

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 \$169,000 for faculty salaries and benefits. Staff access state specialists and library services and utilize technological support that are valued at about \$434,000 for Waushara County. In addition we secured approximately \$31,500 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 (CYFAR) 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 annually through 2013. In addition to these grant funds, our involvement in the CYFAR Project, we have one year round VISTA and three summer VISTAs.

County Partner

The Land, Water and 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. Grain marketing meetings at Marshfield on February 2, 9, and 17, 2010.

A processing vegetable meeting at Plover on March 10, 2010. February 2-4, 2010, WPVGA grower education meeting at Stevens Point. In the area of farm business, worked with a number of producers on business profitability and farm transfer. Provided farm business assistance to farms in Waushara, Marquette and Portage Counties. Conducted area alfalfa Predictive Estimated Alfalfa Quality (PEAQ) samples on area alfalfa fields. Provided silage moisture testing 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 Nick Schneider, Winnebago County Agriculture Agent held a crop walk at the Chuck Brewer farm attended by 45 area farmers. Continued to hold farmer grain club meetings at Auroraville once a month.

Assisted with the annual Waushara County June Dairy Breakfast at the Bob and Sherry Gates farm. 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.

Served as President for Kiwanis and as Co-Chairman of Alice in Dairyland Waushara County 2011. The 64th Alice in Dairyland selection will be held in Wautoma May 12-14, 2011.

Continue to provide a weekly Ag article for the Argus and the Berlin Journal.

Authored a Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) grant for the 7-County

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Agriculture Specialization area in the amount of \$12,760. This grant was approved and will be used to expand the work of area Agriculture Agents in the area of Managed Grazing.

Family Living Education - Jennifer Caravella

In 2010, the Family Living Educator taught a variety of programs in Waushara County 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: Evidence-based Tufts University's **Strong Women™ Strength Training Program, facilitating and teaching for the county employee wellness group, teaching classes about pressure canning, slow cooking, healthy holiday cooking and cooking for one or two.** With the special 5 year Children, Youth and Families At Risk Grant, I work with Maria Gonzalez to facilitate a monthly cooking class with nutrition lessons for Hispanic mothers whose children attend the Tri-County School District.

Family Financial education in 2010 included providing individual and group education to **110 individuals** who were in financial crisis. Financial education topics included foreclosure and eviction prevention, debt management , first time home buyer preparation and learning to live without dependence on credit.

Some 2010 programs for **Building Stronger Families** included: the seven week evidence-based **Strengthening Families 10-14 program** for parents and their pre-teens. This program was taught at the Coloma Elementary School and was funded through a special \$5,000 grant from the federal government. My UW-Extension colleagues from Adams and

Marquette Counties co-taught the program with me at no expense to Waushara County for their time or mileage.

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 2010 included the following.

As a result of the instruction that Nehring provided, conflicts between the Cooperative Care board members and between cooperative members and the board have been avoided. The Cooperative Care Board of Directors is following their bylaws and using Robert's Rules of Order for their meetings. More is accomplished at board meetings than had been previously. The Cooperative Board has adopted a letter of commitment that board members sign each year.

As a result of the instruction that Nehring provided to Waushara Food Connections (WFC) members and Central Wisconsin Community Action Council (CWCAC) staff, a wealth of data has been gathered about the food distribution system in Waushara County and the ability of low income families and individuals to meet the food and nutritional needs. Preliminary data was used to solicit donations for the food pantries and setup additional food distribution programs.

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As a result of the instruction Nehring provided, all of the 24 municipal comprehensive plans in Waushara County reflect the wishes of their participating citizens and elected officials and were completed on time to be the basis of the County Comprehensive Plan. The County Comprehensive Plan accommodates the goals and recommendations of all of the municipal plans. The final municipal comprehensive plan was adopted on February 10, 2010.

Over the last 10 years, Nehring has given a presentation on grant proposal writing to about 200 people. The information that I provided through this presentation has been used to write grant proposals by county departments and nonprofit organizations around Waushara.

Nehring continues to provide information about why lake levels are low, property values of riparian properties on dried up lakes and low lakes, about the amount of additional recreational opportunities should irrigation stop completely, and about the economic impact of agriculture in Waushara County.

4-H Youth Development Agent - Barb Barker

Fifteen clubs with about ninety volunteer adult leaders provide educational opportunities for 321 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, horse, 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. Youth are supported by the 4-H Youth Development

Agent and 4-H Volunteer Leaders in a variety of leadership roles. A few examples include:

- Youth officers of the county 4-H Horse and Rabbit Association. In many other counties these organizations have adult officers.
- A summer camp program for 80 youth from Adams, Green Lake, Marquette and Waushara Counties designed and implemented by a team of fifteen high school members serving as counselors.
- Two trips – Explore Wisconsin for members in grades 6-8 and Older Youth Cultural Trip for members in high school—are planned and implemented by the participants. Six middle school members explored the Wisconsin Dells area for four days and six high school youth chose Branson, Missouri as an area to visit and explore.
- Fifteen 4-H Ambassadors developed multiple means of sharing information with new families about the wide variety of 4-H opportunities.

The 2010-11 annual 4-H club leader training focused on youth and adult partnerships and how this plays out in a 4-H club. Club leaders and officers shared how the youth are responsible for carrying out the business of their 4-H club under the guidance the adult volunteer leaders in the club. Our youngest club president is a fourth grader and a number of club presidents are seniors in high school. When you review the minutes of the meetings it is hard to determine which club is led by the fourth grader and which is run by the seniors in high school. We also discussed how you need to transition as the majority of members in your club become more mature and can take on additional decision making and leadership roles.

This past year the 4-H Leaders Association designed and implemented a process to identify

what expectations they have of Waushara County 4-H member and leaders. The behavior agreement form defined the 4-H Leaders Association relative to being an active participant and learner and being a contributing member of their 4-H club. Members and leaders signing the form also agreed to be respectful, be a positive role model and practice good sportsmanship. Expectations for dress and language were also agreed to.

Afterschool programs in the Plainfield and Hancock communities continue with use of resources provided by the Children, Youth and Families at Risk Grant for USDA. This grant focused on engaging Hispanic families in their communities and helping them develop essential life skills. The summer Wacky Weekdays program provided twenty youth (75% Hispanic/25% Anglo) in these two communities five weeks of fun, engaging activities focusing on a weekly theme. During the current school, Penguin 4-H KIDZ Clubhouse has reached over 40 students (33% Hispanic/66% Anglo) in grades 2-4 with activities three times per month using themes such as fall harvest, food, outdoor winter fun and family celebrations. Parents report this program offers a safe environment, opportunities for social interaction with new friends and an opportunity to develop their creative skills. The most common answer of why youth continue to come is it is “fun!” Two part time staff, one year round VISTA and three summer VISTAs have assisted with the implementation of these programs.

WNEP Nutrition Educator- Terri Hernandez
The Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program is in its third year, and has reached more school aged audiences & other audiences in 2010. In 2010, Terri Hernandez, Waushara County Nutrition Educator, taught in the Wautoma, Wild Rose and the Tri County School Districts.

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.

Hernandez, along with FL Educator, Caravella, taught a Lunch-N-Learn to the Waushara County Employees to educate on basic nutrition and provided short informative lessons how she could reach out to other adult audiences.

Starting September 2010, Hernandez met twice 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. She is looking to expand her nutrition efforts at Waushara Industries in 2011.

Hernandez branched out to the Tri- County School District during their summer school & migrant summer school in July 2010. In addition, Hernandez has reached out to the Wautoma Food Pantry with newsletters every quarter.