



Winnebago County UW-Extension: We teach, learn, lead & serve.

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY, 2013

UW-Extension Values:

- Community
- Discovery
- Inclusiveness
- Relationships
- Respect

OUR PURPOSE:

Connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.



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UW Extension provides value to Winnebago County through education, unbiased research, and local partnerships, helping individuals, families and communities meet their needs and tackle tough issues. Extension educators help grow strong communities, families, farms and organizations that are resilient and better prepared to meet challenges.

We serve the diverse population of approximately 167,000 rural, suburban and urban residents of

the county. From youth development programs in the heart of Neenah and Menasha to farm business counseling in the rural corners of the county to families working to make ends meet, UW Extension educators work to meet the educational needs of all county residents.

We leverage dollars to address community issues, work with a large variety of community partners and train and empower citizen volunteers to augment our work.

4-H Prepares for Centennial Celebration

The start of 4-H in Winnebago County began in 1916-17 – with the first officially conducted boys and girls club work in conjunction with the general agriculture club of the Omro High School. The group’s focus was poultry. A county-wide calf club was formed the following year. At a conference of rural club leaders and school authorities in 1927, it was decided to organize local clubs largely by school districts. Active

work with these clubs began in January, 1928, using the 4-H name.

4-H didn’t happen at once in the state or Winnebago County - it took shape slowly; step by step, and it has evolved over time, moving from rural areas to throughout the county, open to all youth. The nucleus of the 4-H member experience began and continues today in the project learning experience – “learning by doing”. And throughout 4-H history, 4-H members learn teamwork and

leadership skills and gain a sense of community- always looking to the future.



Addressing Complex Problems



Issues in Winnebago County are complex, involving numerous people, with many root cause variables and multiple potential solutions.

Addressing the health of the community was the focus of the Winnebago Collaboration Workgroup in 2013. The group's goal was to address this critical community issue with agency collaboration. UW Extension provided leadership to the Collaboration Workgroup to develop educational programs that increased agency awareness of these issues. This group is highly sought after and respected for its work on

community issues.

Water quality of the Lake Winnebago System is impacted by land use, weather patterns, and human activity. UW Extension worked on a Lake Winnebago System planning project to assist the five counties bordering the system with gathering lake users' opinions about the greatest needs and most urgent priorities facing the lake system. Extension's support of the public engagement process yielded identification of several priority issues.

Additionally, UW Extension provided education to 21 producers on nutrient

management planning to assist farmers in keeping nutrients on the land and out of our waterways. Pesticide applicator training was provided to 38 persons.

In August 2013, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was confirmed in Winnebago County. EAB is one of the most destructive invasive pests ever seen in the US. To help slow its spread and combat its economic and environmental impact on the county, UWEX is playing a role in multiple efforts. UWEX developed a networking group that local municipalities can turn to for guidance and advice. Programming for residents and local municipalities has also been conducted.



Building Life Skills & Strengthening Families

By responding to the challenges facing today's families with evidence-informed programs and practices, as well as local knowledge gained from living in Winnebago County, Extension educators are helping to create an environment

where families have the information, skills and assets they need to improve the quality of their lives and contribute to their communities.

Programming examples in this area include the Grandparents Raising

Grandchildren Support Group, Family Financial Security education, Rent Smart tenant education, and educational opportunities for youth that incorporate 21st century skills: communication, conflict resolution & critical thinking.

Growing Leaders & Future Leaders



Leadership skills and practice are essential for youth and adults alike. UW Extension develops leadership skills in several areas including:

Master Gardeners
-volunteers lead projects across Winnebago County, providing education and environmental stewardship.

4-H Youth
-youth serve as club officers, camp counselors & project advisors
-adults support clubs and subject matter

Science Technology, Engineering & Math
-youth participate in a variety of programs to prepare them for all aspects of future leadership including skill development in both the hard sciences and interpersonal abilities

Agriculture
-volunteers help share industry information through Tractor Safety, Breakfast on the Farm, Dairy Quiz Bowl, Meat Animal Quality Assurance and Dairy Judging

Plan Commission Network
-plan commissioners utilize education on a wide variety of topics to provide leadership to their towns, cities and villages

Home and Community Education
-volunteers work to improve child literacy skills through the Wisconsin Bookworms™ program
-volunteers also produce headgear to support cancer patients with the Stitches of Love project

In 2013, UW-Extension mobilized 677 volunteers, who donated 33,723 hours of their time to project leadership and community service, valued at \$746,627.00



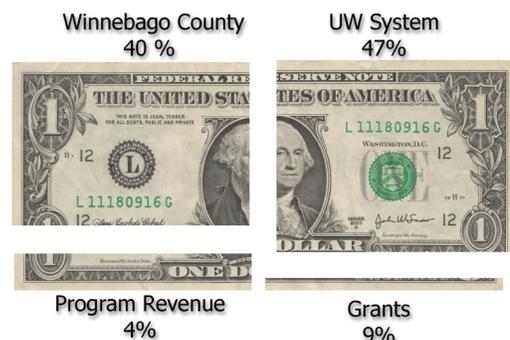
Using Public Dollars Wisely

The shared investment between the University of Wisconsin System, the Federal Government and the County of Winnebago has established an infrastructure which brings university educators into contact with county residents where they live and work. This collaboration also leverages volunteer support, grants expertise from

university specialists and additional funding for local initiatives. In addition to the core investment, educators obtained UW System funding valued at \$588,440 for local programs.

The Winnebago, Outagamie, Calumet Nutrition Education program attracted additional federal

funds. Grant funding was also secured to support the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren initiative and 4-H Afterschool programming.



Building Capacity of Professionals

UW Extension builds the capacity of professionals and volunteers to serve the many needs of residents in Winnebago County.

Throughout 2013 UW Extension educators provided organizational development support through teaching, coaching and facilitating strategic planning and decision making processes for 10 local non-profit organizations and collaborations, including: Sustainable Fox Valley, Oshkosh Area Community Pantry, ReTh!nk, Oshkosh Zoo, Wisconsin Association of BIDS, Great Lakes Region Girl Scouts, Winnebago

Master Gardeners, Day-by-Day Warming Shelter, Oshkosh Senior Center, and County Health Department workgroups.

Appointed governmental officials, including local Plan Commissioners often need educational support in order to perform the duties of their office and serve their residents. Through the Winnebago County Plan Commissioner Network, 73 plan commissioners met in 2013 for training and networking.

Other professionals that benefitted from UW Extension's educational programming in 2013 include the 78 people representing 32 municipal, agency or

private sector entities that participated in chainsaw safety workshops. These workshops contributed to building the capacity of these professionals to better serve their communities in the area of horticulture and environmental services.

4-H Youth Development provided technical expertise in the development and administration of a Community Learning Center staff survey for the Menasha Joint School District. 4-H also provided staff development trainings. Similar staff training is provided for Ag in the Classroom programs.

In 2013 we hosted 775 meetings, at the JP Coughlin Center, with over 13,200 people in attendance.

Recognized for Excellence!

Our Extension Educators are recognized locally, statewide and nationally for their excellent work in their community and beyond.

Nick Schneider
Mentor of the Year
UW Extension

Christine Kniep & Kristi Cutts
Chancellor's Award for Excellence
UW Extension

Leonard Polzin & Kayla Oberstadt
2013 Communicator Award
Team Promotional Piece
Wisconsin Association of Extension 4-H
Youth Development Professionals

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University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating. An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and American with Disabilities (ADA) requirements.