

2003 Annual Report

Community, Natural Resource and Economic Development (CNRED) Agent/Educator

Ashland County Comprehensive Planning Moving Forward

All of Ashland County's towns, villages and cities are taking action toward completion of a 20-year plan for their communities.

The County's Comprehensive Plan will be comprised of 15 township plans, one village plan and one city plan (Mellen). "The high level of participation will greatly enhance the meaning, value and longevity of the resulting plan," said Brad Bauer, consultant from Vierbicher and Associates, the planning and design firm hired to lead the county-wide process. The process will take two to two and a half years, according to Jane Silberstein, UW-Extension Community Resource Development Agent/Educator for Ashland County. Silberstein adds that "the planning process itself helps build community and hopefully leads to people being engaged in their community's future well beyond the completion of the plan."

Jim Ryder, chair of the Town of LaPointe Community and Public Works Planning Committee and an 8-year resident of Madeline Island, feels strongly about the reasons for planning for the future. "Madeline Island is in the process of the most sweeping all-inclusive comprehensive planning ever envisioned by this community as a result of State of Wisconsin 1999 legislation, asking for communities throughout the State to join in

'think tank type' planning that reaches far into the future. This



The Town of LaPointe: one of four 2003 Visioning Sessions.

community is involved in this planning process to insure, for generations to come, that Madeline Island will change in a predictable way and yet maintain the character that makes the Island unique and so very special, while at the same time staying on the cutting edge when it comes to managing the growth and change we all know is happening now and will continue for years to come," states Ryder.

The Town of LaPointe has been actively engaged in community visioning sessions for the last year, seeking to know from island residents – year 'round (about 200) as well as seasonal (between 2,000 and 3,000)– their wishes for the future of the island. Cumulatively, between 300 and 400 people have attended these sessions.

Sandy Christl, who has lived in Mellen with her husband for 26

years, says she is involved in the County's Comprehensive planning process because she "believes in long rang planning. I've always felt we should be ready for growth so that when it occurs, we can look like we have it all together." The Christl's have two daughters and three grandchildren and own the Mellen Weekly Record.

Mike Neumann, the Village of Butternut President, has, along with the trustees of Butternut, initiated planning prior to the State legislation in 1999 calling for a comprehensive plans from all municipalities that make land use decisions. Neumann states that planning is essential, "especially for small towns with limited resources. A long range plan is needed for growth and for long term improvements as well as to meet the desires of the people village trustees are elected to represent."

Others involved in the County's process include Jane Smith, who along with Kathy Allen, represent the City of Ashland. Ashland is in the process of wrapping up the City's Comprehensive Plan. Smith, who served as City Clerk in Ashland for many years, believes that planning is the way a community controls its destiny. "We live in a beautiful place and we want to assemble the necessary mechanisms that will keep it that way."



Jane Silberstein is starting her third year as department head.

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CNRED Education continued

Ashland County received funds from the State's Smart Growth Fund to complete its comprehensive plan. Funds from the State's Coastal Management Program will cover the costs of developing a coastal resources management element of the plan. Each municipality is contributing \$6,000 paid over 3 years as a match to state funds

County Needs Assessed and Addressed

In June 2003, Jane Silberstein mailed out surveys to 86 Ashland County residents, including all County Board members and other leaders, all department heads and all town chairs. Twenty-nine percent (29%) of those sent surveys returned completed surveys. The main purpose of the survey was to determine the area's of greatest need for programming by the Community, Natural Resource and Economic Development Agent, Jane Silberstein.

Below is a list of the areas identified as appropriate for focus (in order of importance – most important first) and the programming response for 2003 by Silberstein:

Economic Development

Business creation and expansion: assisted 7 individuals with business start-up; advised on interest in business expansion; worked with mining company relative to interest in development of holdings in mid-Ashland County; other agencies involved: UW-Extension Iron County, Ashland Area Development Corporation, Iron County Development Corporation

Downtown revitalization: worked with Ashland Chamber of Commerce in its use of Northern Edge grant funds (UW-Extension grant) for a Downtown Revitalization Project

Tourism development: worked with CNRED agents from Iron and Bayfield Counties and local tourism leaders and stakeholders on a south shore tourism promotion strategy

Small business management and growth: hosted and advertised locally-held small business development seminars lead by Hans Hanson, UW Extension Area Community

Business Development Agent; provided counseling meeting place for Julianne Raymond, Small Business Development Center, UW-Superior

Building sustainable communities: provided information and assistance to City of Ashland directional/entryway signage development committee; facilitated start-up and development of Grow Glidden, an organization formed in response to declining enrollment in the Glidden School District (a community development organization); facilitated monthly sessions, advised and provided assistance to the City of Ashland Waterfront Development Committee (public-private); helped develop and facilitate as well as presented at a regional workshop entitled "Community Natural Resource Considerations in Community Planning," held on the Bad River Reservation, September 2003; worked with Ashland City Mayor's committee to explore feasibility of public access TV for the area; assisted with two CleanSweep days (Ashland and Mellen) and conducted survey of participating citizens and businesses, May and August 2003; worked with individuals wishing to build and finance Contemplative Center and Intentional Community in Ashland ; assisted three individuals wishing to continue their education (formal); met with Mayor and Chamber rep Gary LaPeau and Marv Van Kekerix regarding Northern Edge project and possibility of more grant funds

Long Range Planning/ Land Use

Smart Growth, land development, farmland preservation, open space preservation, sustainable development: served as County Coordinator of Comprehensive Planning process (public participation coordinator, liaison to consultants and grants administrator)

Environmental Protection

Protection and restoration of environment, watershed protection, wetland, surface waters and shoreland protection, recycling: helped to plan and also presented at three locally held conferences drawing participants from the region, including Ashland County. They were: "Community Natural Resource Considerations in Community Planning"; "Superior Communities:

Successful Coastal Management on Lake Superior"; "Living on the Edge: Protection of Lake Superior Rivers and Streams"; (all held on the Bad River Reservation, September 2003.)

Community Leadership (including local government) Development

Ashland leadership program, networking skills, training in meeting facilitation, citizenship skills (communicating with legislators, participating in local government, community action), local government skills (general training, business plans for local units

of government, dealing with shared revenue cuts): Facilitated three Chequamegon Humane Association strategic planning sessions and organizational start-up sessions (two) with Food Security Coalition (also advised on organizational development matters); advised four individuals on formation of nonprofit organizations; facilitated a one-day long-range planning session for the Tobacco Coalition, an issues session for Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua, a day-long Great Lakes Network Session at Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center (group comprised of agency reps involved in basin natural resource research), an afternoon planning session with Lake Superior Leadership School development (funded with Coastal Management funds); and designed and prepared to facilitate two-day strategic planning session for the Ashland County Fair Board (postponed due to weather – planned for November 2003); and facilitated day-long strategic planning session for Bayfield Chamber (requested, due to past experience working with marketing planning in the Bayfield area)



Family Living Programs



Betty Tarabek, WNEP Coordinator, and Cheri Carrington, WNEP Support Staff, going over statistics for the Nutrition Program.

Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program, WNEP

Ashland/Bayfield Counties educators made a total of 13,074 educational contacts during the 2003 program year reaching 2,871 different learners. Youth represented 65% of all learners with youth aged 5-11 comprising 63% of learners, and youth aged 12-17 representing the remaining 2%. Families with children made up 25% of learners; adults 65 or older were 8% of learners; pregnant women/caretakers of infants were 2% of learners while childless adults, ages 18-64, made up the remaining 1% of learners. Fifty-nine percent of learners were female. Racially, 83% of learners were white, 16% were Native American, and the

remaining 1% was Black / African American. Four percent of learners were disabled. Ashland/Bayfield Counties educators basically utilized two teaching strategies: groups and learn-while-



Joy Schelble, Nutrition Educator, in a classroom.

you-wait. Within the group strategy, multi-session groups reached 76% of learners (2,169) while one-time groups represented 7% (186) of learners. Sixteen percent (462) of learners were reached through the learn-while-you wait strategy. Nutrition/Dietary Quality and Food Safety were the topics taught to 87% of learners. Youth, age 5-11 (821/29%) and families with children (516/18%) were the most widely taught groups related to Nutrition/Dietary Quality. The same two groups, youth aged 5-11 (874/30%) and families with children (74/3%) represented the highest number of learners in the Food Safety topic as well.

Selected Program Results

Teaching older adults in group settings

The Ashland County WNEP educator presented 3 programs to food stamp eligible audiences at each of the 5 Ashland County senior dining sites. Two topics, Nutrition/Dietary Quality and Food Resource Management, were covered. One-hundred-eight different learners were reached. Following the final session at each site, the audience was surveyed. The educator stated, "We've been talking about nutrition over the past three months. Please raise your hand if you can think of one specific thing you are doing differently now, as a result of what you've heard here about nutrition. Keep your hand down if you are not doing anything differently." Eighty-nine participants were in attendance on the survey day. Seventy-three percent (65 participants) raised their hand in response to the statement. Following the survey an elderly gentleman stated, "Thanks for coming. People might not say things to you right away, but people talk about the information you bring. We talk about these things. It gets people thinking."

Teaching with learn-while-you-wait lessons at WIC or other public health clinics

Ashland/Bayfield WNEP educators taught "Five a Day" through learn-while-you-wait displays to 224 clients at 6 WIC sites within the two-county area. In addition, these educators gave 46 WIC participants one-on-one education related to using WIC Farmers Market Vouchers to increase their fruit and vegetable intake without additional strain on

their budgets. Following instruction 113 participants were asked if they would do anything differently and 89% indicated they would try to increase their intake of fruits and vegetables. Follow-up by the WIC dietitian indicates that WIC clients are eating more fruits and vegetables. In addition, farmers reported brisk usage of WIC Farmers Market Vouchers for fresh vegetables and fruits within the two-county area.

Teaching children at community gardens or school gardens

The Ashland County WNEP educator taught nutrition in and around a summer garden to 5-11- year-old youth at 3 sites in Ashland and Bayfield Counties. Average attendance at the



Joy Schelble working in a raised garden.

Odanah Boys and Girls Club was 15 students for 8 sessions, the New Day Shelter - 14 students for 11 sessions and the Bayfield Public Library - 8 students for 7 sessions. Nutrition/Dietary Quality and Food Resource Management were the educational focus topics. Each session of summer garden nutrition provided hands-on activities ranging from learning about and preparing nutritious meals and snacks using the harvest. Summer garden nutrition students reported it was easier for them to learn content in the garden than in the school-year classroom, it was easier to ask questions and discuss ideas as they had developed a less formal relationship with the teacher, they were more willing to taste foods they had grown and prepared and preserved and they intended to teach others in their families relative to what they had learned.

Projects related to improving food security in the county or community

The Ashland/Bayfield WNEP coordinator and the Ashland County educator are actively

Family Living Programs continued

involved in the local food security coalition. During 2003, the area WNEP Coordinator wrote and obtained grants from the two Community Foundations allowing for the purchase of food preservation equipment for classes and a rototiller. The area CAP agency purchased a small truck with their grant funds. The two WNEP staff were also involved in educating seniors on the Farmers Market Voucher program. As the Ashland educator visited the 4 senior dining sites outside of Ashland presenting programs on the topics of Nutrition/Dietary Quality and Food Security, seniors reported an inability to use their vouchers due to transportation issues and a lack of markets in their areas. Their concerns resulted in the educator plus one volunteer making use of the truck purchased for the coalition, collecting fresh produce from area farmers and taking educational materials and the market to 3 rural sites. Seventy-two rural residents were served in this manner resulting in over \$500 in fresh produce being purchased with over \$350 of Farmers Market vouchers.

Summer Youth Program

The Wisconsin Nutrition Education program of Ashland County facilitated an experiential summer nutrition program for Anishinabe youth on the Bad River Indian Reservation during the summer of 2003. This program was developed and delivered because of the need to connect youth to a community-wide food security project. The Gitiganing project encourages people to combat food related illness, diabetes and obesity, through the consumption of high quality foods and nutrition education. This intergenerational program teaches people how to grow, harvest, and collect from the wild the food that is needed to maximize health. Following a series of conversations between the Ashland County WNEP educator and representatives of Bad River Reservation at the two-county food security coalition meetings, the Ashland County WNEP educator was invited to add a youth nutrition education component with hands on learning opportunities that would support the efforts of the Diabetes Prevention Task Force and the Gitiganing project. WNEP educators work with youth from this community during the school year. The development of summer programming to provide continuity

throughout the year was another goal of this effort. WNEP worked with youth from the Boys and Girls Club and Head Start programs using a traditional foods garden and the Boys and Girls Club kitchen as the



Joy Schelble and Becky Lemeaux at an experiential summer nutrition program on the Bad River Indian Reservation.

classrooms. The Ashland County Nutrition Educator, met weekly with youth ages 4-13. Some of the themes addressed during the summer program were: eating more fruit, the value of vegetables, how to make a healthy snack, hand washing, the importance of being active, and food preservation. This spectrum of topics directly addresses some of the goals that tribal leadership has in regards to the desired outcomes of nutrition education programming for youth in their community. During the Jammin' Jams workshop kids had the opportunity to participate in the process of making fruit jam from harvesting to canning.

During another lesson the WNEP educator led the youth on a journey through a Three Sisters Garden and facilitated discussions on processed snack foods, reading labels, the role of choice in healthy living, sugars and fats, and traditional foods. Over the course of the summer approximately 20 youth participated in this program.

Many tribal groups including the Boys and Girls Club, Head Start, Diabetes Prevention Task Force, Nutrition Education Program, Gitiganing project, and the Summer Youth Trails Program were involved in the Three Sisters Summer Nutrition Program organized and facilitated by WNEP. New relationships

have formed and future programming plans are underway including an adult food preservation demonstration that WNEP will be team teaching this fall. Since the WNEP summer program began at Bad River, communication with and requests for resources from UWEX has increased throughout the program areas. As previously mentioned, many youth from Bad River go to the Ashland public school. Due to some of the health issues that are impacting native people, it is most appropriate that we would be focusing on providing these young people year round nutrition education.

Lessons Learned and Future Directions for the Program

The Ashland/Bayfield WNEP program continues to focus on younger school-age youth. The summer nutrition around the garden programs added year-round nutrition education opportunities to three communities. These classes provided an opportunity for learners of different styles to better comprehend the lessons presented during the regular school year. Two of the summer programs anticipate expanding in the summer of 2004, while the third program contemplates changing to a quality program every other year. Meanwhile, school districts have inquired about the WNEP summer program for their students. This project also hopes to work with a collaborative to establish a summer feeding program in Ashland.

The two-county food security coalition is still in its infancy. We are currently involved in a survey to gather data that will help us determine future direction.



Family Living Programs continued

Family Living

Parenting the First Year

Parenting the First Year and *Parenting the Second and Third Years* are two UW-Extension publications providing current



Betty Tarabek continues to balance her time between the Nutrition Program and her Family Living duties.

research-based age-appropriate information on child development and caring for infants and toddlers. Each year Family Living Agent, Betty Tarabek, secures funding from various community groups/agencies to cover printing and postage costs. This allows free distribution of the newsletters to Ashland County parents. In addition, Agent Tarabek coordinates a series of twelve articles from local agencies designed to familiarize parents with local resources. One article is included in each monthly mailing. In 2003, 104 Ashland County families received the *Parenting the First Year* series. *Parenting the Second and Third Years* was distributed to 120 families throughout the county. Reader feedback is gathered with the last issue of each series. Responses are most positive. The parenting newsletters are also used as a teaching tool by the home visitors in the Ashland and Bayfield Counties (ABC) Healthy Families program.

Children in the Middle

Children in the Middle is an educational program mandated by the Ashland County Circuit Court for divorcing parents with children under the age of 18. The program is designed to make parents aware of the burdens and dilemmas of children caught in the middle of parental conflicts and problems and introduces them to skills they can use to positively interact with their children and ex-partner. In

2003, fifty-one Ashland County parents participated in the program. Evaluation responses from participants indicate the usefulness and effectiveness of the program. Participants liked having an overview of the mediation process presented at the class so they better knew what to expect. Many parents also commented on the time for discussion with others in the group, realizing that solutions could be found through these discussion times. One parent commented, "The most useful part of class was to see the video and compare myself to the people in them as a parent putting the kids in the middle. It made me realize that I have put my child in the middle." Another commented that, "Understanding what I can do to make my kids not feel like they were the ones that made this happen," was one of the most useful parts of the class.

Agent Tarabek have been involved in this program since its inception in 1998 through organizing an advisory group, facilitating timely meetings of the group, providing the classroom teaching materials, coordinating class scheduling/registration and providing evaluation tools and summaries.

Other Parenting Activities

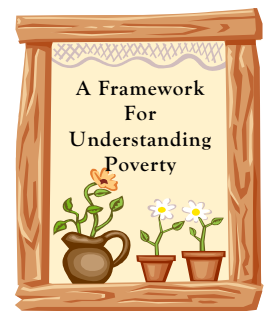
Other 2003 parenting activities include: working one-on-one with two different parents referred to Agent Tarabek for parenting help, scheduling and teaching two sessions of a parenting class during the summer (remaining sessions were postponed until early 2004 due to July attendance difficulties), serving as a board member of ABC Healthy Families and as a committee member of Head Start plus presenting programs for various Head Start Centers in Ashland and Bayfield Counties plus the Northwest Child Care Resource and Referral Agency.

In March, 43 daycare providers from Ashland and Bayfield Counties participated in a two-hour in-service on Good vs. Bad Fats/Obesity presented by Betty Tarabek and sponsored by Northwest Child Care Resource and Referral.

In December, Agent Tarabek presented a program, Managing Holiday Stress, for 7 Bayfield County Head Start parents at the library in Bayfield. (At times, due to Agent Tarabek's two-county Nutrition Coordinator role, she is asked to do programming in Bayfield County.)

Financial Management

Budgeting to make ends meet has grown as a part of Agent Tarabek's Family Living agent role in Ashland County during 2003. Referrals are being made to her through a variety of agencies in Ashland County, including the Ashland County Housing Authority, Head Start, Ashland County Human Services and the Food Shelf (Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency). Thirty-one Ashland County residents received help with budgeting money to make ends meet either through a two-session class taught for an agency in Mellen or through individual budget counseling in the Ashland County UW-Extension office. When Agent Tarabek asked one client if the budgeting work had helped her, she responded, "I'm not afraid to answer the phone anymore." She had caught up on back bills and was planning into the New Year. A gentleman referred to budget counseling decided to bring his wife along. During the time Agent Tarabek worked with him, he had his wife get more involved in the finances of the family. By the end of the couple's work with Agent Tarabek, they had opened a bank account to better track their money to make ends meet. One day during the summer Agent Tarabek met them in town. They were excited to share with her that they had managed to save to buy a new washing machine.



Bridges Out of Poverty

Having become a certified trainer for *Bridges Out of Poverty* in 2001, Agent Tarabek attended a daylong session in Wisconsin Dells that continued her certified trainer status through 2005. In May, she was one of 7 UW-Extension Family Living Agents or Nutrition Coordinators to present in a day-long workshop co-sponsored by Extension and UW-Superior.

Family Living Programs continued



Building Caregiver Coalitions

Tuesday,
Sept. 30, 2003
12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.

Sponsored in our community by
UW-Extension, Ashland County
& Ashland County Aging Unit

Satellite Program Location:
CESA #12
618 Beaser Ave., Ashland

In the morning session, workshop participants role-played individuals and families in poverty by actively participating in a Poverty Simulation. Following a debriefing of the morning activities and a “soup kitchen” lunch, *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* was the afternoon topic.

More than 50 participants from northern Wisconsin counties as well as Minnesota participated in the session. Various agencies including Family Forum, Inc. (Head Start), Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency, Veterans Offices, and Health and Human Services offices were represented. Evaluation results were most positive with many attendees commenting on an increased awareness of the challenges of those in poverty.

In August, Agent Tarabek was one of 4 Northern District Family Living Agents/Nutrition Coordinators who presented a program at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center for other Northern District Family Living/Nutrition staff related to the Ruby Payne poverty materials. Those results showed that participants had a better understanding of various aspects of poverty following the presentation.

Caregiving

To continue as a Certified Master Trainer for the UW-Extension/Wisconsin Alliance for Family Caregiving-sponsored caregiving series titled *Taking Care of You: Powerful Tools for Caregiving*, Family Living Agent Tarabek

attended a daylong inservice on the materials revision. Following the update, Agent Tarabek and Kathy Miller, Bayfield County Family Living Agent, updated 7 class leaders on the materials revisions in a daylong session held in Hayward.

Family Living Agents Tarabek and Miller also facilitated a class of Taking Care of You: Powerful Tools for Caregiving at the Ashland County Senior Center in late spring. Nine participants from Ashland and Bayfield Counties attended the series sponsored by the Ashland County Aging Unit. Comparing pre- and post- questionnaire results, class participants reported an increase in their confidence level related to caregiving, more positive feelings about their role as caregiver and less guilt related to their role.

During 2003, Family Living Agent Tarabek also:

Participated in meetings of the Ashland/Bayfield Counties homeless committee. Housing for homeless needs have been identified and solutions are being sought to work on this problem. Family Living Agent Tarabek will be involved in teaching money management and other skills to this group of people when the program gets established in Ashland County.

Participated as a member of the Chronic Disease Prevention Committee for the two-county area. Obesity and its relation to chronic disease prevention is the current topic for the committee. Agent Tarabek gathered information from Ashland County schools on indoor

community walking availability during the winter months. The information was included in a *Health Matters* article in November.

- Served as a member of the FEMA Board in Ashland County
- Served on the W-2 Steering Committee for Ashland County
- Served as the Northern District representative to the Family Living Program in Madison for two years ending June 30, 2003
- Served as the Northern District Family Living Representative on the Department of Family Development Vice-Chair Committee for two years ending June 30, 2003



Family Living Programs

4-H and Youth Development



David Grote has been the 4-H Youth Development Agent since 1996.

"After-School Programs have been extremely popular with the younger crowd."



Art Club is extremely popular and the youth enjoy the time after school.

After-School Program

UW-Extension-Ashland County is engaged in a national 4-H After-School Initiative that provides extraordinary learning opportunities for school-age youth in urban, suburban and rural communities across America. 4-H Youth Development Agent David Grote has designed and implemented After-School 4-H Programs for LaPointe School on Madeline Island, Lake Superior Primary and Intermediate Schools for 2nd and 3rd graders and Mellen School for 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders. The Youth Development Agent Works with teachers to offer educational programs that do not duplicate what is already being taught.

After-School 4-H topics include: Pet Club; Art Club; Garden Club; Poultry Club; Bluebird Club; and Horseless Horse Club. Area schools have been very receptive to the program providing space as well as occasional volunteers. One of the 4-H Youth Development Agent's goals has been to make the program self-sufficient and not dependent on grant money for the survival of the program. This is done by charging an activity fee of \$5 per program unit and a once a year \$2 for 4-H membership dues. The \$5 program fee pays for supplies as well as scholarships for those youth unable to pay the \$5 activity fee. Ashland County has 64 youth registered in After-School Programs. According to the Search Institute (survey research organization) "Time Spent in Youth Programs" was the developmental asset that appeared to have the most pervasive positive influence predicting thriving outcomes.

Volunteers for Extension

Nineteen local 4-H volunteers

supplement the work of Extension professionals. The typical 4-H volunteer contributes 7.9 hours a month. With a conservative value of \$6 per hour, that volunteer service is worth \$10,807 per year to Ashland County. These volunteers receive training and resources from the 4-H Youth Development Agent.

Civic Involvement

Wisconsin 4-H Clubs conduct an average of five community service projects per year per club. Locally, Ashland County averages higher, with nine community service projects per club per year. This translates into approximately 36 community service projects by four community 4-H clubs in Ashland County.

Strengthening 4-H Project Support

Another 4-H Agent goal is to improve 4-H project learning experiences. This is accomplished by providing youth with the opportunity for in-depth, long-term advancement in



Michael Skinnis, Pearce Peppers 4-H Club, with his Chicken at the Ashland County Fair.

knowledge and skills; exploration of new topics of potential life-long interest; exposure to new career fields; and fun and engaging activities.

With growing interest in small

poultry flocks and chickens being increasingly kept as pets, 4-H Agent Grote designed and implemented a "Poultry Workshop for Beginners". The intensive five part workshop series for youth and adults covered: *Breeds and Varieties; Why do you want chickens?; Housing/Floor Space, Feed and Water; How to Purchase Chicks and Where; Roosters Light and Egg Production; Molting; Society for the Preservation of Poultry Antiquities (SPPA).*

Area 4-H members in the Poultry Project gave a workshop on preparing poultry for the County Fair and proper handling techniques for showing poultry. Donna Ganson, a Bayfield Co 4-H Youth Educator and NEP Educator, presented eggs and nutrition facts. This included some eggs-periments. Ron Johnson, former Curator of Birds at the Miami Metro Zoo, with nearly twenty years of experience incubating rare and endangered species of birds, gave a presentation on incubating poultry. The workshop series ended with State Specialist Ron Kean's presentation on "Preparing your Poultry for Winter" followed by Pullorum-Typhoid Certification. All workshops were very well attended with an average of 12 participants at the first four workshops and 24 participants from a three county area attending the fifth workshop with 6 of the 24 staying to be certified.



David and his newly hatched chickens.

4-H Youth continued

County-wide workshops

- Beef/sheep - 15 youth participated in a fitting and showing workshop for the beef project. Led by Bill Polencheck. David Grote conducted the sheep demonstration.
- Poultry Workshop - Youth in the Ashland and Bayfield County Poultry Project came together for a joint county poultry workshop. Youth learned about the history of chickens, chick care and housing and showing and handling techniques. A Bayfield youth shared his experience showing poultry at the state fair.
- Mid-Winter Getaway - Thirteen adults and 6 youth volunteers helped in conducting the 5th annual Mid-Winter Getaway at Northland College. Almost 40 youth participated in activities such as wall climbing, kayaking, Native American arts and crafts, building a birdhouse, stamping and fly-tying.
- Clothing, Foods and Demonstration Review - led by Denise Lutz, 4-H volunteer leader. 8 youth participated in this annual event. Youth gave demonstrations, prepared food and modeled clothing in front of a judge and an audience. They also prepared a thank you for adult volunteers.
- 9 youth participated in Cloverbud Day Camp led by Lisa Bradley and Fauna Ganson.
- Tri-County Camp - 5 Ashland County youth leaders were trained by 4-H Agents, Ian Meeker, Bayfield County, Donna Ganson, 4-H Faculty Assistant, and David



4-H youth at 2003 Tri-County Camp.

Grote, Ashland County, as camp counselors and area directors. Seventeen Ashland County youth attended Tri-County Camp as campers, including 3 youth from the After-School 4-H Program.

- Outdoor Adventure Trip - 5 area youth participated in a high-adventure experience in the Quetico and Boundary Waters Canoe

Area. Youth learned camping, canoeing and wilderness survival techniques.

- Ashland County Fair - 56 youth participated in the Ashland County Fair exhibiting a variety of projects from aerospace to zoology.
- Achievement Day - 47 youth achieved in their project area by exhibiting their project



2003 4-H Achievement Day: Katie Nutt, Josh Polencheck and Kristy Leaky proudly show certificates earned for high achievement in projects.

at the County Fair and completing a record book.

- Communication Arts Festival - 40 area youth/adults participated in the annual Ashland County Communication Arts Festival. This is a great opportunity to show their accomplishments and gain self confidence.
- A new club informational meeting was held and attended by 3 people. The intent was to build self-confidence in new leaders and give them the tools and support needed to start new clubs throughout the County.
- New Volunteer Orientation was held and attended by 3 people.



Denise Lutz, named 2003 4-H volunteer of the year.

- Leader Training for building outdoor educational skills was held and attended by one

person.

- Youth Leaders Organization (YLO), under the guidance of Denise Lutz held a sleepover for younger 4-Hers. YLO organized activities, games and other events for participants.
- Wreath-Making Workshop held in Mellen was led by Denise Lutz and was attended by 15 area youth.

When kids get into 4-H programs, they gain a stronger sense of who they are and where they fit in our communities. They acquire a commitment to democracy and a passion for public work. They learn the democratic arts of negotiating difference and finding agreement. Adults who get involved learn to respect and value the contributions of youth. We all gain



Ashland County UW-Extension Office Manager

As the main support staff and computer contact for the Ashland County Extension Office, Annie Anderson oversees the daily operation of the office that houses three agents as well as a nutrition educator.

As part of the UW-Extension support staff team, Annie supplies any necessary clerical support to each agent and provides Extension-based information to clients, as directed by agents, via

telephone contact, written correspondence, internet and in-office contact.

Annie's position also includes: maintaining records for 4-H members and club/project leaders; distribution of 4-H enrollment materials and literature; organizing material and programs directly connected to 4-H events; maintaining all financial records for the Extension Office. She is also responsible for the

layout of the 4-H family newsletter, *The Clover Connection*, and the Extension Office Annual Report. In addition to creatively designing PowerPoint documents, brochures, posters, forms and other support materials, she serves as receptionist and assists clients in dealing with soil samples, water testing kits, satellite and Wisline audio programming and many informational needs.



Annie Anderson has been with Ashland County Extension Office since 1993.

Ashland County UW-Extension Support Staff

Lisa McGinley started part-time as Ashland County UW-Extension support staff in May of this year.

Lisa's position includes receptionist duties, such as answering and routing calls, and directing the public to the correct UW-Extension Agent. She also provides valuable clerical support for the staff.

Lisa is responsible for the very successful *Parenting the First Year Newsletter* and its succeeding subscriptions of *Second and Third Year Newsletters* for parents. These are sent out monthly and bi-monthly to over 200 families. She also takes care of the monthly vouchers and helps keep our bulletin boards up to date on information concern-

ing Ashland County Extension "happenings". As part of the UW-Extension staff, Lisa is kept busy handling the countless details that arise daily in such a busy office.



Lisa McGinley started with UW-Extension in May 2003.

Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program Support (WNEP)

As clerical support for two educators and the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP) Coordinator, Cheri's position includes data entry on the website for classroom statistics, credit card allocations, travel expense reports and other budget information. She also distributes literature and handouts for NEP partnering

programs. Cheri designs handouts and exhibits for use by the NEP staff throughout the two-county area.

As part of the Nutrition Education Support staff, Cheri provides valuable assistance to Coordinator Betty Tarabek and educators, Joy Schelbe and Donna Ganson.

Cheri has also taken on the task of keeping the Ashland County Extension bulletin boards up to date with "happenings."



Cheri Carrington started with the UW-Extension Nutrition Education Program in June 2003.

Agricultural Report



John Markus has been with the University of Wisconsin-Extension for 27 years. John retires in January 2004.

"The structure of Wisconsin agriculture is changing in ways that affect the traditional family farm."

John Markus
UW-Extension
Agricultural Agent
Ashland & Bayfield
Counties

Agriculture

Urban encroachments, changing consumer demands and a global marketplace are altering the face of farming. To adapt to those changes, agriculture and natural resources education emphasizes:

- Protecting natural resources, water, land and air while striving for profitability in agriculture and meeting the food and fiber needs of the world.
- Providing people with safe and adequate food and contributing to the economic well-being of the community.
- Helping property owners create and maintain their personal environments with education for homeowners who enjoy gardening and landscaping by growing fruits, vegetables, and ornamentals.

In response to changing agriculture needs, the following programs were conducted by the Bayfield/Ashland Counties Agricultural Agent in 2003.

Commercial Fruit

- One grower class was held for 35 commercial fruit growers emphasizing production practices and pest management of orchard and small fruit pests.
- Orchard insect pest monitoring was conducted in three orchards to alert 15 growers on harmful insect populations.
- This agent was available for daily consultation to all commercial growers.

- This agent diagnosed and remedied weed, insect, and disease infestation with assistance of state UWEX specialists.

Horticulture

Personal calls grew this year to over 1,100. Topics included pest management in homes, gardens and lawns; variety selection; soil testing; lawn care; and ornamental and shoreline plant establishment.

- Promoted Ashland Agricultural Research Station vegetable/flower garden tour and field days.
- Taught a five-class horticulture course to Bad River Tribal members. Eighteen members attended. Outcome was three community gardens started, 200 fruit trees planted, and 80 raised bed gardens constructed.

Farm Management

- Held a 'Northern Safari' series of three farm management meetings.
- Co-taught a class on the Two Lined Chestnut Borer and related destruction of oak forests. Eighteen landowners attended.
- Taught pesticide applicator training, providing 12 producers with important information on the proper and safe use of pesticides in their farming operations.
- Advised producers in the areas of crop production, soil fertility, crop marketing, pest control, and dairy and beef cattle management.
- Was active in the Northwest

Weed Initiative group to address Leafy Spurge in Bayfield and Ashland Counties. Sixty-one landowners were instructed by letter on control procedures. Beneficial insects were released. Washburn High School's Ecology Club was involved as a club project.

- Organized and taught a 24-hour course on farm tractor and machinery safety for four youth between the ages of 12 and 16 years. The successful completion of this course, with practical skills and written exams, allows youth to operate farm machinery on public roads.

Statewide/Regional Activities

- Served as guest speaker on Wisconsin Public Radio's Larry Meillor Show.
- Served as guest speaker at the Bayfield Civic League.
- Co-authored news articles for area Ag Newsletter (cir. 700) and Bayfield County UWEX Office's *Extension Cord* publication (cir. 1400).



UWEX Area Community Business Development Agent

Hans Hanson, UWEX Area Community Business Development Agent, continued to provide valuable business education and training to local business owners/operators throughout the year. Fourteen workshops reaching 83 interested participants were conducted in Ashland County. Workshop participants included business owners, managers, and employees, and community leaders. The workshops covered a wide variety of business management topics. In addition, Hanson assisted 11 businesses through group and one-on-one business counseling sessions. He also worked with 31 businesses through telephone and internet contacts. Businesses served included both existing and start-up businesses. Hanson's expertise and 10 years experience working with businesses across Northern Wisconsin is a great asset to Ashland County.



**Hans Hanson, UWEX Area
Community Business
Development Agent**
1401 Tower Avenue,
Suite 205
Superior, WI 54880

Extension & Outreach Ag Educator for Ashland, Douglas and Iron Counties

Station Goals and Achievements

- Designed, planted and maintained the Ashland Station Horticultural Area
- Continued program cooperation with Spooner Agent, Kevin Schoessow
- Organized and presented at 6 station horticultural programs
- Initiated the All-American Selection Demonstration Site
- Developed additional MG teaching materials

Research Activities

- Kura Clover Variety Trial
- Cup Plant Harvest Management
- Colored Tomato Variety Evaluation
- Hot Pepper Development Project
- Northern Wisconsin Paste Tomato Breeding Project
- Wisconsin Beef Forage Sampling Project

Horticulture Outreach & Teaching

- Taught the Ashland Area Master Gardener Program with 18 participants
- Taught the Fall 2003 Douglas Co. Master Gardener Program
- Answered 170+ horticulture calls (70%)
- Gave Horticulture Programs to 5 Civic Groups
- Managed Master Gardener Program record keeping for 78

- Gave presentations to 7 community or civic groups
- Initiated Northern District Horticultural Newsletter with Spooner Agent, Kevin Schoessow

Agriculture Outreach & Teaching

- Held 3 Northern Safari agricultural programs
- Contributed articles to the quarterly 7-county newsletter
- Made 21 individual farm visits
- Held Douglas County Beef Program
- Answered 140+ agricultural calls (25% general) (10% dairy)

Personal Goals & Achievements

- Completed a 3 week Farmer to Farmer Nicaragua Assignment
- Compiled a CD of Disease & Insect Garden Problems for Nicaragua
- Continued on the Northern Tomato Breeding project
- Offered MG Program volunteer hour opportunities at Station

Service to the University, CALS, Department & Community

- Facilitated Community Gardens at the Station
- Hosted the 3 Extension Committees for Summer Meeting
- Northern District ANRE Liaison Agent

- Northern District Program & Conference Planning Team
- Member of UWEX Urban Horticulture Team
- Treasurer for the Lake Superior MG Association
- Volunteer Hour Coordinator for LSMGA
- Reported to the County Extension Committees
- Participated in the Ashland/Bayfield Nutrition Coalition
- Judged FFA northern district Speaking Contest
- Contributed to the Ashland & Douglas Counties extension web-pages

Professional Development Attended

- Northern District ANDRE In-Services
- Horticultural monthly brown bag ETN's
- Northern District UWEX Conference
- Annual All-Faculty Extension Conference



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Tom Syverud
Extension & Outreach Educator