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

Stronger Economies

- Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing presented **Pesticide Applicator Training** in both Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties on Feb. 2 and Feb. 13, respectively. This program training is developed by Glenn Nice, Pesticide Applicator Training Coordinator, Madison; and the test is developed through DATCP. This training certifies private pesticide applicators to apply Restricted Use Pesticides and ensures pesticides are applied appropriately and safely. She also added issue related content regarding new pesticide labeling requirements for herbicide use on dicamba and 2,4-D tolerant crops, as well as information about pollinators, drift, personal protection, and environmental safety.
- Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing partnered with Dodge County LCD, Fond du Lac County LWCD, DNR, Dodge County Farm Bureau, Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association, Fox Lake Improvement Association, Lake Sinissippi Lake Improvement Association, and 14 local producers to develop and plan the **Healthy Soil-Healthy Water Workshop** events. Dr. Ribbing's role since June 2016 has been to facilitate and advise the Non-point Source Workgroup and the Education Subcommittee of the Nonpoint Source Workgroup. What resulted was a Healthy Soil-Healthy Water Workshop series of three events described below.
- Over 250 producers from counties including Fond du Lac, Dodge, Washington, Racine, and Green Lake Counties, participated in the **first event** in our **Healthy Soil-Healthy Water Workshop series** in Juneau, WI on February 8th. The purpose of this full-day workshop was to help producers in the Rock River Watershed learn why soil health and water quality are important for their farm's future and water quality within the watershed that includes portions of Fond du Lac and most of Dodge Counties, as well as counties leading into Illinois. Producers from counties such as Fond du Lac, Dodge, Racine, Washington, and Green Lake also heard about cover crops, No-Till/Strip Till, and nutrient and manure management principles & practices. Nine local producers on three farmer panels, including Steve Smits from Fond du Lac, shared their farm success stories using these three practices. This was highly received. Dr. Ribbing is currently summarizing the program evaluation. Producers were asked to volunteer and form a Farmer Led Initiative. Dr. Ribbing is working with Tony Peirick, a local producer, leading this effort.
- About 100 people attended the **second program** in our **Healthy Soil-Healthy Water series**, called SAVE Our Lakes-Better land practices: Better water, held the evening of Feb. 8th in Juneau, WI. Participants represented the general public, lakes associations, homeowners, media, and farmers. Dr. Ribbing was part of the workgroup initiating and leading this effort as part of the Healthy Soil-Healthy Water events. This event successfully brought the general public and lake owners together with producers, Charlie Hammer and his wife, Nancy Kavazanjian, Tony Peirick, and Jim Harbach. Other speakers, representing the Lake groups, included Lisa Reas, Karen Huber. A good understanding of lake water quality issues, lake landowner issues, agricultural practices, and everyone's role in water quality was the result. Future plans were made for producer and lake landowner interaction (i.e. getting farmers out on the lakes and vice versa).
- The **third event** of the **Healthy Soil-Healthy Water Workshop series**, was called Follow-Up at the Farm Shop. Joe & Jacob Condon in Horicon, WI offered their farm shop for the mid-day event. About 64 producers returned for a second day of hands-on question and answer session with our keynote speakers.

- **Keynote Speakers**, who spoke at the three **Healthy Soil-Healthy Water events**, were NRCS Regional Soil Health Specialists, Ray Archuleta and Justin Morris (local in WI). In addition, the third keynote speaker was Pennsylvania producer Jim Harbach, who has used no-till for 40 years and cover crops for 10. All three speakers were well received, but Jim was especially a big hit with local producers who took every opportunity to listen to and ask questions about his farming practices.
- Dr. Ribbing continues to interact and meet with **Forage Councils and Master Gardeners** Associations and boards in Fond du Lac and Dodge Counties. She has encouraged the Fond du Lac County Master Gardener group to start to incorporate an educational aspect to each monthly meeting, and Dr. Ribbing started this effort off by speaking at the Feb. 14th FDL County Master Gardener meeting about Chocolate: What's not to Love? In this presentation she presented how this single plant has impacted history.
- Dr. Ribbing, worked with the **Dodge County Forage Council** as they planned and prepared for their Annual Meeting on Feb. 10. Dr. Ribbing spoke at the meeting on the current topic of Winter Injury to Alfalfa to about 25 producers and industry representatives.
- Dr. Ribbing partnered with Robert Bird, Dodge Co. CD, and spoke at the **Dodge County Nutrient Refresher Course** on February 21st in Juneau, WI. She spoke to a group of 42 producers and industry representatives about Amazing Soil Microbes and why they are important to nutrient management and healthy soil systems.
- Thanks to the efforts of Charlie Hammer, Dan Bird, Jim Zimmerman, and Dr. Ortiz-Ribbing, the **Dodge Fondy Corn Growers** met on Feb. 23 at the Waupun Pizza Ranch. Dr. Joe Lauer spoke about his corn hybrid trials related to corn traits. Dr. Ribbing spoke about seed treatments, IPM, and pollinators. With the concern over new label changes, Dr. Ribbing asked company reps from Monsanto and Dow to speak about the new and strict label requirements for herbicides registered for dicamba and 2,4-D resistant crops. About 30 Fond du Lac and Dodge County producers attended.
- The Fond du Lac Forage Council, under the guidance of Dr. Ribbing, planned a good program of UW speakers and a grower panel for their **Dairy Forage Days** which was held on December 14th and attended by 40 producers and agribusiness representatives.
- Dr. Ribbing continues to share the **Agricultural Needs Assessment Survey**, developed with Amanda Young and Tina Kohlman, with audiences at UW meetings.
- **IGNITE! Business Success** began promoting the availability of [a grant to assist businesses to start or grow in 2017](#). Diana developed an app that will allow IGNITE! partners to input time spent on WEDC grant activities and coordinate shared tasks. She also facilitated a meeting of the Steering Team, a meeting for partners about grant implementation, and co-taught a session for partners on the use of Google Drive.
- Diana and her counterpart with Brown County UW-Extension have begun organizing a **First Impressions** exchange between the City of Fond du Lac, Downtown Fond du Lac Partnership, and Fond du Lac Convention and Visitors Bureau and two downtown organizations in Green Bay. Volunteers from each place will send anonymous visitors to experience the other city using an online survey tool to record their thoughts. UW-Extension will work with both teams to summarize and share the main ideas with each group. Each organization will then determine how to respond to the objective feedback.
- Twelve dairy owners and managers (eight Spanish speaking) participated in session one of **"Manager of Choice" Human Resource Meeting**. Session one of the three part agriculture human resources series focused on The Farm Business Culture and Hiring the Right People. The meeting was offered simultaneously with funding provided by the UW-Extension Office of the Dean. Tina Kohlman taught "Hiring the Right People" engaging participants on how to conduct successful interviews and to develop job descriptions. Sessions two and three will be offered in March.
- Nearly 80 farmers, private industry and agency individuals attended the **annual CAFO** (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) meeting hosted by Tina Kohlman. The purpose of the meeting was to help individuals understand any changes to the CAFO permitting process and manure handling.

- Over 125 individuals participated in the bi-annual **Midwest Manure Summit** in Green Bay this past month. Tina Kohlman served on the planning committee for this large regional meeting and has served as one of the original committee members since 2006.
- Tina Kohlman, and members of the UW-Extension Dairy Team Heifer Workgroup, are developing a **cost of production for calves managed with automatic calf feeding systems**. The purpose of the survey is to determine the cost of production of automated calf feeding systems as compared to traditional feeding methods and the health events associated with both systems. Fond du Lac County farmers will be included in this state-wide survey which will provide benchmarks for the industry.
- **Credit Report Campaign** was highlighted in February on 2/2. Tidemann taught a session on Credit Reports at the FDL Public Library with nine individuals in attendance. Additionally, Tidemann shared with Fond du Lac County residents, through social media and newspaper, the UW-Extension website: fyi.uwex.edu/creditreport/. Fond du Lac led the state for signups for Credit Report information with 38 individuals working through the FYI site.
- **Money Smart Week** work continues in preparation for the April 22 – 29th event. Tidemann is working on the following: Women's Finance Conference, two different youth events with the Fond du Lac Youth Librarian, as well as the Big Read event. Tidemann has been asked to offer workplace finance classes on site. Fond du Lac County is excited to have scheduled a national finance speaker, [Adam Carroll](#), for the 26th of April. Be watching for more information about Adam and his visit to Fond du Lac.
- Tidemann is lead for securing and providing overview for volunteers who interact with the Fond du Lac High School students at the different stations for the **Reality Day simulation**. The simulation is held two times a year with approximately 150 + students participating with 60 community volunteers. The spring event is set for April 26th.
- Seventeen individuals received Rent Smart certificates for attending the 6 hour **Rent Smart course** in February, taught by Michelle Tidemann. Tidemann spoke with the Clerk of Courts on the benefits of the Rent Smart program to the Fond du Lac Courts System. The Clerk of Courts is alerting the judges. Tidemann continues to serve on the **Fond du Lac County Housing Coalition** working to address affordable housing and homelessness. **State Rent Smart curriculum writing** continues with Tidemann working to complete the Rent Smart website layout for the digital curriculum platform. Tidemann serves as co-chair of the Rent Smart curriculum renew for the state.

Thriving Youth, Families, Organizations & Communities

- Diana planned and facilitated a retreat for the board and founders of **Pillar and Vine**, a new non-profit foster care agency in Brandon. They now have improved understanding of policies they need to adopt to manage potential ethical situations and conflicts of interest, as well as a shared understanding of their niche and ways they can best leverage it for the benefit of their clients and community.
- Diana planned and facilitated a retreat for the **Fond du Lac County Wellness Committee** attended by 19 staff from numerous departments. They clarified their purpose and vision to be more employee-centered and developed action plans for sub-groups to work on before the committee's next meeting in March.
- In preparation for **summer 4-H camp**, the teen counselors and the camp planning committee met for two days in February. The focus was on training the counselors on working with younger children, working as a team, and safety, as well as planning the camp activities.
- Three 4-H teen leaders taught craft activities and games to 25 children for **4-H AfterSchool** at Chegwin Elementary. This teaching role helps the teens develop skills in planning and communication, while also promoting 4-H to young people in the community.

- Each chartered 4-H club and group must have a representative participate in an annual training where they will gain information to take back to strengthen their club. This year the topic on **“Developing Life Skills Through 4-H”** was led by Araceli Oswald and Denise Retzleff. Twenty-two volunteers learned what life skills were and discovered strategies to incorporate them into club and project activities. [Model](#)
- **Volunteer in Preparation Training** was taught by Denise Retzleff for 13 new 4-H Leaders. Participants learned about their roles and responsibilities as volunteers, how to work effectively with young people, and what resources are available to them.
- The February **4-H Executive Board** meeting focused on a conversation of an article on “How Diversity Makes Us Smarter.” The article states that being around people who are different from us makes us more creative, more diligent and harder-working. We discussed how this applies to the 4-H board and how we can intentionally plan to be more diverse, and what benefit that would bring. Read the article at <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-diversity-makes-us-smarter/>
- Thirty-one youth attended the **1st and 2nd Year Livestock Member Meat Quality Assurance (MAQA) Training**. Developed and taught by Tina Kohlman, the 4-H beef, sheep, swine and meat goat project members learn the basics of the MAQA and how their fair project fits into real-world agriculture through “The Five Links of Wholesome Food Production.”
- Twenty-three youth participated in the third annual **“Hoard’s Dairy Judging Night.”** Tina Kohlman and 4-H Dairy Project Leader Derrek Kamphuis co-taught the youth on how to judge and select dairy cattle and led them through the annual Hoard’s Dairyman Magazine Cattle Judging Contest.
- One hundred fifty-one 4-H and FFA Beef, Sheep, Swine and Meat Goat Project members attended the **annual Fond du Lac County Market Livestock Project Orientation**. The purpose of the orientation is to introduce project members to committee contacts, calendar of events, and changes regarding qualifying for the Market Livestock Sale. As part of the orientation, Tina Kohlman taught **Veterinary Feed Directive and Your Project Animal: What You Need to Know**. Youth and parents learned about the VFD and the importance of keeping our antibiotics for future generations.
- Twenty youth (4-H and non-members) have registered for the **“Lemonade Day,”** an entrepreneurship program that includes lessons about: budgeting, goals, partners, promotion and other important topics to consider to become a business owner. Fond du Lac area “Lemonade Day” will be May 6, 2017.
- Emily F., 4-H member, joined Araceli Oswald at the **“Morning Show” at KFIZ**. She shared her 4-H story and her experience at the Washington Focus Inauguration Experience. Two 4-H members from Fond du Lac were part of WI’s delegation.
- Araceli Oswald visited **Waupun High School** as a guest speaker for Spanish Teacher Damaris Milfred. She shared her experience growing up in Mexico, Mexican traditions and games.
- **Latinos Unidos en Fond du Lac** held their monthly meeting. Members worked on a plan for the rest of the year, set up dates and topics for meetings and a promotional plan to gain more members, including a community event. **Latino Allies** also met this month. Gia Pionek, a local immigration attorney, visited the group to discuss an array of topics of interest to the Latino community and those working with this specific audience.
- Araceli Oswald and Sara Kollel (Winnebago Co. volunteer) met to plan the **4-H bi-county Fashion Revue**. This year’s event will be in June hosted by Winnebago County.
- Araceli Oswald led the **New 4-H Family and Lemonade Day orientations** at Family Learning Day. 4-H members shared their knowledge and experience in 4-H and a County Fair representative also participated to guide new families through the fair registration process.
- Tidemann taught 20 Fond du Lac County Home and Community Education members ten steps to be considered to encourage **healthy brain functioning** as one ages. Participants became knowledgeable of individual choices they can make to keep their brains fit as they age.

- Tidemann continues to build the strength of the age paced **Just In Time parenting newsletter** with county partners through individual presentations on the outcomes with Fond du Lac County Kiwanis groups. Eleven Early Bird Kiwanians from Ripon received information in February. Additional work has been done in February to translate the introductory letters into Spanish.
- **Co-Parent Education** was held for divorcing parents in February. Michelle Tidemann and Kylee Ernst collaborated to teach how to be better co-parents to 14 divorcing parents. A total of 22 children are associated with these parents.
- Tidemann is partnering with the **Fond du Lac School District K-4 director** with parent/child interaction opportunities. Tidemann taught families early math development skills they can do with their preschooler. Forty-one parents and children built a memory/matching game to emphasize the math topic.

Resilient & Productive Environment

- Diana began publicizing the [Waupun area water sampling program](#) taking place in March with Rock River Intermediate School science teacher Leigh Kohlmann, 6th grade science students, and UW-Oshkosh Environmental Research and Innovation Center.
- The Town of Oakfield contacted UW-Extension to organize [a water sampling program in conjunction with Election Day on April 4th](#). Diana worked out the details with them and has also begun publicizing that program for anyone in the Oakfield area.
- Diana has transitioned into an active coaching role with the **City/County Energy + Team** working to improve environmental stewardship amongst municipal employees. [STEM](#) students are once again engaged in projects with the team leaders who are employees in multiple City of Fond du Lac and Fond du Lac County departments.

Food Safety, Food Security & Health

- Amanda Miller serves as Secretary on the **Fondy Food Pantry “Food for Thought Committee.”** The program provides weekend food packages to children in need at Chegwin, Evans, Parkside, Pier, Riverside and Waters elementary schools and Sabish middle school. The committee is currently examining 2016 survey results. The results will help inform the committee on changes needed to the program.
- Patty Percy and Amanda Miller have started planning for the 2017 **Junior Master Gardener** summer program. Registration will begin soon! The program starts on April 20th. For more information, visit: <http://fonddulac.uwex.edu/hort/mg/img/>.
- Pam Nelson, FoodWise Nutrition Educator, has partnered with **ADVOCAP Head Start** to offer nutrition education to preschool students at 4 sites. The education that is offered is age-appropriate to young children. Sesame Street’s “Elmo” character helps Pam emphasize the importance of eating the colors of the rainbow (fruits and vegetables) and trying new foods.
- Amanda Miller will attend the annual **“FoodWise Coordinators Conference”** where important federal and state program guidance will be shared and help inform next year’s Fond du Lac/Green Lake County FoodWise program. Program/budget planning for fiscal year 2018 begins in March and usually ends in early May.

Office Update

- **Kristine Schaeffer**, FoodWise Nutrition Educator, has retired. Her last day was March 3rd. Kris has been providing quality nutrition education for FoodWise and UW-Extension Fond du Lac County for 20 years. Amanda Miller, FoodWise Coordinator, is in current conversations with the state program and human resources office on re-filling the position. Stay tuned.
- **Administrative Assistant**, Pam Bartoli, has resigned from her position to take a new job. Kelly Lamb fills the position on March 6. It now has a marketing component added to it. Kelly comes with a graphic design background, which will add a new dimension to our office documents and public presence.
- Dr. Ortiz-Ribbing took and passed her **private applicator exam**. Among other things, this will allow her to conduct Worker Protection Standards training.
- Dr. Ortiz-Ribbing was selected to participate in the **Produce Safety Alliance Train-the-Trainer Course** in Bedford Park, IL, last month and has received her certification allowing her to assist with training local producers about Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) regulations. She is considering pursuing training to become a lead trainer in this effort.
- On February 28th and March 1st, Dr. Ribbing participated in **professional development** activities at the SW regional meeting in the Dells.
- Dairy & Livestock Agent Tina Kohlman and program assistant Tina Engelhardt attended the **My EMMA training** at UW-Madison. My EMMA is an email marketing software program which allows the development of professional looking electronic newsletters and provides many statistics of the use of the newsletters by those who receive it. Fond du Lac County will be piloting the use of this program for UW-Extension IT.
- Tina Kohlman currently serves as one for the tri-chairs for the **2017 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days-Kewaunee County Education Committee**. The show is in mid-July and Tina will co-lead other extension staff members in developing and manning an extension education theme tent.
- Tina Kohlman continues with her **National Extension Leadership Development (NELD) Training**. As part of the program, she will be going on an eight-day cultural immersion trip to Costa Rica the first week of April. Funding for this training is provided fully by UW-Extension Office of the Dean.
- Tidemann conducted **annual Performance Reviews** with three UWEX staff members, as well as participated in her own performance review.
- Tidemann reviewed two portfolios and attended the **Faculty Tenure Advisory Committee** meeting to discuss the work of two candidates eligible for tenure.
- **Budget update** through February: Expenses – 12%; Revenues – 17%