

**January 1, 2013 -
December 31, 2013**

Iron County UW-Extension
300 Taconite Street, Suite 118
Hurley, WI 54534



2013 Annual Report to the Iron County Board

2013 Agriculture-Extension- Education Committee Members

William Thomas

Opal Roberts

Gerald Luke

Paul Mullard

Mitch Koski

County Board Chair—Joseph Pinardi

2013 Iron County University of Wisconsin- Extension Faculty and Staff

Will Andresen

Community Resource Development Educator

Andrea Newby

Family Living Educator (80% time)

Neil Klemme

4-H Youth Development Educator

Joy Schelble

WNEP Coordinator (80% time)

Summer Horticulture Assistant

Deb Leonard

WNEP Educator (50% time)

Joyce Gayan

Extension Office Manager

Amy Nosal

*Americorps*VISTA*

Dear Iron County Board of Supervisors, Community Partners and Interested Readers:

THANK YOU to the Iron County Board of Supervisors and the Agriculture-Extension-Education Committee for your continued support of the Iron County UW-Extension Office during 2013. We certainly appreciate the opportunity to serve Iron County residents and local efforts to strengthen our people, our communities and our economy.

This report highlights positive outcomes from all of our major educational programs in Family Living, 4-H Youth Development, Nutrition Education and Community Resource Development. We work to address high priority local needs through our educational programming and our collaborations with community groups, volunteers and program partners. We could not be effective in our work without the valuable contributions of our various partners.

We hope you enjoy our annual report and learning about the various ways Iron County residents have benefited from the resources of the University of Wisconsin-Extension. You will also find information about many other resources that can be accessed from the University of Wisconsin and UW-Extension.

On behalf of the entire UW-Extension staff in Iron County,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Will Andresen'.

Will Andresen, Department Head

Family Living Program



Andrea Newby serves as Iron County's Family Living Educator.

Participants expressed that they enjoyed the [infant and toddler development] session and learned a new technique to encourage brain development during their child's first year.

The Family Living Program has had a successful year in programming. Family Living programming continues to meet the needs of families across the county with programming related to childhood obesity prevention, food safety and preservation, and creating aging friendly communities. Family Living programs are based on community wide needs assessments of individuals and families, partnerships with other family serving organizations and agencies and rising issues locally and across the state.

Communities Preventing Childhood Obesity (CPCO)

This year the CPCO coalition focused on creating action steps to address access to healthy food and physical activity and also to implement those action steps. The action steps included: piloting a youth led Garden To Market farmers market, assisting with creating an ice skating rink in the city of Montreal and assisting with planning for a regional bike/walking trail.

The youth Garden To Market program started in the summer of 2013 with five youth from the Hurley School. The youth who participated in the program learned about gardening, how to run a farmers

market, local food operations, food insecurity, how to reduce childhood obesity and hunger, leadership, and also visited local farms. The youth were responsible for managing the school garden and preparing produce to be sold at the farmers market. Produce was donated to the local food pantry and offered in the Hurley school lunch program.

In addition to the Garden To Market program, the CPCO coalition assisted the Iron County Health Department in allocating money to build an ice skating rink in the city of Montreal. This need to be physically active during winter in a safe environment was identified by parents who participated in the "Active Where Parent Survey". The CPCO coalition worked with partnering agencies and the city to develop policies and procedures to sustain the outdoor skating rink.

Newby serves as a co-leader of the CPCO coalition with Joy Schelble, WNEP Coordinator, in coordinating and facilitating coalition meetings, assisting the coalition with implementing projects, securing additional funding, promoting the coalition, and identifying strategies to increase access to healthy food and physical activity throughout the county.

Family Focused Health and Wellness

Newby provided education on infant and toddler development as part of the Aspirus Grandview Great Beginnings Prenatal Class. Newby educated 12 families who are expecting a new baby this year. Participants expressed that they enjoyed the session and learned a new technique to encourage brain development during their child's first year.

In 2013 Newby and Schelble, WNEP Coordinator, partnered to offer relevant health and parenting education to parents of children enrolled in Head Start. On a monthly basis Newby and Schelble lead activities related to parenting, physical activity, nutrition and child development during the Head Start Parent meetings. Newby and Schelble have reached 21 parents through these activities. Parents have expressed their desire for more education from UW-Extension Family Living Programs after the conclusion of the sessions. According to Head Start staff, parents have implemented exercise and healthy eating into their daily lives as a result of the parent meetings lead by Newby and Schelble.

This year Newby has met requests from parents of young children in the Mercer community by



Having fun at the Mercer Parent and Toddler playgroup

providing education on child development and age appropriate play activities during Play Groups at the Mercer Community Center. Each month Newby leads meaningful play activities with parents and children that focus on a developmental skill (language, physical, emotional, cognitive). Newby has worked with different families with children ranging from infant to six years old. Parents have expressed learning more developmentally appropriate play activities that they will practice at home.

Also, Newby provided education to the community on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) especially in the southern part of the county. Newby partnered with the Mercer Public Library, Sue Stephens, a certified ACA navigator from Northwest Wisconsin Concentrated Employment Program, and Alicia Cook, a certified application counselor from Aspirus Grandview Hospital in Ironwood, MI to present informational workshops on the ACA and answer questions. The team offered two informational programs in the Mercer area and reached 12 community members.

Aging Friendly Communities Coalition

During 2013 Newby guided the Senior Health Coalition to begin focusing on other

issues facing the senior population in Iron County. The coalition transformed to the “Aging Friendly Communities Coalition”. A major success of the coalition was the Aging Friendly Communities Retreat, held in the summer of 2013. Newby and the coalition coordinated the Aging Friendly Communities Retreat to inform and educate local leaders on the impacts of an aging community. Over 50 representatives from community organizations and agencies working in Iron and Gogebic counties were invited, and over half of the invited individuals participated in the event and represented a variety of community sectors.

As a result of the retreat, community leaders and the coalition gained a deeper understanding of how an increasing senior population will impact our region and what the key characteristics of an “aging-friendly” community or “livable community for all” include. Participants completed a survey which evaluated Iron County on how “aging-friendly” it is. Approximately 40 surveys were collected and revealed that transportation and lifelong learning were priority areas that aging-readiness planning activities should be focused on.

The Aging Friendly Communities Coalition will focus on two main goals:

providing the aging community with opportunities for lifelong learning, social inclusion and community connectedness; and assisting the Iron County Transportation committee in collecting data to meet the transportation needs of the county.

Food Preservation and Food Safety

In 2013 Newby addressed the increasing interest and need for education on food safety and food preservation. Many families and individuals are growing their own gardens and processing their own foods as a means to save money and increase consumption of healthy foods.

In response to this need Newby partnered with MSU-Extension Educator, Lucia Patritto, to provide food preservation and food safety education in a variety of ways. Newby offered an intensive, hands-on food preservation course educating 17 individuals about proper food preservation techniques. In addition, Iron County UW-Extension Family Living hosted two series of Safe and Healthy: Food Safety and Preservation Lunch and Learn webinars lead by UW-Extension state specialist Barb Ingham. Over 30 individuals have participated in the lunch and learns and have reported they value the information and expertise provided.



Newby and Patritto with the 2013 food preservation class

As a result of the [Aging Friendly Communities] retreat, community leaders and the coalition gained a deeper understanding of how an increasing senior population will impact our region and what the key characteristics of an “aging-friendly” community or “livable community for all” include.



Food preservation resources and results

Community Resource Development Program



Will Andresen serves as Community Resource Development Educator and Department Head.

“[The Mercer library expansion] is going to allow us to do so much more programming than we used to. I see the library as more about the place as the service – people coming here and being able to sit and relax and gather here – and I think our new space will let us do that.”

—Teresa Schmidt
Mercer Library Director

Will Andresen, Community Resource Development Agent, provides educational programming to communities and organizations throughout the county. According to Andresen “2013 was a great year; we finished off some projects – like the Mercer Public Library expansion, continued to move forward with other projects – like the Mercer regional bike trail and the Hurley trailhead project, and introduced some new efforts – like the Iron County Citizens’ Forum and the Gogebic Range Broadband Committee.”

Mercer Public Library

Andresen routinely assists local organizations to identify needs and responses to these needs, often through grant writing education and assistance. In 2013, the Mercer Public Library held an open house to celebrate its expansion project, doubling its space by adding a large room for books, a colorful children’s room and a new multipurpose room. Andresen assisted the library staff and library expansion committee obtain a \$141,000 Community Development Block Grant to help fund the expansion project. Andresen provided grant research and grant writing assistance to this

effort. According to library director Teresa Schmidt said that the expansion “is going to allow us to do so much more programming than we used to. I see the library as more about the place as the service – people coming here and being able to sit and relax and gather here – and I think our new space will let us do that.”

Mercer Regional Bike Trail

This year a major step forward was taken with the successful acquisition of \$441,876 from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to fund the Mercer Regional Bike Trail. Along with a previous \$679,214 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, this funding will create a five mile bicycle trail from downtown Mercer to the town line, eventually connecting with the popular Boulder Junction bike trail system. “This project has been a long time coming,” says Andresen, “starting with a vision from the Mercer Chamber of Commerce’s Community Development Committee, regional cooperation with our neighboring communities and lots of hard work by the Mercer Town Board and many others.” The trail will support economic development and tourism

while also providing safe, healthy and attractive places for local residents to enjoy.

Hurley Trailhead Project

Andresen worked with the newly formed Montreal Riverside Trail Committee, the Hurley School Safe Routes to School Committee and the City of Hurley to develop a vision for a community-wide trail system connecting downtown Hurley, the Iron County Farmers Market and the Hurley K-12 School. The first phase of this project is the proposed trail head between Highway 51 and the train trestle across the Montreal River just north of the downtown. This will support tourism in the community by encouraging visitors to stop and enjoy our nature-based outdoor recreation and will ultimately connect with the school to provide safe transportation alternatives for local school children. Sophomore students from the Hurley School were involved in designing this trailhead and believe the project is good for the area. According to students “I think it will create a positive space for citizens and visitors to our area,” it will bring “more tourism and attractions toward Iron County’s natural aspects” and it would “provide more recreational opportunities for people of all ages.”



Mercer Public Library open house

Iron County Citizens' Forum

Andresen collaborated with the newly formed Iron County Citizens' Forum to facilitate several public educational offerings throughout the year, including:

- 1) County forest lands
 - 2) zoning issues related to mining
 - 3) mining impact studies
 - 4) surface water considerations
 - 5) ground water considerations
 - 6) geology of iron mining
- Speakers included local officials, DNR and USGS representatives, regional planners and academics

Evaluations of these programs found that 96% or respondents rated "new information" as good (26%) or excellent (70%) while 86% rated "topic usefulness" as good (34%) or excellent (52%).

Gogebic Range Broadband Committee

As part of the on-going Gogebic Range Next Generation Initiative to attract and retain young people in the community, Andresen conducted a survey of local businesses, school officials, local government leaders and residents to better

understand satisfaction levels with internet services. Over 300 people responded to this survey, with 97% stating that internet access was "critical" (61%) or "very important" (36%) to them. As a result of this demand, Andresen initiated the creation of the Gogebic Range Broadband Committee to explore options to improve internet connections in the community. Improving the area's internet access is recognized as a very important element to attracting and retaining business as well as young people and retirees to the community.



Riverside Trail Committee

"I think it will create a positive space for citizens and visitors to our area."

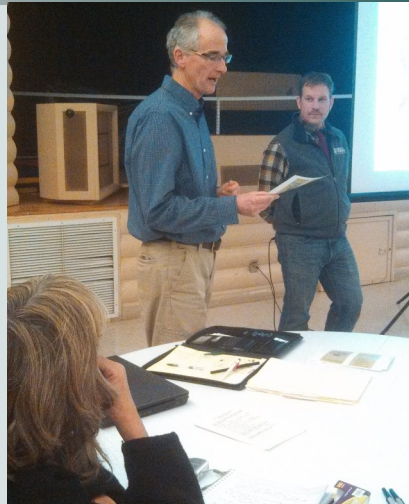
It will bring "more tourism and attractions toward Iron County's natural aspects."

It would "provide more recreational opportunities for people of all ages."

—Quotes from Hurley sophomore students involved in designing the Hurley Trailhead



Northern Highlands Regional Trail System Committee meeting



Andresen facilitating Iron County Citizens' Forum

4-H Youth Development Program



Neil Klemme serves as Iron County's 4-H and Youth Development Educator.

Iron County Summer Youth Camp

Camp planning began in November of 2012 with the creation of the Iron County Summer Youth Camp Planning Team. The team met monthly and discussed what was needed for camp counselor training, new ideas for the camp program, what worked well and what needed tweaking. The input of the youth and adult volunteers was invaluable to Klemme as it is always important to get varying perspectives. He was able to get input from counselors as well as parents of the campers to better understand how the summer camp program impacted all participants.

Trainings were created to help counselors better understand how to effectively manage common camp situations like leading activities, managing a group of young campers, how to help a camper through home sickness, how to discipline a camper, and how to handle a problem camper. The impact of these trainings were obvious to Klemme during the camp program. "The number of homesick campers this year went from 5 kids sent home in 2012, to only one this year. It was exciting to see something that was taught in training put into practice at camp, and used effectively by a



All smiles at 2013 Iron County Summer Youth Camp



Campers entertaining the crowd at parents night



Let's Eat

counselor". Klemme added "Working through difficult situations is a skill that is vital to a young person's success, and serving as a camp counselor provides these teens a safe place to practice this and many other skills." Another new addition to the camp program this year was an archery session. Along with swimming, arts and crafts,

nature, and recreation, the camp offered an archery session, allowing the campers to learn a new skill or continue to master one that they have some experience with. "Archery has been a part of many of the camp programs I have been involved in. It was a great fit for our camp and was a huge success," Klemme added.

Over the years one of the popular activities at camp has been the early morning swim called Polar Bears. Before breakfast, campers made their way to the waterfront area and took a dip in the lake to wake themselves up and kick off their day. This year yoga and an early morning run were added. In the evening, three other programs were added. They included astronomy, night rec, and night hikes. After participating in one of these sessions, campers earned a charm that could be added to their nametag lanyard. This was an incentive for the campers to get involved in more camp fun as well as increase the physical activity camp offers. An additional charm was awarded for campers who were spotted doing something above and beyond. This was a "thumbs up" charm and could be awarded by counselors who witnessed a camper helping others, picking up trash, including others in activities or just being awesome.

"I was impressed with the way the counselors used the skills we gave them in Camp Counselor Training at camp. Camp is a learning experience for everyone who participates: campers, counselors, volunteers, and camp directors."

—Neil Klemme



Kids learned to shoot Archery in 2013, adding a new element to the Strong Camp Program.



Youth Connected to Community Change

The Iron County Youth Council was developed by Klemme to create an opportunity for young people to connect to the communities they have grown up in and develop a "sense of place". To clarify—people develop a "sense of place" through experience and knowledge of a particular area. A sense of place emerges through knowledge of the history, geography and geology of an area, its flora and fauna, the legends of a place, and a growing sense of the land and its history after living there for a time.

In the spring of 2013 Klemme received a North Central Region Innovative



Hurley students and Extension staff

Programming Grant. This allowed him to begin planning the first year of the Iron County Youth Council, a group of county youth that would work on multiple projects that specifically target creating a sense of place for the youth in Iron County. Klemme, Amy Nosal, Iron County AmerCorps VISTA, and members of the Youth Council conducted a First Impression survey of the Town of Amery, in Polk County. Youth were prepared by Will Andresen and Klemme to properly fill out the survey and they discussed with them how to identify community assets as well as areas in a community that might not be as strong.

A few months after the trip three of our youth returned to Polk County to report

our findings on their overall impressions of Amery as first time visitors, focusing on the town's downtown, residential areas, and businesses. The city of Amery gathered economic development officials, city leaders, and local residents to listen to what our youth had to say. From their feedback, the town leaders of Amery created an action plan to address the needs of their community.

Through their participation in this program, the Youth Council members were able to better assess the needs of communities. The long term objective of this program is to retain the counties' young people, and create a community that they might want to live in after high school or college.



Nicole Hissa served as the Iron County Summer Youth Assistant.

"People develop a 'sense of place' through experience and knowledge of a particular area. A sense of place emerges through knowledge of the history, geography and geology of an area, its flora and fauna, the legends of a place, and a growing sense of the land and its history after living there for a time."

—Neil Klemme

Iron County 4-H Youth Sit Face to Face with Fair Judges

One of the greatest learning opportunities for youth involved in the 4-H program is the experience they gain from talking with a judge at their county fair. In 2013 Klemme implemented a change to the way this was done in Iron County. At the

2013 Iron County Fair, youth sat at a table with judges to receive feedback about the projects they made during the year. This allowed the 4-Hers the chance to ask questions and get instant feedback from the judges. This is also a great way for the 4-H

members to practice their communication skills. By sitting with the judge and answering and asking questions, these participants became more comfortable with their own interview skills, a skill that they will need throughout their lives.



Summer VISTAs Caitlin Ahlberg (left) and Adrienne Fedora (right)

Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (SNAP-ED)



Joy Schelble serves as Iron County's Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program Coordinator.

"Healthy food is the best food."

"I never tried a blood orange in my whole life."

"I'm going to be healthy."

"I always ask my mom and dad for a healthy snack from the five food groups."

—2nd grade students at Mercer K-12



Volunteers and staff at the Mobile Food Pantry

The Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program has provided another year of meaningful education to the citizens of Iron County. Joy Schelble serves as Coordinator and Educator, at an 80% appointment. Deb Leonard serves as an Educator at a 50% appointment. Together they manage the educational planning, facilitation, evaluation, and reporting responsibilities of the program.

WNEP has had many successes and has expanded services in 2013. WNEP has provided meaningful education for: pre k-7th grade students in both the Mercer and Hurley public schools, Hurley summer STARS students, Head Start parents, Human Services mentor program participants, WIC clients, senior citizens attending Iron County dining sites, and clients of the Mobile Food Pantry. WNEP covered a vast array of nutrition and physical activity topics including: the importance of eating fruits and vegetables accompanied by opportunities to sample and grow these foods, label reading, and the importance of a diet based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the MyPlate visual tool. WNEP education uses age appropriate experiential

teaching techniques to engage people in learning and to make learning fun. Students gain insight and practical skills to contribute to their own health and well-being. Take home information is provided to accompany WNEP lessons as well as newsletters on the back of the school lunch menus and quarterly newsletters for Head Start parents and senior citizens. During the fiscal year, WNEP had 3,708 direct teaching contacts with citizens of Iron County and 5,720 indirect educational contacts in the county via the newsletters. All of the WNEP educational contacts, both indirect and direct were greater this year than the last.

WNEP facilitated many learning opportunities for parents in the region. WNEP Educators reached 297 parent learners in addition to the newsletter (indirect teaching) that was referenced above. WNEP educator, Leonard, provided relevant education to senior citizens along with food demonstrations. Leonard facilitated a food security initiative by delivering produce from the Hurley community garden to senior citizens at the dining site. This effort was very well received and WNEP will continue this service as part of our education during the

summer of 2014.

Schelble also co-leads the Communities Preventing Childhood Obesity coalition (CPCO) with Family Living Educator Andrea Newby. This coalition addresses the barriers to physical activity and access to healthy food. Schelble provided education to youth in which youth gained skills in gardening, nutrition, leadership, business, and had a better understanding of hunger in the community as part of the CPCO project. This project was a huge success and now serves as a model of exemplary cross programmatic work for other UWEX county offices.

Iron County WNEP has also been recognized as an innovator in school and community garden initiatives. WNEP partnered with many community agencies, volunteers, and municipal leadership to facilitate programming in outdoor garden classrooms at both the Hurley and Mercer schools. WNEP provided weekly programming to summer STARS students at the Hurley School and worked with Hurley School staff and students to plant garlic at the beginning of the school year to sell at the farmers market in the

summer. This is the second year of garlic planting. This event also functions as a teacher training opportunity to help staff become more comfortable utilizing these outdoor classroom spaces. In the coming year, WNEP is working with the Iron County Health Department to help our schools integrate the gardens into the school wellness policies, assuring sustainability and continued use and development of the gardens. WNEP is also playing a leadership role in helping both school food service programs utilize the school gardens to improve the nutritional quality of school lunch and breakfast.

For example in September and October 2013, Hurley school served lettuce, spinach, cucumbers, zucchini, carrots, garlic, and kale from the garden in their school lunch and Mercer middle school students harvested vegetables and prepared salsa that was served in their school lunch.

Another exciting WNEP expansion of services is a new program called the Mobile Food Pantry, a drive-through pantry serving high quality nutritious food to hundreds of Iron County citizens. This program is a new partnership with the Second Harvest Food Bank,

Human Services, all UWEX program areas, and many dedicated volunteers including members of our Ag and Extension Committee. The latest data expressed that the Mobile Pantry has served 5% of Iron County citizens with this program. The feedback is positive from both the partners and the recipients.

WNEP will continue to proudly serve the citizens of Iron County and help to create a healthier future for all. Thank you for your support.



Deb Leonard is the half-time Educator with the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program in Iron County.

“I wish we still had nutrition classes in 11th grade.”

—11th grade student at Hurley K-12



WNEP on the move: (clockwise from top left) Hurley Parent-Teacher Conferences, Lupine Junefest, Hurley Health Fair, Saxon Senior Dining



Leonard with youth at the Hurley School garden

Horticulture Program



Schelble serves as Iron County Horticulture Assistant.

The community flower projects were admired and included in a report created by visitors who conducted a First Impressions survey of Hurley.

The Iron County Horticulture program provided education, training, and facilitated beautification and food production programming across the county. Joy Schelble, UWEX Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program Coordinator and Horticulture Assistant, was hired at a minimal appointment to provide agriculture and home gardening expertise to citizens of Iron County.

Again, Schelble partnered with Master Gardener volunteers, the Hurley School, municipal government, business owners, parent and other volunteers, and UWEX staff to successfully fill the Silver Street planter barrels with beautiful flowers which bloomed the whole summer long. Because of generous donations of time and resources, area residents and visitors were able to enjoy the beautification of

downtown Hurley. Master Gardener volunteers were also involved in planting the flower beds at the Iron County courthouse, the Hurley School, and other community locations such as the ball field and the library. The community flower projects were admired and included in a report created by visitors who conducted a First Impressions survey of Hurley.

The Horticulture Assistant facilitated workshops on composting, gardening, food preservation and mushroom cultivation in partnership with the regional Master Gardeners. Schelble also provided education to the general public throughout the growing season and well into the winter. Schelble is currently partnering with the City of Hurley and the Iron County Conservation Department to facilitate an Urban Tree planting project

for the spring of 2014. This project aligns with the biking trail initiative and provides yet another opportunity for youth to be involved in community growth. Schelble provided technical training to the Bad River community, as well, by facilitating a tree pruning class at their community farm.

Because Iron County does not have an UWEX Agricultural agent, Schelble was able to fill in this gap by assisting gardeners and farmers with technical information, facilitating soil testing, and providing publications and resources to the public in a timely and professional manner. Schelble's dual role allowed for a more comprehensive educational program at the regional garden sites, as well. The success of this service is made possible by the generous support of Joyce Gayan, UWEX Office Manager, as well as the technical expertise shared by several dedicated Master Gardeners in the region.

Having a Horticulture Assistant on staff adds value to the UWEX services provided to the citizens of Iron County and supports programming that aligns with other food initiatives in the region.



Preparing for Garden to Market at the Hurley School Garden



Horticulture display at Lupine Junefest in Mercer

Iron County UW-Extension Support

Joyce Gayan provided support to Iron County UW-Extension educators in Community Resource Development, Family Living, and 4-H Youth Development, as well as WNEP, Horticulture, and the Summer Youth Assistant.

Gayan managed daily office operations:

Interaction with the Public

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

- Research of university based information and response or referral to client
- Coordinating submission of soil samples, plant samples, and insect identification samples to university laboratories
- Assisting with Mobile Food Pantry registrations and documentation

Education/Outreach and Professional Development

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

and Distance Learning

- Served on planning committee for the North Central Region Support Staff Inservice

Financial Operations

- Maintained financial records and documentation for UW-Extension and 4-H and Youth Club budgets
- Maintained office accounting including spreadsheets, vouchers, invoices, credit card charges, and accounting and record keeping for grant funded programs
- Served as liaison to Iron County Auditors
- Processed all receipt collections, deposits, invoices and bill paying

Office Technology

- Maintained computer stations for use by office personnel
- Served as liaison for office to local computer repair services and to UW-Extension Technology Services
- Coordinated and provided technical assistance for software upgrades and facilitated office training for new software
- Served as office website 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, submitting reports for Wisconsin and Federal review

Office Operations

- Maintained and ordered proper level of supplies and resources as needed for office operations and equipment
- Managed incoming and outgoing mail and shipments
- Secured annual postage allocations to Iron County from the Office of Budget and Fiscal Operations, UW-Extension and maintained postage accounts and equipment records and reports
- Served as designer and coordinator of the Iron County UW-Extension Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors



Joyce Gayan serves as Office Manager for the Iron County UW-Extension office.

“Ongoing advances in technology have enabled us to do more and more promotion of our programs via the internet use of our web site and facebook pages.”

—Joyce Gayan



Gayan's mobile office at a sub-zero Mobile Food Pantry in December

Multidisciplinary Programs: Working Together to Engage

Multidisciplinary (adjective):

Combining several usually separate branches of learning or fields of expertise.

"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."

—Henry Ford



Amy Nosal serves as Iron County UW-Extension's AmeriCorps VISTA.

As the previous reports indicate, Iron County's UW-Extension Educators are "leading from the North." They are noteworthy examples of how UW-Extension is effectively serving Wisconsin counties with refreshing and innovative programs. In addition to their individual successes, the Iron County UW-Extension Educators work together towards the common goal of engaging young people in creating a healthy community. This groundbreaking team approach to programming is enhancing Iron County's ability to cultivate community, economic, and youth development *simultaneously*. This past year Iron County UW-Extension welcomed AmeriCorps VISTA Amy Nosal to the team, and her primary objective is to coordinate the multidisciplinary programs. The two greatest examples from 2013 are the Garden to Market program and Hurley Trestle Trailhead Design Project.

Thank you for your support!



Selling garlic at the Iron County's farmers' market



Checking out the "solar powered tractors" at Great Oaks Farm



Late season harvests were used in the Hurley School kitchen

Garden to Market

The Garden to Market program began as a partnership between Neil Klemme (4-H Youth Development) and Joy Schelble (WNEP and Horticulture). The goal of Garden to Market is to engage middle school-aged youth in local food activities and to explore with them the possibility of agricultural careers. All through August Klemme, Schelble, and Nosal met with youth weekly in the Hurley K-12 School garden to harvest produce to sell at Iron County farmers' market. Youth connected to fresh, local food and also met neighbors who provide similar products for the community. The other market vendors generously mentored the youth, offering advice on how to best sell produce and often sharing their harvests as snacks. The youth raised over \$150 and will use those funds to expand their garden and farmers' market efforts this summer. All of the produce harvested from the school garden after the market closed for the season was used in the Hurley School kitchen.

To better understand the possibility of agricultural careers, the Garden to Market program involved field trips to two area farms:



The Garden to Market logo was created by participating youth.

Youth in Creating a Healthy Community

Great Oaks Farms in Mason, and Elsewhere Farms in Herbster. During these trips youth interacted directly with local farmers and saw firsthand what a farmer's life entails. Meals during the trips came from local sources, such as Penoque Mountain Deli and Sausage Company in Mellen and Coco's Artesian Bakery and Good Eats in Washburn.

The Garden to Market program was especially meaningful because of the youth themselves. They were identified by Iron County Human Services as having great promise but also facing great challenges. Klemme and Schelble intended to work specifically with this particular group because of their potential to rise above personal struggle and become active citizens concerned about the wellbeing of the community. Youth in such situations tend to stay in the places they are raised, and Iron County UW-Extension is ensuring that they have opportunities to become involved in their community as budding local leaders.

"The kids took pride in providing a service to their community."

—Paula Vernetti
Iron County Human Services

Hurley Trestle Trailhead Design Project

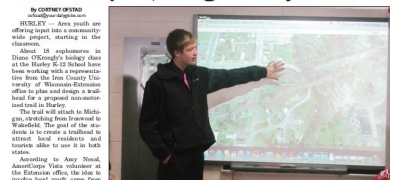
Non-motorized trailhead development is occurring in many places in Iron County and surrounding areas. By offering more active outdoor activities these trails will promote a stronger economy in Iron County. Supported by Klemme, Nosal facilitated the Hurley Trestle Trailhead Design Project throughout the fall of 2013 by partnering with a Hurley School teacher and engaging her 10th grade science students in creating designs for an upcoming trailhead in Hurley. The trailhead will be located at the corner of Maple Street and Highway 51, a block north of Silver Street near the Montreal River. As the project was community-orientated, Nosal advised the students conduct a survey to collect public input about the future trailhead. With the survey data the students constructed their design layouts using Google Earth. At the conclusion of the project students presented their designs to the Hurley School District superintendent and the local newspaper, which featured the project on its front page. Nosal and Will Andresen (Community Development) presented the positive findings from the survey before the Hurley City Council, who unanimously approved the project and the trailhead's development.

By serving their communities the students realized their potential as positive agents of change in their community. According to a post-project survey 100% felt that they had made a positive contribution to their community as a result of the project.

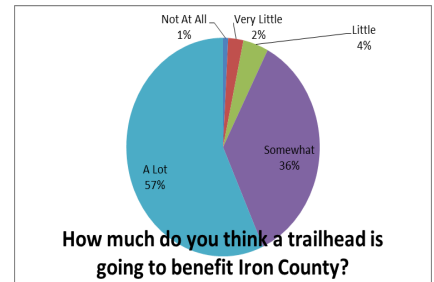


Students visited the trailhead site to better consider design elements.

Students plan, design Hurley trailhead



Design presentations were featured in the Daily Globe.



Survey results demonstrated overwhelming public support.

Trestle Trailhead Design Project

What do you think it should look like?



A trailhead design created by a participating 10th grade student.



Business counseling is available through the Small Business Development Center out of UW-Superior. The SBDC Business AnswerLine at 1-800-940-7232 is another service that helps new entrepreneurs with information and guidance needed to begin business start-up research.

Try these internet resources for additional information about UW-Extension

University of Wisconsin-Extension	http://www.uwex.edu/
Cooperative Extension Home Page	http://www.uwex.edu/ces/
Publications	http://learningstore.uwex.edu/
Independent Study	http://learn.wisconsin.edu/il/
4-H and Youth Development	http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/
Local Government Center	http://www.uwex.edu/lgc/
Infosource	http://infosource.uwex.edu/
Horticulture Resources	http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/
Continuing Education	http://continuingstudies.wisc.edu/
Media Collection	http://www.uwex.edu/ces/media/
WISLINE Web	http://www.uwex.edu/ics/wlw/index.html/
Center for Community Econ. Dev.	http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cced/
Iron County	http://www.co.iron.wi.gov/
Iron County UW-Extension	http://iron.uwex.edu/

Iron County Agriculture-Extension-Education Committee



2013 Agriculture-Extension-Education Committee members

Front—Gerald Luke, Opal Roberts

Back—Mitch Koski, Paul Mullard, William Thomas



Will Andresen presents Opal Roberts with an award, honoring her for five years of service as a member of the Ag-Extension-Education Committee.



Cooperative Extension - University of Wisconsin-Extension
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Hurley, Wisconsin 54534
715 561-2695
715 561-2704 (fax)
888-561-2695 (Toll free from Mercer and Springstead)

Dear Iron County Residents, Agencies and Local Officials,

Iron County University of Wisconsin-Extension is committed to providing equal access to educational opportunities for all Iron County residents. The University of Wisconsin 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 Iron County UW-Extension 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 Iron County UW-Extension Office.

Iron County University of Wisconsin-Extension 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 need 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 Iron County University of Wisconsin-Extension Programs. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns you have about the above information.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Will Andresen".

Will Andresen, Department Head
Iron County University of Wisconsin-Extension

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helps the people
of
Wisconsin

apply University research,
knowledge and resources
to meet their
educational needs
wherever they
live and work.



Iron County UWEX Staff at Iron County Summer Youth Camp

*L-R Back: Will Andresen, Joy Schelble, Caitlin Ahlberg, Neil Klemme, Amy Nosal
Front: Adrienne Fedora, Deb Leonard, Shruthi Murali, Joyce Gayan, Andrea Newby, Samantha DeCarlo*



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Monday through Friday
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