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Partnering in Our Community

The Nature of Teaching

The NATURE OF TEACHING



The Nature of Teaching Informal Curriculum was offered to 21 youth between third and fifth grade over two days. Sixteen youth returned on the second day, three new youth were included in the second day evaluations. The curriculum had youth explore topics like wildlife, mental health, nutrition, and physical activity on day one. Day two included meeting local wildlife up close and more hands on learning about how to connect with our environment. Youth were invited to join one or both days of the day camp.



Youth brought their own lunch, were provided snacks, and enjoyed "Large Game Olympics" during breaks. The DNR team discussed reptiles, amphibians, and animal tracks. Our own Harrison County Junior Leaders and Ambassadors taught and led fun activities throughout the two days. Enviroscape Water Tables were also used to teach about non-point pollution.



Gardening at the Boys & Girls Club

Purdue Extension is teaching a series of gardening lessons to youth at the Boys & Girls Club of Harrison and Crawford Counties. Youth are learning how to cook and prepare the food they've grown themselves in our Purdue Growing Together Grant garden, while participating in healthy, fun, physical activities!



On June 29th, Purdue Extension Harrison County's summer intern and 4-H Alumni, Ariel Camm, led a fun physical activity, and a lesson on making healthy green smoothies. The focus food was spinach! After the students sampled the spinach smoothies, they continued to plant more

spinach, flowers, and other plants in the garden. For more information on any of these programs, please contact Rebecca Wilkins at 812-738-4236.

Harness Horse Racing Clinic

Purdue Extension Harrison County partnered up with the Harness Horse Youth Foundation to invite youth in Harrison County to a Harness Horse Racing Clinic. Youth learned how Standardbreds prepare for races, what happens in an actual race, and even got to check out some equipment and real racehorses! They got a glimpse of the behind the scenes at the Harrison County Fairgrounds on the morning of June 10th.

Harness Racing has a rich history in Harrison County, and both groups were excited to offer youth education on this topic.



A special thank you goes out to the Harrison County Agricultural Society for putting together goodie bags for our participants, and for Ellen Taylor, President of the Harness Horse Youth Foundation for leading the clinic!

Education Stations at the Harrison County Fair



Purdue Extension Harrison County, along with our partners, hosted a series of "Education Stations" for youth fairgoers at the Harrison County Agricultural Fair, every evening June 7th through the 12th. Visitors were invited to come under the grandstands for some hands-on learning about Agriculture and Natural Resources!

We had a lot of fun things that were provided for Fairgoers. Marla Sieberns with the Harrison County Soil and Water Conservation District used a water table to teach fairgoers about water quality, pollution, and erosion and how it affects our environment. 4-H Dairy Female Superintendent, Dana Leffler, along with the Dairy Gang, taught fairgoers about dairy.

4-H Poultry Superintendent, Jimmy Bliss, and the 4-H Fowl Play Poultry Club brought freshly hatched chicks and some chickens to teach people about embryology and the 4-H poultry project. The next day, Miranda Edge, ANR Extension Educator, brought her miniature horses and miniature mule. She had youth participants play a herding game and an activity where they made a leather bracelet to take home with them. Ariel Camm, Purdue Extension Harrison County's 2021 summer intern and 4-H alumni, taught fairgoers interesting facts about animal byproducts using interactive activities. And lastly, fairgoers learned about pollinators and honeybees, and even got to find the queen in an observation hive!



Virtual Area Dining with Diabetes

We had the DWD 3-month follow-up on July 27th. Our guest speaker was Dr. Jennifer Kellems. She spoke one eye health and eye care for diabetics.

It's a Matter of Balance

Each year, 3 million older people are treated in emergency departments for fall injuries. Each year, at least 3,000,000 older people are hospitalized for hip fractures. Falls are the most common cause of traumatic brain injury. There can be multiple reasons for falls in the elderly from medicine, to health conditions, and lack of activity. A Matter of Balance is designed to reduce fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults who manifest this concern. It was developed originally by Boston University. Studies indicate that up to half of community-dwelling older adults experience fear of falling and may curtail activity as a result. This results in loss of muscle strength and balance. Additionally, there is an increased risk for isolation, depression, and anxiety.

Extension educators joined to plan the Matter of Balance training to be offered at Harrison Springs Health Center in Harrison County. The health center wanted the class for its residents. We tried to offer it in 2020 but had to reschedule due to COVID. The classes were held in the spring of 2021. The classes included an educational portion with discussion and videos. There was an exercise portion and a snack with a follow-up discussion. Various ways to reduce falls were discussed and demonstrated. These included household changes to reduce the risk of falls, and being active to increase balance.

The Matter of Balance classes became very popular with the clientele. They attended weekly classes for 8 weeks. Multiple people reported moving more and being aware of physical activity as a result of the classes. One person said, "This is the most important thing we do here all week." Others reported that they are now doing the exercises daily between classes. Others have added even more physical activity. The group began a walking club as a result of these classes. They have requested additional classes on fitness and possibly nutrition/cooking classes.

ServSafe

Annette Lawler, Health and Human Sciences Educator, lead a ServSafe Food Protection Manager certification. This certification took place in July of 2021 and focused on five aspects: foodborne microorganisms and allergens, personal hygiene, purchasing, receiving, and storage, preparing, cooking, and serving, and facilities, cleaning/sanitation, and managing pests.



A MATTER OF BALANCE

MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS

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