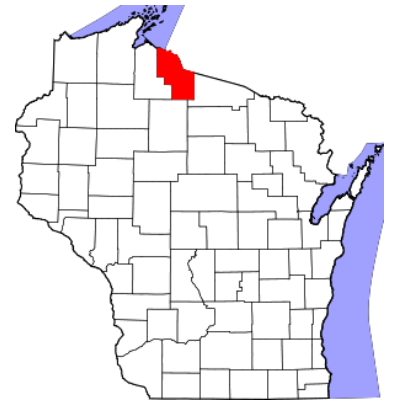


2022



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

*We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin,
and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.*



Photo credit: Explore Northern Iron County Backyard Adventure Month participant, Kristiana Karshna (Corrigan's Lookout)



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
IRON COUNTY

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Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
IRON COUNTY



WELCOME LETTER

January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

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

In this 2022 Annual Report, you'll find that at the UW-Madison Division of Extension Iron County, our resourceful and resilient educators and staff are focused on helping the community members of Iron County to meet community challenges, protect natural resources, strengthen families, and support young people. Despite challenges, we had another year of great Extension programming in Iron County and all of Wisconsin! We worked to continue connecting local people with the knowledge and research of the University of Wisconsin. We utilized our local, regional, and statewide networks to support communities in responding to emerging issues and we brought new ideas and great resources to Iron County.

In these pages, we highlight outcomes from our major educational programs in 4-H Youth Development, Nutrition Education, Horticulture/Agriculture, and Community Development. 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 throughout 2022. 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)

2022 Agriculture-Extension-Education Committee Members

William Thomas
Opal Roberts
Karl Krall
Tanner Hiller
Anne McComas
Joseph Pinardi - *County Board Chair*

**Jamey Francis, Larry Youngs, and Ken Saari served though January-April 2022. Anne McComas served April 2022-November 2022.*

2022 Administration and Staff

Mary Pardee
Area Extension Director, Area 1

Neil Klemme
4-H Youth Development Educator

Amy Nosal
Community Development Educator

Deborah Leonard
FoodWise Nutrition Educator

Stephanie Bakker
FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator

Darrin Kimbler
Agriculture/Horticulture Educator

Rebecca Holm
Support Staff/Office Manager

Jackie Bradley
Emaleah Niemi
Summer Assistants

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

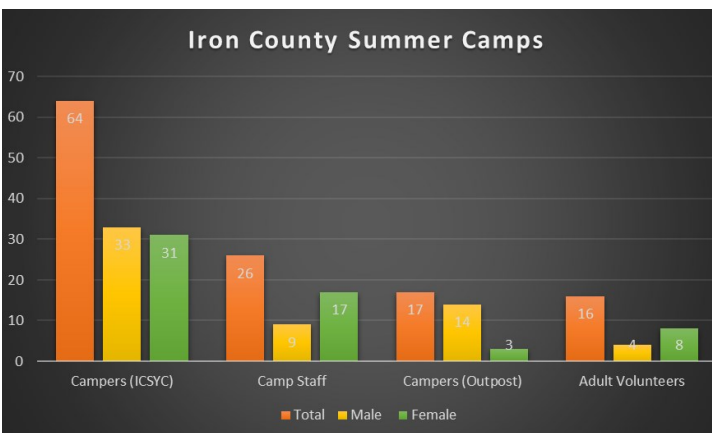


Neil Klemme (middle) served as 4-H Youth Development Educator in 2022. Emmie Niemi (left) and Jackie Bradley (right) served as summer assistants in 2022.

IRON COUNTY SUMMER YOUTH CAMP

Extension Iron County hosted its 21st year of Iron County Summer Youth Camp in 2022. Youth Camp is an opportunity for 3-5 graders to develop their social skills, find a sense of belonging and independence and work on mastery of new skills with friends in their cabin. The camp is hosted at Trails End Youth Camp in Bruce, Wisconsin, a county owned facility that allows campers a fun and exciting 4-day and 3-night stay.

Camp is made possible thanks to the efforts of the staff and the support of the community. "If I was to name a program where I see youth development happen for each participant, I would have to say it is the Iron County Summer Youth Camp program," Klemme shared.



IRON COUNTY OUTPOST CAMP

In 2022, Iron County Outpost Camp ran for its 8th year with 17 youth attending. Outpost Camp allows middle schoolers to spend a week away from home where they get to adventure, work together, and problem solve, while enjoying the natural assets of Iron County. During the 4-day, 3-night camp, the youth pitch their own tents, cook their own food, and work on tasks to strengthen their ability to work with others.

The campers participated in team-building exercises that required them to work together to find a solution to the problem presented. Summer Assistant, Jackie Bradley, stated, "The Electric Triangle brings middle schoolers together more than any other activity that I have seen."

Throughout Outpost Camp, youth participated in activities that cultivate independence, critical thinking skills, and environmental stewardship, but are given the freedom to choose activities and develop autonomy.



Campers participated in a 10-mile canoe trip, a confidence-building activity designed to challenge the campers to accomplish something they have never done before.

Camp culminated with a stop in Mercer to enjoy some pizza together. Summer Assistant, Emaleah Niemi, stated, "It was amazing to see how close all of the campers had gotten throughout the week. Those who did not speak on the first day were now some of the most outgoing and everyone seemed to take something away from camp."

Overall, Outpost Camp is a great opportunity for youth to go out and enjoy nature while building up their own skills.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

DAY CAMPS ADD VARIETY TO SUMMER PROGRAMMING

BABYSITTER TRAINING

14 youth participants learned new topics that would prepare them for their roles as babysitter and caregiver, including:

- Child development, safety, and discipline
- CPR and first aid
- True Colors Training
- How to properly change a diaper
- Handling the business matters that come with babysitting
- Making healthy snack choices

Participants were sent home with a babysitting kit and first aid kit. They also received certificates of completion, business cards, and their CPR certification.

STEM CAMP

15 youth participants learned about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) during this 4-day camp experience.

Experiments included:

- Dissolving marker ink using a variety of methods
- How to make crystals from borax and hot water
- Building and programming robots
- Balloon rocket racing
- Egg drop experiment

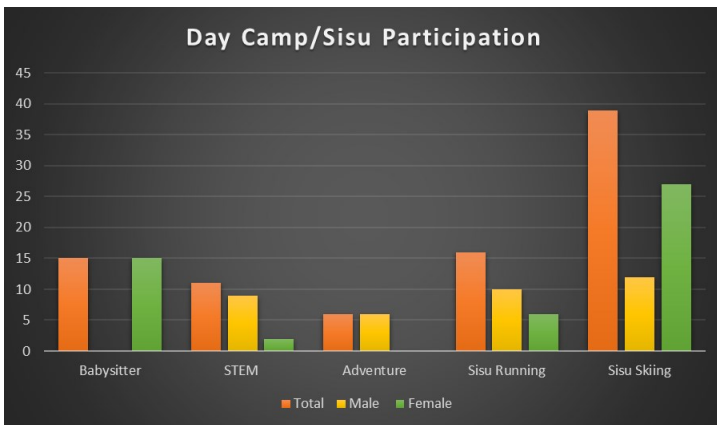
ADVENTURE/TRAILBLAZERS

6 youth participants biked anywhere from 6 to 14 miles throughout parts of Iron and Gogebic Counties while participating in TrailBlazers.

Destinations included:

- Weber Lake
- Corrigan’s Lookout
- Saxon Harbor
- WinMan Trails

Participants were able to explore the destinations and enjoy lunch. TrailBlazers allows kids to spend a week exploring the beautiful environment that is local to them, while also working on improving their ethic for hard work and stamina.



SISU ENDURANCE TEAM

In 2022, SISU Endurance Team included both a ski program throughout the winter and a running program in the summer months. Highlights include:

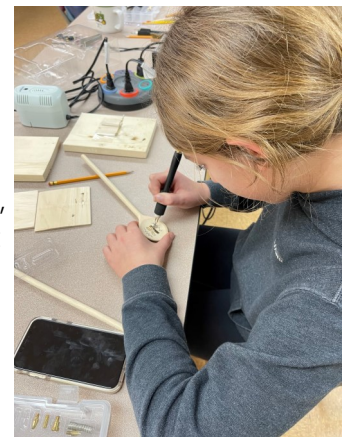
- 30 SET Ski Club members checked out ski equipment to use during the program and the whole winter.
- The SET Ski Club started a race team. 8 out of 39 SET members participated.
- Running Club members participated in a raffle to win two pairs of running shoes.

4-H PROGRAM DEVELOPS PROJECT MEETING SCHEDULE

One of Klemme’s goals in 2022 was to develop a project meeting schedule to allow youth to further explore their interests or “Sparks.”

Throughout the year, he was able to recruit and train a new group of 4-H leaders that could develop programming around some of the 4-H projects that members are interested in.

New project areas for youth to explore included woodworking, foods and nutrition, photography, horse and pony, Cloverbuds, woodburning, and sewing. These project meetings were held monthly and gave members an opportunity to develop skills throughout the year.



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

IRON COUNTY YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Iron County Youth Leadership Council provides youth in grades 9-12 the opportunity to actively engage in the decision making that happens in local county government, as well as through involvement in local nonprofit boards. Youth serve on the County Board of Supervisors and committees of various county departments. Over the years, local nonprofits have added these youth to their boards and have partnered with Klemme to train and prepare them for their roles. Northern Iron County Engaged Residents (NICER), has involved youth since the adoption of their bylaws and in 2022, youth board members took the lead on organizing an Easter Fun Frolic for families in the area.

2022 also saw the Iron County Youth Leadership Council opportunities grow. The Gogebic Range Health Foundation decided to include two seats on their board, filled by a youth member of Iron County and a youth member from Gogebic County. This program continues to grow.

Impact of Superior Days on Youth in Iron County



100% of youth who had participated in Superior Days reported that they had a role to play in the democratic process.

"I learned that it is easier to have influence in our government than I thought before. I was just a high school student, but I was able to go talk about issues concerning my area."

-SUPERIOR DAYS PARTICIPANT

Opportunities which engage youth in civic governance develop well-informed citizens who are better able and more inclined to be actively involved in civic life into adulthood. Community youth development programming offers options for hands-on engagement in the political process in a setting that allows for safely sharing differing views and learning from other's perspectives. Positive Youth Development programming that targets civic skill development such as Superior Days, provides youth the opportunity to develop the technical, social, emotional, and cognitive skills needed to succeed as adults. PYD programming must also provide authentic leadership opportunities. Superior Days is a PYD program that addresses each of these aspects.

72% | Respondents indicated "it is important to engage when something in my community needs changing."

"You can do a lot more than just vote. You can lobby. You can protest. There are a lot of ways you can participate besides just voting."

82% | Participants reported that they wanted to have as much say as possible in decisions that impact their communities.

"In the future if I have a problem instead of sitting around complaining about it, I'll write a letter or contact a representative and do something about it. I know there is more I can do to make something happen."

82% | Participants agreed or strongly agreed "I have opportunities to communicate with adults in the community who value my opinion."

"The adults act (both) as a leader and a teacher and youth learn from this. I also felt like the adults valued the perspective of youth delegates."



By widening youth networks to include adults with political influence and who model civic engagement, young people shape their civic identities and learn to maneuver in "adult" spaces. Youth agreed that "adults brought knowledge of the community, the workforce, and the real world, and they strongly perceived adults as positive resources with real experiences and responsibilities". This illustrates the value youth see in youth-adult relationships in programs that support civic engagement.

To view the full document visit [Civic Engagement and Advocacy in Rural Wisconsin: Youth Development Through Legislative Forums](#) | Liphart | [Journal of Youth Development](#) (pitt.edu)

AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE



Darrin Kimbler served as Agriculture/Horticulture Educator in 2022. Kimbler, right, provided technical assistance and resources to students and visitors during the Hurley School District's Tappin & Sappin event in April, 2022.

The Iron County Agriculture/Horticulture program provided educational and technical programming throughout Iron County in 2022. Darrin Kimbler is the 50% part-time Agriculture/Horticulture Educator.

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Kimbler and UW-Madison Extension Iron County Master Gardener Volunteers

provided 157 hours of community education and area beautification in our communities. The Iron County Horticulture Program greatly increased its reach in 2022 by training nine new Master Gardener Volunteer candidates who participated in 40 hours of education on a wide range of horticultural topics.

The Master Gardener activities include:

- Silver Street planters in Hurley with Hurley School 3rd grade students.
- Montreal Historic District planters with Hurley School 4th grade students.
- Planted and maintained the Iron County Courthouse planter.
- Mercer Library rain garden.
- Iron Horse Trailhead beautification.

Kimbler worked with the local Master Gardener Volunteers to adapt to changes in organization at the state level.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

- Presented at the Mercer Library throughout the year on topics such as, Gardening Basics and Home Composting.

These and many other of Kimbler's presentations are recorded and available to the residents of Iron County on Extension Iron County's website.

- Created a four part Beginner Maple Syrup Maker video series, which covers all steps from identifying maple trees to bottling your syrup.
- Created a monthly maple syrup newsletter to provide Iron County producers with the latest information and news about maple syrup opportunities in Wisconsin

during the 2022 maple syrup season.

- Taught a maple tree identification field lab that provided participants with the skills to identify three maple species in the growing and dormant season.
- Presented at two state-wide webinars on Growing Strawberries in Containers and Bringing the Garden Inside for the Winter.
- Taught Master Gardener classes weekly, September to December.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Kimbler provided direct technical assistance to community members in Iron and nearby counties via in-person contacts and virtually by phone and email:

- Assisted and interpreted 18 soil tests for farmers and gardeners.
- Provided research based answers to approximately 100 horticulture and agriculture questions from insect identification to disease management, through local contacts and statewide "Ask a Gardening Question" resource.
- Answered gardening questions on Garden Talk WJRS, every other Thursday, May through September.
- Answered gardening questions during a live broadcast of Garden Talk with WPR's Larry Meiller in Bayfield, WI.
- Providing agricultural assistance to farmers.
- Worked with maple syrup producers to increase production at their sugarbush in Gurney and several other producers on navigating state regulations to retail their products.
- Kimbler and Master Gardener Volunteers helped with the Iron County Fair crops and horticulture division and answered gardening questions from the public.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Attended the 2022 International Maple Syrup Conference in La Crosse in late October.
- Attended the 2022 Wisconsin Maple Syrup Producers Winter Institute.

Participating in these professional development opportunities allows Kimbler to gain new knowledge and skills to bring back to Iron County.

STATEWIDE WORK

- Team member for a monthly webinar series on horticulture and gardening topics that is accessible to Iron County residents. Kimbler hosted several webinars, highlighting Iron County.
- Presented work to Extension colleagues at the All Colleague Extension Conference in December as part of a team. Kimbler's presentation demonstrated the need for and how to successfully use social media to engage and impact larger audiences for Extension programs.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Amy Nosal served as Community Development Educator in 2022.

"We have to allow ourselves to be drawn out of business as usual and remain patiently in the "threshold" where we are betwixt and between the familiar and the completely unknown...That's a good space where genuine newness can begin. Get there often and stay as long as you can..."¹ - Richard Rohr

2022 was Amy Nosal's last year serving Iron County as the Community Development Extension Educator. What began as an AmeriCorps VISTA internship in 2013 developed into a mix of positions across family and nutrition positions and ultimately settled into community development in 2018. Nosal is proud to reflect on her work in local food systems, outdoor recreation, and community wellbeing and inclusion.

In 2022, Nosal enjoyed facilitating connections among area service providers and organizing newer community events, as well as providing some familiar favorites. Nosal also engaged in new survey projects and the Area 1-wide civil rights review.


This report describes the year's Community Development program highlights.

COMMUNITY INPUT

The Turtle Flambeau Flowage and Trude Lake Property Owners Association (TFFTLPOA) was established in 1996 with the purpose "to maintain, protect and enhance the quality of the lake and its surroundings for the collective interests of the members and the general public."² The association periodically conducts members surveys, sometimes with a particular area of interest and sometimes not. Nosal was invited to co-design a 2022 member survey, the same year that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) initiated a master planning process for WDNR properties in the North Central Forest Ecological Landscape, which includes the Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area (TFSWA).

Nosal developed questions using previous member surveys and input from TFFTLPOA board and committee members, as well as WDNR, TFSWA and Iron County Land and Water Conservation Department partners. Over the summer, a 24-question survey collected 134 survey responses, the majority of which were completed online and 7 which were completed with paper-hard copies by members who do not have internet access at home. At their annual meeting in June, the Association recorded 164 paid memberships which indicates a high response rate to the member survey, approximately 82%. The WDNR began collecting public input for the master planning process in July and the completion of the TFFTLPOA member survey in September supports the Association in its continued engagement with the WDNR during this process that directly impacts the bodies of water which they are formally organized around.

2022 Turtle Flambeau Flowage and Trude Lake Property Owners' Association Member Survey



<https://tfft.org/>

Prepared by Amy Nosal
Community Development Educator

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

Amy.Nosal@wisc.edu
715-561-2695



The full Turtle Flambeau Flowage and Trude Lake Property Owners' Association 2022 Member Survey totaled almost 40 pages of information from members.

1. *The Art of Holding Space: A Practice of Love, Liberation, and Leadership* by Heather Plett (2020)
2. *Turtle Flambeau Flowage and Trude Lake Property Owners Association*, <https://tfft.org/>

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



As an FeLiveLife.org community calendar manager, Nosal helped organize & promote Pride UP as a regional celebration of the LGBTQ+ community.

COMMUNITY INCLUSION

Extension Iron County staff co-create opportunities to build inclusive communities. From a 2020 youth-led county declaration of community integrity and respect facilitated by Extension Iron County, Iron County 4-H, and Community Development, the momentum grew in 2021 and 2022 into a collaborative, in-person LGBTQ+ celebration called, Pride UP Picnic in the Park.

In 2021 and 2022, Extension Iron County staff involved Iron County non-profits and helped organize by-stander intervention trainings for Pride UP volunteers. In 2022, as a member of the Pride UP Planning Committee, Nosal helped new partners engage in picnic activities, including two healthcare organizations and two LGBTQ+ musicians. Using resources available via UW-Madison Extension, Nosal also facilitated the creation of an educational interview and accompanying resource guide.

The continuation of supportive municipal declarations in the region, the growing number of LGBTQ+ identifying Pride UP Planning Committee members, and the acceptance from the community at large are all significant indicators of success. The Extension Iron County staff helped Pride UP to function efficiently and connect various partners, which contributed to the adept implementation of Pride UP activities.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

As a community cluster on the state line, the Gogebic Range has a need for service providers and partners of Iron County, WI and Gogebic County, MI to be aware of each other and how they support local organizations and residents. In 2022, Nosal facilitated a series of meetings called the Gogebic Range Community Conversations (GRCC), in partnership with the Gogebic Range Health Foundation. These meetings were designed to increase awareness and communication among many organizations serving Gogebic Range communities by providing spaces to share program updates and concerns. Six GRCC meetings were held in 2022, and Nosal provided reminders, hybrid meeting arrangements and notes.

Approximately 45% of the organizations on the email list participated in the GRCC meetings, with about 85% of participating organizations attending more than once. Most participants represented Gogebic Range organizations with some exceptions of regional organizations without a local office. In an evaluation survey, 85% of respondents indicated they gathered at least some value in the personal connections made during the GRCC meetings while 75% found value in the information shared.

The survey feedback suggested that the meetings were useful to local organizations for the information that could be passed on to peers and clients, and helpful to regional organizations learning more about the programs and individuals of local organizations.

OTHER COMMUNITY EFFORTS

- Researched Focus on Energy rebate options with the Town of Mercer³.
- Assisted with the Iron County Electronics Recycling event in late August.
- Supported non-motorized bike trail development in both northern and southern Iron County communities.

3. Focus on Energy Rebates can be viewed at <https://focusonenergy.com/business/prescriptive-incentives>. Governments are eligible for any of the business offerings.

FOODWISE

FoodWise is federally funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Education) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). FoodWise advances healthy eating habits, active lifestyles and healthy community environments for Wisconsin residents with limited incomes through nutrition education at the individual, community, and systems levels.

Stephanie Bakker, FoodWise Coordinator for Ashland, Bayfield and Iron Counties, and Deb Leonard, 50% part-time Iron County FoodWise Educator, provided many educational opportunities to the Iron, Ashland and Bayfield County communities in 2022.

FoodWise Educator, Marisa Perlberg's main focus area is Bayfield and Ashland Counties, however she also joined Deb and Stephanie in a handful of programming events in Iron County.



The 2022 Ashland, Bayfield, Iron County FoodWise team consists of (left to right) Nutrition Educator, Deb Leonard, Coordinator, Stephanie Bakker, and Nutrition Educator, Marisa Perlberg.

HURLEY SCHOOL GARDEN

FoodWise Educator, Deb Leonard provided a number of educational opportunities in the Hurley School Garden in 2022, with assistance from Educator, Marisa Perlberg.

In early spring, Extension Iron County 4-H Youth Development Educator, Neil Klemme, led efforts to build new raised beds, as the previous 10 year old timbers were in bad shape. Klemme, Leonard, and Perlberg worked together to prepare the Hurley School Garden for the 2022 planting season, with the Hurley School District providing soil and future plans to run water to the garden site.

The Hurley Summer Kid's Club planted the seeds and bedding plants, tended to the watering and weeding while having fun nutrition learning experiences with food samples from FoodWise Educators, Leonard and Perlberg. Harvest of the Month vegetables were highlighted. Some veggie samples were cucumbers, radishes, herb tea, fruit parfaits, tomatoes, potatoes and snap peas. Produce that was harvested was shared with Iron County Senior Dining site participants, used with Hurley school meals and students took some produce home to their families.



FOODWISE

PARTNERS & PARTICIPANTS

Partners for 2022 included Mercer and Hurley Schools, five senior dining sites, Hurley Head Start, and the Iron County Mobile Food Pantry.

FoodWise also provided nutrition education and shared local information and resources at the Aging & Disability Resource Center of the North's 3rd Annual Across the Borders Senior Information Awareness Walk. FoodWise educators, Deb Leonard and Marisa Perlberg distributed Harvest of the Month resources and encouraged participants to play a game "How to Pick a Perfect Watermelon," and make a watermelon slushie using the famous, "Blender Bike."



Senior Walk participant and FoodWise Educator, Deb Leonard making smoothies with the Blender Bike.



NUTRITION EDUCATION TRAINING AT 4-H BABYSITTER TRAINING

In June 2022, Deb Leonard and Marisa Perlberg partnered with 4-H Youth Development Educator, Neil Klemme, by teaching nutrition education topics at the four-day Babysitter Training Day Camp.

Leonard and Perlberg taught the group about foods and nutrition and gave them ideas for some easy meals to prepare while babysitting. The group learned how to make gluten free spaghetti with garlic bread and fruit parfaits that included berries, granola and yogurt. The best part, they got to prepare and enjoy the meals themselves!

HARVEST OF THE MONTH

It started as an 'ask' from a partner: Was the Ashland, Bayfield, Iron County FoodWise team doing anything with the Extension Harvest of the Month (HOM) campaign? The team decided to start small and include it in their monthly FoodWise newsletter. Now the HOM campaign is implemented in many different ways, with many different partners, across all three counties.



The Ashland, Bayfield, Iron County FoodWise team has shared information from the HOM campaign:

Wisconsin HOM is a statewide campaign that encourages kids and families to eat more fruits and vegetables. Each month schools showcase one seasonal, Wisconsin-grown fruit or vegetable. Students taste, explore, and learn about the importance of eating fruits and vegetables.

The Ashland, Bayfield, Iron County FoodWise team has shared information from the HOM campaign:

- in our monthly FoodWise newsletters.
- with posters in schools and postcards sent home to families.
- within our educational programming.
- by incorporating local produce into the school meal programs.
- by including HOM items into school garden plans and programming.
- through the creation of a local HOM partners group, by posting information on our different social media platforms.

SUPPORT STAFF/OFFICE MANAGER



Rebecca Holm (center) served as Support Staff/Office Manager in 2022. Pictured with Holm are Iron County Mobile Food Pantry volunteers, Samantha Ratkowski and Joyce Gayan.

Rebecca Holm provided support to all Extension Iron County Educators and Summer Assistants. In addition to being a 4-H leader, Holm also volunteered as President of the Iron County 4-H Parent Leader Association.

INTERACTION WITH PUBLIC

Serving as the first point of contact with the public, Holm provided assistance with requests in person and over the phone 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, and newsletters. Approximately 77,591 meals were distributed to Iron County residents in 2022.
- Maintained and distributed community snowshoe inventory. 152 pairs were checked out by organizations and individuals in 2022.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

- Distributed monthly "Just in Time Parenting" newsletters to 31 parents of new babies born in Iron County in 2022.

PROGRAM SUPPORT

- Coordinated enrollment and documentation of all 4-H programming in 2022, including the SISU Endurance Team (SET) and summer camp programs.
- Maintained and distributed SET Ski Club equipment. 30 members were able to check out equipment during the 2022 season.

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

- Maintained financial records and documentation for Extension and 4-H and Youth Club budgets.
- Maintained office accounting including spreadsheets, vouchers, invoices, 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

- Served as liaison for office to local computer repair services and to UW-Technology Services.
- Served as office website and social media coordinator.
- Upgraded skills with trainings 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.
- Researched methods and means for office equipment upgrades.
- Maintained the Iron County 4-H database, 4HOnline.

OFFICE OPERATIONS

- Maintained and ordered proper level of supplies and resources as needed for office operations and equipment.
- Designed 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.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

- Assisted courthouse staff with using the boardroom AQUOS Smart Board.
- Signed on to lead new monthly project meetings through the Iron County 4-H program, with Holm teaching members about the art of pyrography.



Holm and a group of 3rd grade students from the Hurley School District pose for a photo during the Silver Street Planting.

This motivated group helped with area beautification by planting flowers on Hurley's main street, June 2022.

AREA EXTENSION DIRECTOR AREA 1

This Annual Report highlights some of the programming efforts of our educators and staff members. In 2022, 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 this work done! How do we do it?

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

**COUNTY FUNDING
STATE FUNDING**

**DONATIONS, GRANTS & FEES
VOLUNTEERS**

In Extension, most educators are co-funded by the county and state. Iron County also supplies funding for a horticulture/agriculture educator and 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 fully funded 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.

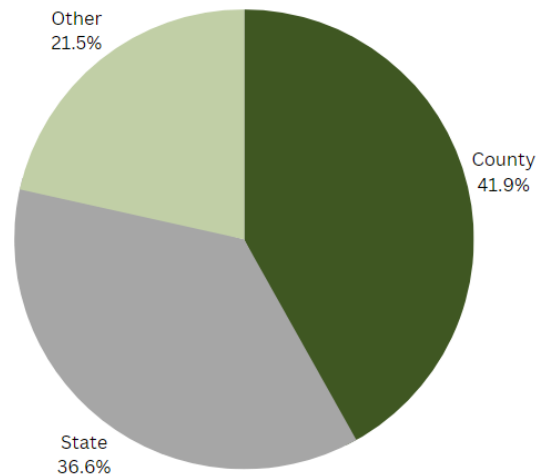


Mary Pardee served as the Area Extension Director for Area 1 in 2022 (Area 1 includes Iron, Ashland, Bayfield and Douglas Counties).

	Co-Funded Staff Fee	\$	77,200
	County Funded Staff Fee	\$	32,971
	Support Staff	\$	65,800
County	County Educational Staff	\$	13,264
	Office & Technology Educational Program Support	\$	6,343
	Committee Expense	\$	1,080
	TOTAL COUNTY	\$	209,010
	Co-Funded Staff Salary/Fringe	\$	93,065
State	FoodWise Staff & Program Support	\$	50,485
	Office & Technology Professional Development	\$	1,200
	Director Salary/Fringe	\$	7,355
	TOTAL STATE	\$	182,783
Other	Donations, Grants, Fees	\$	24,870
	Volunteer Value*	\$	82,482
	TOTAL OTHER	\$	107,352
	TOTAL EXTENSION BUDGET	\$	499,145

*Using the standard "Independent Sector" rate of \$29.95 (2022 rate).

EXTENSION BUDGET 2022



VOLUNTEERS

Extension's programming success relies on volunteers! 2022 volunteer hours include:

- Community projects by Master Gardener Volunteers – 157 hours
- 4-H Clubs and activities by 4-H Volunteers – 2297 hours
- Iron County Mobile Food Pantry Volunteers – 300 hours

THANK YOU, EXTENSION VOLUNTEERS! We could not do all this work without you!

Iron County Agriculture-Extension-Education Committee

The 2022 Iron County Agriculture-Extension-Education Committee was comprised of William Thomas as Chair, Opal Roberts as Vice-Chair, and committee members, Karl Krall, Tanner Hiller, and Anne McComas.

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

Both UW-Madison Division of Extension and Wisconsin counties have benefited from the strong partnership to provide an array of educational programs that continue to serve the people of Wisconsin wherever they live and work. Fundamental to Extension's mission to fulfill the promise of the Wisconsin Idea, we extend the boundaries of the university to the boundaries of the state. Together we can achieve more!¹

1. *Division of Extension – County Partnership Guidance*, published by University of Wisconsin Division of Extension, <https://extension.wisc.edu/about-us/>



WILLIAM THOMAS

Committee Chair

Extension Committee Years Served:
2005-present

Supervisory District: *Gile*

Other Committee Appointments:

- *Land Conservation, Forestry, Memorial Building, Highway*

OPAL ROBERTS

Committee Vice-Chair

Extension Committee Years Served:
2008-present

Supervisory District: *Mercer*

Other Committee Appointments:

- *Finance, Human Services, Aging Advisory, Housing, Library, IT, Nicolet Board Appointment.*



KARL KRALL

Committee Member

Extension Committee Years Served:
2014-2020, 2022-present

Supervisory District: *Saxon*

Other Committee Appointments:

- *Highway, Land Conservation, Saxon Harbor Commission, Law Enforcement, Fair Board*

TANNER HILLER

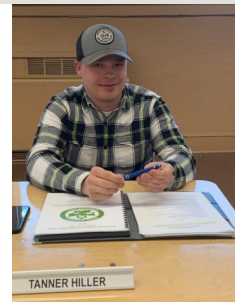
Committee Member

Extension Committee Years Served:
2022-present

Supervisory District: *Mercer*

Other Committee Appointments:

- *Board of Health, Recycling, Economic Development, Saxon Harbor Commission, Transportation, IT*



ANNE MCCOMAS

Committee Member

Extension Committee Years Served:
April 2022-Nov 2022

Supervisory District: *Springstead*

Other Committee Appointments:

- *Land & Zoning, Land Conservation, Transportation, Human Services*

JOE PINARDI

County Board Chair

Years Served as County Board Chair: *2013-present*

Supervisory District: *Hurley*

Other Appointments:

- *NWRPC, Northern Railway, Northwest CEP, WITC Board*



BACKYARD ADVENTURE MONTH

EXPLORE NORTHERN IRON COUNTY BACKYARD ADVENTURE MONTH

Explore Northern Iron County Backyard Adventure Month (BYAM), planned in partnership with NICER (Northern Iron County Engaged Residents) and organized by Extension Iron County Office Manager, Rebecca Holm, once again encouraged participants to visit unique, natural and historic locations in the Northern Iron County community.

The 3rd annual, family-friendly event included eighteen locations to explore during the whole month of September, such as Interstate Falls, two locations on the Historic Montreal Ski Trails, the B-47 Memorial site, Corrigan's Lookout and much more!

Using the program booklet as a guide, participants were encouraged to visit as many locations as they could for a chance win the top adult and youth prize packages. In order to qualify for prizes, participants were required to submit completed checklists to the Extension Iron County office or via email at benicer@nicer715.com. There was also a chance to earn extra credit points for anyone wanting to share photos of their adventures with organizers via email and by sharing on their personal social media pages, using the hashtag: [#ironcountybackyardadventure2022](https://www.instagram.com/ironcountybackyardadventure2022).

New for 2022, participants were also encouraged to submit their favorite photo to win a 16"x20" photo canvas, with NICER's board of directors and Extension Iron County staff choosing the winner.

The prize packages were made possible thanks in part to the following sponsors: NICER, Extension Iron County, Iron County Economic Development Zone, Iron County Forestry Department, and the Gogebic Range Health Foundation.

While participant numbers were down, with only six families submitting photos, there were many more who participated by sharing their photos on social media.

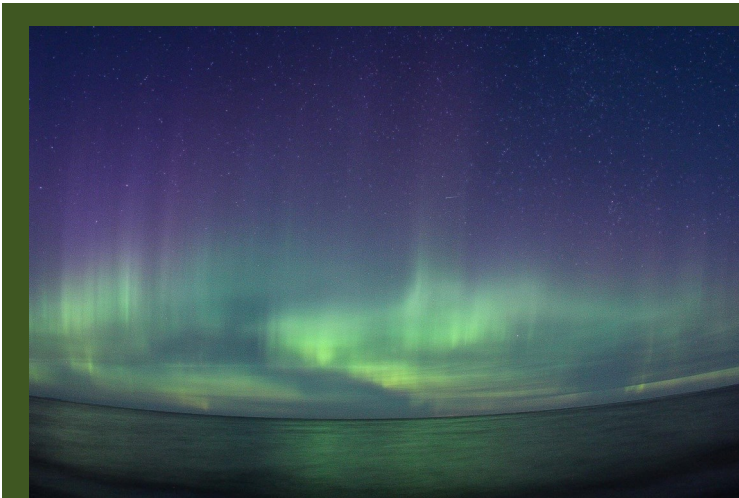


Pictured above: The 2022 Explore Northern Iron County Backyard Adventure Month booklet cover included a photo submission from 2021 participant, Diane Schmidtke, which was taken at Corrigan's Lookout in Upson, WI.

Congratulations to this year's winners, Alex, Isabelle, and Clint Mabie, who won the adult and youth prize packages. Lisa Grimsby received the most votes to win the 16"x20" photo canvas for her submission of the northern lights over Saxon Harbor.



Pictured left: Lisa Grimsby's winning photo of the northern lights over Saxon Harbor. Pictured right: Alex, Clint & Isabelle Mabie swept the top prize packages, winning the adult and youth adventure prizes!



2022 PROGRAM SURVEY

2022 EXTENSION IRON COUNTY PROGRAM SURVEY

Throughout October 2022, Extension Iron County staff and educators invited partners, participants, friends and neighbors to complete a program survey, which was created to gather feedback for future programming.

The survey was offered in two formats, a Google Form where participants could easily complete it from their phone or computer, and a paper version for those community members who may not have access to technology. The survey included sections on participant demographics, 4-H Youth Development, Community Development, Horticulture/Agriculture, FoodWise Nutrition, Human Development & Relationships, program accessibility and final comments. Participants were also entered into a gift card raffle as an incentive to share feedback.

106 responses were received, which will allow Extension Iron County staff and educators to better understand current program impacts and plan for future opportunities. A brief summary of results for each program area is highlighted below.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Out of the nine 4-H Youth Development programs listed, **Iron County 4-H Clubs**, **Iron County Summer Youth Camp**, and **Babysitter Training** scored the highest as being the most important offerings in the community. Some additional suggestions for new programming currently not being offered included: Winter Camp, Mental Health/Wellbeing programming.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Out of the four Community Development programs listed, **Non-Motorized Recreation Development**, **Community Communications and Promotion**, and **Mental Health and Wellbeing for Leaders and Groups** scored the highest as being the most important offerings in the community. Some additional suggestions for new programming currently not being offered included: Local Government Education, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Development.

AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE

Out of the six Agriculture/Horticulture programs listed, **General Gardening Education**, **Answering Gardening Questions**, and **General Agriculture Education** scored the highest as being the most important offerings in the community. Some additional suggestions for new programming currently not being offered included: Gardening Opportunities for Mobility Challenged People, Programs Directed at Seniors.



 Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
IRON COUNTY

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

2022 Extension Iron County Program Survey

Your feedback will allow Extension Iron County staff and educators to gain a better understanding of program impacts and plan for future opportunities!

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT:
MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2022**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Complete the survey online at:
<https://iron.extension.wisc.edu/>

Paper copies are also available at the Extension Iron County office (300 Taconite St., Suite 118, Hurley, WI 54534) or you can call 715-561-2695 to have one mailed. Participants will have an option to enter a gift card raffle as an incentive for completing the survey.

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements

FOODWISE NUTRITION EDUCATION

Out of the seven FoodWise Nutrition Education programs listed, **Iron County Mobile Food Pantry**, **Classroom Education with the Hurley/Mercer Schools**, and **Programming with the ADRC of the North-Iron County Branch** scored the highest as being the most important offerings in the community. Some additional suggestions for new programming currently not being offered included: More Programming in Collaboration with Iron County 4-H, Trauma Informed Nutrition Education.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & RELATIONSHIPS

The Extension Iron County office currently does not staff a Human Development & Relationships educator, but wanted to gather feedback. The following programs scored high on the survey: **Parenting and Family Relationships**, **Aging Friendly Communities and Family Caregiving**, **Financial Education**.

Extension Iron County staff and educators will continue to offer innovative and educational programming to the community and look forward to including some of the new ideas that were suggested in the program survey. Thank you to everyone who participated.

EXTENSION IRON COUNTY WEB ANALYTICS

2022 YEARLY INSIGHTS FOR IRON.EXTENSION.WISC.EDU & SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

Total Users:

3290 ↓ 2.92% *2021 Users: 3389

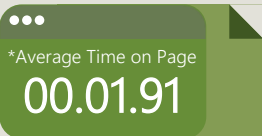
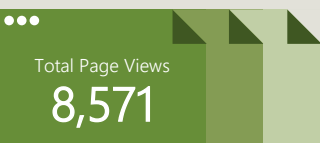


New VS. Returning:

● New visitors Total: 3370
● Returning Total: 19



Total Page Views:



*Average amount of time users spent viewing webpage content.

Sessions:



*Average length of a session per user.

Sources of Traffic:



How did visitors find the website?

Google	1163
Direct Traffic	903
m.Facebook.com/referral	376
Bing	178
Facebook.com/referral	116
Facebook.com/referral	105
DuckDuckGo	92
Yahoo	92

Top 10 Page/Post Views (posts listed in green):

Extension Iron County Home.....	2,085
Staff Directory.....	379
4-H Home Page.....	322
Community Development/Maple	228
Maple Syrup Video Library.....	212
Tapping Maple Trees for Maple Syrup Making.....	188
SET XC Ski Club Early Registration.....	164
4-H Home/Iron County Summer Youth Camp.....	154
4-H Home/Join Iron County 4-H!.....	145
Community Development.....	145

Extension Iron County's Facebook account continues to be a useful tool in sharing program information and resources to target audiences. Below are analytics for 2022. Currently there are 922 likes/follows.

New Page Likes	84	↑ 68%
Women	76.5%	-
Men	23.5%	-
Reach	20,061	↑ 37.5%
Page Visits	1,002	↑ 17.3%

Extension Iron County's Instagram account was created in March 2021 to expand outreach to a younger target audience. Below are the demographics for 2022.

Followers	151	↑ 24.8%
Women	83.9%	-
Men	16.1%	-
Reach	252	↓ 44.5%
Profile Visits	140	↓ 36.1%

Agriculture Educator, Darrin Kimbler created a variety of virtual programs and educational videos in 2022.

Darrin's most popular video is 2021's Growing Fruit Trees in Hardiness Zones 3 & 4, which had 4.7K views in 2022.

Subscribers	45	
Watch Time (hours)	672.1	↑ 827%
Total Views	6.2K	↑ 869%



IT'S NOT REALLY WORK IF YOU ARE HAVING FUN

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

Phone: 715-561-2695

Toll Free: 1-888-561-2695

Fax: 715-561-2704

<https://linktr.ee/ExtensionIronCounty>

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

STAFF EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Mary Pardee
mary.pardee@wisc.edu

Neil Klemme
neil.klemme@wisc.edu

Darrin Kimbler
darrin.kimbler@wisc.edu

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Stephanie Bakker
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Rebecca Holm
rebecca.holm@wisc.edu





Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
IRON COUNTY

UW-Madison Division of Extension - Iron County
Iron County Courthouse - 300 Taconite Street, Suite 118
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,

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)