

July-September 2007

Connie Abert  
4-H Youth Development  
Greg Blonde  
Agriculture  
Marilyn Herman  
Family Living  
Mike Koles  
Community Development  
Penny Tank  
4-H Youth Development

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**Upcoming Events**

- November 4-10— HCE Volunteer Recognition Week
- November 8 — Leadership Waupaca County Farm/ Agriculture Tour, Weyauwega
- November 10—8:45—11:30 am 4-H Youth Officer Training, Manawa High School
- November 10—6:30 pm 4-H Leader's Recognition Banquet, Cedar Springs
- December 5—Farmers Health Insurance Coop Information Meetings, Waupaca
- January 8,15,22—Cow College, Clintonville and Weyauwega
- February 1-3, 4-H Winter Camp for 7-12th Grades, Upham Woods



Connie Abert, Waupaca County UW-Extension Youth Development Educator, was honored as a recipient of the 2007 Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Civic Engagement. This award recognizes outstanding performance of an individual, program or unit that has advanced UW Colleges' or UW-Extension's commitment to civic engagement and/or service-learning. Connie was one of two state recipients of this Chancellor's Award.

Connie was nominated for this high honor by Matt Calvert, State 4-H Youth Development Specialist. In the nomination form, Matt shares the following about Connie's work. "Abert has long been a pioneer in opening opportunities for youth to participate in the civic life of

Waupaca County and the state of Wisconsin. As a result of her leadership in community planning and her training of youth and adults, young people in the city of Waupaca sit as voting members on ten city council committee—an accomplishment that is unique in Wisconsin. Connie's skill in building effective collaborations and her consistent advocacy for the inclusion of youth has opened space for youth to play significant roles in school wellness policy development, land-use planning, and community dialogues about youth and family issues in many Waupaca County communities."

Connie has also led civic engagement efforts across the state. When Kenosha County

considered including youth advisors on their county board, Connie and a Waupaca youth traveled to Kenosha and shared their experience, making an important impact on the decision-making process there. Connie has been instrumental in building state-wide capacity among youth development staff and volunteers within and beyond UW-Extension through her training on youth/adult partnership and youth/adult community planning and as co-chair of the Youth Voices in Community Governance work team.

When asked what difference Extension's work has made in Waupaca, a city leader said, "The community sees the success, the bond between generations all the time. It strengthens community when youth and adults are talking in the streets." ~ Penny Tank

# Extension Impact: Education Makes a Difference

## Connie Abert Receives 2007 University of Wisconsin Chancellors Award



**Connie Abert, Waupaca County Youth Development Educator and UW Chancellor David Wilson**  
(Photo courtesy of Jim Gill, Wisconsin Public Television)



**L to R: Greg Hutchins, State 4-H Youth Development Program Director, Nancy Livingston 2006 Recipient of the Youth in Civic Engagement Award, Vilas County Youth Development Educator, Connie Abert and Matt Calvert, 4-H Youth Development Specialist.**

## How Do You Respond To A Manure Spill?

As media reports of manure spills in NE Wisconsin become more common, farmers, Ag professionals and local officials need to know how to respond in order to minimize environmental damage and legal liability. As a result, Greg Blonde worked with Waupaca County Land and Water Conservation and WI DNR staff, as well as UW-Extension Environmental Resource Center staff this past summer to host a field day that featured a manure spill reporting, response and clean-up demonstration.

The event was held August 9<sup>th</sup> in a field just off Highway 110 between Marion and Manawa. Approximately 70 people attended, included farmers, consultants, Town and County Supervisors. Representatives from the Waupaca County Emergency Government office and Hazmat Team also attended. Emergency tillage, temporary tile inlets covers and constructing a dike using waste feed were all part of the field demonstration activities. Blonde also provided fact sheets and information on how to deal with drought or hail damaged crops.

Participants learned that in Wisconsin, there is no specific quantity to trigger a manure spill report or emergency response, unless *a reasonable person should anticipate a*

*threat to the environment and/or public health/safety.* Andy Carlin, Waupaca County Emergency Government Director encouraged all spills in Waupaca County be reported by calling 911 to insure both proper response and reporting. And as a DNR official reminded the crowd, “it’s not illegal to have an accidental manure spill, but it is illegal not to report it or properly clean it up”.  
~Greg Blonde



**UW-Extension field day shows participants how to handle a manure spill.**

## Marion Area Family Resource Center



The Marion Area Coalition for Healthy Communities and the Family Resource Center recently completed a year long process to develop a strategic plan that creates a new and enhanced direction for the non-profit group that focuses on youth and family development issues. After a ten year period of receiving grant money to address substance abuse issues and resulting youth and family problems, the group of leaders steering the Center decided to have a thorough discussion on renewing or changing their direction.

Ultimately, the Marion Area Family Resource Center Citizen Advisory Committee developed a new mission and vision, which will be achieved through implementation of many action steps that they have crafted. Mike Koles provided facilitation and educational assistance to the Center’s Advisory Committee. Connie Abert and Marilyn Herman serve as youth and family advisers to the Board, providing the research and educational support necessary to help them make informed choices about the effectiveness of certain potential action steps. The mission and vision statements that articulate their new direction are as follows:

**Mission:** “*The Marion Area Family Resource Center strives to provide all ages with opportunities for healthy personal, family and community growth through guidance and training.*”

**Vision:** “*The Marion Area will be a picture of community health that launches individuals and families towards achieving happy, healthy, productive lives.*”

~Mike Koles

**For More Information or Questions about these articles, please contact the Extension Educator listed at: (715) 258-6230**

## National 4-H Week October 7—13



National 4-H Week is an excellent time for people to learn more about the 4-H program and get involved. 4-H remains a strong youth development program and has expanded over the years. The 4-H movement began over 100 years ago with the main projects

being calves, crops, clothing, canning, and gardening. There is still an importance placed on agriculture and garden programming, but 4-H now includes many new project areas like aerospace, sport fishing, geospatial, and workforce readiness. In some areas 4-H has grown to after school clubs, service learning groups, and other special emphasis topics in addition to community club work.

In 4-H there is an emphasis on meeting new people, building life skills, helping people in the community, increasing project knowledge, and having opportunities for new experiences. Some of the life skills highlighted are leadership, communication, teamwork, organization, record keeping, and problem solving. Research based information is used for much of the project and activity work accomplished through 4-H. 4-H is also a wonderful chance for families to work together at club meetings and other activities.

### Early beginnings of 4-H:

The Smith-Lever Act was passed by Congress on May 8, 1914. This made possible the Cooperative Extension Service funded by federal, state, and local county governments. Cooperative Extension work in agriculture and home economics, including the early 4-H work, became the delivery system for taking the research of the land grant colleges to families. The project leader system in Wisconsin started around 1918. 4-H began in Waupaca County in the early 1920's with 4 clubs. 1946 saw the first 4-H agent hired in Waupaca County, Richard Halbach. For the first time in history, WI 4-H reached over 100,000 members in 1983.

In honor of National 4-H Week test your knowledge on the following true or false questions. Good Luck! (Answers : Pg 4):

*T / F There are currently 19 4-H clubs in Waupaca County.*

*T / F 4-H is a federal youth development program found in every state and conducted through the UW-Extension Office.*

*T / F 4-H events take place only during the summer.*

*T / F 4-H is open to any boy or girl in Kindergarten through grade 13.*

*T / F The 4-H slogan is "Learn by Doing".*

*T / F There are about 425 youth members in Waupaca County 4-H.*  
~Penny Tank

## Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP) Awarded to Waupaca County for 2008

WNEP is a UW-Extension Nutrition Education Program that helps limited resource families and individuals choose healthy diets, purchase and prepare tasty and good for you foods, while handling it safely. Spending food dollars wisely helps insure that there will be more food available for the entire month. WNEP is funded by 1% of federal dollars earmarked in the food stamp program that is held back to support education programs.

At the request of the Waupaca County Department of Health and Human Services, the grant application and supporting documents were prepared and submitted by Extension Family Living Educator Marilyn Herman. While this educational effort has been going on for over 25 years, Waupaca County was not one of the 60 counties to be awarded the match grant in the past. The last time a county was added to the program was nine years ago. "With the acceptance of our application, Waupaca County can now leverage our substantial county contribution to the Extension and DHSS offices to fully fund a state-paid position that brings more of our Food Share dollars back to the county." Thanks to positive and beneficial working relationships with other organizations and agencies, partnering agreements were signed with Waupaca County WIC, Public Health, Healthy Beginnings, ADRC, Social Services and Economic Assistance as well as Waupaca County CAP—Headstart and Transitional Living. Education programs through WNEP can really make a difference on family health while supporting the agricultural markets in Waupaca County.



~Marilyn Herman

## Waupaca County UW-Extension

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### Learning for Life

**Our Mission:** To extend the knowledge and resources of the University System to the people of Waupaca County and Wisconsin.

**Our Vision:** To serve as Wisconsin's educational network, engaging the people of Waupaca County and our communities in positive change.

*UW-Extension offers equal opportunity programs and employment.*

## Waupaca County Board Supervisors



**Team Building Activity at Winter Camp.**



**Youth Leader teaching a younger member about aerospace at 4-H Super Saturday Project Day.**

### 4-H Builds Character

- T / F There are currently 19 4-H clubs in Waupaca County. (False – there are 21 clubs)
- T / F 4-H is a federal youth development program found in every state and conducted through the UW-Extension Office. (True)
- T / F 4-H events take place only during the summer. (False – there are 4-H events all year long)
- T / F 4-H is open to any boy or girl in Kindergarten through grade 13. (True)
- T / F The 4-H slogan is “Learn by Doing”. (True)
- T / F There are 425 youth members in Waupaca County 4-H. (False – there are about 515 members and 260 adult leaders)

*~Penny Tank*



**Youth and Project Leaders learn from the judging experience at the Waupaca County Fair.**