



Extension Impact: Education Makes a Difference

Connie Abert

4-H Youth Development

Greg Blonde

Agriculture

Marilyn Herman

Family Living

Mike Koles

Community Development

Penny Tank

4-H Youth Development

4-H Super Saturday Models Best Teaching

Where can youth and adults learn to dance, act, juggle, preserve food, take care of rabbits and poultry, screen print a t-shirt, make arts and crafts, and do Dutch oven cooking? 4-H Super Saturday, that's where!

On Saturday, February 26th, 160 people gathered at Manawa Middle School for the annual 4-H Super Saturday. Super Saturday is the largest project training held during the 4-H year and is an excellent example of youth and adults working together in the 4-H spirit. Two objectives for Super Saturday are for members, leaders, and parents to increase project knowledge or learn about an unknown area and for participants to share what they learn with their club or other project members.

Interest continues to increase and attendance has doubled since the program started seven years ago. Volunteer leaders on the 4-H Activity Committee work in partnership with Penny Tank, 4-H Program Assistant to plan Super Saturday.

Youth and adults choose two classes and this year there were twenty-five different offerings. The educational sessions were taught by twenty-six 4-H and community youth or adult volunteers. Penny Tank, and Marilyn Herman, UW-Extension Educators, both taught classes. Participants were also entertained with juggling at mid-morning break by Tim Talen, 4-H Arts and Communications State Specialist.

Evaluation results were very positive. 85% of participants increased their knowledge of 4-H and project work. 62% signed up for sessions they knew little about to explore new interests. Others split the sessions with projects they wanted to make for the fair. 85% of participants plan to share what they learned with their 4-H club. Written comments included "I think it is a wonderful morning," "Committee had a great turn out, glad to see so many people here, great program," "Great sessions," "Good variety of classes," and "I like the ideas for project meetings."

Penny Tank



Learning by Doing is Super!
4-H Youth and Leaders work side by side with Family Living Educator Marilyn Herman to prepare Tomato Salsa and Soft Tortilla's from scratch.

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Upcoming Events

- April 21 8:30AM—3 PM Spring Fling Program, Court House
- First Crop Alfalfa Monitoring Program, May-June
- May 10 9AM Waupaca Co. HCE Awards Program, New London
- May 12- 5:00 PM Leadership Waupaca County Graduation, Grand Seasons Waupaca
- May 17- 5:00-8:00 PM Lake Monitoring Workshop, Lake Emily County Park
- May 18- 9:00AM—2 PM Volunteer Training, Waupaca Library
- May 21—9:30 AM Parks & 4-H Fairgrounds Beautification



Blonde Helps Support and Grow Waupaca County Dairy Industry



Waupaca County ranks 18th in milk production in Wisconsin.

The 2004 *Economic Impact of Wisconsin Agriculture* from UW-Madison found that agriculture accounts for 17% of the total economy in Waupaca County. Nearly half (47%) of all Ag jobs (1,664) are linked to dairy.

Blonde summarized the economic impact study report by commenting, “don’t be fooled by fewer dairy farms in Waupaca County (under 300) because the number of dairy cows (25,000) remains steady.” The 2002 US Ag Census shows total annual milk

production in Waupaca County increased by 4% to nearly 450 billion pounds since 1997. As a result, Waupaca County is in the top 3% (64th of 2,500) of all dairy producing counties in the United States! UW-Extension helps support agriculture in Waupaca County through production, business management and public policy education.

In January, Greg Blonde helped organize and host the UW program “*Gaining the Competitive Edge Dairy Road Show*” in Marion.

For more than two decades, Blonde has coordinated a farm tour as part of an annual *UWEX Cow College* program series in Clintonville. Blonde always enjoys working one-on-one with dairy producers. In 2004, he worked closely with seven different dairy producers in Waupaca County, with support from Extension Specialists at UW-Madison like Agriculture Engineer, Dave Kammel and Dairy Scientist, Roger Palmer.

Greg Blonde



Dr. Roger Palmer, UW-Extension Dairy Facility/Management Specialist helps a local dairy producer as he considers his options following a barn fire. Several recommendations were used in the new barn to sustain this successful dairy operation.

Culture, Food and Health



Teaching staff with the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP) and Home Visitors for Extension Parenting Program in 10 of 14 Central District counties enrolled in Family Living Educator, Marilyn Herman’s workshop “Culture, Food and Health”. This fast-paced, activity-based program focuses on better understanding the culture we are raised in and how this lens colors our interpretation and teaching of health and wellness concepts to others. Says Herman, “our view of what is healthy, how we measure wellness and who has influence in our family all impact the decisions we make”. Food is intertwined with culture and drives our social, economic and health decisions. The training audience collectively enrolled over 1800 families in weekly nutrition and parenting programs in 2004. Workshop participants left with a better understanding and appreciation for different views on health. All could see how taking better care of ourselves and family also makes us more effective teachers and community members.

Marilyn Herman

Leadership Waupaca County Class VI Immersed in State Government

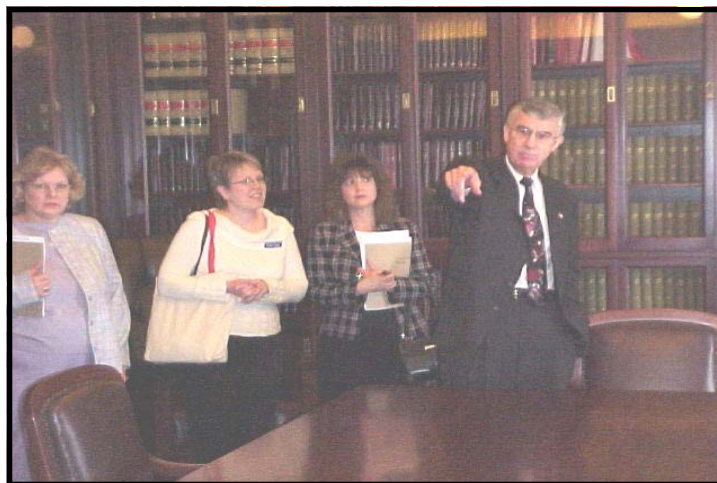
Effective leadership in today's world often requires interacting with or even becoming part of government. The Leadership Waupaca County Steering Committee has recognized this and includes a heavy dose of government in the nine month curriculum, reflecting town, city, village, county, and state government. During the January session, Class VI participants immersed themselves in state government while on a two day visit to the Capitol.

There are three educational objectives for the session: 1) Increase the knowledge and understanding of the three branches of State government; 2) Increase the knowledge and understanding of lobbying; 3) Increase awareness of and discuss current statewide policy issues. To accomplish these objectives, participants hear from or visit as a group or individually with state legislators, a department secretary, a Supreme Court justice, and several lobbyists. This class got the rare treat to get an inside look at the Supreme Court chambers.

Class VI will graduate on May 12. During graduation they will present class projects to the community, hear from a very powerful featured speaker, and take part in formal ceremonies. This year's graduates include: Doug Behnke, Susan Finkel, Kathy Mitchell and Phil Rath, Clintonville; Dennis DeBoth, Little Chute; Judy Deschler, Cheryl Hass, Larry Katerzynske, and Jerry Schuetz, Manawa; Sue Doyle, Weyauwega; Carol Falk, Colleen Gibson, Tim Goke, Arien

Herminath, Ronda Rollins, and Sandy Stiebs, Waupaca; Jim Hlaban, Ogdensburg; Jamie Polley, New London; Dan Minnick, Neenah; Dave Piotraschke, Marion; Carol Prijic, Amherst Junction; and Lila Shower, Iola. If you would like to congratulate one of this year's graduates, contact Mike for more information.

Mike Koles



Supreme Court Justice John Wilcox discusses leadership with LWC participants while in the court chambers. From L to R: Cheryl Hass, Ronda Rollins, Sandy Stiebs. In background, all of Wisconsin's statute books dating back to statehood, 1848.

Youth on Boards Proves Successful

In 1999 *Healthy Communities Healthy Youth* conducted a comprehensive planning process with 70 community partners. One third of the participants were young people. Results from this planning illustrated the need to increase youth participation in the community. Youth survey results identified 82% of students didn't feel valued in the community, only 26 % had a positive adult role model, and 75% are not involved in planning and decision making in their community.

Committee work began to increase opportunities for more youth and adult partnerships in community decision making. In 2003 the mayor and city council of Waupaca voted to change the ordinance to include youth on city council committees. The first wave of youth (7) participated on city council committees during the 2003-2004 school year Youth volunteer opportunities continued into 2004-2005. Nine non-profits requested and filled youth board memberships. Many county and community boards find merit in this youth adult partnership approach to young people being involved in local decision making. UW-Extension, with youth volunteers, conducts training for adults and youth council and board members. Extension developed and adapted the training materials. Evaluations document success with each adult and youth able to identify an action they used in their committees to make youth participation positive. Youth state that committees were a great educational experience and how important it is to be involved in decision making on issues that affect them. Through recommendations and award applications they have also received support from local and external sources for future school and work opportunities.

Connie Abert

“One advantage of doing Youth on Boards is that council members now see that there are youth issues involved in almost everything we do.” City Committee Chairperson

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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 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

Lawrence, Koles and Tank Receive State Honors



Eunice Lawrence, Waupaca County Board Supervisor was recently awarded the 2005 *Wisconsin Idea Award*. This award is reserved for an individual who has shown exemplary commitment to the Wisconsin Idea of extending University knowledge to every corner of the state. Eunice has chaired the Extension Committee since 1990 and has served as a Wisconsin Association of County Extension Committees officer for 12

years, including the last two as District President.

Penny Tank was awarded the 2005 *Distinguished Service Award* by the Wisconsin Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals. This honor recognizes eight years in Waupaca County working with youth in leadership roles, sustaining county program committees responsible for education and project learning work, and building youth/adult partnerships.

Mike Koles received the UW-Extension 2005 *Team Award* for the Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium. The award is given to a group of individuals who successfully collaborate in a team setting to accomplish extraordinary outcomes. This is the fourth team award Koles has received in his 7-year Extension Service career.

Connie Abert

Welcome to Newest Staff

The Waupaca County UW-Extension office welcomes Connie Wendt as the new Clerk Typist in our office since Bev Haug retired in January. She has been a helpful addition to our office staff.

Connie's main responsibilities in our office are to direct calls or questions from individuals to the Extension Educators or support staff. She will assist people who visit the Extension Office with soil or water samples, platbook purchases, registrations for Wisline or satellite programs and many other support services for local Extension Educators.

Connie Abert