



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
FOND DU LAC COUNTY

Programming Highlights

August - September 2020

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

Agriculture/Agri-Business (Tina Kohlman & Joe Zimbric)

- Development and implementation of the **Ag Lenders' Update Webinar Series** for ag lenders, accountant, tax preparers, and financial consultants where they will learn about: (Part 1) Crop Marketing and Updates, and (Part 2) Dairy Marketing and Nutrition.
- Continued leadership of 20 extension colleagues and development/revisions of eight **bilingual Dairy Workers Training Skills modules** for dairy employees where they will learn principles of and how to do each task on the farm in order to do their daily tasks more confidently and efficiently. Current focus is on developing stockphotos and graphics libraries for use in factsheets and presentations.
- Collaborated with state-wide county-based educators in the **development of dairy cattle heat stress related impacts factsheets and videocasts**.
- Development and dissemination of **weekly agriculture e-newsletter** for 350 plus farmers, agribusiness professionals, and agency personnel regarding current events related to dairy production, crop management, farm management, COVID-19, and events.
- Coordinated the **2020 Corn Silage Dry Down** with the Fond du Lac County Forage Council, area ag businesses, and farmers.
- Collaborated with state Extension specialists and county-based educators to host a webinar on **Grain Bin Construction, Maintenance, and Safety**.
- Continuing to develop and promote a new podcast series, "**The Cutting Edge**," that features alternative cropping options for Wisconsin farmers.

Community Development (Diana Hammer)

- Began training to learn more about the national nonprofit collaborator Extension Colleague Angie Allen (Milwaukee County) and Diana Hammer will work with to

teach entrepreneurship in prisons. This will be an ongoing process over the next months as we coordinate program implementation with the Department of Corrections and community-based organizations serving incarcerated individuals, returning citizens, and their families.

- As a member of the UW-Madison/Extension **Latino Task Force**, Hammer continues to contribute to the development of a series of online learning modules for white Extension Educators and others seeking to deepen cross-cultural skills and work more effectively with Latino individuals and families.
- Concluded **individual check-ins with Entrepreneurs of Color** in northeast Wisconsin to assess general wellbeing and business needs. This has resulted in increased access to emergency financial resources and better understanding for how Extension can respond to business needs.
- Consulted with **six new entrepreneurs** in Fond du Lac County (four Latino and two African American) about their business ideas and connected them to area economic development partners for further technical assistance.
- Patty Percy made several visits to the **Community Gardens**, checking on the status of the cover crop and garden maintenance. Volunteer has completed a new sturdy stand for one of the large water tanks.
- **Vegetable crops** are looking good and maturing early at the Community Gardens.

Health & Well-Being

- To stay connected with senior populations, FoodWise created the “**Stay Home, Stay Healthy**” **newsletters series**. Each newsletter is bi-weekly and includes food safety, food budgeting, nutrition, and a recipe. Newsletters can be found here: <https://fonddulac.extension.wisc.edu/stay-home-stay-healthy/>
- FoodWise continues to provide the most **up-to-date information on food resources** at: <https://fonddulac.extension.wisc.edu/fond-du-lac-county-food-resources-during-covid-19/>
- The FoodWise team has been active in numerous state workgroups. For example, the curriculum workgroups are **adapting lessons to virtual classes**.
- Melanie Phillips and Pamela Nelson **taught 2 virtual classes** (MyPlate and physical activity) to four 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms (30 kids) at Boys and Girls Club-Johnsonville. Staff was very thankful for the innovation and willingness to try new things with their students. She commented “I think the virtual programming went great and we will keep you in the loop for our school year plans. Thanks so much.” Future virtual classes are being planned.

- Amanda Miller **coordinated a dairy distribution event** that provided nearly 500 food boxes to Fond du Lac County families. Each box contained 6-7 dairy products, including 2 gallons of milk, sour cream, and cottage cheese. Prairie Farms, with assistance from Birdseye Dairy, provided the food through a USDA program. Nearly 20+ volunteers assisted from local food pantries, dairy farms, and the fairgrounds. This was the first 'drive-thru' food distribution in our area. Another distribution event is being planned.
- Phillips has partnered with multiple organizations, including ARC Community Services and Beacon House, to **offer virtual classes on food safety**.
- Miller is creating a presentation format of the "Safe and Healthy Food Pantries" toolkit to **teach food pantry management** to local staff and volunteers at organizations handling food. Staff at Beacon House requested this information.
- Miller is meeting one-on-one to help train a new staff member at Blandine House. This staff person will be teaching cooking classes to residents. Staff requested that Miller **provide an overview of food safety practices** to the new staff person.
- Miller is a member of two state **workgroups addressing food security**. COVID has both increased the number of individuals that are food insecure, but also changed the food system in numerous and significant ways. One workgroup is developing resources to help support local Extension Educators. Another workgroup is developing a toolkit to help support local food pantries. Miller is currently surveying local food pantries on their needs, successes and challenges during COVID.
- Miller is a member of the **Fond du Lac Healthy 2020 Steering Committee**, which helps advise the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Improvement Plan (CHIP). Fond du Lac County residents are currently participating in the community health survey. Miller helped advise the survey tool.
- **Living Well FDL**, the nutrition and physical activity subgroup of the Fond du Lac Healthy 2020, is currently addressing food security by examining how to improve the delivery system of emergency food for those that cannot pick-up. Miller is an active member of this project.
- A team of staff are collaborating to **build capacity of Extension to support Hmong farmers**. Miller is a member of this project due to her relationship with the Downtown Fond du Lac Farmers Market and her work with the local farmers market to reach Hmong EBT/FoodShare users over the years.
- The local FoodWise team is currently meeting regularly to **plan programs and resources for this fall**, including which virtual classes to plan next. The team is reaching out to local partners to learn more about where they are at with COVID and what their needs are.

- The local **Population Health Group** continues to meet virtually to plan for community conversations around health topics with populations that are generally underserved and underrepresented in this work. Miller is completing “health equity modules” through UW-Population Health Institute that help support this local work.
- The FoodWise team continues to share weekly tips on cooking through the **Tasty Tuesday Facebook posts**. Topics have included: Excellent Eggs, Making Smoothies, Using Dried Beans, and One Pot Meals, to name a few. Visit here: <https://counties.extension.wisc.edu/fonddulac/tasty-tuesdays/>
- It is **canning season**, so there has been an increase in the number of phone calls and emails about canning from community members. Miller responds using the most up-to-date resources and information on food safety and food preservation.

4-H & Youth Development

- Tracy Keifenheim, 4-H Program Educator, partnered with Washington and Ozaukee County 4-H Program Educators in providing a **Volunteers in Preparation training**. This training reached three 4-H volunteers.
- Keifenheim has worked with several club leaders and volunteers to **modify activities and meetings following the guidelines** of The University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Extension. The Brandon Tanagers club meeting, Ledgers sidewalk chalk Message project, Welcome 4-H float, and Springvalley’s August meeting are just a few of the activities and meetings that have been modified.
- Keifenheim met with Springvalley club and Teen Leader’s Associations during the month of August to discuss **program planning for the fall**. Each club has several ideas to try in the upcoming months.
- A **virtual 4-H Graduation** was held on August 26th to honor and recognize 2020 4-H graduates, Key Award winners, and scholarship recipients. The Fond du Lac County 4-H has 20 graduates, 4 Key Award winners, and awarded 11 scholarships.
- Ron Jakubisin, Positive Youth Development Educator, **developed and delivered youth workshops** on the topics of “*Think Outside The Box: Strategies for Problem-Solving*” and “*T.E.A.M. (together everyone achieves more!)*”. Both workshops are also offered through the *Wisconsin Summer Virtual Learning Calendar*.
- Jakubisin has **developed workshops for Boys/Girls Club** to be delivered in 3 increments in Sept./Oct. He has coordinated efforts with B/G Club Youth Director

Dillon Wiese in strategizing program deliver in B/G Club new structure (due to Covid)

- Jakubisin has collaborated with 4-H Educator Tracy Keifenheim in **coordinating *Application and Interviewing* trainings for youth**
- Jakubisin has assisted FDL Library Teen Services Director in **developing strategies to engage qualified youth in registering to vote**. This collaboration developed key stakeholders, volunteer recruitment, and promotion to youth (Sr. and college-aged eligible to vote).

Office Updates

- Cindy Sarkady and Miller have held mid-point (half year) performance reviews for Academic Staff, which were due in August.



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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

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