

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

Thriving Youth, Families & Communities

- Thirteen youth represented Fond du Lac County Dairy at the **Wisconsin State Fair Jr Dairy Show** this past month. Many awards were won individually by youth. As a county, the youth won a top 10 award both for county herdsmanship and county educational display.
- Over 25 individuals attended the annual **Dairy Project Year in Review Meeting** to provide feedback and direction for the county's dairy project.
- Diana Hammer had several meetings with employees of the City of Fond du Lac Comptroller and Finance Office as a precursor to a **process improvement effort** they are undertaking.
- Latinos Unidos en Fond du Lac, represented by volunteers Angela Reyes and Erika Reyes, with assistance from Joe Giron and Hammer, hosted a booth at **National Night Out**. More than 200 children with parents visited the booth, tried the horchata, and learned about the Latinos Unidos 4-H Dance Club and [Fiesta de Independencia](#) on September 16.
- **Latinos Unidos** leaders Ramiro Santana and Hiram Rabadán joined Hammer in an interview on KFIZ. They discussed how they formed the group with former UW-Extension employee Araceli Oswald, what it means to them to participate, and invited the community to the Independence Day Celebration on Sunday, September 16. The [conversation is available online](#) (26 minutes).
- On August 16th, Alexis Newton, Interim 4-H Program Coordinator, and six youth from the Teen Leader Association hosted a field trip to **Ledgeview Nature Center** for **Boys and Girls Club** children. The children learned about animals, conservation, and nature through a guided hike and animal presentation. The teen leaders strengthened their leadership, conflict resolution and communication skills.
- **Co-Parenting** court mandated classes for 34 divorcing parents were co-taught by Michelle Tidemann in August. Sixty-five children were involved with these parents. Tidemann is working with Family Courts and Maggie Kerr, State Extension Specialist, to review/update the Co-Parenting presentations.
- **Just in Time Parenting** age paced newsletter partnership continues as Tidemann met with partners in August to review the past year. Cost containment has been successful with a decrease in funds required for the newsletter series, as well as 75% of the parents receiving the newsletter do so digitally. Tidemann has been asked to serve on the National Just In Time Review Board to assist with the national use of the age paced newsletter. Tidemann and support staff Kelly Lamb have designed a report template for reporting survey findings. This is being used in Fond du Lac County and will be used on a national basis as well.
- Tidemann has been asked to serve on the **Waupun Rural Senior Grant workgroup**. This grant was given to three communities in Wisconsin through the UW School of Nursing.
- Tidemann serves on the **CSI Trauma Informed Care workgroup** addressing trauma and adverse childhood experiences in children/families in Fond du Lac County.
- Tidemann conducted **Colors Personality Training** for 18 middle management employees of Charter/Spectrum Communications. This is the 4th Colors training Tidemann has conducted for Charter/Spectrum in the past 3 years.

Stronger Economies

- Giron and Hammer participated in the monthly **IGNITE! Steering Team** meeting, discussing the creation of similar entrepreneurship support networks in Oshkosh and the Fox Cities. Giron suggested improvements to the client management system in development. Hammer emphasized the importance of trusting relationships amongst partners.
- At the invitation of Envision Greater Fond du Lac, Hammer participated in a focus group to shape their **Talent Led economic development strategy**. She commented on the barriers experienced by minority- and immigrant-owned entrepreneurs in the area and the high demand for culturally responsive services.
- Hammer attended a **seminar on business planning** presented by the Green Bay Packers Mentor-Protégé Program in Green Bay, which partners new minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses with established businesses in a year-long partnership.
- Giron and Hammer shared their work with Bob Hoffmaster on **KFIZ**. The [interview recording is available online](#) (22 minutes).
- **Fond du Lac County Holstein Association hosted their biannual Twilight Meeting & Open Barn** at Felten Farms, St. Cloud. The Felten Family recently built a new freestall and automated milking system facility for their 260 cow herd. Over 200 individuals attended the event. Tina Kohlman assisted in the Open Barn, answering questions regarding automated milking systems and freestall design.
- Nine **Forward Services** clients have attended the Success Series classes taught by Tidemann. Classes taught in August were on budgeting, communications and stress reduction.
- Tidemann taught **Basic Budgeting** to eight residents at Mahala's Hope. This was done through a three part series focused on income/expense identification, goal setting and cutting expenses.
- Tidemann continues to work with the **State Rent Smart** workgroup engaged with the new curriculum. Training has been set for a Fall Rent Smart training in Stevens Point. In Fond du Lac County, a [Rent Smart session](#) is set for the Ripon community on October 9 & 11th at the Ripon Public Library. Promotion for this has been started.
- Tidemann concluded the 4 part series at the Boys and Girls Club (Johnsonville and Theisen) using the **3-D financial literacy** through the use of children's books. There were 79 children who participated throughout the summer. Each received 4 books as well as activities to promote financial skills. Youth were given a bank to save for an object and approximately 20 youth reported they had placed money in their banks. Additional results will be shared.
- Approximately 160 participants attended the August 3rd **Farmers for Healthy Soil-Healthy Water Field Day** at the Hammer & Kavazanjian Farms in Beaver Dam. The Dodge County Farmers for Healthy Soil-Healthy Water have a mission of improving our community's soil & water through conservation practices & education for the Rock River Watershed, which includes portions of Fond du Lac County. In the morning, Dr. Jerry Hatfield, Director, USDA National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment in Ames, IA, spoke on *The impact of weather extremes on agriculture*. Abbey Augarten, UW-Discovery Farms Project Coordinator, also shared information and results about UW-Discovery Farms Nitrogen Use Efficiency Trials. The group learned about equipment for cover crop establishment. Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing spoke about the seven on-farm cover crop trials she is conducting with local producers to explore cover crop establishment methods and timings. Local producers shared their cover crop successes, failures, and experiences. The day ended with demonstrations of equipment that can be used to seed covers.
- As part of her producer led **watershed efforts**, Dr. Ortiz-Ribbing has been overseeing DATCP Producer Led grant efforts for the cover crop incentive program (CCIP), supervision of the HSHW Intern, and leading seven on-farm research trials for evaluating various application methods and timing for successful establishment of cover crops.

- Dr. Ortiz-Ribbing has partnered with Fond du Lac LWCD and has been meeting with producers from FDL County to start a **producer led soil health group**. So far there are about 15 to 20 interested producers.

Food Safety, Food Security & Health

- Melanie Phillips taught a **Unit Pricing lesson** at Riverview Apartments and Mabess Manor. Eight seniors attended this class, in which they learned several shopping strategies in order to save money at the grocery store using the technique of unit pricing. These individuals received a calculator to practice figuring out unit pricing; most of this was new information to participants. 86% of participants reported that they would use unit pricing to find the best value the next time they go shopping. They also learned about buying in bulk, planning out meals and snacks ahead of time, and using leftovers to minimize waste.
- Due to popular demand, Amanda Miller and the Fond du Lac Senior Center are expanding the **StrongBodies** program (formerly known as Strong Women) from 2 - 10 week sessions to 4 - 10 week sessions. The program is currently seeking an additional person interested in facilitating the 4th session. The next round of sessions begins September 10/11 and ends November 14/15.
- Miller met with the public health department to provide input into the **Community Health Improvement Plan**. Specifically, Miller provided input on the goals related to fruits and vegetable consumption of the Living Well FDL group.
- Miller received the **"Growing Together WI" grant**, which supports gardens for veterans. One of the garden locations is the Community Gardens, where Master Gardener volunteers and veterans have already grown and harvested a few hundred pounds of produce that was donated to veterans and the Fondy Food Pantry. The other garden location is at 1st and Marr St., where the building of a wheelchair accessible downtown garden will take place the beginning of September. This project is in partnership with the Fond du Lac County Master Gardener volunteers (Patty Percy and Norb Chesney) and Salute the Troops. Miller is currently facilitating meetings.
- Miller currently serves as Secretary on the **Food for Thought Committee**. This committee oversees the administration of the backpack program, which provides food for students in need during the weekends. The committee is preparing for another busy school year.
- The **Junior Master Gardener (JMG)** Program ended with a parent party/celebration on August 9th. During the party, children arrive early to prepare a meal and flower bouquets from the garden. During the party, families eat together, do a gardening related activity, and play a game. During the interactive game, parents are often impressed with how much their children can answer as a result of the program. Parent evaluations are starting to come in, all with 'excellent' program ratings and comments, such as "my child really enjoyed this program. You all did a great job!" The program began on April 5th. JMG is offered in partnership between Amanda Miller (FoodWise) and Patty Percy (Master Gardeners).
- Miller, Dusty Krikau (Downtown Fond du Lac Partnership), and staff from the state FoodWise office facilitated an FNV focus group at the Fond du Lac Public Library on August 16th. The **FNV campaign** markets fruits & vegetables the same way big brands market their products. The purpose of the focus group was to determine the 2019 messages and themes. For example, a past theme is: "diehard fans eat green and gold" (reference to the Packers with an image of peppers).
- The Food Providers Group participated in the "Community Food Challenge", which is a hands on simulation intended to raise awareness to the challenges families in poverty face to get enough food in a day to stay healthy. The event was co-presented by Miller and Shelley Tidemann. Of the 16 participants, 81% cited an increased understanding and empathy related to food insecurity as a result of participating in the event. Participants noted just how stressful every day can be if food insecure.
- The **"FDL Fresh 5"** is a farmer's market donation program with an emphasis on connecting Fond du Lac families with healthier food pantry donations. This program, started by Miller and Bill Zeleske (farmers market vendor), is an opportunity for Fond du Lac farmers and customers to donate fresh fruits and vegetables to local food pantries following each Saturday market. In addition to fresh produce, whole grains foods and low-sodium canned goods are also accepted. Between late August and mid-October 2017, nearly 2,000 pounds of produce

were donated. To date this summer, nearly 2,500 pounds of produce and \$530 has been donated to Broken Bread and the Fondy Food Pantry.

- Pamela Nelson was asked to attend a meeting by the Department of Health Services in Madison to provide feedback on the **ACCESS Mobile project**. ACCESS is the site where you can apply for health insurance and FoodShare benefits. ACCESS Mobile is a new "app" coming this fall 2018 that will allow members to view benefit status, get reminders about actions participants need to take, see what verification documents need to be submitted and take photos of verification documents. Nelson's role was to provide feedback representing the low income population in Fond du Lac County. The Department of Health Services was looking for input to improve the app and make sure low income families will be able to use the app. This app will help low income families get benefits faster and eliminate some barriers such as having a car, enough gas, printer and getting mail notifications.

Resilient & Productive Environment

- As part of her **Dodge County Alliance** efforts, Dr. Ortiz-Ribbing helped promote and attended the Lake Sinissippi Pontoon Ride. This event was an opportunity for local producers to meet with lake members, tour Lake Sinissippi, and network and discuss water quality concerns. Sixty-six people attended.
- Dr. Ortiz-Ribbing attended and spoke at the **Professional Dairy Producers Twilight ACE event** in Markesan at the Double S Dairy Farm. Over 100 people attended the event and learned the positive aspects of this dairy in the community. Comments from the general public and lake members attending the event were, "This is eye opening," and "We learned so much we never realized."

Office Updates

- Giron presented about his work this summer at an **internship fair** hosted by Cooperative Extension to showcase the work of interns for other employees.
- Hammer participated in preliminary interviews as part of the Search and Screen Committee for the **Positive Youth Development Educator**. It is a failed search, so the position will be re-posted.
- Hammer and Giron participated in the first meeting of the **UW-Extension Latino Task Force**, organized by colleagues and supported by the Dean's Office "to provide visioning and initiatives that will reach and work alongside with Latino communities across the state."



Fond du Lac County

Diana Hammer, Community, Natural Resource & Economic Development Educator

Tina Kohlmann, Dairy & Livestock Agent

Amy Mangan-Fischer, 4-H Program Coordinator

Amanda Miller, FoodWise Coordinator/Family Living Educator

Pamela Nelson, FoodWise Educator

Dr. 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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