
*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, Organizations & Communities

- The **Creative Arts Festival** was held at the end of January with 60 youth participating in one or more of the following categories: music, drama, dance, speaking, demonstrations, writing, photography, arts and crafts. They gained life skills of creativity, confidence, goal setting, decision making, teamwork, to mention just a few. Many adult volunteers contributed to make this event a success.
- Araceli Oswald met with Sarah Faust at the County Health Department. They will be working together to create awareness of [Melanoma](#) with 4-H members and the Latino community.
- **Latinos Unidos en Fond du Lac** hosted a booth at [Celebrate CommUNITY](#). Members of the group shared traditional foods with the audience and had the opportunity to interact with the public to share information about their group. They are planning a “Night at MPTC” to invite the Latino community to learn more about their options and possibilities.
- The **Latino Youth Dance group** also participated in Celebrate CommUNITY. They prepared one song and because of another presenter’s cancellation were asked to dance another. They happily agreed and stepped up to the occasion. 20 youth participated in the event and it was the first time for all families to participate or become aware of this multicultural event. They are looking forward to participate year after year. The next presentation for this group will be at the Boys and Girls Club Multicultural event in March. They continue to meet weekly.
- **Family Learning Day** offered 36 different sessions for youth and adults to participate and learn. 137 youth participated and 53 volunteers made this event possible. Participants learned skills and techniques, met new friends and explored the UW-FDL Campus. This event was open to the public and surrounding counties.
- Tina Kohlman serves on the **Wisconsin Dairy Youth Advisory Committee** to provide input for the overall youth dairy program in Wisconsin. The committee meets via teleconference twice a year.
- Dr. Ribbing taught the soils lecture for the Dodge County **Master Gardener Volunteer Level 1 training** on Feb. 20th. Dodge County has 20 people enrolled in their level 1 training this year.
- Diana collaborated with Tyrone Wisdom (Ebony Vision, Men of Vision, and The Humanity Project) and Bob Hoffmaster of KFIZ radio for an interview to honor **Black History Month**. The theme of “Fond du Lac History is Black History” was demonstrated by Mr. Wisdom’s experiences here and contributions to the YMCA gymnastics program, juvenile justice regulations in the state, and the mentoring he does for men in

prison and in recovery. The interview can be heard [online](#) (24:33 minutes). The series of conversations will continue the 4th Wednesday of every month in 2018.

- Diana provided **organizational development education** to stakeholders of the Waupun Historical Society and the Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of WI, likely in preparation for group teaching events with both of them in coming months.
- **Co-Parenting court mandated classes** for 27 divorcing parents and for 15 Paternity Parents were taught by Tidemann in February/early March . Fifty-four children were involved with these 42 parents.
- Tidemann serves on the [Healthy 2020](#) committee and work will begin to prepare for the next county health survey results.
- Tidemann met with Dept. of Social Services staff to discuss their request for collaborative parent education. Tidemann and DSS have applied to be a site for a National Research Project with the evidence based parenting program - Mindfulness emphasis with **Strengthening Families Program** ages 10 – 14. We are waiting to hear if the grant has been accepted for the state, as well as if we will be a site for the training.
- **Fond du Lac County Home and Community Education (HCE)** hosted Nate Zimdars, Ripon resident, as he presented on his work in agriculture for a year in Senegal, Africa. Sixty-five UW FDL students, as well as community members attended the presentation.

Resilient & Productive Environment

- Over 60 individuals attended the annual [CAFO \(Confined Animal Feeding Operation\) Update Meeting](#). The focus of the meeting was to provide the newest information and best management practices regarding manure handling and conservation practices. Tina Kohlman developed and presented **What is Agriculture Doing to Be Environmentally Friendly: A Look at Successes in Fond du Lac County**.
- The **Healthy Soil-Healthy Water (HSHW) workshop series** on Feb. 7th-8th, hosted by the Dodge County Farmers for Healthy Soil-Healthy Water group, in partnership with the Dodge County Alliance (UW-Extension, Land & Water Conservation, Farm Bureau, DNR, and 3 lake associations) was a success. Approximately, 175 participants (including several from Fond du Lac County) attended the Feb. 7th workshop, where nine local farmers shared their methods for establishing cover crops. Ray Archuleta, aka “the Soil Guy,” and Justin Morris, provided a deeper understanding of soil health, and Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing discussed results from the 2017 on-farm cover crop trials conducted in Dodge County. In addition, Dr. Ribbing assisted the Dodge County Farmers for HSHW develop guidelines and an application for their DATCP grant’s **cover crop cost-share incentive program**. This new incentive program was rolled out at this workshop.
- Day two (Feb. 8th) of the **Healthy Soil-Healthy Water** workshop series was attended by 85 people (including several from Fond du Lac) to learn from Jordan Crave and Charlie Hammer about using covers in manure systems. Ricky Kratz, Brendon Blank, and Dr. Loretta discussed species selection, benefits, and biomass results from their 2017 cover crop species demonstration trial. Justin Morris used a rainfall

simulator to illustrate how rainfall infiltrates or runs off bare soil compared to those with pasture grass or cover crops.

- Ray Archuleta asked Dr. Ribbing and two producers to supplement his talk in Ozaukee County on Feb. 9th. At this meeting Dr. Ribbing spoke about **soil microbe associations with the root rhizosphere and about beneficial mycorrhizae fungi**.
- **Save our Lakes II**, once again an evening program, (on Feb. 7th) was held and attended by about 58 people to hear dynamic presentations by local farmers, UW-Extension (Dr. Ribbing), DNR, and Ray Archuleta regarding agricultural practices that are helping reduce sediment and nutrient runoff into our lakes and rivers. This event was organized by the Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association, Fox Lake Inland Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District, and Lake Sinissippi Improvement District.
- Dr. Ribbing was one of the invited speakers at the Racine County **Protecting Our Watersheds: Opportunities for Conservation in Southeastern WI** on Feb. 21. She spoke to 59 Racine area producers about her 2017 on-farm cover trials and results. In addition, three Dodge County farmers for HSHW spoke on their cover crop successes in relation to the on-farm trials. Tom Greil, a producer in Racine County, invited Dr. Ribbing and the Dodge County farmers specifically to inspire local farmers to consider using/change their minds about cover crops.

Stronger Economies

- Thirty-four (34) individuals attended Cultivating Your Farm Business' Future: [Estate Planning Meeting](#). The meeting was second in a three part series co-developed and co-hosted by Tina Kohlman and Washington, Ozaukee, and Dodge County agriculture agents. Estate planning is an important part of the farm business succession plan. Making decisions now so the family doesn't have to helps maintain the family legacy and avoid many conflicts. Based on post-meeting evaluations (n=18), respondents indicated they increased their knowledge regarding estate planning topics an average +1.22 points (range: +0.83 to +1.56 points), on a five-point scale.
- Twenty-nine (29) individuals attended Cultivating Your Farm Business' Future: [Retirement Planning Meeting](#). The meeting was third in a three part series co-developed and co-hosted by Tina Kohlman and Washington, Ozaukee, and Dodge County agriculture agents. Based on post-meeting evaluations (n=21), respondents indicated they increased their knowledge regarding retirement planning topics an average +1.0 points (range: +0.86 to +1.15), on a five-point scale.
- Tina Kohlman co-developed and co-presented "**How Much Gold Do I Have? How Much Gold Do I Need?**" at the Cultivating Your Farm Business' Future: Retirement Planning Meeting for 29 participants. Based on the presentation, post-meeting evaluations (n=21) indicated respondents increased their knowledge +0.86 points regarding sources and opportunities of retirement income (on a five-point scale).
- Dr. Ribbing held [Pesticide Applicator Training](#) (PAT) in Fond du Lac (Feb. 13th) and Dodge County (Feb. 1) with 49 and 51 participants, respectively. Two more sessions will be held in March.
- Dr. Ribbing worked with other members of the **Ad Hoc Industrial Hemp Working Group** to produce a new article called [Wisconsin Industrial Hemp Production: A basic FAQ guide for growing an old crop in a new](#)

[era](#), which gives a timeframe for the current rules that the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) released March 2. It also discusses Agronomic considerations for growing the crop and provides resources.

- Dr. Ribbing spoke at the **Dodge County Forage Council Annual meeting** on Feb. 16th, addressing methods for assessing alfalfa stand health. She also spoke about identifying herbicide resistant waterhemp and palmer amaranth. Waterhemp is becoming an increasing weed problem in both Fond du Lac and Dodge Counties.
- Diana taught business basics to 45 students in General Business, Marketing, and Financial Algebra classes at Laconia High School using the **Going Solo** simulation game. Students commented that “running a business is really hard.” They learned that pricing a product depends on their costs to make it, who they are selling to, and how much they need to make to pay their bills.
- Diana traveled to Green Bay to meet with Anna Steinfest of the Green Bay Packers Mentor-Protégé Program and Mariana Rodriguez with First Bank. Both are interested in widening the network of professionals **supporting new immigrant-owned and minority-owned businesses** in northeast WI.
- Tidemann taught three **Fresh Start** clients Budgeting Skills in January. The clients are from Fond du Lac and Winnebago County Fresh Start programs.
- Six individuals received their **Rent Smart** certificates for attending the 6 hour Rent Smart class taught by Tidemann.
- Twenty-two **Forward Services** clients have attended the Success Series classes taught by Tidemann. Classes taught in February were two different sessions on stress reduction.
- Tidemann is working with the [Money Smart Week Committee](#). Work in February addressed obtaining three EdVest startup accounts for three youth winners in the Youth Money Smart Week essay and piggy bank decorating contests. Tidemann will be teaching educational sessions at the FDL Library and also will be at worksites throughout the county via partnership with FABOH. Tidemann will be talking to the MPTC Women’s Educator group in April. Work on the Big Read continues.
- Tidemann has promoted throughout the county, as well as to FABOH businesses and Fond du Lac County employees, the [Check Your Credit Campaign](#). Tidemann also was the guest of the Governor’s Financial Literacy Task Force, as the Check Your Credit Campaign received a [Governor’s Financial Literacy Award](#). Tidemann is a member of the six person team.
- **Money Smart Head Start newsletter** continues to be delivered to 120 Head Start families in the county. Twenty of the families receive the Spanish language version of the newsletter.
- **Reality Day** volunteer recruitment is being done collaboratively between Tidemann and FDL School instructor Logan Meyer. Tidemann is transitioning out of the volunteer recruitment position for Reality Day and the school district is taking full responsibility for Reality Day. Tidemann will continue to be a community member volunteer assisting with the event.

Food Safety, Food Security & Health

- Amanda Miller, FoodWise Coordinator, attended the annual **FoodWise Coordinators' Conference**. At this event, Coordinators are updated on new federal program & budget changes and it helps inform the upcoming budget process that occurs at the county level.
- Amanda Miller is currently working with individuals from public health and the health priority areas (obesity, substance use/abuse, dental health, and mental health) to apply for the **Healthiest Wisconsin** designation. There is bronze, silver & gold recognition awarded.
- Dr. Ribbing, partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Production, (DATCP), to host and teach a new [Produce Safety Alliance training](#) around the new USDA rule, the [Food Safety Modernization Act](#), on Feb. 26th in Fond du Lac. Forty-eight fruit and vegetable growers learned about produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and co-management of natural resources and food safety. Participants came from as far away as Chicago to participate. This PSA Grower Training Course satisfied their FSMA Produce Safety Rule training requirement and earned them a certificate.

Office Updates

- Welcome to **Melanie Phillips**, new FoodWise Educator. She begins March 12.
- Tina Kohlman continues serving on the **Search & Screen Committee for the UW-Extension Agriculture Institute Director**. Preliminary interviews will be held early March, with final interviews in early April.
- As part of her **Ad Hoc Industrial Hemp Working Group**, Dr. Ribbing attended the [Central US Hemp Growers Conference & Expo](#) in Madison on Feb. 27th to learn more about potential production practices for this new alternative crop.
- Cindy Sarkady, Area Extension Director, conducted annual Educator/Agent **performance reviews**.