



# EXTENSION FOCUS

SAUK COUNTY

MARCH-APRIL 2021

## Horticulture - Tim Ripp

Ripp is busy getting to know local partners, area Master Gardeners and Extension resources. As he becomes familiar with the Sauk County team and begins to build a plan for programming in the coming weeks and months, Ripp will have more to share in the monthly Focus.



## Agriculture - Alana Voss

During the month of March, Voss worked with the Heart of the Farm Coffee Chat work team to offer an opportunity for Jenni Gavin, Gavin Farms from Reedsburg, WI, to share her lived experience on Direct Marketing their farm and farm store where they sell their beef and other local products. After learning about many farms looking for resources and ideas on how to direct market from their own farms. Voss and her team found that sharing details and offering lived experience from a Wisconsin farm offered the perfect start to this conversation within the Heart of the Farm Coffee Chats program. Voss and area colleagues are finishing their Marketing Confidence program for their winter series that has been covering topics on grain, dairy, and livestock markets. As the farmers start to prepare for the spring planting season, Alana has been working with the Sauk Soil and Water Improvement Group and the Producers of Lake Redstone Watershed and the Land & Water departments on creating plans for the 2021 Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's watershed grants. Assisting with providing resources and looking into their interests in speakers and topics for their educational events that UW-Madison Division of Extension can help provide.

## Human Development & Relationships - Amanda Coorough

In March, Coorough started a series of Triple P parenting, which provides parents of children ages 0-12 years with a toolbox of strategies to raise confident and healthy children., build family relationships, manage misbehavior, and prevent problems from happening in the first place. The series incorporates 3 seminars and 3 group discussions over six weeks, each in one hour virtual sessions. Participants can engage in as many sessions in the series as they feel support their learning needs. In April, Coorough will be adding another series of the Parent Connect in the evening as well as another series of Encouraging Financial Conversations for those working with the public and would like to learn how to be better at empowering others to be better at managing their money.



## Community Development - Jenny Erickson & Morgan McArthur

The Sauk County Institute of Leadership (SCIL) had to curtail in-person programming for the class of 2020-2021 because of COVID. Erickson and McArthur devised and delivered alternative programming via teleconferencing. This was done with three goals in mind: 1) to reconnect with SCIL alumni; 2) provide a regular forum for discussing practical leadership principles; and 3) show that the SCIL lights are still burning brightly. The multi-faceted approach included:

- Held bi-monthly leadership "chats" with the SCIL class of 2020. These ongoing discussions are designed to serve as a place to pilot new ideas and to be a support network for leaders as they address new challenges.
- Developed and taught virtual presentations focused on key leadership themes including Real Colors® and "Why Can't You be Nice? You Jerk!" a program on civility in preparation for the 2020 elections. Erickson and McArthur also developed a program focused on creative problem solving titled, "New Eyes, New Prize" that was held in January 2021. These are public programs that are on offer to educate but also to promote SCIL.
- SCIL 'reunion tour:' Erickson and McArthur hosted a virtual reunion for the 2019 SCIL class to provide an opportunity for alumni to reconnect and discuss resilience as it relates to leadership. More classes like this are in the works to refresh the relationship between SCIL and past classes.



## FoodWise - Melissa Beernick

Nutrition virtual education is rolling within Sauk County Elementary schools. Melissa has been using the conferencing platform GOOGLE MEET, Zoom, and a new platform called Blue Jeans to virtually connect with classrooms and provide nutrition education. Up to date 163 lessons have been scheduled within Sauk County, with more being added daily. The FoodWise program is looking forward to Summer programming and has begun reaching out to summer partners. We are hopeful that youth education will take place in person, while adult education will continue virtually through the summer months. Work continues to convert all in-person nutrition lessons to a virtual delivery method. In Sauk County all eligible classrooms for the remainder of the year, that have yet to schedule nutrition education will be given self paced/ asynchronous lessons. This method allows more flexibility for teachers.

## Community Collaboration Efforts

**Food Pantry and Partners Coalition** Aside from continuing to support efforts to get food drive information pushed out throughout the community, work is also ongoing to help connect Direct Market Farmers with the grants available to become eligible to receive Food Share dollars. Currently, there are three applicants in process towards these grant dollars.

**The Farmer Angel Network** The Farmer Angel Network finished its winter/ spring education series in March with a Cultivating Better Sleep presentation with Dave Sprecher, Lead Sleep Technician from Sauk Prairie Healthcare. The F.A.N. is now working with the Starlight Cinema to plan an outdoor appreciation event for farm families this summer.

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