

2019

ANNUAL REPORT



TO THE IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
IRON COUNTY

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Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
IRON COUNTY



WELCOME LETTER

January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

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

2019 was another year of great Extension programming in Iron County and all of Wisconsin! Here in Extension, we work to connect local people with the knowledge and research of the University of Wisconsin. We utilize our local, regional and statewide networks to support communities in responding to emerging issues and bring new ideas and great resources to Iron County.

This report highlights outcomes from our major educational programs in Community Development, 4-H Youth Development, Nutrition Education, and Agriculture/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 2019. 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)

2019 Agriculture- Extension-Education Committee Members

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

2019 Administration and Staff

Mary Pardee
Area Extension Director, Area 1

Amy Nosal
Community Development Educator

Neil Klemme
4-H Youth Development Educator

Katie Lamoreaux
Tate Guenard
Summer Assistants

Darrin Kimbler
Agriculture/Horticulture Educator

Deborah Leonard
FoodWise Nutrition Educator

Rebecca Holm
Support Staff/Office Manager



4-H Youth Development



Neil Klemme served as 4-H Youth Development Educator 2019.

SUMMER YOUTH CAMP

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, specifically 4-H programming, is designed to offer young people opportunities to practice skills and develop as individuals. These experiences help youth thrive as they transition to adulthood.

The 4-H Thriving Model predicts that youth who participate in 4-H programs that provide a high quality developmental context, achieve key developmental outcomes.

There are three components to great youth development programming that summer camp programs offer. First, camp provides youth a place to explore interests and passions. The Thrive Model calls

Thriving Youth...



Thriving Youth Reach Key Developmental Outcomes

Youth who thrive because of participating in 4-H...



Table 2 (above): Shows the characteristics young people exhibit if Positive Youth Development has occurred (long term outcomes). These are the traits we see when these youth become adults.

them **sparks**. Sparks are built into camp through arts and crafts, recreation, swimming, canoeing, archery and air rifle. Counselors are exploring potential career paths working with youth and teaching. "These sparks are what "hooks" the kids and keeps them interested and returning each year," says Youth Development Educator, Neil Klemme.

Second, youth development programming done well follows youth program quality principles with a focus on youth **belonging**. Belonging describes the need youth have to feel part of a group. At summer camp, youth are assigned cabins with names, based on the year's theme. These cabin mates attend sessions together, lead campfire songs and work together throughout the week on team activities. Something as simple as providing camp t-shirts is a unifying act that brings the whole group together.

Lastly, summer camp allows youth to thrive by **emphasizing developmental relationships** with adults who are caring, challenge their growth, and share power. The relationship between the counselors and campers is a mentor/mentee relationship. Camp staff are trained to demonstrate role modeling and challenge campers' growth by asking them to step outside their comfort zone and take on new challenges. Camp staff are a key part of the camp program and the relationship between them and the camp director is one of respect and shared power. "As the camp director, I have tried to build in opportunities for staff to make decisions about the camp planning. This creates buy-in and a sense of ownership in the experience," Klemme shared. The adult volunteers help reinforce this learning for the teen staff. They are there to help where needed, but understand that the camp staff are the leaders of the program and they are there to support and help them to make camp successful.

Table 1 (left): Our camp staff and campers exhibit many of the traits of thriving youth (short to mid term outcomes). These include: Challenge and Discovery, A Growth Mindset, A Hopeful Purpose, Transcendent Awareness, A Pro-Social Orientation, Positive Emotionality, and Goal Management.

4-H CLUB PROGRAM UPDATE

The Iron County 4-H program has continued to see growth over the past 7 years. Despite the loss of some clubs in our county, the program is stronger than ever. Each of the remaining clubs has grown over the years and the addition of special interest clubs including, Iron County Summer Camp Staff, SISU Endurance Team, and Superior Days, has created new ways for youth to access the benefits of the 4-H program.

Current enrollment, including leaders and members, stands at 144. This is up from just 48, when Klemme began his role as 4-H Youth Development Educator in 2012. Klemme has created a strong program where youth are learning skills needed in adulthood and the community is taking notice and wants to be a part of that. The Penokee Range 4-H Livestock Club has built a program that has increased enrollment as well as the reputation of the club in the community. Their auction at the fair is a highlight of the weekend. The Iron County Green Team and Hurley Lucky Clovers have also grown each year and do a great job allowing youth to lead and learn new life skills and projects that they highlight at the fair. Each club has been active in community service projects, which raises Iron County 4-H's profile throughout the region. This is beneficial when it comes time to raise funds. The 4-H Leaders Association has been proactive in fundraising efforts and has also supported new avenues for youth to enter our program.



Penokee Range Livestock Club Vice President, Talia Erickson showing her steer, Simba, at the 2019 Iron County Fair Auction.



SET TrailBlazers member, Evan Krall, making rounds at the pump track at Spirit Mountain in Duluth, MN.

SISU ENDURANCE TEAM BUILDS CONNECTIONS TO COMMUNITY & REGIONAL RECREATION

In January of 2019, the SISU Endurance Team (SET) kicked off its second year with opportunities for local youth to learn and develop their skills in cross country skiing, mountain biking, and running. A major step toward introducing these programs to all youth in our region was taken this year. One of the main barriers to this type of programming is the lack of access to equipment needed to participate. SET was able to purchase skis, boots, and poles for the ski program and 5 mountain bikes that can be used by kids in TrailBlazers. These are all experiences that engage youth in activities that not only connect youth directly to our regions natural assets but also to a sport that could develop into a life long interest for these local kids. The ski program ran in January and February, followed by a running program in June.

The original SET bike program merged with the TrailBlazers, a program that has been part of the Extension Youth Development summer offerings for many years. Tuesday sessions were spent riding around Iron County, exploring backroads and scenic areas. Through a grant received from the

Gogebic Range United Way, Klemme was able to expand the program to include travel to mountain bike trails within driving distance of our community. Thursday sessions included the opportunity to travel and explore some bike friendly communities in northern Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan. During one Thursday session, SET TrailBlazers received riding lessons from instructors at Spirit Mountain in Duluth and got to ride the trails and pump track at the park.

Neil Klemme, 4-H Youth Development Educator for the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension, Iron County shared "Iron County 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."

Summer Assistants



Katie Lamoreaux served as Summer Assistant in 2019.

OUTPOST CAMP

Extension Iron County hosted its 5th annual Outpost Camp in 2019. Outpost Camp is an opportunity for middle schoolers to work on their independence, leadership, teamwork, and outdoors skills. The camp is hosted on the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage, a beautiful stretch of freshwater, with ample opportunity to fish, swim, canoe, and hike. Seventeen campers attended the 4 day, 3 night camp.

The camp commenced with the campers and their counselors paddling 5 miles to the campground. Upon arrival, everyone set up their tents and got accustomed to the area that they would call home for the week. Once settled, the goals of the camp were identified and cook groups were assigned. The goals of team building, independence, and environmental stewardship were fostered through



17 youth from Hurley and Mercer School Districts attended the 2019 Iron County Outpost Camp.

scheduled activities paired with free time. Some of the activities were canoeing, hiking on the big island, and a service learning project where they learned about and pulled the invasive plant, Purple Loosestrife. The free time mostly included the kids riding their bikes, swimming, fishing, crafting, and playing games.

In the evening, everyone would all gather and a few campers from each cook group would work with staff to cook dinner. Some of the meals enjoyed were enchiladas, pizzas, and spaghetti. Dinner was followed by a group cleanup and then night games like Ghost in the Graveyard. As the week progressed, staff witnessed the middle schoolers growing comfortable in the outdoors, helping each other out, and moving past challenges that new situations brought up.

Iron County Summer Assistant, Katie Lamoreaux said, "It was great to see the kids problem-solve through challenges that they have never seen before. They had to address new situations that arose in the outdoors and work through them as a team or ask for help." The other Summer Assistant, Tate Guenard, noticed the communal aspect that came about during Outpost Camp, "I loved seeing the inclusivity of the kids. It seemed like some campers were really making an effort to be inclusive and friendly to people that may have not been as comfortable in the outdoors or group settings." Overall, Outpost Camp is an excellent opportunity for the local middle schoolers to grow as individuals and work through new challenges, on top of getting to know a beautiful environment that is so close to their home.



Tate Guenard served as Summer Assistant in 2019.

SISU ENDURANCE TEAM (SET) TRAILBLAZERS

SISU Endurance Team (SET) TrailBlazers is a program designed to mentally and physically challenge kids through biking, while indirectly trying to spark their interest in the sport. Youth members biked approximately 75 miles in and around Iron County. New this year were trips to places like Spirit Mountain in Duluth, MN and Michigan Tech's downhill courses and pump tracks. Summer Assistant, Tate Guenard said, "Each and every one of the kids showed drastic improvement in their skill levels, especially after Spirit Mountain's training course." Overall, the participants said that this was one of the best years of Trailblazers and many of them plan to continue to bike in the program next year. SET TrailBlazers serves as a platform for kids to have fun with their peers outside, while also exploring their community in a fun and educational way.

Community Resource Development



Amy Nosal served as Community Development Educator in 2019. She is also a Master Gardener Volunteer and maintains the Iron County Courthouse planter.

"Extension is a magic mirror of reflection through which communities see the whole of themselves and how to use their strengths to grow beyond their limitations."

Iron County Community Development Extension Educator, Amy Nosal engaged in a mix of new and expanding programs in 2019. Across the variety, there was the common theme of building up local assets. Community assets play a key role in connecting places that need businesses, businesses that need talent and talent that wants vibrant places to live, work and play.

Another common theme in programs was collaboration, that is, building local assets together. The Tapping Into Our Maple Economy and NICER - Northern Iron County Engaged Residents sections explain how Nosal worked with Extension Iron County colleagues to create impactful community experiences and resources.

TRAILS GAIN GRANTS & MOMENTUM

In 2019, Amy Nosal continued working with the non-profit ICORE - Iron County Outdoor Recreation Enthusiasts to develop the Hurley Trailhead along the Montreal River and to purchase an abandon Canadian National railroad grade for future development as a non-motorized trail connecting Montreal to Hurley and to Michigan's Iron Belle Trail. Nosal coached ICORE through the Gogebic Range Health Foundation's 2019 grant application and the proposal was awarded \$20,000 to assist in accomplishing both trailhead improvements and the railroad purchase.

2019 trailhead developments include a native flowerbed and a walking path down to the river that was cleared with the help of the local North Country Trail chapter.

FELIVELIFE.ORG DOUBLES OUTREACH

The purpose of FeLiveLife.org is to serve residents and visitors of the greater Gogebic Range community by showcasing local events that bring people together.

In 2018, Nosal and a team of chamber and city partners launched a new platform that doubled its numbers by the end of 2019. Access through social media increased in 2019, indicating more users are finding the website valuable enough to share with others.

<u>FeLiveLife.org</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Partners	8	15
Events	340+	690+
Organizations	60+	140+

These successes will spur forward new website features and partnerships in 2020.

OTHER 2019 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Facilitated Mercer Town and School Board Candidates Forum.
- Completed another year of programming in the Hurley School Garden with Iron County Department of Human Services.
- Presented on Extension Iron County program successes at the Tourism Conference held in Iron Mountain, Michigan.
- Facilitated local outreach of Northwestern Wisconsin Groundwater Monitoring Project, in partnership with Lake Superior Research Institute at UW-Superior.



Nosal was again invited to facilitate the Mercer Candidates Forum in February 2019.

Agriculture/Horticulture



Darrin Kimbler served as Agriculture Educator in 2019.

The Iron County Agriculture/Horticulture program provided educational and technical programming throughout Iron County in 2019. Darrin Kimbler is the 50% part-time Agriculture/Horticulture Educator.

The Iron County Horticulture Program greatly increased its reach in 2019 by training 7 new Master Gardener volunteers over the winter months. The new volunteers received 40 hours of education on a wide range of horticultural topics. These volunteers will have an immediate impact on Iron County in 2020 and allow for greater programming throughout the area.

RANGE MASTER GARDENERS

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

- Planted over 60 flower planters along Silver Street with Hurley K-12 School 3rd graders and volunteers from the community.
- Planted the Montreal Memorial plantings across four locations throughout Montreal with Hurley K-12 School 4th graders.
- Planted the Hurley School planters with Hurley K-12 School 2nd graders.
- Planted and maintained the Iron County 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 Country Farmers Market.

Hurley 3rd grade students, teachers, community volunteers at the June 2019 Silver Street Planting, which Kimbler plans each year.

- Maintained the Iron Horse Trailhead on Silver Street.
- Kimbler is a member of the state advisory committee for the Wisconsin Master Gardener Association (WIMGA). The committee advises and works with WIMGA to fulfill the UW-Madison Division of Extension Master Gardener Program's mission.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Kimbler provided community education in 2019 including:

- Season extension class at the Mercer Library.
- Two Iron County Backyard Maple Syrup Workshops in Saxon and Mercer with Community Development Educator, Amy Nosal. See next page for details.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Kimbler provided direct technical assistance to community clients in 2019 by:

- Facilitating and explaining over 25 soil tests.
- Providing research based answers to horticulture and agriculture questions from insect identification to disease management.
- Providing agricultural assistance to farmers.
- Working with Iron County Fair Board to coordinate the horticulture and crops divisions at the fair and answer gardening and agriculture questions.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2019, Kimbler participated in:

- New Extension colleague onboarding.
- The International Maple Syrup Convention held in Duluth, Mn.



Tapping Into Our Maple Economy & Identity



Amy Nosal and Darrin Kimbler attended the 2019 Wisconsin Maple Syrup Producers Association Winter Institute in Marshfield (January) and the International Maple Syrup Convention hosted in Duluth, MN (October). These events were important for connecting with key partners including the Wisconsin Department Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and Michigan State University.

Iron County contains some of Wisconsin's densest distributions of sugar maple, and still maple syrup production remains an untapped asset in Iron County. Across the country Wisconsin ranks as the 4th largest maple syrup producer, behind Vermont, New York and Maine, and ahead of Michigan and Minnesota. Many in and around Iron County enjoy making maple syrup to share with families and friends, although there are few records of commercial maple syrup production and nearly no public recognition of this locally made food.

In 2018, Extension Iron County Educators Amy Nosal (Community Development) and Darrin Kimbler (Agriculture/Horticulture) began the Tapping Into Our Maple Economy initiative, which quickly evolved to the Tapping Into Our Maple Identity initiative by the end of 2019. In a multidisciplinary effort to bolster local economic development and community identity, Nosal and Kimbler are developing programs that provide technical assistance and network facilitation among maple syrup producers, as well as generating public and consumer interest in the culture of maple syrup.

Based on feedback from 2018 program participants, the second year of maple syrup programming in 2019 expanded to include hobbyist workshops and restaurant cross-promotion, as well as relationship and resource development with key partners.

COMPETITION FEATURES LOCAL MAPLE SYRUP & RESTAURANTS

To celebrate locally-made maple syrup and promote local restaurants, Extension Iron County teamed up with the Hurley Area Chamber of Commerce to host a cross-promoting public event. Each participating restaurant was given maple syrup produced by Bob Rowe of Saxon and with every maple syrup item ordered, the customer was given a ballot to vote on taste, visual appeal and originality. A total of 126 ballots were tallied and two restaurants came out on top as the favorites. Burgers Bar & Grill was rated the best entrée for its featured dish of "Chicken and Waffles," and Iron Horse Saloon was rated the best for its drink "Irish Maple Bacon Dream."

A poster for the Maple Syrup Competition. It features a yellow maple leaf logo with the text "Tapping Into Our Maple Economy" and "A cross-promoting celebration of maple syrup production in and around Iron County, Wisconsin". The main title is "MAPLE SYRUP COMPETITION". The dates are "Friday April 5—Sunday April 7, 2019". Below this, it says "Ask for the maple specials & vote to determine who's the sweetest joint around!". A list of participating businesses includes "Branding Iron", "Yukon 51", "Burgers Bar", "Sharon's", and "Iron Horse". At the bottom, it says "To receive email updates on local maple syrup happenings, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ironmaple>" and "ORDER UP & VOTE!". The Hurley logo is in the bottom left corner.

MAPLE SYRUP COMPETITION

Friday April 5—Sunday April 7, 2019

Ask for the maple specials & vote to determine who's the sweetest joint around!

PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES:
Branding Iron Yukon 51
Burgers Bar Sharon's
Iron Horse

To receive email updates on local maple syrup happenings, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ironmaple>

ORDER UP & VOTE!

BACKYARD MAPLE TAPPING CLASSES

On Saturday, February 23, 2019, Extension Iron County hosted two hobbyist maple syrup workshops. The topic was the same, but involved two different experiences as guided by two local producers. Twenty-six people attended the workshop in Saxon led by commercial producer, Andy Rowe and sixteen people enjoyed some maple syrup over ice cream with fellow hobbyist and Iron County Board member, Brad Matson in Mercer. Local Master Gardeners helped facilitate both workshops.

Brad Matson (right) explains the boiling and filtering steps in the maple syrup making process.



Andy Rowe (left) demonstrates tubing as a sap collection method.



FoodWise

Stephanie Bakker, FoodWise Coordinator for Ashland, Bayfield and Iron Counties, and Deb Leonard, 50% part-time Iron County FoodWise Educator, had many contacts providing access to FoodWise nutrition education all around Iron County in 2019.

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.

In August 2019, Leonard received the Golden Community Engagement Award, a new award through FoodWise. This award was for Leonard's outstanding commitment to building, strengthening, and sustaining relationships between FoodWise and our communities.

Pictured in the photo to the right is: Kathryn Boryc Smock - FoodWise State Program Manager, Deb Leonard - FoodWise Nutrition Educator, Stephanie Bakker - FoodWise Coordinator for Ashland, Bayfield and Iron Counties, and Jill Sanders - FoodWise Regional Program Manager for the North.



Deborah Leonard served as FoodWise Nutrition Educator (center left) and Stephanie Bakker (center right) served as FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator for Ashland, Bayfield, and Iron County in 2019.

HURLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Hurley School District students received nutrition education in the classroom and Hurley School Garden in 2019. Pictured above are 5th grade students preparing and eating potatoes that were harvested in the fall.

FoodWise

PARTNERS & PARTICIPANTS

Partners for 2019 included Mercer and Hurley Schools, five senior dining sites, Hurley Head Start, WIC, Iron County 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.

One great thing about living and working in the Northwoods is that we have the perfect outdoor classroom right at our fingertips. In early 2019, Leonard and a Hurley Head Start class participated in a fruit and vegetable scavenger hunt while they went on a snowshoe adventure at Wolverine Ski Trails in Ironwood, MI. A parent who participated in the field trip stated, "I was so excited to see my children learn about fruits and veggies and also learn a new way to be active outdoors."



Photo credit: Linda Slining

Leonard and Bakker love outdoor classrooms. Pictured above is Leonard leading Miss Linda's Hurley Head Start Class on a snowshoe adventure.

MERCER SCHOOL DISTRICT & MERCER HEALTH FAIR



Leonard and Bakker provided nutrition education to Mercer School District students in the classroom and at the Mercer Health Fair. Leonard was also instrumental in coordinating the Wisconsin Spud Mobile visit to Iron County.

SENIOR DINING SITES



Bakker pictured with Iron Belt Senior Dining Site participant, Carol Linn.

WHO WE SERVE



389

Direct Education Contacts



190

Male Learners

2

Hispanic



199

Female Learners

376

Not Hispanic/Latino



**Direct education contacts received 4-6 nutrition education sessions in 2019*

Support Staff/Office Manager



Rebecca Holm served as Support Staff/Office Manager in 2019.

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 and is a member of NICER.

INTERACTION WITH PUBLIC

Serving as the first point of contact with the public, Holm provided assistance with requests for information and resources 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. 99,470 meals were distributed to Iron County residents in 2019.
- Maintained community snowshoe inventory. 116 pairs were checked out by organizations and individuals in 2019.
- FE University registration and payment collection.
- 4-H program registration and documentation.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Served as Iron County contact for Extension Technology Services, Instructional Communications Services, and Distance Learning.
- Distributed monthly "Just in Time Parenting" newsletters to 22 parents of new babies born in Iron County.
- Attended the Area 1 & 2 Colleague Gathering at the North Lakeland Discovery Center in March 2019.

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.
- Designed and maintained NICER-Northern Iron County Engaged Residents website.
- Coordinated internet connections with local and 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, video projection machines, and boardroom AQUOS Smart Board.
- 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, flyers, logos.
- Maintained office documentation to demonstrate compliance with federal civil rights law.
- 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 a group of Hurley 3rd graders during the Silver Street Planting, June 2019

Area Extension Director Area 1

This Annual Report highlights some of the programming efforts of our educators and staff members. In 2019, 2 full-time and 2 part-time educators, 1 full-time office manager, and 2 summer assistants made up the relatively small office staff that gets all of this work done! How do we do it?

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

COUNTY FUNDING STATE FUNDING
VOLUNTEERS DONATIONS, GRANTS & FEES

In Extension, most educators are co-funded by the county and state. Iron County also supplies funding for a agriculture/horticulture educator and some assistance with the extensive summer youth programs. In addition, county funds help to outfit Extension with office supplies, 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.

The charts show the basics of where our funding comes from.



Mary Pardee served as the Area Extension Director for Area 1 in 2019 (Area 1 includes Iron, Ashland, Bayfield and Douglas Counties)

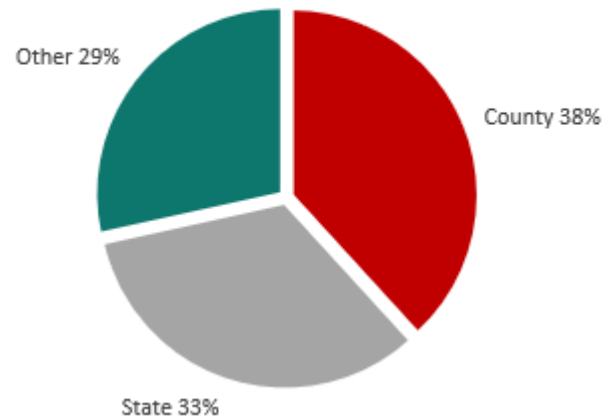
County	Co-Funded Staff Fee	\$	110,603
	Support Staff	\$	62,980
	County Educational Staff	\$	9,289
	Office & Technology	\$	9,856
	Educational Program Support	\$	14,096
	Committee Expense	\$	1,620
	TOTAL COUNTY	\$	208,444

State	Co-Funded Staff Salary/Fringe	\$	92,809
	FoodWise Positions	\$	48,305
	FoodWise Program Support	\$	1,990
	Office & Technology	\$	200
	Professional Development	\$	9,095
	Director Salary/Fringe	\$	29,487
	TOTAL STATE	\$	181,886

Other	Donations, Grants, Fees	\$	34,455
	FoodWise Partner Support	\$	200
	Volunteer Value*	\$	120,538
	TOTAL OTHER	\$	155,193

TOTAL EXTENSION BUDGET \$ 545,523

EXTENSION BUDGET 2019



VOLUNTEERS

Extension's programming success relies on volunteers! 2019 volunteer hours include:

- Community projects by Master Gardener Volunteers – 480 hours
- 4-H Clubs, Outpost Camp and Iron County Summer Youth Camp by 4-H Volunteers – 3960 hours
- Mobile Food Pantry Volunteers – 300 hours

The total of 4740 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 \$25.43 (2019 rate)

NICER-Northern Iron County Engaged Residents

In the fall of 2018, a group of community leaders primarily associated with Extension Iron County, downtown Hurley businesses and the Hurley Area Chamber of Commerce, convened to consider collaborative ways to make great things happen in the community. The initial conversations were loosely based around an economic development initiative from Cable, Wisconsin called Cable Tomorrow: Remembering our past, claiming our future. Originally named the Hurley Tomorrow Committee and then later NICER - Northern Iron County Engaged Residents, the mission of the resident-driven group is to act on the hopes and dreams of their community.

NiCER

PAY IT FORWARD ➔

Amy Nosal, Neil Klemme and Rebecca Holm took the lead on numerous NICER projects and events in 2019, organizing partners and documenting outcomes.

NORTHERN IRON COUNTY COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

NORTHERN IRON COUNTY COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
Hurley • Montreal • Saxon • Upson
Gile • Pence • Oma • Kimball • Gurney
Iron Belt • Carey

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22
6:00 - 7:30PM
Iron County Memorial Building - Hurley

Join NICER - Northern Iron County Engaged Residents for a fun, interactive & inspiring community workshop.

What are your hopes & dreams for the future of our community?

This hands-on workshop will include a brief overview of placemaking & multiple opportunities to share your thoughts so together we can put our community ideas into action. This is just the beginning!

All community members, organizations & businesses welcome. Kid activities too, so bring the whole family! Refreshments will be served.

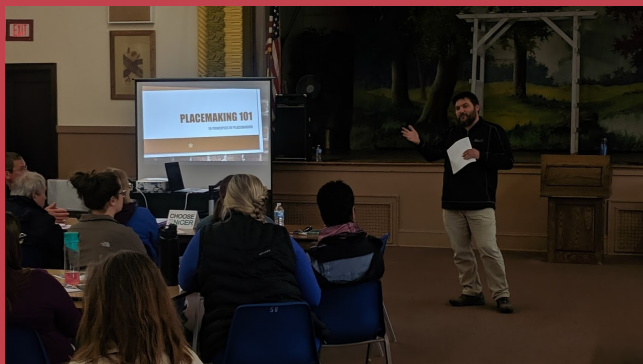
Event information, please call 715-561-2695
Visit our Facebook page: NICER - Northern Iron County Engaged Residents



Extension Iron County facilitated a multi-step process to help NICER collect and review residents' input for the hopes and dreams they have for their community. Extension Iron County Educators Amy Nosal (Community Development) and Neil Klemme (4-H Youth Development) led a community placemaking workshop in May, organized the ideas into overarching themes over the summer and reviewed the input again with the community in fall to finalize the top favorites that NICER may use when developing future projects. The data indicated that top five hopes and dreams residents have for their Northern Iron County community are:

1. More walking trails, biking trails, safer roads (in particular a bike trail that connects to Michigan's Iron Belle and beyond)
2. More community events to draw people
3. Riverwalk along the Montreal River and Highway 51
4. Improved town parks to increase use
5. New businesses

In addition to Nosal and Klemme leading the placemaking workshop and data analysis, Extension Iron County Office Manager Rebecca Holm created a number of products to document efforts and develop group communication, including a NICER Facebook page and planning group, and a NICER website.



Left: Klemme presented the concept of placemaking during the Northern Iron County Community Placemaking Workshop held in May 2019. Right: Nosal explains how the community input collected over the summer in 2019 was organized into themed categories that will help NICER determine the best fitting projects to pursue.

Initial events hosted by Extension Iron County and NICER in 2019 include a fundraiser snowshoe hike and a spooky Halloween trail walk, described here and archived in full on <https://tinyurl.com/choosetobenicer>. Both events are expected to return in 2020 with new additions building on 2019 successes.

FIRST HYGGE HIKE AT THE HISTORIC MONTREAL SKI TRAILS

Hygge [Hoo-ga] is a Scandinavian concept that describes creating well-being, connection and warmth. The goal of the Hygge Hike community snowshoe event is to raise awareness for a great cross county ski and snowshoe trail system within the City of Montreal. It also serves as a fundraiser for the Penokee Rangers, Inc., who volunteer their time to maintain these trails.

January 26, 2019 proved to be a brutally cold kick-off for the event and yet it still met the goal of generating awareness and funding. In partnership with the City of Montreal, Hurley Area Chamber of Commerce, and Iron County 4-H, Extension Iron County provided free snowshoes for use, a trail scavenger hunt activity and warm beverages and soup at the Montreal City Hall.



Hygge Hike volunteers visited with Penokee Ranger member, Duane "Red Rod" Gulan as he gave a Daily Globe reporter a ride in the groomer.



SPOOKY HALLOWEEN TRAIL WALK

The idea for the Spooky Halloween Trail Walk was suggested at NICER's September meeting after considering that the Iron County Memorial Building Committee was no longer planning to host its annual Halloween Fun Frolic. The Spooky Halloween Trail Walk was a huge success that served its purpose to provide youth and families something fun and safe to do during week of Halloween.

Extension Iron County Office Manager, Rebecca Holm, became the primary event coordinator. The free event was successfully hosted along the Hurley School Adventure Trails on Sunday, October 27, 2019. Over 90 volunteers from area groups, businesses, organizations, school sports teams, families and individuals signed on to dress up and hand out candy to the kids on the trails at 22 themed locations. Food and beverages followed in the school commons area. Extension Iron County and NICER were able to provide all of the candy for the event, thanks in part to generous donations received from businesses and individuals in the community.

HALLOWEEN FUN

Top Left: Holm and volunteer, Kristin Colassaco, greeted families as they arrived at the start of the Spooky Halloween Trail Walk.

Bottom Left: Klemme and his family manned the Creepy Doll section along the trail.

Iron County Agriculture-Extension-Education Committee

THANK YOU

The 2019 Iron County Agriculture-Extension-Education Committee was comprised of William Thomas—Chair, Opal Roberts—Vice-Chair, Karl Krall, Jamey Francis, and Brad Matson.

In addition to attending quarterly meetings, our committee members were present in other ways in 2019:

- Thomas served as an Iron County Mobile Food Pantry volunteer each month.
- Thomas volunteered at numerous NICER events and attended monthly meetings.
- Matson served as one of the instructors of the Backyard Maple Tapping Class in February 2019.
- Roberts, Thomas and Matson served as mentors to Iron County Youth Leadership Council (ICYLC) members throughout the year.



2019 Iron County Agriculture-Extension-Education Committee members pictured L-R: County Board Chair Joe Pinardi, Karl Krall, William Thomas, Jamey Francis, Opal Roberts, Brad Matson



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

We also want to recognize committee member and friend, Brad Matson, who passed away unexpectedly in August 2019. Brad's passion and supportive presence will surely be missed by everyone who knew him.

Pictured (right): Joe Pinardi, Jamey Francis, Deborah Leonard, Bill Thomas, Opal Roberts, and Iron County Youth Leadership Council (ICYLC) members, Jackie Bradley, Adeline Huybrecht, Ezra Manzer, Haley Allen-Rodriguez, and Molly Hohner at the September 2019 committee meeting. Missing from photo is ICYLC member, Kaitlyn Binz.

WE HAVE NO WORD FOR GOODBYE, WE WILL JUST SEE YOU SOMEPLACE ELSE.



Matson presenting at the Mercer Backyard Maple Tapping Class, which took place in February 2019



Matson volunteered his time and shared his love for the outdoors at Iron County Outpost Camp

Online Resources



Extension Iron County

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



Division of Extension

<https://extension.wisc.edu>



Publications

<https://learningstore.extension.wisc.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.extension.wisc.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/
ExtensionIronCounty](https://www.facebook.com/ExtensionIronCounty)



Iron County WI 4-H Instagram

www.instagram.com/4hironcounty



Twitter - Iron County 4-H Summer Program Updates

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



NICER - Northern Iron County Engaged Residents Website

<https://tinyurl.com/choosetobenicer>



IT IS NOT REALLY WORK IF YOU ARE HAVING FUN

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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.

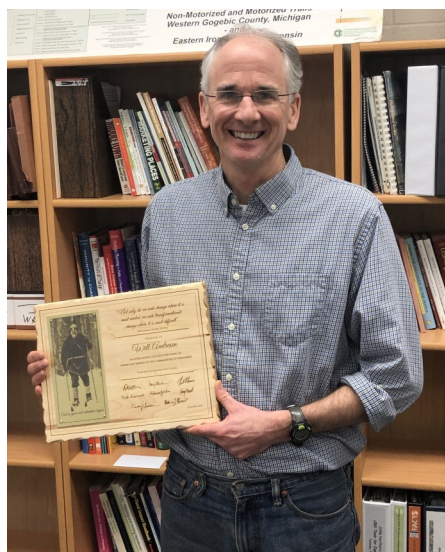
Extension Iron County is interested in reaching Iron County and area residents with information about our upcoming programs. Our intent is to provide programs that target the diverse interests and needs of area residents. We identify interests and needs for programs by exploring specific requests and 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
Area 1 (Iron Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas Counties)



In appreciation for eighteen years of exemplary service to the communities of Wisconsin, we would like to dedicate our 2019 Annual Report to the Iron County Board of Supervisors to our friend and colleague, Will Andresen.