

We Bring Unique Services to Waushara County

The Waushara County UW-Extension staff help people acquire knowledge and skills to make decisions and solve local problems that enhance the quality of life for our youth, families, neighborhoods, communities and businesses.

The funding provided by Waushara County for the UW-Extension Office is about 25% of the funding the UW-Extension Office utilizes to provide educational opportunities for our county residents. The University provides approximately \$165,000 for faculty salaries and benefits. Staff access state specialists and library services and utilize technological support that are valued at \$495,071 for Waushara County. In addition we secured approximately \$29,700 in funding available through UW-Extension to offer the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program. Waushara County was selected as one of two sites in Wisconsin to be part of the UW-Extension Children, Youth and Families at Risk Sustainable Communities Project in 2009. We are offering educational opportunities that target Hispanic families in the Tri-County Area School District. This is a five year grant and the grant will be \$42,667 for each of the remaining four years.

County Partner

The Land/Water/Education Committee is our local partner who guides us in making program decisions while meeting local needs. Members of this committee are:

Joe Piechowski, Chair Bernadette Krentz
Darrel Fenske Everett Eckstein
Larry Crawford

Agriculture - Ken Williams

As a member of the UW-Extension 7-County Agriculture Specialization Group the Waushara

County Agriculture Agent conducted a number of educational meetings for area farmers and producers including: corn/soybean production, marketing meeting at Hancock on January 19, grain marketing meeting at Marshfield on February 23, soybean/wheat production meetings at Plover February 9, Marshfield March 12, Markesan March 23, and Mauston March 24. Also held vegetable processing meetings at Hancock on March 11, and at Plover March 10. On February 2-4 WPVGA grower education meeting at Stevens Point, and a grazing meeting at Wautoma on March 15.

In the area of farm business, this agent worked with a number of producers on business profitability. The Agriculture Agent also provided farm business assistance to farms in Waushara, Marquette and Portage Counties. Vance Haugen UW-Extension Ag Agent Crawford County assisted with farm visits and provided suggestions for possible changes to in-barn milking parlors for 3 farms in our 7-county area. Predictive Estimated Alfalfa Quality (PEAQ) samples were conducted on area alfalfa fields. Silage moisture testing was provided for producers on September 9 and September 17 to bring in corn samples for silage moisture testing.

Together with Don Genrich, Adams County UWEX and Carla Hargrave, Green Lake County UWEX we held a crop walk at the Don Rickert farm which was attended by 20 area farmers. Together with Carla Hargrave, UWEX Green Lake County Agriculture Agent, we continued to hold farmer grain club meetings at Auroraville once a month.

Williams assisted with the annual Waushara County June Dairy Breakfast at the Todd and Jan Dukelow farm, and provided assistance with animal check-in and judging during the County Fair.

This agent also offers assistance to the general public of Waushara County in the area of home horticultural and pest control problems. Around 250 horticultural inquiries from area residents were answered in the past year. There were also 140 agricultural inquiries answered by the agriculture agent on topics such as land rent, production costs and farm transfers.

This past year I served as President-Elect for Wautoma Kiwanis and Co-Chairman of Alice in Dairyland Waushara County 2011.

The agriculture agent also continues to provide a weekly agriculture article for the Argus and the Berlin Journal.

Family Living Education - Jennifer Caravella

In 2009, the Family Living Educator taught a variety of programs in Waushara and neighboring counties that were in the areas of

- **Healthy Living,**
- **Family Finances** and
- **Building Stronger Families.**

Some of the **Healthy Living** Programs taught by the Family Living Educator included the following: Tufts University's Strong Women™ Strength Training Program, Nutrition Lunch-N-Learn programs for county employees, Pressure Canning, Slow Cooking Cookery, Healthy Holiday Cooking and Cooking for One or Two.

Family Financial education in 2009 included: One-on-one financial education, Millionaire Secrets Can Help Families of All Income Levels, How to Create a Family Spending Plan, First Time Home Buyer Education, How to Recession-Proof your Household and Money Smart Training for Professionals.

Some 2009 programs for **Building Stronger Families** included: a seven week class for parents and their teenagers (requested by

Human Services), Family Camp, Preparing to Care for Aging Parents and Positive Discipline for Parents of Young Children.

The Family Living and 4-H Youth Development Educators began work on a five year federal grant titled; **Children, Youth and Families At Risk (CYFAR)** which provides extra funds for three part-time staff and bi-lingual programs for Hispanic youth and parents who live in the Tri-County School District.

Caravella also continues to provide program planning and development support for the part-time **Nutrition Educator** position which is funded entirely through a U.S.D.A grant.

Community, Natural Resource and Economic Development - Patrick Nehring

The Community, Natural Resource, and Economic Development (CNRED) Agent provides educational programs and information to local governments, organizations, and individuals in the areas of natural resources, economic development, and community issues. The results of educational programs in 2009 included the following.

Based on the instruction and materials that the CNRED Agent provided, the Tri-County Tourism Alliance adopted a partnership agreement, which they call their "playground rules." As a result of the instruction that the CNRED Agent provided, the Waushara Food Connection Committee developed a study process to learn about the ability of low income individuals to obtain needed food (food security), accessibility of food in the county, and the food distribution system in Waushara County using surveys, focus groups, and interviews. The CNRED Agent informed the Employer Relations Team about the closing of the Cummins Plant, resulting in a response

team being formed, including Job Services, Workforce Development, CAP Services, UW-Extension, and Fox Valley Technical College to address the training, financial, and job search needs of the employees of Cummins. As a result of the instruction that the CNRED Agent provided to a committee formed by East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, a recommendation was made to the Census Bureau to change the census tract shape around Wautoma, Redgranite, and Lohrville to more accurately reflect the actual economic conditions of the areas and to identify the unincorporated village of Poy Sippi identified as a “place,” which could aid in future economic development, statistical analysis, and grant applications.

With the CNRED Agent’s assistance and instruction, all of the draft municipal plans reflect the wishes of their participating citizens and elected officials, and the plans were completed on time to be the basis of the County Comprehensive Plan. To adopt the local comprehensive plan, plan commissions were created in seventeen towns in Waushara County following the instructions that the CNRED Agent provided. As a result of the instruction that the CNRED Agent provided, the Mt. Morris Town electorate was informed enough to now understand what village power is and is not to authorize the Town Board to have village powers to adopt the town comprehensive plan.

4-H Youth Development Agent - Barb Barker

Sixteen clubs with about 125 volunteer adult leaders provide educational opportunities for 300 youth in grades 1 through 13. Our youth have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills, be contributing members to their communities and develop new skills through a variety of projects. Approximately 66% of our members are enrolled in at least one animal project including hogs, beef, sheep, rabbits,

poultry, dairy, dogs, cats and pets. Other popular projects include art related projects and shooting sports.

Helping youth to develop their leadership skills has been an ongoing focus of many of the county opportunities that I advise. The Waushara County 4-H Ambassadors increased their membership to fifteen Ambassadors this year with the addition of a second adult advisor. The group is responsible for marketing 4-H opportunities to our 4-H families as well as to families who are not currently involved. At the two annual new family nights, Ambassadors share information about projects they are taking, introduce them to the 4-H pledge and do other fun activities with them.

In 2009 the agents in Green Lake, Adams, Marquette and Waushara County evaluated how the role of being a summer camp counselor impacted the development of life skills in the fifteen teens who served as base camp counselors. When asked to describe their experience, the most common word used was fun. Individuals shared the following words that reflect personal development that they experienced responsibility, learning experience, teamwork, leadership and outgoing. Seven (47%) cited examples related to making decisions about behavior management. They cited examples related to discipline, maintaining control and working with different people. Five (33%) cited responsibility. Three (20%) indicated communication, organization and leadership.

The counselors were asked to share what made being a camp counselor a unique experience. A number included a common theme about the opportunity to build relationships with and be responsible for “kids.”

When asked to identify one of the four skills listed (teamwork, communication, decision

making and planning & organizing) they learned the most about as a camp counselor, seven identified communication, six identified planning and organizing and four identified decision making.

The counselors were asked how they would utilize what they learned from this experience in other leadership roles. A couple of common themes from the responses included dealing with different people and organizing and maintaining control over a group of people. Some skills they learned they could use in a future job included working with a variety of people, communication and leadership.

At the suggestion of the 4-H Leaders Association President, Linda Pomplun, the Waushara County 4-H Alumni Association was created. Anyone interested in providing support to Waushara County 4-H is welcome to join the 4-H Alumni Association. They meet quarterly on the third Tuesday in January, April, July and October.

WNEP Nutrition Educator- Terri Hernandez

The Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program is in its second year, and has reached more school aged audiences & other audiences in 2009. In 2009, Terri Hernandez, Waushara County Nutrition Educator, taught in the Wautoma School District and the Tri County School District. She also added agreements with the Wild Rose School District. Hernandez taught kindergarten – Junior High level students in Nutrition. Some of the classes she presented were: Make Your Grains Whole, Bone up on Calcium, Think Your Drink, Hand washing, More Fruits & Veggies, and Physical Activity. In order for schools to qualify for the program, 50% or more of the students must receive free & reduced lunch. She is also able to reach out to income eligible adult audiences as well. She did offer Lunch-N-Learns with co-worker

Jennifer Caravella to the Waushara County Employees to educate on basic nutrition and provided short informative lessons how she could reach out to other adult audiences. Hernandez meets monthly at Waushara Industries and offers basic nutrition fun to the developmentally disabled clients. This has proven to be successful because the adults are at the work site and she can give the class right in the lunch area. Hernandez has implemented a “Healthy Lunch Program” that encourages adult students to incorporate 4 out of 5 food groups in their daily lunches they pack for work. Hernandez also branched out to the Tri-County School District during their summer school & migrant summer school.