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

Stronger Economies

- Tina Kohlman developed, implemented, and hosted **“Repro InSight” meeting** with 18 dairy farmers, herdspersons, and agri-business professionals in attendance. The purpose of the “InSight” meetings is to provide a short, focused, topic-driven meeting. Based on post-meeting evaluations (n=15), individuals increased their knowledge an average +1 point (on a 5 point scale). Comments included: “Very interesting and worthwhile”, “Excellent speakers & topics”, and “Very interesting and informative”.
- Kohlman developed and presented **“To Cull or Not To Cull: A Look at the Replacement Herd”** at the recent “Repro InSight” meeting. Based on post-meeting evaluations, individuals increased their knowledge an average +1 point (on a 5 point scale). Some respondents indicated they will “look into heifer culling” and “heifer raising costs-costs versus potential selling price”.
- Kohlman, with help of support staff Tina Engelhardt, represented UW-Extension Fond du Lac County at the annual Envision Greater Fond du Lac Agri-Business Council’s **Ag Showcase**. An average 2,500 individuals attend the showcase each year.
- Kohlman developed and presented **“Raising Dairy Replacements: Individual versus Automated”** at the UW-Extension Dodge County Dairy Talk Tuesday. Eight individuals were in attendance.
- Kohlman served on the **Wisconsin Dairy & Beef Well-Being Conference** Committee providing input and implementation of the regional extension program. Kohlman was instrumental in establishing a bilingual pre-conference for dairy workers in addition to the annual program. Thirty individuals attended the pre-conference, with 65 individuals attending the one-day conference.
- The annual **Heart of the Farm Meeting-Farm Women’s Financial Meeting** was co-developed and hosted by agriculture agents from Manitowoc, Washington, and Ozaukee Counties, and Kohlman. The purpose of the meeting was to bring farm women together who share the same daily experiences and challenges. Forty-four ladies attended the meeting.
- Kohlman conducted three **farm visits** with Extension engineering specialist David Kammel regarding ventilation, facility design, and cattle flow.
- **Money Smart Head Start newsletter** concluded in April and the newsletter survey of use/learning has been sent to all 120 families.
- **Reality Day** was held at the Fond du Lac High School on April 18. There were 140 students participating with 57 community volunteers working the 20 stations the students participate in. Shelley Tidemann has transitioned the volunteer recruitment work to FDL High School personnel and will continue as a community volunteer in the future.

- Eighteen **Forward Services** clients have attended the Success Series classes taught by Tidemann. Classes taught in April were three different sessions on budget development, communication, and stress reduction.
- The Rent Smart State Team was selected to present at the Joint Council of Extension Professionals Conference on the **new Rent Smart curriculum** the team wrote in May. Tidemann is co-chair of the Rent Smart State Team and has prepared the presentation.
- Tidemann serves on the **FDL Money Smart Week Committee**. Tidemann taught a session on Credit Reports to seven individuals, as well as a session on Behavioral Economics to 53 Moraine Park Technical College staff attending a WHEEL event. A budget session is planned for Holiday Auto staff in early May.
- Tidemann's **2018 Plan of Work for Financial Security/Capability Education** was reviewed by State Extension.
- Tidemann will be presenting on the work of the **Dollars During Development** state team at the JCEP Conference. She is one of 7 educators designing and writing parent guides focusing on financial literacy executive function development in young children. The work is featured at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's website under the title of "[Money as you Grow Book Club](#)".
- No word has been received on the Federal Grant for the **National Research Project** Tidemann and DSS have applied for to be a federal/state training site. Tidemann was told May is the timeline for communication if the grant is received.
- Tidemann designed and disseminated a survey on collaboration effectiveness with the members of the **Fond du lac County Continuum of Care Collaboration**. Survey is investigating collaboration effectiveness, members' involvement, and future needs of the COC. Report was prepared for the COC.
- Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing's efforts with helping form the Dodge County **Farmers for Healthy Soil-Healthy Water** group has created interest in Fond du Lac. In partnership with Fond du Lac LWCD, she has met with, spoke to, and emailed producers about forming some sort of Fond du Lac County producer group. An informal first meeting was held on April 23rd where Dr. Ribbing, Dana Christel, Melanie Boone, and Paul Tollard from FDL LWCD met with 4 producers, 2 agronomists from Country Visions, and 1 seed dealer. Tony Peirick, the Chair of the Dodge County Farmers for Healthy Soil-Healthy Water, was also in attendance to provide support for the group. Several other producers who expressed an interest could not attend due to last minute farming operations. Good interest was seen and a second meeting date, Tuesday, July 10th, was set to bring more producers and potential partners together.
- Diana mentored Campbellsport High School student Chloe Koth in the **IGNITE! Youth Business Challenge**. Chloe was the 2nd place winner, based on the thoroughness of her business plan and budget, quality of her idea, and presentation in the final "shark tank" event.
- Diana is co-organizing and promoting the **Regional People of Color Business Association** meeting for April which will feature the director of the Green Bay Packers Mentor - Protege Program. This effort of the Packers develops established minority-owned, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses through a year-long mentoring relationship. Most businesses outside of Green Bay have never participated, and it is free to those who are interested in growing or learning something new.
- Diana is coordinating the effort of nine families participating in **Lemonade Day** with Latinos Unidos and 4-H. Three stands will be located at Buttermilk Creek Park and Lakeside Park (near the lighthouse and near the playground) on Saturday, May 5th, from 9am - 3pm. All 3 stands will sell lemonade, horchata, homemade desserts, and Faris popcorn. The "Athlete's Energy" team chose their locations because of the running events happening in the parks

at this same time. They have decided to pool their earnings and share amongst all of the children (including younger and older siblings) who will be working the stands that day.

Thriving Youth, Families, Organizations & Communities

- One hundred forty individuals attended the **Fond du Lac County Market Livestock Project Orientation** where Kohlman discussed opportunities in the livestock project and health regulations regarding the swine industry.
- Eight individuals attended the annual **Hoard's Dairy Judging Night**. The purpose of the evening was to teach youth the principles of dairy judging and participate in the annual Hoard's Dairy Judging Contest.
- **Co-Parenting court mandated classes** for 26 divorcing parents was taught by Tidemann in April . Thirty-seven children were involved with these 26 parents.
- Tidemann will be teaching a session for the **Women's Empowerment Series** on May 10. Curriculum used: Taking Care of You – Body, Mind and Spirit, is focused on stress reduction strategies.
- **Just in Time Parenting age-paced newsletter** presentations were provided for the Evening FDL Kiwanis as well as for the Ripon Noon Kiwanis. Eighteen individuals were present for the update on the 25 year partnership with Kiwanis, UW Extension Family Living, and SSM Healthcare who work together in providing the age-paced parenting newsletter for new parents.
- Tidemann prepared and shared **2018 Plan of Work for Human Development and Relationships Education**. It was reviewed by State Extension.
- Tidemann has begun the 5 week series of **Protective Factors Framework training**. Training for professionals is provided by the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board and the National Alliance of Children's Trust Prevention Funds. Strengthening Families: Five Protective Factors is a research-based framework to guide services and support families who live in our communities. Training has content for everyday actions that research shows to be effective in strengthening families, especially those who have experienced toxic stress and challenging life situations.
- Diana promoted and contributed to the *Latinos Unidos en FDL* **tour of Moraine Park Technical College**. Seven adults and four children met with English Language Learning (ELL) and Student Services to learn more about programming at Moraine Park Technical College, financial aid, and how immigration status affects studies there. Participants toured the mechanic shop, nurse practice area, salon, and culinary classrooms.
- Diana convened and supported *Latinos Unidos en FDL* in their regular monthly meeting. They discussed invitations and requests for meetings from a WI gubernatorial candidate, the Fond du Lac County Health Department, United Way, and Latino Network of Beaver Dam, continued plans for the Independence Day celebration (September 14), and reiterated the importance of a change in the drivers' license laws in WI that affects most participants negatively on a daily basis.
- Diana taught the **Peniel Welsh Chapel Association** about non-profit status and best practices for writing bylaws as they write theirs for the first time in pursuit of 501(c)3 status.
- Diana met with the board of the **Waupun Historical Society** as they consider an update to their bylaws and refreshing their organization's policies and procedures.

- Diana **facilitated two focus groups** - one with nonprofit directors and one with Leadership Fond du Lac participants - with the Fond du Lac Area United Way as part of a series of community input sessions they are doing before revising organizational priorities.

Resilient & Productive Environment

- Ortiz-Ribbing attended and spoke at the **Pipe Creek Soil Health Meeting** on April 10th to 27 local producers and participants about her Dodge County on-farm research results with interseeding cover crops. Tony Peirick and Marty Weiss (chair and co-chair, respectively) of the Dodge County Farmers for Healthy Soil-Healthy Water were the key speakers, and NRCS demonstrated the rainfall simulator demonstrating water runoff and infiltration comparing fields with conventional tillage, no-till, cover crops, and continuous pasture.
- Ortiz-Ribbing is working with farmers to plan and prepare for the **2018 on-farm research trials** to evaluate the best methods for successfully applying cover crops. Five will be conducted in Dodge County this season.
- Ortiz-Ribbing is overseeing the **Cover Crops Incentive Program** for cost-sharing for any producer who has farm land in Dodge County. Fond du Lac County producers farming land in Dodge County are eligible.
- As part of the Cover Crop Incentive Program efforts, Dr. Ribbing is working with farmers to create TIP sheets for **successful establishment of cover crops** using frost-seeding, interseeding, or late summer or fall seeding following wheat, corn, grain for silage, or soybeans. The final draft of the frost-seeding sheet has been sent for producer review.
- Interviews of candidates for the **Healthy Soil-Healthy Water Intern** as part of the DATCP Producer Led Grant have occurred. Initial phone interviews to screen and select final candidates were held on April 5th with second face to face interviews of 3 final candidates on April 18th. A final candidate has been selected and efforts continue to complete the final steps of the hiring process. This intern will be housed in Dodge County.

Food Safety, Food Security & Health

- Amanda Miller is currently working on the **FoodWise FY19 budget**, which is from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019. The program is anticipated to bring in \$225,000 into Fond du Lac and Sheboygan Counties through staffing and programming focused on quality, evidence based nutrition education.
- During the period of October 2017 to March 2018, 1,957 **educational contacts** were made in Fond du Lac County reaching 562 persons at locations such as ADVOCAP, Boys and Girls Club, Transitional Living, and the WINGS program (to name just a few.)
- The FoodWise program would like to welcome **Melanie Phillips** to the team as Nutrition Educator. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Family Life Education, with a minor in Nutrition. She has experience with parent education programs, including child development, home visiting, transitioning families into parenthood. She is also a Certified Lactation Counselor. She is excited to have the opportunity to work for a program that teaches evidence-based programming in the area of nutrition.
- Miller and Patty Percy held the first **Junior Master Gardener** class for the year. During the session, the group did "food mapping" with Miller, which focuses meal down to its specific parts to identify where it comes from (plants or animals.) Percy took the group to the greenhouse to begin planting seedlings. The group has a fun-filled summer schedule set, which goes from early April to late August, and includes a field trip, guest speakers, and a parent

celebration.

- Miller received the **“Growing Together WI” grant**, which will support the building of a wheelchair accessible veterans’ garden in downtown Fond du Lac. The grant is intended to bring together Master Gardeners (gardening) and FoodWise (nutrition) in the local counties. The Junior Master Gardener program is an example of how Fond du Lac County UW-Extension has been collaborating well for many years. This project is supported by Percy and Ortiz-Ribbing, who provided garden plan support; Norb Chesney (Master Gardener volunteer), who created the final garden plan; and Kim Galske (Salute the Troops, Director). Meetings have begun to discuss plans.

Office Update

- Kohlman completed her responsibilities for the **UW-Extension Agriculture Institute Director Search & Screen Committee**, with an announcement of successful candidate shortly.
- Kohlman participated in the one-day **“Our Dialogue” training session** on diversity and inclusion.
- **Pam Bartoli** is our new Administrative Assistant to work primarily with Family Living and 4-H programs. She started on April 25.
- **Joseph Giron** will be our Community Resource Development Intern May 21 to Aug. 24 – 20 hours/week.
- The **4-H Coordinator position** was offered to an applicant, however, the offer was declined. The position will be reposted.
- Staff attended the April 17th **Area Extension meeting** on civil rights reporting and learning about the Program Support Services office in Madison.
- Staff will be attending the **Cooperatiave Extension All-Colleague conference** in the Wisconsin Dells on April 30.



Diana Hammer, Community, Natural Resource & Economic Development Educator
Tina Kohlmann, Dairy & Livestock Agent
Amanda Miller, FoodWise Coordinator/Family Living Educator
Pamela Nelson, FoodWise Educator
Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing, Area Crops & Soils Agent
Patty Percy, Community Garden Coordinator
Melanie Phillips, FoodWise Educator
Cindy Sarkady, Area Extension Director
Shelley Tidemann, Family Living Educator

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