

**Programming Highlights**

December 2015 – January 2016

UW-Extension, Cooperative Extension, Fond du Lac County

*We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin,*

*and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.*

**Stronger Economies**

* UW-Extension Fond du Lac County & the Fond du Lac County Forage Council hosted the annual **Dairy-Forage Day** this past month with 45 individuals in attendance.  Dairy & Livestock Agent Tina Kohlman presented the 2015 Fond du Lac County data from the Alfalfa Yield & Persistence Project.  Four farms in Fond du Lac County are cooperators in this state wide, multi-year project.
* Diana and UW-Extension colleagues from Winnebago and Outagamie Counties planned and facilitated a three hour retreat with **IGNITE! partners** featuring a self-assessment of how the collaboration is going, an overview of Collective Impact as a way to structure our work together, and planning for 2016.

**Food Safety, Food Security & Health**

* Tina Kohlman hosted an adult **Pork Quality Assurance Plus (PQA Plus)** certification for six county pork producers.  PQA Plus Certification is a continuous improvement program that outlines Good Production Practices (GPPs) in the areas of food safety and animal well-being.  It delivers the latest in scientific research and improved production practices to producers and production employees.  Pork producers are asked to be certified every three years.
* This Fall WNEP (Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program) Educator Kris Schaeffer resumed teaching at the first of two senior housing complexes in Fond du Lac, **Portland Square Apartments**. The class was attended by 8 of the residents. This was a 200% increase in attendance over last year due to the efforts of Kim Adams, the new coordinator who recently joined the staff. What was interesting was that there was a younger couple who appeared to not be in very good health and some older adults who had aged well. As eating healthy and being active was discussed, the conversation revealed that the residents who were aging well were also eating healthy food and being active. The younger, less healthy couple was not yet buying into the benefits of having a nutritious diet and exercising, but at least a seed was planted. The attendees asked that our next class would include a discussion of alternative ways to season food with less salt and also label reading.

**Thriving Youth, Families, Organizations & Communities**

* Allison O. is one of only two WI 4-H teens who was selected to attend the **Public Issues Leadership Development Conference**. The PILD Conference, April 10-13, 2016, in Washington, DC, is designed to provide a professional development experience in the area of public issues/policy and to also provide personal growth opportunities. This is a chance to network with Extension volunteers, educators and administrators from around the United States and to heighten knowledge about Cooperative Extension.
* Denise Retzleff facilitated the **“Encouraging the Heart of Leadership”** training for thirteen 4-H volunteers. The focus was identifying different types of leadership roles and opportunities for young people, identifying elements to develop supportive relationships with young people, and creating strategies to use to encourage the heart of leadership. Evaluations indicated that participants will engage in more personable conversations with young people, work to increase a sense of belonging in their group, and create mentor opportunities.
* Teen Leader Association members annually conduct the **county club officer workshop** to help new 4-H club officers understand their roles and responsibilities. In addition, each year a topic is covered that pertains to all officers. This year the TLA members decided to focus on teamwork. To help presenters prepare Denise Retzleff provides them with resources they pick from to use. They are given instructions on how to plan, teach and reflect. 22 officers attended the program taught by 6 teens. At the close of the program every participant was able to record at least one thing they learned and would be able to use in their officer role.  In reflecting on their own leadership, TLA members were able to describe what went well with their session and why, and what could be improved. In reflecting upon what they learned from this leadership experience comments were: 1) I will remember that clubs and their members are different but in positive ways; 2) This gave me more experience in speaking in front of a group; 3) Next time I will be a bit better organized. After the workshop each TLA member committed to contacting the officers who attended their breakout session as a way to continue to support them. Additionally, TLA will start a new Facebook page solely for club officers to communicate and offer support and ideas.
* The **4-H Shooting Sports** project has actually evolved into a committee of ten adults and one youth who have made plans for an indoor winter archery shoot, located facilities, determined fees, discussed leadership roles, and will incorporate both archery and wildlife skill level workbooks into lessons which will increase learning by members. This is based off a successful model in Washington County 4-H, whose volunteer met with Fond du Lac County volunteers to explain their program. The program will run indoors for 9 weeks (Jan-Mar) and then outdoors for 4 weeks (June).
* Six 4-H teens who have been selected to participate in **New Horizons, a service learning opportunity** in July 2016, have begun meeting to determine their plans. This includes what state to travel to, what mode of travel to use, determine a budget, and what fundraisers to organize. The group will meet monthly until the experience takes place in order to plan service opportunities and prioritize historical and cultural visits.
* Diana met with members of **Campbellsport CARES** who are planning a community event in 2016 to engage more residents in strengthening the community. Diana will be co-facilitating and planning the event in conjunction with Village residents, FCEDC, and WEDC.
* Diana introduced the **City of Fond du Lac Public Works Department** to a new UW-Extension specialist in community marketing who can work with the City to improve how it informs the public about and promotes the amenities of area parks per the Lakeside Park Exploratory Committee recommendations.
* Araceli Oswald and Friendship Learning Center coordinated efforts to celebrate the holidays with the **Latino families** of the North Fond du Lac School District. Over 100 people participated in this event. Youth, parents, grandparents, school staff and members of the community were engaged in the celebration, games and singing traditional songs. Food and drinks for the community were provided by the school.

**Office Update**

* **Budget** **update** through December: Expenses - 78%; Revenues - 94% (not final)

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including Title IX and ADA requirements.