



Learning for Life

Winter 2005-2006

# Extension Impact: Education Makes a Difference



## Ready by 21: Ready for College, Work and Life

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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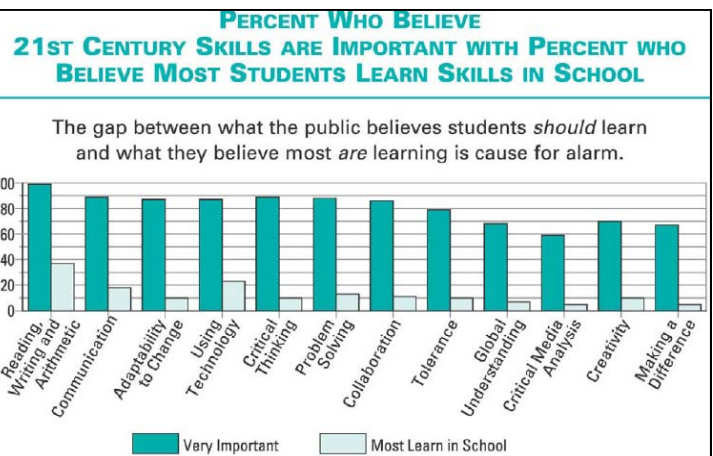
We know more about child and teen development than ever before. And yet Search Institute Asset Surveys of local students demonstrate less and less support and investments in the development of our children's cognitive, social, civic and physical abilities.

In cooperation with the Waupaca Family Resource Center, the Waupaca County Association for Home and Community Education, Central District Family Living Financial Program and the Forum for Youth Investment, Extension Educator Herman has developed and piloted a series of community programs called "Raising Children, Youth and Young Adults with a 'Can-Do' Attitude and Skills to Succeed in Life".

Eighty seven adults have attended one of six fall 2005 programs targeting parents and caregivers of preschool, schoolage, teen and young adults. Herman finds adults attending realize this issue is important because young people are future parents, leaders and workers. After attending the session, adults recognized that when youth talents and creativity are

allowed to flourish, they are much less likely to turn to unhealthy habits, negative behavior or unnecessary risk-taking for fulfillment.

Adults need to create home, family, school and community environments that allow young people of all ages to feel safe and encourage them to grow, learn, take care, and express themselves. *Marilyn Herman*



### Upcoming Events

- Comprehensive Planning Survey #2 Results Program (all 6:30 PM)  
2/1 Manawa Middle  
2/8 Waupaca High  
2/14 New London High  
2/15 Clintonville High  
2/21 Iola Old Car Show Activity Ctr.
- February 25 8:45—Noon  
4H Super Saturday  
Manawa High School
- March 9 HCE Program "Appreciate Others: Cultural Differences" 9:30-11 AM  
Waupaca Courthouse or 6:30-8 PM  
Clintonville Angelus Ctr.



"The 4-H movement provides opportunities for all youth to participate in innovative, fun programs to better develop valuable life skills." (*National Conversations on Youth in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Report 2002*)

Over the years, efforts to plan multiple leader training sessions have become more and more challenging, but there is still a need to support leaders in offering positive, rewarding,

and educational 4-H club experiences.

One way Penny Tank chose to address this was to provide short topics at each Waupaca County 4-H Leaders' Association Meeting. Youth and adults are encouraged to attend six meetings per year.

Five training sessions were conducted in 2005, reaching a total of 108 youth and adult participants. Session topics included planning a club budget and fundraising, member retention, icebreakers and club energizers, welcome club

environments, and parliamentary procedures highlighting the need for club officers and leaders to work together at club meetings.

Written evaluations show the information was well received and leaders found the material helpful and useful in 4-H clubs. During club visits, Penny Tank has observed improvements based on information presented and looks forward to more training in 2006. The January session features making ordinary community service activities EXTRA-ordinary!

*Penny Tank*



## 4-H Influences Entrepreneur

What does eggbid.com have to do with Waupaca County 4-H? Eggbid.com is an Internet site where 17 year old, Sandy Knoll 4-H Club member, Tyler Danke sells chicken eggs for his business, Danke Bros Poultry. Tyler (pictured on left) was recently highlighted in the business section of the Appleton Post Crescent. In the article Tyler shared his example of what research tells us about the impact of the 4-H Youth Development Program, that his interest in chickens started as a 4-H project and raising chickens for the Waupaca County Fair.

*Tank: How did your 4-H project experience influence your current work?*

*Danke: In 4<sup>th</sup> grade (and before with my brother Darren, pictured on right) I started my fascination with poultry, the industry, and bobby. As my project grew I continued to utilize all that I had learned through 4-H.*

There are many success stories in the 4-H program; some immediate and some long term. In 4-H, members learn a variety of life skills. Some of these skills include decision-making, relating to others, communicating, record keeping, problem solving and leading groups. The skills young people learn can be applied to many areas of their lives including school, church groups, jobs, sports, and careers. In addition to the life skills, members choose from over 75 project areas to expand their content area knowledge or learn about a completely new topic. With the combination of life and project skills, opportunities are endless.

*Tank: What advice or encouragement would you give to someone considering joining 4-H?*

*Danke: Ask questions to learn about as many things as you can and take advantage of all the programs 4-H can offer you.*

*Penny Tank*

## UWEX Supports Local Dairy Farm Modernization

**Situation:** Over the last 18 months, Greg Blonde worked closely with Egan Brother's dairy farm near New London. Their primary challenge to improve productivity and working conditions on the farm was dealing with limited feed bunk space, and manure handling and storage capacity.

**Response:** With assistance from Dave Kammel and Brian Holmes, Extension Ag Engineering Specialist from UW-Madison, alternative site plans were developed to explore a new freestall barn with TMR drive-by feeding, as well as manure storage and total run-off containment system. Many appointments were scheduled to work through the various options, including visits to other dairy farms and meetings with local contractors to broaden the input and narrow their decision. Waupaca County Land and Water Conservation department was also involved to ensure compliance with both current and future environmental regulations.

**Outcome:** In a recent follow-up review meeting, Blonde asked Mark Egan what he thought about the service and support they had received and if they had any suggestions on how we could have done a better. According to Mark Egan "You guys were great. We could've never expected better help than what we got from you (Greg Blonde) and Dave (Kammel) and Brian (Holmes). The 'big picture' you provided helped us understand that minor remodeling wasn't going to solve our problems. The farmstead layout designs, the farm visits you arranged, the information and coordination you gave to the Land and Water Conservation technicians, as well as the pre-construction planning and review meetings with our lenders and contractors were all extremely helpful. We could've never done it without you." *Greg Blonde*



**Construction of a 400 cow freestall barn at Egan's**



**Excavation for total run-off containment manure storage system.**

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

## Expansion of Research Based Violence Prevention Curriculum

In 1999 Abert in partnership with local law enforcement and Waupaca County Department of Health and Human Services (received a Technical Assistance grant from the Department of Justice (to begin a countywide comprehensive plan to prevent juvenile delinquency. The planning effort was completed during 2000. One of the strategies to address delinquency included implementing countywide a social competency curriculum for youth and families. The county partners chose Second Step, a research based violence prevention curriculum. Abert wrote a Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant for \$20,000 that encompassed training and materials for all the school districts and staff in Waupaca County. It is significant that all the elementary

schools in the county are utilizing Second Step that has research showed reduces violence by 40%. Abert has conducted building wide inservices to support the training of elementary staff for the last 4 years. Weyauwega-Fremont now with new principals and counselors at the elementary and middle school level have committed to reducing violent acts and referrals in their buildings. Abert worked with these new principals and counselor to develop a training schedule for five in-service sessions in both Weyauwega and Fremont. These sessions included: 1. What the research says, 2. Empathy-Understanding

Others, 3. Impulse Control, 4. Anger Management, and 5. Problem Solving. The training sessions also included a barrier identification activity and planning for implementation. Principals of W-F have reported there are less referrals to the principals' office for discipline. The counselor sees a common language being used by staff and students. *Connie Abert*



## ENVISION New London



When the owners of Wolf River Lumber donated the 5 riverfront acres that housed its former site, the City of New London was provided an exceptional opportunity. With so many possibilities and the realization that planning for the future of the area that lies between the two downtown bridges is a daunting one, several community leaders requested the assistance of Mike Koles, and Dave Thiel, Economic Development Director, in developing a strategic plan.

At the same time, Connie Abert, Youth Development Educator, was collaborating with the School District through the Advancing Rural Wisconsin Initiative to develop a strategic plan. This is a program fostered by the Department of Public Instruction and

UW-Extension to enhance the partnerships between schools and the community.

Given both processes would look very similar, involve many of the same actors, and have the potential to assist each other, they were combined into ENVISION New London. Over the course of the early Fall, Koles, Thiel, and Abert worked with a core group of community members chaired by Karen Gething, a local State Farm Insurance Agent, to develop a planning process that will be implemented over the next year.

On October 25, 2005, the project held a community visioning session. Over 50 participants identified what is essential to enhancing the area and began to develop strategies. By the end of the evening, four teams formed to move forward. Those teams will focus on enhancing: 1) a vibrant downtown 2) a diverse economy 3) a quality education and facilities and 4) recreation and cultural opportunities with a focus on youth and family. *Mike Koles*

## Community Partner Advisory Group



At the October Community Partner Advisory Group (CPAG) Meeting, Penny Tank partnering with 4-H youth Ambassadors and the Leaders' Association Vice President highlighted the Waupaca County 4-H Program. The four critical elements of positive youth development were discussed in relation to various 4-H activities and events. Details were shared about the clubs, projects, community service, and opportunities available to youth in 4-H. Leadership and life long skills youth develop and achieve from 4-H will also be discussed. *Penny Tank*

## Waupaca County UW-Extension

*Waupaca County Courthouse  
811 Harding Street  
Waupaca, WI 54981*

*Phone: (715) 258-6230*

*Fax: (715) 258-6232*

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**We're on the web:**

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/waupaca/>



### **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**

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### ***Extension Program Support***

Cooperative Extension Programs consists of five work groups that collaborate with Extension Faculty in Waupaca County to develop educational programs. Extension Program Support Services include:

*Program Development and Evaluation*

[www.uwex.edu/ces/pdande](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/pdande)

The Program Development and Evaluation unit provides training and technical assistance to help community-based faculty plan, implement and evaluate high quality educational programs.

*Extension Publishing*

[www.uwex.edu/ces/publishing](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/publishing)

Extension Publishing works with county colleagues to edit, write, design, distribute and market educational materials based on university research for many different audiences.

*Distance Education/Digital Media*

[www.uwex.edu/ditigal](http://www.uwex.edu/ditigal)

Distance Education/Digital Media staff handles the technology and production details for many state programs and departments. Some of the services provided by the unit

include digital audio and video editing, scriptwriting, establishing satellite uplinks to make programs available to Wisconsin counties via WisSat, video duplication and distribution and compressed video support.

*Technology Services*

[www.uwex.edu/ces/techservices](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/techservices)

The staff of Technology Services follows the latest developments in technology and their possible applications for Extension. Web designers and database specialists work with Extension faculty and staff to develop applications targeted to specific needs.

*Media Collection*

[www.uwex.edu/ces/media](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/media)

Media Collection resources supplement face-to-face Extension programming. The collection provides access to more than 2,800 educational resources such as videos, CD-ROMS, PowerPoint presentations, displays, audiotapes and interactive teaching kits on more than 125 topics.

*Connie Abert*