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

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## Stronger Economies

- Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing is working with the Fond du Lac County Forage Council to help plan part of the educational program for this year's **Twilight Forage Meeting** scheduled for Wednesday, June 14. Dr. Ribbing will provide a crop update, then participate in and lead a farmer and researcher panel discussion on using cover crops in silage production systems. The event will be held at the Madigan farm in Rosendale beginning with a Robotics tour at 6:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars.
- Dr. Ribbing continues to interact and meet with and provide educational support for the **Master Gardener Volunteers** (MGV) in Fond du Lac and Dodge Counties. She conducted a Help Line training for MGVS and is overseeing the coordination of the Master Gardener Help Lines which started in April (FDL) and May (Dodge). The MGV in both counties provide the invaluable service of answering homeowner garden and lawn questions two days a week during the growing season.
- A second **on-farm trial**, as part of the Farmer Led Workgroup, is in preparation. Dr. Ribbing is assisting producer Marty Weiss design, establish, monitor and measure an on-farm trial with an objective of evaluating corn's shading impact on cover crop growth when cover crops are interseeded into corn at the V3 or V4 growth stage.
- Dr. Ribbing and Amanda Young organized and hosted the **SW Region ANRE Educator monthly meeting and professional development event**. The group of 14 Extension Educators toured the Horicon Marsh Wildlife Refuge (FWS) and the Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area (DNR) to learn about this major water resource in Dodge County and about water quality and surrounding farming practices.
- All 205 **Agricultural Needs Assessment Surveys** have been entered, thanks to the assistance of Tina Engelhardt, Kelly Lamb and Laure Dei. Dr. Ribbing will be spending time proofing data for accuracy and analyzing the responses from the broad range of producers, agricultural industry reps, government/agency partners and stakeholders who provided input.
- Tina Kohlman served as one of the trusted advisors and facilitator for a **private Grassland producers meeting**. Fifty-eight farms, including four Fond du Lac County farmers, lost their market for milk and have until May 1<sup>st</sup> to find a new processor. Kohlman has been working with producers, DATCP, and milk field plant representatives to help secure a new milk market for these farms.

## Thriving Youth, Families, Organizations & Communities

- At the April 4-H Leader Association meeting, Araceli Oswald and Denise Retzleff engaged volunteers in a discussion and learning about how to incorporate **life skill development** for all ages of youth. At the end of the training, one participant said she works at a day care and they are working with four year olds on life skill development and thus it is crucial that 4-H also begins this at an early age. Another attendee who

works in HR at a large corporation said these are the exact skills they look for when hiring. When she sees 4-H membership on a resume they are more likely to consider the individual for a position.

- Denise Retzleff attended the **National Extension Conference on Volunteerism** in Asheville, NC, to co-present the session “Building an Effective Board of Directors”. Thirty-one people attended the workshop and learned about how to better recruit and engage board members. This workshop was also presented at the Joint Council of Extension Professionals Conference in Eau Claire. Twenty-four people attended the workshop.
- 4-H Teen Leaders met on April 24. Retzleff led an activity on **effective communication and collaboration** where youth worked together to put together a giant puzzle. Participants engaged in a conversation about how effective they were in their task, and how communication and collaboration are required in other aspects of their life.
- Fond du Lac County **Money Smart Week** happened April 22 – 29<sup>th</sup>. Tidemann did worksite education for the following businesses: MidStates Aluminum, TitleServe, and Fond du Lac County Employees-Highway Dept. and Govt. Center. The focus has been on financial management fundamentals. Additionally Tidemann partnered with the Fond du Lac Public Library Children’s Library to co-present “Sundae on Saturday Challenge,” a financial session for teens grade 6-12, as well as Cash Puzzler program for ages 6-12 again focused on financial literacy fundamentals. Tidemann presented the “It’s Your Credit - Do You Know What it Means” and “Budgeting 101” session on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> for the general public at the FDL Library. Besides teaching, Tidemann led the preparations for the Women’s Finance Conference which was the kickoff event for the week, which had 43 individuals registered. Karen Kelley, local entrepreneur, Kelley Country Creamery, was the keynoter.
- Tidemann worked with 60 volunteers, which included WI DFI Secretary Jay Risch, who interacted with Fond du Lac High School students participating in the 22 different stations for the **Reality Day simulation**. Approximately 180 students were involved with the Reality Day simulation. Tidemann will follow up with evaluations from the volunteers, as well as volunteer recognition. Fall 2017 Reality Day is set for November 8, 2017.
- Araceli Oswald joined the Fond du Lac School District at a **meeting for Latino parents** in the district. There was a panel that included school district representatives, an immigration attorney and Araceli, representing the work the Latino community is doing. The panel’s presentation was followed by an open conversation.

## **Food Safety, Food Security & Health**

- Amanda Miller and Shelley Tidemann presented information on **poverty** to 15 nursing professionals at Agnesian HealthCare during their April monthly professional development class. The presentation included local poverty/hunger data, awareness building activities, and group discussion. Feedback from the group was that the presentation was very beneficial and they have asked UW-Extension back to present on future topics.
- It is **budget planning season for the FoodWise program**. Amanda Miller, Coordinator, is currently meeting with community and agency partners to help inform the planning of the 2018 program budget for Fond du Lac and Green Lake Counties FoodWise. Budget plans were due to the state office on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- As a part of the Money Smart Week Women’s Conference on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Amanda Miller presented on the **basics of home food preservation/canning**. Eight people attended the class. Attendees from the class have already contacted Miller for additional resources and/or information on how to register for the hands-on canning classes that are offered in the summer.

- The spring **Strong Women** session began on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The 10 week strength training program for older aged women will run until June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Amanda Miller is currently working with UW-Fond du Lac Continuing Education to expand the program by hiring an additional facilitator and offering the program at an additional site, the Fond du Lac Senior Center.
- The Downtown Fond du Lac Farmers Market Steering Committee is currently working on a “**Farmers Market Donation Program,**” led by Amanda Miller and Bill Zeleske, committee members. The program would involve having farmers donate their remaining produce to local food pantries and hot meal programs after each Saturday market.

## Resilient & Productive Environment

- Diana and Kelly organized and promoted a **well water sampling program** with the Town of Oakfield. 56 families participated. Results will be discussed at a public meeting at the Oakfield Town Hall, N3349 Oak Center Rd, Oakfield, on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

## Office Update

- Tina Kohlman participated in Session 2 for the **2017 National Extension Leadership Development (NELD) Training** this past month. The 30+ individuals from 10 Midwestern states traveled to Costa Rica to focus on: valuing diversity, followership, group dynamics, innovation and risk taking, effective communication, and visioning.
- Denise Retzleff, along with two colleagues from the region, was awarded the state **Educational Package Team Communicator Award** from WAE4-HYDP for her work on educating others about Building an Effective Board of Directors.
- Tidemann has been appointed to the Fond du Lac County **Housing Authority Board of Commissioners** for a 5 year term.
- Araceli, Denise, Tina & Diana attended the **JCEP (Joint Council of Extension Professionals) Conference** in April.
- Araceli Oswald was selected and has participated in **UW-Extension’s USDA Federal Civil Rights Review**. UW-Extension will receive feedback and recommendations to help the organization better reach and serve underrepresented audiences.
- Jose García, owner of the Latino Magazine “El mensajero Latino,” received the **State Friend of 4-H Award**. He has donated a full page every month to 4-H and UW-Extension to promote our programs and events.
- Araceli Oswald received the **Research Project-Team Award** for her work on the Wisconsin 4-H Community Club Report, designed to give an overall perspective of the 4-H program structure.
- **Budget update** through April: Expenses – 38%; Revenues – 35%

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