrating their 4-H project work. Meg worked with the Fair board to create program guidelines, promotional materials, and a work flow process. Members will record short videos explaining what they have learned while showcasing their exhibit. Exhibits will be evaluated and written feedback provided by volunteer judges.
- A Cloverbud Virtual Show and Tell was created by Meg and the Cloverbud Superintendent. Cloverbuds (K-2nd graders) will participate in live online Show and Tell sessions to share up to 5 different exhibits they have made over the last year. These sessions will be led by older 4-H members.
- Meg has also created two different challenge contests keep members engaged. One is a Photography Challenge with a different weekly subject. The other is a Project Challenge. Each week youth will be submitting photos of different items from a decorated cupcake, to a closet makeover, to a up-cycled Clothing item and much more.



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

Community Collaboration Efforts

Sauk County Food Distribution Coalition is a Public Health initiative that is working with local food distribution providers such as food pantries, schools, churches, and other organizations that working to resolve the challenges local residents face in getting access to food and to resolve county level food insecurity rates for those experiencing nutritional poverty. Extension supports the coalition activities through both Human Development and Relationship and FoodWise Nutrition educator involvement to address nutritional education. Please contact the HDR educator, Amanda Coorough, from more information on Extension's role.

The Farmer Angel Network will be hosting drive-thru Ice Cream Socials in July for Farmers/ Farm Families in appreciation for all that Sauk County farmers have done to feed and support community residents. Agriculture educator, Alana Voss, and HDR educator, Amanda Coorough, will be supporting the network in treating area farmers and their families this summer, while also supporting safe, public health social distancing recommendations.

Agriculture

During the month of June, Alana worked on youth programming in her partner county of Juneau. She worked with FFA Advisors and 4-H partners to prepare a tractor safety program to be held in Juneau County in July. Tractor safety is an identified need in the agricultural community. This program was planned prior to COVID-19, but had to be modified to allow for social distancing requirements to keep all involved in the classes safe. The class will consist of independent class work (June 29-July 3) online classroom time (July 6-9), and finish with individual driving and written tests (July 15). For more information please feel free to reach out to Alana at alana.voss@wisc.edu or 608-477-3945.

Horticulture

It is with immense sadness that the Extension office acknowledges the passing of its beloved Horticulturist, Phyllis Booth. It is a tremendous loss to our team, Sauk County and to Extension that Phyllis will no longer be here to provide us with her sage wisdom, infectious enthusiasm and incredible spark. She was so wonderfully welcoming to every person and forever the gardener at every level. We will all greatly miss speaking and working with her. Her knowledge will live on in generations of gardeners and in the countless beautiful living things her loving hands touched.



Community Development

Jenny has been active in moving the groundwater monitoring project forward and recently hosted an online community wide meeting for 400+ participants in Sauk County. Thanks to the flexible use of Zoom technology that supported safe participation, Jenny and partners were able to share initial findings from the groundwater study and help participants interpret their individual test results.

As Sauk County continues to make steps forward in acknowledging the diversity of its people and holding spaces of celebration and shared community, Jenny continues to participate in the planning efforts for the upcoming October 12th Indigenous Peoples Day commemoration and celebration. This year the event will likely include unveiling of two new interpretive signs on mound builders and a former Ho-Chunk village near the Baraboo River.

The SCIL board held its retreat in early June and decided that in-person sessions for SCIL 2020-2021 would be canceled. The last session of Sauk County Institute of Leadership concluded in mid-May. Presentation to County Board and graduation dinner were postponed due to COVID-19 policies. Jenny and Morgan are strategizing tele-meeting options for reconnecting alumni and perhaps expanding areas of the syllabus that merit an expanded conversation. What this looks like is not certain but this is an opportunity to consult with alumni and to experiment. McArthur is working with Baraboo Public Art Association on building its newly-established endowment fund.

FoodWise

Melissa is not only conducting outreach to both the Baraboo and Sauk Prairie food pantries to provide indirect nutrition education by way of nutritious and cost effective recipes, but she is expanding access to FoodWise through the Food Distribution Coalition. (Read more about it in our Community Coalition section.) Melissa and the FoodWise program will be providing indirect education through August to help families throughout Sauk County continue to make the most of food distribution outreach efforts and stay healthy and safe this summer.

Now that summer is in full swing, many parks & recreation programs are making some efforts to provide programming, in mixed formats, to local children throughout Sauk County. Melissa is working with the Wisconsin Dells Park & Rec program to create nutritional activity tool-kits for their summer camp program. Camp counselors will use the FoodWise provided nutritional tool kits once a week to reinforce ongoing healthy eating habits that Melissa provides in the school district throughout the year.

With an uncertain school year approaching, FoodWise is being proactive and preparing for virtual nutrition education in schools during Fall 2020. Program coordinators and educators across the state are currently in the initial phases, building virtual lessons and preparing for a school year that allows FoodWise to retain the flexibility and sustainability that Extension programming has been known and relied upon for past and present.

Human Development & Relationships

As June came to a warm and rainy close, Amanda successfully closed out the virtual Parent Cafe program with HDR colleagues and is working now with state partners to data on how this new initiative impacted educational outreach for community learners. Preparing for a busy July, Amanda has developed a new partnership with the Food Distribution Coalition (read more in Community Collaborations) and is planning a Story Walk project for two communities in Sauk County to get kids ready and saving big! Along with ongoing parenting programs, outreach to partners in Human Services and Public Health, and ongoing work groups activity with state leadership, this summer promises to be very busy!

