



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
FOND DU LAC COUNTY

Programming Highlights

April - May 2020

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

We, at UW-Division of Madison Extension, wanted to send you the latest information on Extension's response to the COVID-19 virus outbreak. As of now, guidance from our Campus connection to UW-Madison is to limit on-site work and postpone events. This guidance follows state and local agencies in reaction to a worldwide event whose impact is growing in our area. This move is to ensure our communities are as safe as possible.

As a Division of UW-Madison, Extension is following the lead of UW-Madison leadership in responding to the COVID-19 virus outbreak. We are also attuned to public health officials and leadership in our county on closures and further restrictions. The latest health guidance on responding to the COVID-19 is "flattening the curve" or limiting the spread of the virus via protective measures. We want to make sure we're following best practice and promoting health and safety.

For Extension, this guidance has prompted our staff to transition to telecommuting and remote delivery of our programming. This follows guidance from UW-Madison to work remotely as possible through at least April 10, to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus and to protect the health and safety of our communities.

This move to remote work and program delivery is consistent with public health guidance to limit exposure. Our staff, who are able to work remotely, will begin doing so. We want to make sure our staff are in safe and comfortable positions, and we are planning policies and recommendations for all of our workers. Social distancing and preventing potential infections is a key area we can help with to hopefully curtail the impacts of this outbreak.

To continue to be a resource for our county, Extension is transitioning our programming to online delivery. Staff are working on innovative methods to serve our audience. With limited or restricted access to public spaces such as schools,

colleges, and government buildings, Extension staff are responding to give our stakeholders resources via the internet.

We also want to extend our services to be a resource for you. While we are implementing our remote work and program delivery, we are communicating with our participants what they can expect in the coming weeks. We want to work closely with you on not only communicating the latest information but also to align our program with emerging guidance to limit the impact of the COVID-19 virus.

Food Safety, Security & Health

- Amanda Miller submitted the budget plan for the next FoodWise fiscal year (October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021.) The **FY21 budget** will bring \$215,000 in staff, programming and services dedicated to improving the health and nutrition of Fond du Lac and Sheboygan County residents.
- The **Food Providers Group**, led by Miller, provides up-to-date resources and information regarding local food pantries and hot meal programs in Fond du Lac County. Miller, Melanie Phillips, and Cassi Worster, on behalf of the Food Providers Group, created a 'one stop shop' webpage for food resource information during COVID-19. This has been widely shared by state and local elected officials and local organizations. Paper copies have also been distributed using a QR code to access the website.
<https://fonddulac.extension.wisc.edu/fond-du-lac-county-food-resources-during-covid-19/>
- Miller has provided information on the impact of COVID-19 on **food security** and the local response to address it.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-Ej9R1c60-RelqslH5d4bHmsfJDH9Ljl/view?ts=5e7e741c>
- The Food Providers Group is **supporting local food pantries** during this time by providing a variety of national and state resources. An example of resources shared include: helping pantries move from a walk-in pantry to a boxed pantry; food safety and food handling with COVID-19, and helping connect families recently unemployed or underemployed due to COVID-19 to FoodShare benefits.
- The **Junior Master Gardeners (JMG)** program was to begin in early April. Miller led group meetings with Fond du Lac County Master Gardeners to create an alternative plan for the 2020 summer program.
- Patty Percy was successful in securing grants for **JMG** from the Fond du Lac Area Foundation and the Youth United Way.

- Miller participated in the development of the upcoming **Community Health Assessment** process, led by the Fond du Lac County Public Health Department.
- The **Population Health Group** continues to meet virtually to plan for health focus groups of undeserved and diverse community members.
- The FoodWise team is currently contacting each community partner to determine the interest and best ways to reach individuals with nutrition education. For example, FoodWise is exploring how to create **virtual learning classes** for youth and adults.
- More families are cooking at home every day now, which has increased the interest in resources on how to grocery shop for foods, prepare foods, properly store foods, and preserve foods. The FoodWise program has a variety of resources on each of these topics to help families. Miller has created a weekly social media post called **“Tasty Tuesday”** to introduce a recipe, a cooking or kitchen skill, and an instructional video.
- Miller has supported the local **farmers markets** regarding food safety and starting the season during COVID-19 by sharing state resources developed by Extension.
- Pamela Nelson has been sharing social media posts on **COVID 19 on important food topics** like: How safe is takeout food? Should you wash food packaging? Handling leftovers safely, Is meat safe? Can I bring my groceries into the house right after shopping? and the 5 second rule.

Thriving Youth, Families, Organizations & Communities

- **Just in Time Parenting age paced newsletter (JIT Newsletter)** 2019 National Survey was completed. Shelley Tidemann assisted with the review and editing of the National report. Majority of data in the Wisconsin section of the report is from the FDL County JIT project. Tidemann has sent this out to local JIT stakeholders for their use.
- **Co-Parenting** court mandated classes have been canceled for April and May due to COVID-19 sheltering in home. Tidemann has been working with FDL Family court and AED on transition coming with Tidemann’s retirement and scheduling of canceled classes. Tidemann provided co-parent resources identifying challenges while co-parenting and COVID19 pandemic.
- Tidemann’s work with **WAUPUN Aging HeART** commission addressing caregiving needs continued. We are meeting digitally to keep working on the grant.
- **Tidemann continues to provide each Tuesday morning from 7:30 - 8:00 am the Extension “Catch Your Breath”** digital session using the Taking Care of

You Curriculum. Target audience has been program partners/agencies/organizations. Attendance ranges from 11-17 individuals each Tuesday.

- Tiedemann is developing parent guides for the **Wisconsin Bookworms** reading program which is provided to 5,500 limited income children across Wisconsin. Each child receives 8 books with accompanying parent guides. This is a state program affiliated with the Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education organization which provides the books for the children.
- Ron Jakubisin is working in partnership with **Ebony Vision's Men of Vision mentoring program** Director to create virtual meetings with youth and adult mentors(using Zoom). Scheduled for April 25th, the event was canceled on the 23rd as the Director had difficulty contacting youth and mentors. Rescheduling to May. Safer At Home has created communication difficulties with youth and Jakubisin will continue to work with Men of Vision to overcome barriers.
- Jakubisin was teaching **Lemonade Day (entrepreneur lessons to youth)** Tuesday evenings but due to COVID19, the sponsoring agency (Envision) has canceled the May 2nd event. Jakubisin has continued on the planning committee with Envision and has offered to double up teaching sessions if Shelter In Place ends and Lemonade Day can be rescheduled.
- Jakubisin distributed an **online game called Lemonopolis** and encouraged those registered for Lemonade evening classes at Extension to participate in the online game. Envision is encouraging everyone who signed up for original programming to engage in *Lemonopolis* as an alternative to the May 2 event.
- Diana Hammer is hosting weekly meetings for **Latinos Unidos en Fond du Lac** via Zoom. Through these meetings, the group identified a need for a **COVID-specific Facebook page** which a leader created to centralize information and requests for donations or assistance. The group also made a list of questions to ask the Health Department. Several leaders then participated in recording a Zoom in Spanish which will be posted on Facebook to spread accurate information about quarantine and disease prevention.
- Tracy Keifenheim, Jayna Hintz (Ozaukee Co.), and Amy Mangan-Fischer (Washington Co.) adapted the **Volunteers in Preparation training** to an online platform for adults interested in becoming Division of Extension 4-H volunteers. This training delivery method moved to Zoom due to Covid-19 efforts, but will likely be used as an alternative in the future.
- With the families staying at home during the Safer at Home order, Keifenheim created a resource called "**4-H Fridays**". This resource provides educational materials on various 4-H projects to provide guidance to youth for hands-on learning. These topics vary from aerospace, to gardening, cooking, and more.

- Keifenheim hosted a **leaders meeting for 4-H leaders** on April 25th. During the meeting Keifenheim gave updates on Covid-19 guidelines from the Wisconsin 4-H Program Manager and took questions about programming during this time. Keifenheim also led instructional tutorials for various features on Zoom as some leaders are hosting community club meetings using the Zoom platform.
- **4-H Summer Camp** was cancelled for June 2020 and Keifenheim is working with counselors and camp volunteers on alternatives for the camp program for the 2020 season.
- **Community Gardens** now has a new online registration set-up to help the community register for garden plots. Thanks to the help from our talented office staff!
- Percy submitted an article to the Reporter about the gardens with the theme of **Victory Gardens** and tips for growing your own produce at home...it made the front page! We also have a new Community Garden sign in the works coming soon.
- Percy received another grant this year from Fond du Lac Area Foundation to help support our thriving garden.

Stronger Economies

- **Rent Smart** class for May was canceled due to COVID19 UW policies and registrants have been moved to a waiting list. Tidemann co-led training team of 4 Extension staff to conduct the **State Rent Smart Training of Professionals** 2 day zoom. Seventy two individuals from WI, Alaska, Texas and California attended, were trained and earned certificates. Evaluations will be sent the first week of May to attendees. This was the first time conducting this training using this platform. **UW Madison Students Class project on the Rent Smart curriculum** was concluded in April. Students developed an online quiz as well as infographic to support the curriculum. Tidemann was lead for this UW Madison/Extension collaborative effort.
- Tidemann continues to work to address local financial questions from individuals and agency partners as well as work with State Finance Security Program Manager and State Extension specialists to secure and gather resources addressing **COVID19 Family Finance challenges** families may encounter such as loss of jobs/income/housing/and the stress. Social Media posts are developed and disseminated, Mail Chimp has been used for Tidemann HDR mailing lists and Tidemann will be on KFIZ to discuss when income drops in April.
- Hammer along with coworkers Tessa Conroy (UW-Madison) and Mia Ljung (Outagamie & Winnebago Counties) taught a **Leadership Fond du Lac**

workshop about entrepreneurial networks. Participants learned that supporting a variety of local businesses and intentionally growing connections with others fosters entrepreneurship.

- Hammer and colleague Joseph Malual (University of IL Extension) continue writing an article for publication in a journal about how **Black business owners access financial capital** to start businesses.
- **The Extension Entrepreneurs of Color Support Team**, co-led by Hammer, is making plans to address COVID-related stress amongst business owners and study the appropriate role for Extension to take.
- Hammer continued **program development for teaching entrepreneurship in prisons**. A memorandum of understanding is being developed with activities likely starting as soon as COVID-related conditions are resolved.

Resilient & Productive Environment

- Due to the COVID-19, dairy markets have been reduced and the supply chain has been disrupted causing some dairy farms in the immediate area to dump milk. In this case, milk is treated as a waste with potential handling, storing, agronomic, and environmental impacts. To address this issue, Tina Kohlman co-planned, -developed, -hosted, and -evaluated a “**Considerations for Land Spreading Milk**” **webinar** for nearly 630 individuals.
- Due to a wet 2019 Spring and Fall, forage inventories are low for many producers. To help provide awareness of other feed options when developing the 2020 cropping plan, Kohlman and colleagues co-planned, -developed, -hosted, and -evaluated a “**Feeding & Growing Alternative Forages**” **webinar** for nearly 150 individuals.
- Farmers are facing many financial stresses due to COVID-19. As a result Kohlman, Joe Zimbric, and other Eastern WI agriculture agents have co-developed and -hosted a multi-webinar series “**Farm Management Through a Crisis: A Supporting Farmers During Challenging Times Series**” for agriculture professionals. Nearly 340 individuals participated in the “**Dairy Markets and Supply Chain Disruptions**” webinar; 100 individuals participated in the “**Crop Update & Byproduct Feeds**” webinar; and nearly 300 individuals in “**Grain, Cattle, and Meat Markets**”.
- Tony Johnson assisted regional forestry Natural Resources Educators with production of Facebook Live weekly series on the **Learn About Your Land facebook page**. Topics include phenology and journaling (4/14), Forest invasive plant species (4/21), and Forest Landowner documents (4/28).

Office Updates

- Kohlman was recently recognized for her **developed outreach and materials** through the Wisconsin Association of County Agricultural Agents Association Communication Awards Program. Kohlman was named state winner for a publication, presentation, factsheet, and newsletter (with Zimbric), and state-runner up for a second factsheet, website and promotional piece.
- Miller, Nelson and Phillips participated in the **21 Day Racial Equity Challenge**, which included daily readings, as well as weekly state and national discussion groups. <https://foodsolutionsne.org/21-day-racial-equity-habit-building-challenge/>
- Tina Engelhardt, Hammer, and Cindy Sarkady participated in a **book discussion of *Waking Up White*** by Debbie Irving with other coworkers in Area 15.
- This will be my last EAR report! I'd like to thank the EAR Committee members for their continued support of the Extension Education programming in the area of **Financial literacy and Human Relationships**. I worked for the Families in Fond du Lac County as well as for the county's children supporting their welfare and success. Thank you for the opportunity.-- Shelley Tidemann



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Diana Hammer, Community Development Educator

Ron Jakubisin, Positive Youth Development Educator (Fond du Lac/Washington Counties)

Tracy Keifenheim, 4-H Program Educator

Tina Kohlman, Dairy & Livestock Agriculture Agent

Amanda Miller, FoodWise Coordinator/Health & Well-Being Educator (Fond du Lac/Sheboygan Counties)

Pamela Nelson, FoodWise Educator

Patty Percy, Community Garden Coordinator

Melanie Phillips, FoodWise Educator

Cindy Sarkady, Area Extension Director

Shelley Tidemann, Human Development & Relationships Educator

Joe Zimbric, Crops & Soils Agriculture Educator (Fond du Lac/Dodge Counties)