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Extension Impact: Education Makes a Difference

Family Living Program Brings Award-Winning Financial Programs for Children and Parents to Local Libraries

Liang is working with local libraries to promote two award-winning Family Living programs:

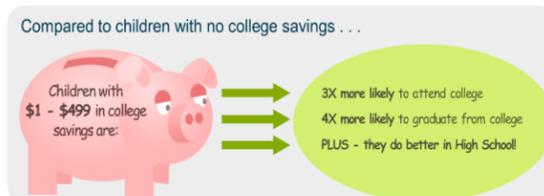
Small Savings Build Big Dreams is a campaign designed by University of Wisconsin-Extension Family Living Educators to promote the benefits of saving for college, answer common questions about saving for higher education, and provide information about how you can get started. Children with a savings account just for college are much more likely to attend college and earn a degree—no matter how much money is in their accounts. Even small amounts of savings for higher education have a big impact*, encouraging children to start thinking about college and planning how to get there.

Dollars for Development (3D) is a nationally recognized book series for children ages 3-8 years old that feature children learning about earning, spending and saving money. Parent guides promote activities and conversation starters to help children develop these money skills, habits and attitudes that will last a lifetime.

These programs will be shared through a “traveling display” that will move through libraries in Waupaca County, including Iola, Manawa, Marion and Waupaca. The display includes interactive educational components, free book guides, and highlights books that are part of the 3D book series. While the display is at each location, there will be educationally relevant financial story time readings and workshop opportunities.

Investing in young children and families through these UW-Extension financial programs is part of the foundation that builds self-sufficient, thriving individuals and families.

~Sandy Liang



*Source: Assets and Education Initiative (AEDI). (2013). Building expectations, delivering results. Asset-based financial aid and the future of Higher Education. W. Elliot (ed.) Biannual Report on the Assets and Education Field. Lawrence, KS.

Extension Impact: Education Makes a Difference

CROPLAND SALES & RENTAL RATES

An analysis of Wisconsin agricultural land sales between 2012 through 2017 shows relatively stable prices for bare farm land (without buildings) despite difficult economic times.

The analysis is based on annual real estate transfer data submitted by individual counties. Only bare Ag land sales of 35 acres or more sold to non-related parties are include in the analysis (parcels with water frontage, retained property rights and land contracts were also excluded). Here are results for Waupaca and surrounding counties.

AVG SALE PRICE (\$/acre) ... AG LAND OVER 35 ACRES						
COUNTY	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
WAUPACA	\$ 3,357	\$ 3,850	\$ 3,325	\$ 3,306	\$ 3,339	\$ 3,735
SHAWANO	\$ 4,503	\$ 4,353	\$ 4,246	\$ 3,984	\$ 3,081	\$ 3,777
OUTAGAMIE	\$ 5,637	\$ 7,033	\$ 6,498	\$ 7,547	\$ 6,855	\$ 5,331
PORTAGE	\$ 3,428	\$ 3,220	\$ 2,646	\$ 3,292	\$ 2,619	\$ 3,930
WAUSHARA	\$ 2,675	\$ 2,355	\$ 2,535	\$ 2,771	\$ 2,861	\$ 3,042
STATEWIDE	\$ 4,025	\$ 4,003	\$ 3,884	\$ 3,952	\$ 3,790	\$ 3,365

Farmland sale value can also be used to evaluate average cropland rental rates. In recent years, the National Agriculture Ag Statistics Service Wisconsin producer surveys suggest cropland rental rates averaged 2.4% to 3.4% of the average statewide land value. That would suggest an average statewide rental rate last year of \$96 to \$140/acre (\$4,025 x 2.4% or 3.4%). Using this same relationship between land value and annual rental rates for Waupaca County suggests the average local annual cropland rental rate in 2017 of \$80 to \$114/acre (\$3,357 x 2.4% or 3.4%). Applying this same relationship between annual rental rates and land value in more heavily concentrated farming areas of Waupaca county (Northeast / Southcentral) where land value may still be closer to \$4,500/acre, average annual rent in those areas would range from \$108 to \$153 in 2017. Of course, these figures represent average values and everyone knows that each field and each lease agreement is unique between landowner and renter.

~Greg Blonde

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Farm Market Expansion Project

UW-Extension FoodWise team of Christi Gabrilka and Kelly Hammond are actively engaged in a local Coalition working to enhance the Waupaca Farm Market. Living the Waupaca Way formed after an Obesity Plunge workgroup merged with NuAct (Nutrition and Activity Coalition) in Waupaca in 2016. The mission of Living the Waupaca Way is to coordinate and empower community groups to enhance overall health through good nutrition and physical activity by promoting healthy environments where we live, learn, work and play.

Through Living the Waupaca Way, FoodWise has been working on a project to enhance the Waupaca Saturday Morning Farmers Market with hopes of adding more vendors and making the market a social event locals and visitors spend their Saturday's attending over the summer months. The group has brought on a Farm Market Manager intern to help streamline market activities and events and has received a grant to hire a Market Manager for the next two years. Additionally, the group is holding "Movin' @ the Market" events in conjunction with the Farmers Market highlighting physical activities and local businesses such as Carousel Gymnastics, Yoga, Adventure Outfitters Big Tire Bicycles and Cardio Drumming. These events are open to the public and people of all ages are welcome. You will also find local musicians playing at the market throughout the summer.



A long term goal of the Farm Market expansion project is accepting EBT (Electronic Balance Transfer) payments such as FoodShare and WIC credit cards at the market. This would increase the access and availability of fresh, local produce for limited resource individuals and families in Waupaca. In 2017 only 48% of the Farm Market Nutrition Program dollars were redeemed by WIC participants. It would be our hope that with the EBT reader at the Farmers Market that number would increase.

The Waupaca Farmers Market takes place each Saturday from 9-2 starting in mid May and runs through October. The market is located on the corner of Main and Fulton Street in downtown Waupaca in front of the Library. The Market Grand Opening will be taking place on June 23rd and Movin' @ the Market will occur June 23rd, July 14th, August 4th and August 25th.

~Christi Gabrilka & Kelly Hammond

Farm-to-School Lessons Wrapping up for the School Year

May marks the 10th month of my service term with UW-Extension Farm to School. A lot has happened in the last 10 months, and it has been quite a valuable and impactful experience.

Most recently I have been in the process of teaching the last lesson of this series. I have had the pleasure of working with a dedicated farm to school volunteer, who developed the lesson for a community nutrition class at UWSP. We teamed up to teach about culture and diversity, helping students understand how local weather, climate, genetics, cooking skills, traditions, geography, and history impact food preferences and culture both locally and across the globe. At the end of the lesson students got a taste of raw spring asparagus, and learned about conditions it needs to grow and thrive.



With the school year winding down, it has been bittersweet to know that these are likely the last time I will see most of the students. Bitter because I have had a great time teaching and interacting with young and impressionable minds, and hope they have too. However it is still sweet because I know I have made a lasting impact on some of the student's lives. There was nothing better than seeing the students faces light up when I walked into the classroom to teach a lesson.

~Michelle Burington

Tank Recognized as a Colleague of the Year

During the annual Joint Council of Extension Professionals conference the first week in May, Penny Tank was grateful to be recognized as a statewide Colleague of the Year. This is a great honor, especially since these awards are presented based on colleague nominations. Tank's award category was Colleague of the Year for Colleague Development. Tank agreed to fulfil the role of Past President for the Wisconsin Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals (WAE4-HYDP) this past year following an opening in the position. WAE4-HYDP is the statewide professional association that provides great opportunities for leadership, colleague networking and support, and professional development. Along with the plaque, the colleague that nominated Tank asked others from across the state to share "pennies for your thoughts" about Penny's work and contributions to the profession, which she was given.

Springtime Happenings in Waupaca County 4-H Youth Development

April

- 4-H Speaking, Music, and Drama Festival – 24 participants
- National 4-H Day of Service – opportunity for 4-H clubs to conduct community service projects and record on the National 4-H Council website to gather nationwide impact of service projects

May

- Fairground Beautification – in partnership with the Parks Department, 4-H families work on projects to clean up the fairgrounds for the summer season
- Two after school programs being conducted by 4-H members and staff for about 70 students at Rexford Longfellow Elementary in Clintonville
- Camp Counselor Training led by Tank and Junior/Intermediate Summer Camp in June
- Michelle Burington is conducting nutrition lesson number 5 with all 3rd grade classrooms in the county for Farm to School. The food being focused on is asparagus.
- Numerous 4-H project meetings underway



Tank on the left, with Kayla Oberstadt, previous Waupaca County 4-H member, UWEX intern, and current 4-H Educator in Ohio.

~Penny Tank

Another Successful Year: LWC XVIII Graduates!

On May 10, fifteen more participants joined the over 300 graduates of the Leadership Waupaca County program. This year, participants gave back to the community by working on projects related to: helping people age in place; educating youth about unique foods; and attracting/retaining young people to Waupaca County's workforce. The graduation ceremony was attended by business and community leaders, past program participants, and family members of this year's participants.

Recruitment for next year's program has already begun! The application is available at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/leadershipwaupacaco/apply-now/>, and the program begins with orientation on August 21st. This program includes 9 sessions and covers over a dozen topics and skills, including a 2-day seminar in Madison and is designed to build leadership and decision making skills for people in all types of leadership roles – business, government, or volunteer. Consider becoming a participant this year!



Class XVIII visited Madison in January, 2018 as part of their State Government Session.

~Jessica Beckendorf