



Learning for Life

October — December  
2008



# Extension Impact: Education Makes a Difference

## Waupaca County Residents Use and Value UW-Extension Services

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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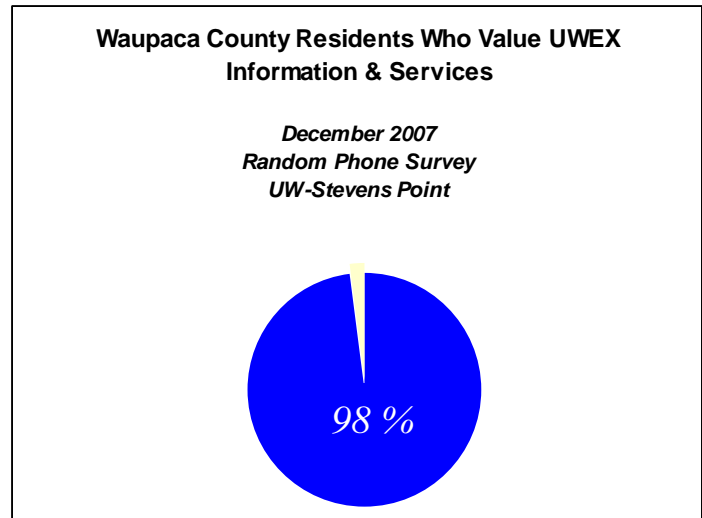
Upcoming Events	
• February 19 —6:30 PM Partners for Working Land, Manawa	
• February 21—10 AM Forage Council Annual Meeting, Manawa	
• February 23— 8:45 AM to 12 PM 4-H Super Saturday, Manawa HS	
• March 4—10 AM Youth Protection Mandated Training Waupaca; March 11 8 AM Manawa	
• March 6— 9 AM Pesticide Applicator Training, Courthouse	
• March 7—8:45—12 PM Waupaca County Volunteer Network Courthouse, Waupaca	
• February 29, March 7, 14— 12 PM Nutrient Management Training Session, Amherst	
• March 29— 9 AM 4-H Music, Drama and Speaking Contest, Manawa High School	
• April 22—9 AM to 3 PM Poverty Simulation, Best Western, Waupaca	

*A random survey of nearly 250 adults residing in Waupaca County found that half of all residents have used UW-Extension information or services.*

*Moreover, ninety-eight percent (98%) said they valued the information or service they received from UW-Extension.*

A statistically significant study was conducted in November, 2007 across thirteen counties in central Wisconsin by the Telephone Survey Center at UW-Stevens Point. The cost of the study was covered through UW-Extension District Director Sue Buck. The margin of error in the telephone survey was +/- 5 percentage points at a 92% confidence level.

The study was commissioned by the UW-Extension Central District Resource Management Team to help generate broad-based unbiased input on emerging



issues important in the Central region of Wisconsin from Antigo to Wisconsin Dells and Green Lake to Wisconsin Rapids. Across all counties the most important issues identified were:

- adequate health care
- environmental quality
- adequate food supply
- safe food supply

In addition, the study found that a majority of Waupaca County residents (54%) are not willing to travel long distances (more than 30 miles) to attend education or training programs. A similar finding

were reported in other counties as well.

The preferred method of receiving information by Waupaca County survey respondents was written materials and self-study followed closely by one-on-one counseling, newsletters, newspapers and television. A lower internet preference may be indicative of the older, more rural population in Central Wisconsin.

A complete copy of the District-wide and Waupaca County survey results are available in the UW-Extension office.  
~ Greg Blonde

*For More Information or Questions about these articles, please contact the*

*Extension Educator listed at: (715) 258-6230*

## 4-H Teen Winter Camp – Great Leadership Experience



*Campers identify trees during one Upham Woods session.*

Twenty-eight youth and adults from Waupaca and Portage County 4-H attended Teen Winter Camp at Upham Woods 4-H Camp near Wisconsin Dells, February 1 to February 3. Camp went well with emphasis on opportunities to build team work, communication and youth leadership skills. Many of the youth at Winter Camp may be camp counselors or have other leadership roles in 4-H now or in the future. On camp evaluations, 18 of 19 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that through camp activities they learned more about the importance of cooperation and communication. There were also educational sessions about tree identification, outdoor survival, and the Life of a Logger along with time for winter fun like tobogganing and a night hike.



*Camper gets ready for a 'trust fall', part of the challenge course named Peanut Butter Mountain.*



*Youth members explain the poster they made about their generation.*

Camp planning and preparation for 2008 was completed by Penny Tank. Tank communicated registration information with the camp, prepared the schedule with input from past

participants, provided correspondence to campers, researched and taught a hands-on educational session **“Working with Other Generations”**. Items included in the Generations presentation were world events that influenced each generation, impact on the work force, teamwork and communication styles, cost comparison from 1962, and a quiz about items from each generation. Evaluations showed that the youth enjoyed the Generation workshop and benefited from the information. A few comments about what they learned during the sessions included *“There are different generations”*, *“Generations have a much different outlook on things”*, *“People in one generation don’t always act the same”* and *“Technology has changed this world a lot.”* The majority of responses on where the camp information would be used included in school or when talking to older adults. When asked to comment on Penny’s teaching, campers replied *“I thought it was really interesting and fun to learn that stuff”*, *“It was something new and different”*, and *“Good teaching strategies”*.

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~ Penny Tank

## Moving from Community Service to Service-Learning

*Community Service* is when youth and adults give back to their community with actions that help others or non-profit organizations. We have many great examples in our communities where young people, through Boy Scout Food Pick-Up or FFA Halloween Treats for Pets, have been involved in community service and have accomplished tremendous projects for others. What happens all too often is that community service participation and involvement does not reach all students and young citizens.

*Service-learning* is a method of teaching, learning and service that combines academic learning, new skills, and service to the community. We know from Service Learning research that youth leadership in classroom projects results in:

- **Increased citizen engagement builds stronger communities**
- **Strengthened academic success**
- **Improved leadership skills and stronger citizens**

In 2007, Waupaca County UW-Extension Community Youth Development Educator, Connie Abert assisted four school districts in writing a joint \$20,000 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction grant for Service Learning. This grant will involve 25 teaching staff and over 600 youth. This grant will expand to new classrooms and more students each year for the

next 5 years. Teaching staff attended one professional development workshop in October in which they learned how to implement service learning in their classroom. Students and staff attended another workshop in December in which they identified projects to begin in 2008 that address community and school needs around the environment, teen pregnancy, underage drinking, gas prices, and safe places for young people to go.



*For all to benefit from the individual outcomes of service it is important to facilitate classroom wide projects that have practical applications to school curriculum.*

~Connie Abert

## Waupaca County Partners for Working Land



A group of citizens involved in their local comprehensive planning process have established an informal group called the *Waupaca County Partners for Working Land*. Their goal is to achieve thriving rural and urban

discuss how they recently established a Farmland Conservation Easement Program and the opportunity it creates to enhance local agriculture profitability and sustainability through reduced federal income tax incentives.

The local *Partners for Working Land* group have asked for support help from UW-Extension (Koles and Blonde), Land and Water Conservation (Bushweiler) and the Register of Deeds (Mazemke) to explore a similar program for Waupaca County during the coming year.

~Greg Blonde

communities by supporting protection of working lands for agriculture, forestry and urban development through research, education, and leadership development.

In December, Peg Burlingham, a representative from Jefferson County, met with the group in New London to

***“We can’t have biofuels, biopower, bioproducts without working farmlands and working forestlands”***  
 - Wisconsin Agriculture Secretary Rodney Nilsestuen

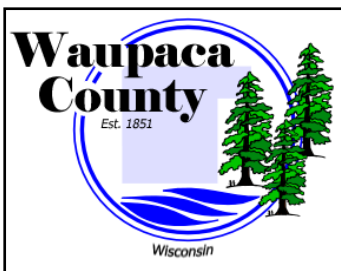
## Identity Theft: Don’t Get Caught



Last year, US business lost \$20 billion dollars and consumers shelled out \$5 million in losses as a result of identity theft. With more than 1 of every 20 American’s already the victim of Identity Theft, the concern is justified. Rather than focus on what to do after your identity has been stolen, Extension Educator Herman highlights actions to take to deter and avoid problems. Community sessions have been sponsored by Emmanuel Church New London, Waupaca Lions Club, the Christian Women’s Association, New London Lionness and CAP Services Senior Housing with more than 350 attendees. End-of-session evaluations show that participants were going to take 1-3 actions to reduce the financial risk of having their identity stolen.

The Waupaca County Association for Home and Community Education (HCE) also sponsored learning sessions in Clintonville and Waupaca on the topic *“Identity Theft: Don’t Get Caught”*. It is critical that we take steps to make it less likely that any of our personal information falls into the wrong hands through our own actions. More than 80% of the audience attending reconsidered the care they take with their identity. Over the next few months, attendees shared information learned with at least three other people. Half completed a request to obtain a free credit report. Other examples of changes made by HCE members six months following the Extension Program including carrying less credit cards, preparing a summary sheet of credit card and bank contacts to give to a trusted family member or friend to notify of theft, and adding more on-line security features to their computer if it is used for purchasing. Stated one participant, *“I’m not waiting around to see when my identity will be stolen. There’s so much I can do to reduce my risk”*.

~Marilyn Herman



## Comprehensive Plan 66% UNDER Budget

This month Dave Thiel and I will be making the final report on the Waupaca County Comprehensive Land Use Plan. We’ve chosen to focus on three pieces. First, any type of project evaluation considers results. The results of the planning process are more than could have been hoped for. Not only did all communities adopt a plan, but new intergovernmental relationships have been built, which have already spurred a cost effective, cooperative arrangement to implement the plans that could save thousands of dollars.

Second, we’ve chosen to examine reasons we feel the project succeeded. There are more than space allows, but it boils down to the fact that people were passionate and courageous enough to foster fundamental changes in the way we do business. They were willing to develop consensus based decisions, and when they couldn’t, they agreed to disagree. They communicated in a transparent way that allowed for relationships and trust to be built. Without this trust, nobody would have contributed the time and energy or made the compromises necessary to make the project succeed.

**Finally, the project was under budget by 66% or \$164,941.** This occurred in large part, because of the in-kind contributions by Waupaca County UW-Extension and University employees totaling \$238,718. By having UW-Extension in Waupaca County in the planning process, we were able to connect to four different faculty/staff at the Center for Land Use Education based at UW-Steven’s Point. Their educational expertise and facilitation support increased the level of success of the project and saved the county tens of thousands of dollars in consultant fees.

~Mike Koles

## Waupaca County UW-Extension

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We're on the web:

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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.*

### *County Departments Seek Out Extension Services in 2007*

*County staff call the Extension Office for information, resources, teaching and planning expertise or community connections to meet our common goal of providing efficient, effective government responses where people live and work. Here is a list of just a few of our joint efforts in 2007.*

#### County Clerk

County Board Tour

#### Information Systems

Platbook information for 4-H Program fundraiser

#### Land and Water Conservation

Dairy Farm Renovation and Expansion Planning

Partners for Working Land Initiative

Livestock Siting Ordinance

NRCS/RSA EQIP Funding Initiative

Nutrient Management Service Provider Training

Comprehensive Environmental Education Plan

#### Parks/Solid Waste

4-H Donations to County Park during Fair

4-H Exhibits at County Fair

Youth Day Camp at Vic-to-Rae Campgrounds

Medication Round-Up: staff, funding, promotion

Fairground Dairy Barn and Milk House Renovation

#### Personnel

Employee Assistance Program Committee and speakers

#### Land Information/Real Estate

Ag Maps for Livestock Siting & Comprehensive Planning

Funding & Create County Recreation Map

#### Economic Development

School connections to manufacturing summit

Strategic Plan for NE WI Economic Partnership

#### Zoning

Waupaca County Comprehensive Plan

#### Health and Human Services

Working on Wellness in Waupaca County

### Waupaca County Board Supervisors

- Grant writing, evaluation, business, school outreach, referrals

W2 Advisory Board member

Coordination of AODA and school health curriculum

Poverty Simulations and Staff and Volunteer In-service sessions

Emergency Health Preparedness

Plan for 5-year Health Assessment Process

Tobacco Free Coalition Youth Activities

Educational Programs on Juvenile Delinquency

Community Forums on Nutrition Program Service delivery

Foster Care Permanency Planning Advisory Panel

Spills and Pills Program, grant writing, advisory, teaching

Coordinated Community Response Team and Elder Abuse I-Team

Healthy Beginnings Program guest speaker

Safe KIDS Chapter member, car seat clinic volunteer, website

Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program application

#### Courts

Foster Care Permanency Planning Advisory Panel

Diversion programs

#### District Attorney

Rally against Domestic Violence

#### Highway

Adopt-a-Highway community service projects for 4-H Clubs

Road Weight Limit Announcements

Landowner Calls concerning Right-of-Way Weed Control

#### Sheriff/County Jail

Farm Fatality Investigations

Jail Inmate Life Skills Classes

#### Emergency Government

Local Emergency Planning Committee

#### Fair Board

Junior Fair communications and fair entries database

Dairy and Livestock Exhibits, Carcass Contest

4-H and Master Gardener Volunteer Staff

~Marilyn Herman