



Monthly Report July 2020

AGRICULTURE

Stephanie Plaster

In 2020 forty-three people participated in the Master Gardener Level 1 Training Course. This course was intended to be a 14 week in-person class featuring a flipped classroom approach where students viewed and read the materials before class and participated in activities to reinforce the learning during each class session. Due to COVID-19, 12 weeks of class needed to be reworked into an online classroom format. Stephanie and several Master Gardener Volunteers worked diligently to transition the class smoothly to weekly zoom meetings which were also offered to the Shawano County Master Gardener Level 1 training class and any Ozaukee County Master Gardener Volunteer who wanted to participate making the average class size around 55. Thirty-nine trainees completed the course, passed the exam, and agreed to the volunteer guidelines to become new Ozaukee County Master Gardener Interns.

Certified Ozaukee County Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) continue to provide horticultural education, maintain local beautification sites, and grow vegetables and herbs to donate to the local senior community centers. Through the Yard and Garden Line, MGVs have been busy responding virtually to lawn and garden inquiries from the general public. The volunteers have also resumed volunteer activities at project sites across Ozaukee County. The volunteers have shown resilience as they adjust to the challenges 2020 brought and continue to meet their mission of partnering with Extension to provide research-based horticulture information, educational opportunities, and engender a love of gardening in Ozaukee County residents.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Jayna Hintz

Jayna in collaboration with Washington County and Fond du Lac County 4-H Program Educators planned and promoted a Virtual 4-H Exchange between Tennessee and Wisconsin. 4-H youth from Ozaukee, Washington, and Fond du Lac Counties took part in a virtual exchange with youth from Chattanooga, TN. The exchange consisted of three youth-led Zoom meetings in the month of July. Ten youth from WI and ten youth from Tennessee participated.

At the first meeting, the youth group decided what they wanted the focus of the exchange to be. They came to consensus to take turns presenting something about their state. At the next two Zooms, youth shared information about famous people, animals, places to visit, and interesting facts about their states. To read more about meeting recaps, please visit the website post:

<https://ozaukee.extension.wisc.edu/2020/07/28/4-h-virtual-exchange-recap-chatting-with-chattanooga/>

Youth shared information in a variety of ways. One youth introduced us to her beef cattle through her cell phone and one youth even made a five-minute video about Wisconsin!

Of the youth who completed the final evaluation, 100% agreed or strongly agreed that they enjoyed participating in the program, they learned something new, and that the program helped them feel more connected to 4-H.

New opportunities and ongoing resources for 4-H youth can be found [here](#)



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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Karina Ward

Karina was contacted by County Administrator Jason Dzwiniel on June 11 with a request to facilitate community conversations to reach out to underrepresented groups across the county to better integrate their voices in county efforts and policies. An initial meeting on June 16 identified five desired outcomes. The planning team chose to focus on the first outcome, a series of hosted community conversations, to be co-facilitated by Karina and County Supervisor Janette Braverman.

50 people participated on June 29 and 52 participated on July 7, both hosted via Zoom. Each session included an opportunity to examine myths about racism through Robin DiAngelo's video "Debunking the Most Common Myths White People Tell About Race" and consider the feelings that are present during conversations about race using a feelings check-in. The main portion was the conversation circles, also known as talking circles. Each circle was led by a volunteer facilitator with experience leading conversations about race, diversity, and equity.

From evaluation, 94% responded that the structure of the session contributed to valuable conversations. The impact of these sessions is best described by the following anecdote: "An elderly white woman in my group [shared]...that she never talks to people of color...and was raised in a racist home and community...I applauded her for talking with me and reminded her that I was [an] African American woman.... She stated that this was the first time she talked to a black person and she wasn't afraid...she thinks she would be afraid to talk to others but now she's willing to have more of an open mind about people of color."

UPCOMING EVENTS.

July 29 - August 2, 2020

- Ozaukee County Fair (modified)

August 1-31, 2020

- [4-H Virtual Learning Community](#), varied opportunities

August 11, 25, 2020

- [4-H Harbinger Newsletter](#) published

August 20, 2020

- 4-H Leaders Association Board Meeting, Online, 6 pm.



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We are serving and supporting our community through research and virtual education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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