



# 2018 Annual Report to the Iron County Board of Supervisors



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
IRON COUNTY

*An AA/EEO employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX and ADA requirements.*





**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
IRON COUNTY



## Welcome Letter

January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018

Dear Iron County Board of Supervisors, Community Partners & Interested Readers,

Did you notice our new logo used on this document? In 2018, "UW-Extension" started the transition to become the "University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension." Our organization, which has educators in all 72 counties and 3 tribal nations, is returning to UW-Madison as a result of several changes to the UW System. Although we will now be called, Division of Extension Iron County, our local programming and commitment to work alongside the people of Iron County does not change.

This report highlights outcomes from our major educational programs in Community Development, 4-H Youth Development, Nutrition Education, and Horticulture. Our staff strives to address high priority local needs through our educational programming and valuable collaborations with community groups, volunteers, and program partners. Strong partnerships are at the heart of our programs -- we can achieve more together!

THANK YOU to the Iron County Board of Supervisors and the Agriculture-Extension-Education Committee for your continued support of Extension Iron County during 2018. We appreciate the opportunity to serve Iron County residents and local efforts to strengthen our people, our communities, and our economy.

On behalf of the Extension Iron County staff,

Mary Pardee  
Area Extension Director  
Area 1 (Iron, Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas Counties)

## 2018 Agriculture-Extension-Education Committee Members

William Thomas  
Opal Roberts  
Brad Matson  
Karl Krall  
Jamey Francis  
Joseph Pinardi - *County Board Chair*

## 2018 Administration and Staff

Mary Pardee  
*Area Extension Director, Area 1*

Amy Nosal  
*Community Development Educator*

Neil Klemme  
*4-H Youth Development Educator*

Felicia Herlevi, Emily Murphy  
& Tandrell Foster  
*Summer Assistants*

Darrin Kimbler  
*Horticulture/Agriculture Educator*

Deborah Leonard  
*FoodWise Nutrition Educator*

Gina Monroe  
*FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator*  
*Jan-July 2018*

Rebecca Holm  
*Support Staff/Office Manager*

## Community Resource Development



Amy Nosal served as Interim Community Resource Development Educator for the majority of 2018, becoming the Community Development Educator in October

*"Prove yourself brave, truthful, and unselfish, and someday, you will be a real boy." – Blue Fairy to Pinocchio*

Five years in the making, Amy Nosal became an official Iron County Extension Educator in October of 2018. The multi-disciplinary journey involving 4-H Positive Youth Development, Health and Well-Being, FoodWise, and Community Development has been invaluable in preparing Nosal to take full advantage of University resources and community connections in order to serve the interests of Iron County.

Nosal strives to develop collaborations that positively influence the systems people live in. Both Iron County and Extension have long and rich histories, and it is necessary for any longstanding entity to develop over time. Currently there is incredible potential and momentum to propel both Iron County and Extension towards a shared future of community vitality and economic development. The work Nosal conducted in 2018 indicates such developments.

### Felivelife.org, a digital beacon for the Gogebic Range Community

Based on work completed by previous Extension Iron County Educators in the arenas of community development and health promotion, Nosal organized a team to develop and manage the online community calendar website Felivelife.org. Aimed to serve residents and tourists of the greater Gogebic Range community of Iron County and Gogebic County, MI, felivelife.org showcases events that bring people together, connecting neighbors and visitors with similar appreciations for the many assets the community provides.

This ongoing effort launched a new chapter of sustainability and impact in 2018. The management of the website was firmly established among team members, which provided space to work on further developments like a sustaining revenue stream based on sponsorship levels and additional fee-based event advertising.

Fueled by a collaboration among nine local chambers of commerce, cities and businesses, in 2018 alone Felivelife.org provided:

- Promotion and outreach for 340+ individual events occurring within the Gogebic Range
- Promotion and outreach for 60+ organizations and 100+ venues within the Gogebic Range
- Event submission monitoring and website troubleshooting Monday through Friday

And people noticed. In 2018 alone Felivelife.org recorded 5,980 users:

- 22% of users were located in the Hurley/Ironwood area and 12% of users were located in the Chicago area
- Similar amounts of use across ages and genders, and access between mobile and desktop devices
- Most contacts were made via referrals from other local websites, directly typing the website address, or internet searches

Fe

Felivelife.org's 2018 successes are attributed to the collaboration of the following partners:



Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
IRON COUNTY



IRONWOOD  
MICHIGAN | Find Your North



## Renewing Economic Interest in Natural Resource Assets



### Tapping Into Our Maple Economy

Developing commercial maple syrup production in and around Iron County, Wisconsin

The Iron County Commercial Maple Syrup Production Public Forum was held in October at Whitecap Mountains Ski Resort. Hosted in partnership with the Iron County Economic Development Zone, Nosal and Kimbler invited three Wisconsin individuals involved in commercial maple syrup production to share their stories and successes. The forty-seven participants in attendance also had the chance to connect with other professionals related to the field, including local foresters and regional retailers. Feedback from the forum was used by Nosal and Kimbler to prepare for future programs in 2019 and beyond.

Commercial maple syrup production is an untapped asset for economic development in Iron County. Across the country Wisconsin ranks as the 4<sup>th</sup> largest maple syrup producer, behind Vermont, New York and Maine, and ahead of Michigan and Minnesota. Although Iron County contains some of Wisconsin's densest distributions of sugar maple, there are very few maple syrup producers with records of commercial production.

Extension Iron County Educators Amy Nosal (Community Development) and Darrin Kimbler (Horticulture/Agriculture) recognized an opportunity to bolster economic development in the county by providing technical assistance and network facilitation to potential producers. In 2018, Nosal and Kimbler began to lay the foundation for the initiative, Tapping Into Our Maple Economy, which included creating an outline for program development and hosting a Commercial Maple Syrup Production Public Forum to gauge current interests in and around Iron County.



### Other 2018 Community Development Successes:

Mercer Town and School Board Candidates Forum - March 2018

*Co-hosted with the Iron County Citizens' Forum*

Downtown Hurley Trailhead Workbee - May 2018

*Co-hosted with the Iron County Outdoor Recreation Enthusiasts (ICORE)*

UW-Madison Field Course Day in the Gogebic Range - June 2018

*Co-hosted with UW-Madison Global Health Institute and Extension Specialist Cathy Techtmann*

Meet Up and Eat Up Plus Summer Lunch Program - Summer 2018

*Nosal hosted farmers market guests and activities during meal time to announce the debut of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) dollars and the associated Double Up Food Bucks at the 3 area farmers markets*

Grant coaching with Iron County Department of Human Services - Summer 2018

*In addition to providing garden-based activities with the mentoring program, Nosal coached the mentoring team through a successful Gogebic Range Health Foundation grant application*

Small Community Forum in Hurley - September 2018

*Co-hosted with Wisconsin Downtown Action Council, Wisconsin Rural Partners, UW-Extension Center for Community and Economic Development, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, League of Wisconsin Municipalities and United States Department of Agriculture*





## 4-H Youth Development Program



Neil Klemme served as 4-H Youth Development Educator and Department Head in 2018

### Iron County Summer Youth Camp 2018

Once again the Iron County Summer Youth Camp created an opportunity for youth to grow as leaders and to create bonds that will last a lifetime. Positive Youth Development programs and specifically 4-H programming is designed to address the needs young people have to practice skills and develop as individuals. In the 4-H world we call these the *Four Essential Elements of Positive Youth Development* : *Mastery, Belonging, Independence, and Generosity*. These are the principles that are worked into all 4-H programming.

**Mastery** is defined as the need to learn and develop new skills. This need is met by quality camp programming through archery, swimming, recreation, and arts and crafts. Campers get to practice skills each day and it doesn't matter if this is the first time or if they have been doing this all their lives, the aim is to create programming that allows youth to improve and feel good about that improvement.

**Belonging** describes the need youth have to feel part of a group. At Summer Camp, youth are assigned cabins based on the year's theme. These cabin mates attend sessions together, lead campfire songs and work together throughout the week on team activities. Belonging is also something the overall camp experience provides our youth. Something as simple as providing camp t-shirts is a unifying act that brings the whole group together.

**Independence** is the third need met by a solid camp program. Young people need to start separating from their parents and develop their own identity. They need to establish their own identity and to see how they fit in the world. Campers get the opportunity to make decisions as to what activities they would like to go to during "free choice" sessions. This gives them a sense that they have some control over their time at camp and they start to better understand their own identity and participate in activities that help them strengthen that identity.

**Generosity** is defined as the young person's need to feel that they can make a difference and have an impact on their world. Through scheduled times for youth to help out with the day to day camp activities, young people are developing the sense that they are an integral part of the camp operation. They assist with dishes, keeping their cabins clean, and picking up litter around the camp. This helps them develop a sense of importance and connection to the camp.

These needs of youth don't only apply to the campers who attend the camp they are also being developed by the high school aged camp staff who serve as mentors and role models throughout the week. Camp staff positions include cabin counselors, junior directors, photographers, and program directors. Iron County is fortunate to receive the number of applicants for these positions that we do. It would be impossible to put an event like this on without the contributions of the entire team, especially the teens. "I have worked in other counties where they have to combine with two to five other counties in order to get enough campers and counselors." 4-H Youth Development Educator and Camp Director Neil Klemme says, "In a county as small as ours, it is a testament to the quality of the program that we are able to fill the cabins with campers and staff."





## Iron County Youth Leadership Council—Stepping Up to Lead



The Iron County Youth Council provides youth in Iron County the opportunity to get involved in local government and add their voice to the decision making processes in their community. In December of 2017 the Iron County Board of Supervisors voted on a resolution that added four seats to the county board to be filled by high school students. Throughout 2018 youth have attended full Board of Supervisors meetings as well as Forestry, Finance, Health and Human Services and Extension Committee meetings.

"My goal in creating this program is to engage youth in their county decision making processes and to allow youth to see how decisions are made on a more local level." Klemme shared.

Dayne Stuhr, Tabitha Morello, and Ayana Nickel, represent the Hurley area on the board and Haley Allen Rodriguez, Billie Botes, and Molly Hohner are the students that represent the Mercer School District.

The council kicked off an Iron County Photo Contest in March 2018 asking members of the community as well as visitors to snap pictures of some of the beautiful locations here in Iron County. Klemme has found funding from the WI 4-H Foundation to enlarge the top 15 entries. The youth will select the top 50 photos entered and the public and courthouse staff will be asked to vote to determine the winners. "We have received over 150 photos and many of them are true representations of the beauty of our county, I'm looking forward to seeing the finalists." says Klemme. Klemme shared that this activity was more than just collecting great photos of the county. It was about connecting the youth to the county's assets and giving them a project that they could report back to the Board of Supervisors about. The first year seems to have been a success with both participants and members of the Iron County Board pleased with the way things are going. Several youth members have shared that they are learning a lot about how decisions are made in the county and a few Supervisors have shared that it is great to see the students showing an interest in their county and the issues that are important here.

## SISU Endurance Team Gets Youth Outside and Active



In January of 2018 the SISU Endurance Team (SET) kicked off its inaugural year with an opportunity for local youth to learn and develop their skills in cross country skiing. Throughout the fall, a team of adult leaders met to develop a plan for an 8-week skiing program and, later, a mountain biking program. These are both activities that connect youth directly to our region's natural assets and engage them in sports that could develop into life long interests.

The ski program ran in January and February and was followed by a running program in June that culminated in five of the SET members running as a relay team during the 50th Paavo Nurmi Marathon. This running program was not part of the original plan but was added when a few coaches stepped up and said they would be willing to plan and lead the sessions. The mountain bike program started in July and ran through September, finishing with a youth mountain bike race at the Copper Peak Trail Fest. Twenty-seven members of SET participated in this race. "Racing was not the goal of the program." Klemme stated, "The goal was simple. To introduce youth to a sport that they may not have had experience participating in, and to provide some instruction so that they can do it safely." Participants and parents reported that their kids had a blast and learned new skills through the program.

Ninety-nine youth participated in the program and many participated in multiple sessions. Klemme added, "4-H is always looking for new avenues for youth to enter our program and this was a natural fit for our region. I believe that 4-H programming should match the region where it is located, SET is a prime example of this."

**The mission of SET is to promote fun, fitness, safety and excellence in lifelong sports such as cross country skiing, running and mountain biking. SET provides ongoing instruction, social opportunities and leadership development for athletes of all levels. We emphasize technique, conditioning, safety and provide leadership opportunities all in a fun filled atmosphere in the great outdoors.**





## Summer Assistants



**Felicia Herlevi, Tandrell Foster and Emily Murphy served as Summer Assistants in 2018**

### TrailBlazers

Trailblazers is a program designed to challenge young people and to create interest in the world of biking. This program has been going on for many years, and is open to youth grades 5-8. This year, nineteen youth participated in the program. Over the summer the group biked one hundred miles exploring both Iron and Gogebic County. Throughout the month the routes became more challenging, from a longer distance to rougher terrain. By the end of the program every youth showed drastic improvement, giving them the feeling of accomplishment. This year there was an added challenge of mountain biking. Before Trailblazers, many of the youth had not been mountain biking before and through this challenge many of the youth discovered an exciting new sport that they enjoy. Many of the TrailBlazers continued to explore this sport further by joining the SISU Endurance Team mountain bike program. Trailblazers serves as a great way for youth to get out and be active during the summer, while exploring the area and having fun with their peers.

### Outpost Camp

Iron County Summer Outpost Camp is a program that encourages independence and leadership in youth grades 6-8. This was the fourth year of Outpost Camp and a group of sixteen campers attended. To help form a sense of community within the camp, this year it was extended from four to five days which was a positive change for the camp. Outpost camp included scheduled bike rides, hiking, and an overnight canoe trip. Youth also participated in activities that promoted teamwork and leadership. One of these activities was the "electric triangle" where the youth had to help lift each other through two ropes to get everyone out of the triangle of ropes.



To help promote independence, youth were able to make their own decisions about what to do during their free time; optional activities included bike rides, swimming, fishing, or playing card games at the campsite.

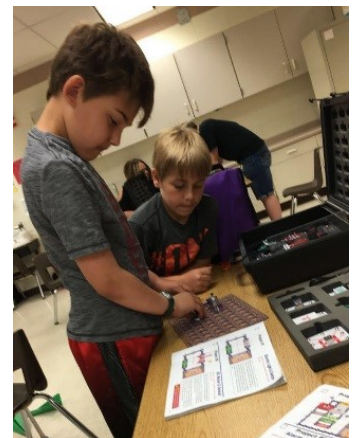
Throughout the week, adult leaders watched as youth became eager to help around camp and to help each other. The activities and physical challenges the youth faced helped them grow individually and as a group.

### 4-H Cloverbud Day Camp

4-H Cloverbud Day Camp is a two week program for youth grades K-2 and is held at the Kimball Community Center. For this age group the target outcomes are to teach youth how to work together while sparking their creativity and creating independence. The activities that contributed to that included playing games, going on scavenger hunts, and doing open ended arts & crafts. There were also many sensory activities included this year such as slime, sensory bottles and oobleck. Each day the campers became more comfortable in the environment and were always excited to return the next day.

### Hurley Kids Club

Hurley Kids Club (formally known as STARS) is a summer program for youth at the Hurley School District. This year, Extension had the opportunity to collaborate with the Hurley Kids Club. Every Wednesday for three weeks, Foster would go to the school and work with the youth that were enrolled in the program. Foster's main focus was to teach to the kids how to work together. The kids did a lot of team building activities and also worked with snap circuits. Snap circuits are a fun way to learn about technology by working together to make circuits. Foster added, "It was a great experience for me. The kids really enjoyed the games, and the snap circuits. It was great watching the kids figure out the problems they faced and succeed as a team."





## Horticulture/Agriculture

The Iron County Horticulture program provided educational and technical programming throughout Iron County in 2018. Darrin Kimbler served as the 40% part-time Horticulture Educator to reflect year round programming done by the department. In November 2018, Kimbler was hired as a 50% UW-Madison Extension Agriculture Educator with a start date of January 1, 2019. His new role will encompass his duties as Horticulture Educator as well as expanded agriculture programming.

The Iron County Horticulture Program greatly increased its reach in 2017 and 2018 by training seventeen new Master Gardener volunteers over the winter months. The new volunteers received forty hours of education on a wide range of horticultural topics. These volunteers had an immediate impact on Iron County in 2018. They allowed for greater programming throughout the area.

Kimbler and UW Range Master Gardener Volunteers provided over 975 volunteer hours of community and youth education, as well as area beautification:

- Hurley School District 3<sup>rd</sup> graders planted over 60 flower planters along Silver Street with volunteers from the community
- Hurley School District 4<sup>th</sup> graders planted at the Montreal Memorial and three other locations throughout Montreal
- Hurley School District Kid's Club program planted the Hurley School planters prior to graduation
- Planted and maintained the Hurley School garden in cooperation with 4-H volunteers
- Planted and maintained the Courthouse planter
- Provided horticulture education to citizens at the Iron County Fair and Iron County Farmers Market
- Engaged children with planting projects at the Iron County Farmers Market
- Silver Street Trailhead beautification

Kimbler provided community education by facilitating and leading workshops and demonstrations:

- Soil health class at the Mercer Library
- With Community Development Educator Amy Nosal, organized and facilitated the Iron County Commercial Maple Syrup Production Public Forum (see page 3 for details)

Hurley School Garden spring preparation, with assistance from the Range Master Gardener Volunteers and Iron County 4-H Club members and leaders.



**Darrin Kimbler served as Horticulture Educator in 2018**

Extension Iron County Horticulture provided direct technical assistance to community members by:

- Facilitating and explaining over 20 soil tests
- Providing research based answers to horticulture questions from insect identification to disease management
- Providing agricultural assistance to farmers in the absence of an Extension agricultural educator for Iron County
- Answering horticulture questions on "Range Garden Talk" on WJMS radio
- Answering horticulture questions at annual community garden dinner in Mercer
- Worked with Iron County Fair Board to coordinate the horticulture and crops divisions at the fair





## FoodWise



Gina Monroe, FoodWise Coordinator for Ashland, Bayfield and Iron Counties, July 2017 – July 2018, and Deb Leonard, 50% part-time Iron County FoodWise Educator, had many contacts providing access to FoodWise nutrition education all around Iron County in 2018.



Deborah Leonard served as FoodWise Nutrition Educator in 2018

FoodWise, federally-funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Food Assistance Program (SNAP), uses evidence-based programs to teach people using or eligible for SNAP about good nutrition and how to stretch their food dollars. FoodWise is also a partner in creating community environments that make being healthy and physically active easy.

### Mercer School



Mercer School District—Nutrition Education  
Leonard worked with students at Mercer and Hurley Schools in 2018

### Staying Active



Snowshoeing + nutrition =  
FUN!

### Hurley Head Start



Miss Linda's Head Start Class  
Playing "sometime" and "anytime" foods fishing game

### Community Outreach



Across the Borders—Senior Awareness Walk  
Blender bike and water with a flare



## FoodWise

### Partners and Participants



Partners for 2018 included Mercer and Hurley Schools, five senior dining sites, Head Start, WIC, Mobile Food Pantry and Birch Hill After School Program. Many success stories were told to Leonard about participants' responses to present and past learning opportunities. A senior from the Springstead senior dining site stated, "I planted the tomatoes and peppers you gave to us and I was able to have a good supply this past summer." A Mercer school graduate said he remembered a nutrition class making edible cars out of pea pods, carrots and hummus and still eats all of those foods. A 1<sup>st</sup> grader from Hurley stated his mom purchased a pomegranate and the whole family tried it and like it.



Gina Monroe served as FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator through July 2018

### Hurley Heath Fair



Students learned about the amount of sugars in common drinks

### Hurley School Garden



Hurley 5th graders harvested potatoes, onions and carrots Afterwards, they cooked a healthy meal using the fresh produce



### Senior Dining



Hurley Senior Dining Site  
Senior Nutrition Education



Springstead Senior Dining Site  
Lakes Flower Cabin in Wakefield donated plants for seniors





# Extension Iron County Support



**Rebecca Holm served as Office Manager for the Extension Iron County office in 2018**

Rebecca Holm provided support to all Extension Iron County Educators and summer assistants. In addition to being a 4-H leader for the Iron County Green Team and SISU Endurance Team, Holm also served as President of the Iron County 4-H Parent Leader Association.

## Interaction with the Public

Serving as the first point of contact with the public, Holm provided assistance with requests for information and resources from UW-Extension including:

- Research of UW-based information and response or referral to client
- Submission of soil samples, plant samples, and insect identification samples to University laboratories
- Iron County Mobile Food Pantry registration, documentation, newsletters and compilation of survey data (see pages 12-13)
- Maintained community snowshoe inventory. 171 pairs were checked out by organizations and individuals in 2018
- FE University registration and payment collection
- 4-H program registrations and documentation

## Educational/Outreach and Professional Development

- Served as Iron County contact for UW-Extension Technology Services,

Instructional Communications Services, and Distance Learning

- Maintained office documentation to demonstrate compliance with federal civil rights law
- Distributed monthly "Just in Time Parenting" newsletters to 29 parents of new babies in Iron County

## Financial Operations

- Maintained financial records and documentation for Extension and 4-H and Youth Club budgets
- Maintained office accounting including spreadsheets, vouchers, invoices, and accounting and record keeping for grant funded programming
- Served as liaison to Iron County auditors
- Processed all receipt collections, deposits, invoices and bill paying
- Created financial reports for Extension Iron County Committee and, as requested, for the Iron County Finance Committee

## Office Technology

- Maintained computer stations for use by office personnel
- Served as liaison for office to local computer repair services and to UW-Technology Services
- Coordinated and provided technical assistance for software upgrades and facilitated office training for new software
- Served as office website and social media coordinator
- Coordinated internet connections with local and UW-Extension servers
- Upgraded skills with training related to new software programs to create more efficient management of office functions
- Secured and maintained contracts for leased equipment, maintenance agreements, repairs and supplies needed to

run office equipment such as copier, duplicating, fax and video projection machines

- Researched methods and means for office equipment upgrades
- Maintained the federal 4-H database

## Office Operations

- Maintained and ordered proper level of supplies and resources as needed for office operations and equipment
- Served as designer of program materials, such as brochures, newsletters, posters
- Maintained postage accounts, equipment records and reports
- Served as designer and coordinator of the Extension Iron County Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors
- Coordinated, attended and recorded minutes at Extension Committee meetings
- Coordinated, attended and participated in Extension Department staff meetings



**Holm pictured with her son Bennett during the Montreal planting, June 2018**

"The best part of my job is being able to participate in the programs that are being offered to my children, like ICSYC and the Montreal planting."

# Area Extension Director Area 1

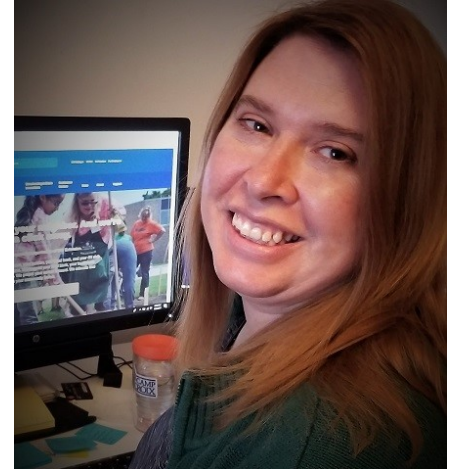
This Annual Report highlights some of the programming efforts of our educators and staff members. In 2018, two full-time, two part-time educators, one full-time office manager, and three summer assistants made up the relatively small office staff that gets all this work done! How do we do it?

The success of Iron County Extension programming relies on 4 aspects:

**County funding**      **Volunteers**  
**State funding**      **Donations, Grants & Fees**

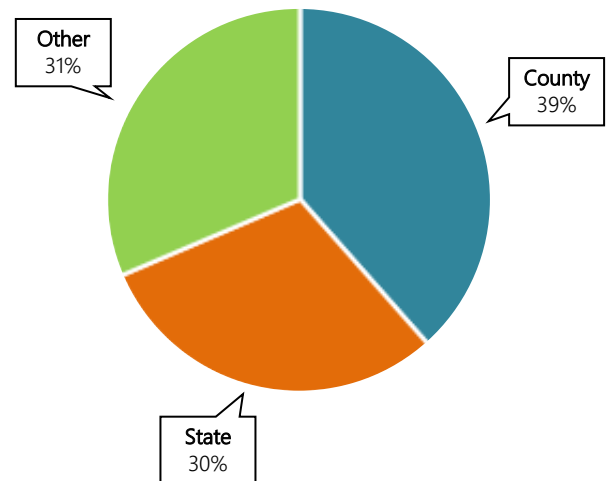
In Extension, most educators are co-funded by the county and state. Iron County also supplies funding for a horticulture educator and some assistance with the extensive summer youth programs. In addition, county funds help to outfit Extension with office supplies and technology and program and travel costs, as well as an excellent office manager to hold it all together.

FoodWise, our nutrition education program, is paid for by federal SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education) funds that come through UW-Madison Division of Extension. Iron County FoodWise is part of a three-county project which also includes Ashland and Bayfield Counties. County funds are not involved in the salaries of the FoodWise Coordinator, FoodWise Educator, or Area Extension Director.



Mary Pardee served as the Area Extension Director for Area 1 in 2018 (Area 1 includes Iron, Ashland, Bayfield and Douglas Counties)

## Extension Budget 2018



County	Co-funded Staff Fee	\$ 75,159
	Support Staff	\$ 60,022
	County Educational Staff	\$ 24,262
	Office & Technology	\$ 4,019
	Educational Program Support	\$ 19,838
	Committee Expense	\$ 4,209
	<b>TOTAL COUNTY</b>	<b>\$ 187,509</b>

State	Co-funded Staff Salary/Fringe	\$ 67,006
	FoodWise Positions	\$ 43,204
	FoodWise Program Support	\$ 2,324
	Office & Technology	\$ 944
	Professional Development	\$ 5,210
	Director Salary/Fringe	\$ 27,900
	<b>TOTAL STATE</b>	<b>\$ 146,588</b>

Other	Donations, Grants & Fees	\$ 33,079
	FoodWise Partner Support	\$ 200
	Volunteer Value*	\$ 119,747
	<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>	<b>\$ 153,026</b>

**TOTAL EXTENSION BUDGET 2018**      **\$ 487,123**

## Volunteers

Extension's programming success relies on volunteers! 2018 volunteer hours include:

- Community projects by Master Gardener Volunteers – 978 hours
- 4-H Clubs, Outpost Camp and Iron County Summer Youth Camp by 4-H Volunteers – 3602 hours
- Mobile Food Pantry Volunteers – 270 hours

The total of 4850 volunteer hours represents another 2.3 full-time positions! THANK YOU, EXTENSION VOLUNTEERS! We could not do all this work without you!

\*Using the standard "Independent Sector" rate of \$24.69 (2018 rate).



# Iron County Mobile Food Pantry

## 2018 Survey Results

The Iron County Mobile Food Pantry is a partnership between Iron County UW-Extension, Iron County Human Services, community volunteers and Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank. Together we support the food security of Iron County residents and work towards building a community where healthy, nutritious foods are available to everyone, even when times are tough.



Since September 2013, the food pantry has supplied over 540,267 meals to hundreds of families, children and seniors throughout Iron County. Iron County Mobile Food Pantry partners who brave the rain, sun or snow on the last Monday of every month were presented the Volunteer of the Year award in September 2017.

In August 2018, the Iron County UW-Extension office conducted a survey asking clients to share their experiences using the Iron County Mobile Food Pantry. This information is invaluable as we continue to address the food needs of Iron County.

**69** clients submitted completed surveys. The information on the next page is based on the number of clients who responded to each question.

### OVERALL CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

**204**

Households currently participate in the Iron County Mobile Food Pantry

### COMMUNITIES SERVED

**Hurley\***

**Mercer\*\***

**Gile**

**Saxon**

**Montreal**

**Pence**

**Iron Belt**

**Upson**

\*52% of MFP clients enrolled reside in Hurley

\*\*21% of MFP clients reside in Mercer

### HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

**13%** Youth age 17 and under

**57%** Adults age 18 to 64

**31%** Seniors age 65 plus



**87**

Proxies deliver food to clients that can not pick their food up (Clients can also be proxies)



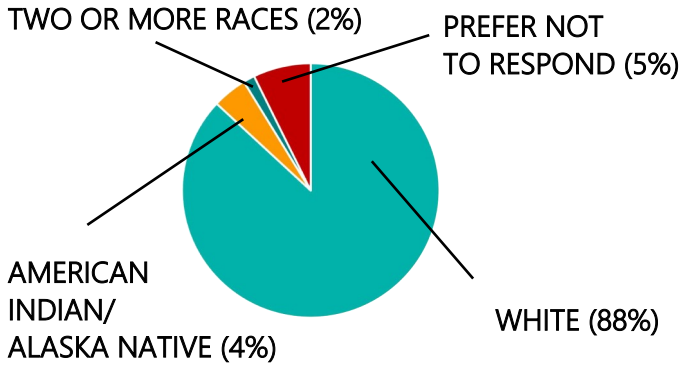
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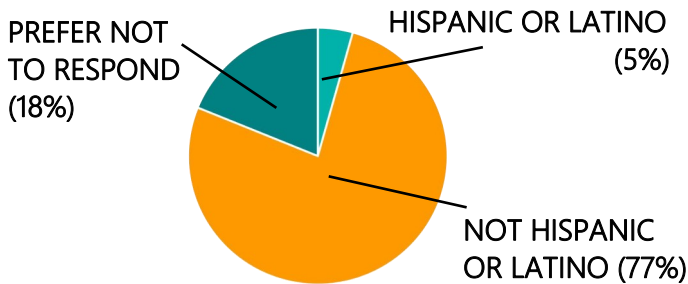
# CLIENT RESPONSES

Percentages are based on the number who responded to each question

## RACE



## ETHNICITY



## RATING

We asked clients to rate the following components of the Iron County Mobile Food Pantry

Rating system: **VS** - very satisfied,

**SS** - somewhat satisfied, **N** - neutral,

**SD** - somewhat dissatisfied, **VD** - very dissatisfied

	VS	SS	N	SD	VD
<b>Food quality</b>	48%	33%	11%	6%	2%
<b>Food quantity</b>	61%	23%	12%	2%	2%
<b>Service</b>	92%	8%	-	-	-
<b>Flyers</b> (informational)	72%	14%	14%	-	-
<b>Registration</b>	89%	3%	4%	2%	2%
<b>Proxy System</b>	84%	2%	14%	-	-

## OTHER FOOD SUPPORT



**26%**

Use SNAP Dollars



- **23%** use the Iron Co. Food Pantry in Montreal
- **9%** use the Mercer Area Food Pantry
- **7%** use Iron County Senior Dining Sites
- **4%** use school meals
- **28%** used no other food resource this past year

Even though the participants use the resources listed above (including the Iron County Mobile Food Pantry)

## 35% of clients

stated that they worried whether the food in their household would run out before they had money to buy more

**42%**

of clients got **more than half** of their **total food** from the Iron County Mobile Food Pantry

**38%**

of clients have been using the Iron County Mobile Food Pantry **for 3+ years**

## CLIENT QUOTES

"Great benefit - volunteers are always friendly, helpful and gracious."

"Very nice thing! Helps a lot of people that otherwise couldn't get enough food to make it through the month."

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- A change of variety is welcomed
- More meat items per month
- Watch the produce quality, especially during the cold months when it can freeze in the food line
- More care can go into loading the food into client vehicles



## 2018 Iron County Agriculture-Extension-Education Committee



*Iron County Agriculture-Extension-Education Committee members pose with Office Manager, Rebecca Holm at their committee meeting on May 9, 2018. Holm was nominated by the county staff and awarded the ESP Meritorious Support Staff of the Year award for her work in the Iron County office and community. Pictured L-R: County Board Chair Joe Pinardi, Karl Krall, William Thomas, Rebecca Holm, Jamey Francis, Opal Roberts, Brad Matson*

### Thank you

The Iron County Agriculture-Extension-Education Committee is comprised of William Thomas—Chair, Opal Roberts—Vice-Chair, Karl Krall, Jamey Francis, and Brad Matson.

Francis is the newest member of the Agriculture-Extension-Education Committee, replacing Paul Mullard after the April 2018 election. We would like to thank Paul for supporting our programming over his seven year run on our committee, and we look forward to working with Jamey.

In addition to attending quarterly meetings, our committee members have been present in other ways:

- Thomas serves as an Iron County Mobile Food Pantry volunteer each month
- Matson served on the search and screen committees for the Community Development and Agriculture Educator positions
- Matson served as an adult volunteer at Iron County Outpost Camp in July 2018
- Matson and Roberts participated in the Commercial Maple Syrup Public Forum in October 2018
- Roberts, Thomas and Matson serve as mentors to Iron County Youth Leadership Council members throughout the year

We would like to thank our committee members and County Board Chair, Joe Pinardi, for their continued support during 2018.

## Online Resources



### **Extension Iron County**

<https://iron.extension.wisc.edu>



### **Division of Extension**

<https://extension.wisc.edu>



### **Publications**

<https://learningstore.uwex.edu>



### **Independent Study**

<https://il.wisconsin.edu>



### **Wisconsin 4-H Division of Extension**

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu>



### **Local Government Center Division of Extension**

<https://lgc.uwex.edu>



### **For Your Information Division of Extension**

<http://fyi.uwex.edu>



### **Horticulture Resources Division of Extension**

<http://hort.extension.wisc.edu>



### **Continuing Education**

<http://continuingstudies.wisc.edu/>



### **Center for Community Economic Development Division of Extension**

<http://cced.ces.uwex.edu/>



### **FoodWise Nutrition**

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/foodwise/>



### **Iron County Website**

<http://www.co.iron.wi.gov>



### **Extension Iron County Facebook**

[https://www.facebook.com/  
IronCountyUwExtension/](https://www.facebook.com/IronCountyUwExtension/)



### **Iron County WI 4-H Instagram**

[www.instagram.com/4hironcounty/](http://www.instagram.com/4hironcounty/)



### **Twitter - Iron County 4-H Summer Program Updates**

<https://twitter.com/4hIronCounty>





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Dear Iron County Residents, Agencies and Local Officials,

UW-Madison Division of Extension - Iron County is committed to providing equal access to educational opportunities for all Iron County residents. Extension provides affirmative action and equal opportunity in education, programming and employment for all qualified persons regardless of race, color, gender/sex, creed, disability, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or parental, arrest or conviction record or veteran status.

In addition, we are committed to providing equal access to educational opportunities for persons with disabilities in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. We realize that individuals with disabilities may need accommodations to participate in or benefit from educational programs, activities or services. Reasonable accommodations for a disability will be made to allow individuals to fully participate in our programs by contacting the Extension Iron County office in advance. [ (715) 561-2695, toll-free 1-888-561-2695, 711 For Wisconsin Relay (TDD) ]

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the Extension Iron County office.

Extension Iron County is interested in reaching Iron County and area residents with information about our upcoming programs. Our intent is to provide programs that target the diverse interests and needs of area residents. We identify interests and needs for programs by exploring specific requests and by examining issues identified in our strategic planning efforts. We want to be effective in our efforts to communicate about our programs.

We release news of upcoming programs to the following news sources: Iron County Miner, Ironwood Daily Globe, Lac du Flambeau News, Lakeland Times, North Country Sun, Park Falls Herald, WJMS/WIMI Radio, and WUPM/WHRY Radio. Please notify us of other sources you use for getting news about local events.

Thank you for your support of Extension Iron County programs. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns you have about the above information.

Regards,

Mary Pardee  
Area Extension Director (Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland & Iron Counties)