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

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## Stronger Economies

- Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing presented a portion of the **Pilot Pesticide Applicator Training with Simultaneous Spanish Translation** on January 31<sup>st</sup> in Fond du Lac. This program was a collaborative effort with Glenn Nice, Pesticide Applicator Training Coordinator, Madison; Annie Deutsch, Agricultural Agent, Door County; Dominic Ledesma, Language Access Coordinator, UW Extension; and Araceli Oswald, 4-H/Youth Development, UW-Extension Fond du Lac County. This pesticide applicator training was designed specifically for Spanish-speaking individuals and was presented in English while simultaneously interpreted into Spanish by a team of professional language interpreters. As a pilot program it allowed us to reach an underserved agricultural audience and learn ways to better serve them in the future.
- Fond du Lac was one site for the **2017 Agronomy Update Meeting** put on by the UW Department of Agronomy for 44 local crop consultants and producers; and for the **2017 Wisconsin Area Soybean Conferences Program**, sponsored by the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board on January 18<sup>th</sup> for 35 local crop consultants and producers. Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing partnered with both entities to help advertise and promote the event. She also acted as the host at both events.
- Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing worked with Ken Depperman to hold an **AG Update: Town Hall Meet and Greet** event for producers in Fond du Lac and Dodge Counties on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the Auburn Town Hall. Dr. Ribbing, Tina Kohlman, Paul Tollard, and two DATCP representatives spoke on timely issues.
- Dr. Ribbing continues to interact and meet with **Forage Councils and Master Gardeners Associations** and boards in Fond du Lac and Dodge Counties, and will be overseeing the **Community Garden** efforts in Fond du Lac County. She assisted Sally Boatman with a **Master Gardener orientation meeting** for potential new Master Gardeners on November 14<sup>th</sup> and December 12<sup>th</sup>.
- 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 Day** which was held on December 14<sup>th</sup> and attended by 40 producers and agribusiness representatives.
- Dr. Ribbing has been sharing the **Agricultural Needs Assessment Survey**, developed with Amanda Young and Tina Kohlman, with audiences at UW meetings, one mailing, and all face to face meetings with producers, AG industry reps, and other clientele. (Dr. Ribbing alone has shared over 400 surveys.) In addition to a paper format, the survey can now be reached online, and she encourages anyone reading this report to participate. The online survey can be reached at: <https://goo.gl/forms/qAr4BR6P852lhjdY2>. This survey is an opportunity for everyone to assist UWEX in Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties rank and plan future AG educational programs and research topics that will impact our counties and your production. If anyone desires a survey, please ask. Your responses would be greatly appreciated.

- Dr. Ribbing shared news and information with producers and the general public by writing for the **Fond du Lac Reporter Farm Views and News Column** and via a monthly newsletter with Tina Kohlman.
- Dr. Ribbing also shared news and information via 20 to 30 minute **radio interviews** on KFIZ Fond du Lac and the Community Comment program on WBEV radio in Beaver Dam.
- As part of her role facilitating the **Non-Point Source Workgroup** in Dodge County, Dr. Ribbing is partnering with Fond du Lac County LWCD. She invited Erv Lesczynski to speak at the last group meeting, in order to garner involvement and interest in the Rock River Watershed via producers farming in both counties who already use conservation efforts on their farms.
- Diana taught the high school students in Leadership Fond du Lac beginning business skills using the **Going Solo simulation** in which they create a product, determine a selling price, account for fixed costs, and compete in an imaginary economy. The Director of the program reported that the students “talked about it all day long,” with one student suggesting that “this activity be part of the high school curriculum.”
- Diana planned and facilitated three **IGNITE! Business Success meetings** to plan for implementation of the WEDC grant. Entrepreneurs who work with IGNITE! to start or expand a business in 2017 will receive \$2000 towards their business expenses. <http://www.ignitefonddulacounty.com/fond-du-lac-receives-40000-state-grant-support-entrepreneurship/>
- **State Rent Smart curriculum writing** is in final stages with launch to be in early March. Tidemann has led the renewing of the curriculum content as well as the design of a website to accompany the curriculum. Tidemann serves as co-chair of the Rent Smart curriculum renew for the state. The new curriculum is sought after, as numerous calls are coming for training with the new curriculum from Wisconsin as well as the state of Maine.
- Tidemann attended 2 days of **Financial Coaching Strategies training** which is used with one on one financial coaching done with Fond du Lac County residents.
- Tidemann has provided **financial coaching assistance** on a one to one basis from individuals referred through EAP and other agencies in January.
- Tidemann continues work with Karen Warren, FDL County Wellness Coordinator, in regards to the county’s interest in **financial wellness education**. UW Extension financial capability survey instrument has been adopted by the Wellness Coordinator for use with FDL County employees. Additional work will be planned based upon the survey results gathered.
- Tina Kohlman continues to work with two farms regarding **farm succession**. One farm will be transitioning the farm business to the next generation. Another farm will have a younger, non-related generation begin their dairy operation by renting a facility from a retiring farm couple.
- Nearly 25 producers, herd managers, and nutritionists attended the **“Walking Strong” Hoof Health** program hosted by UW-Extension. The purpose of the meeting was to share with others how to manage digital dermatitis on farm and to release the recent hoof health field survey results conducted by UW-Extension agents. Tina Kohlman developed and presented “Prevalence of Digital Dermatitis on Eastern WI Dairy Farms.”

## Thriving Youth, Families, Organizations & Communities

- Diana met with the director and board members from **Big Brothers Big Sisters** of Fond du Lac County to discuss their current work and goals for 2017. She will develop a plan for stakeholder research and a planning retreat with the board.
- Diana met with the director and a board member of **REACH Waupun**, a new non-profit. They will work with her to plan a retreat for board members to clarify their purpose, agree on strategies, and adjust the structure to best accomplish their goals.
- Diana spoke with a board member of **United Way** of Fond du Lac County about progress they're making toward a new vision they have for their work. She will be facilitating conversations and teaching organizational change strategies to their board periodically in 2017.
- Interest in **Poverty education awareness** in context of affiliation with Trauma Informed Care led to Tidemann and Miller working with the Lakeland Care District office administration to facilitate an organization wide Poverty simulation, which would reach approximately 280 individuals. This is being scheduled for mid-summer in 2017. The presentation is an opportunity to partner with multiple counties, including Family Living Educators, 4-H/Youth Development Educators and FoodWise Coordinators from Brown County and Door County, who will all co-teach sessions with Miller and Tidemann.
- **Co-Parent Education** was held for divorcing parents and parents in paternity status in January. Michelle Tidemann and Kylee Ernst collaborated to teach how to be better co-parents to 35 divorcing parents and 15 paternity status parents. A total of 55 children are associated with these parents.
- Tidemann has collaborated with State UWEX Digital Parenting specialist to redesign a follow up survey for use with the parents who receive the age paced [Just In Time parenting newsletter](#). This survey is complete and will be available statewide and in Fond du Lac County. It will be sent to parents in the 10<sup>th</sup> month of the newsletter. Survey results will be shared with Just In Time partners - Agnesian HealthCare, UW Extension and the 6 Fond du Lac County Kiwanis groups. In 2016 there were 414 parents subscribed to the UWEX age paced parent education newsletter for parents of children under age 1.
- Tidemann is partnering with the **Fond du Lac School District K-4 director** with parent/child interaction opportunities in late December. The event had 55 individuals attending. Tidemann taught families how to build more communication when families are together. This was done by constructing a conversation starter jar.
- Denise Retzleff advised two **new general leaders of 4-H clubs**. This includes background on financial accountability, yearly planning, officer oversight, reporting, working with members and parents, ongoing training opportunities, communication and promotions.
- Denise advised six Teen Leader Association members who led the annual **club officer workshop**. New officers learned about applying life skills to their club meetings and activities, and about the responsibilities of their respective offices. Those attending represented eleven 4-H clubs.

- The first planning meeting for **4-H New Horizons** was held. Nine youth were selected for this experience. At this first gathering they got to know each other, talked about the purpose of this program (service learning and cultural awareness), determined when to travel, and accepted responsibilities to gather info to aid in decision-making for the next meeting.
- To expand **volunteer leadership** for the New Horizons summer youth leadership and service travel experience program, a volunteer description and application was created by Retzleff. It was disseminated to perspective applicants who will potentially guide the program.
- Along with two Extension colleagues, Denise Retzleff co-taught a session on **“Building Effective and Engaged Boards”** at the north central district 4-H educator workshop attended by 18 persons. Highlights were on a toolkit that was developed to be used with 4-H leader association executive boards.
- A key to being a successful member of a board of directors is knowing your role. With this in mind Denise Retzleff conducted an **orientation for the two newly elected directors** to the FdL County 4-H Leaders Association Board. Items covered included roles, bylaws, meeting protocol, 4-H mission, conflict of interest, and communication.
- Having a Board of Directors that is representative of the population it serves means a variety of perspectives are brought forward, which in turn develops stronger programs. Retzleff led seven 4-H board members through a **membership selection analysis** to see what strengths/skills current members have and where we need to seek others with different skills or interests. This info will be used in our recruiting process this year.
- **Creative Arts Festival** is an opportunity for youth to practice and share their singing, drama, instrumental, speaking, photography, writing and art skills. Fifty-seven youth participated. This included community youth and Fond du Lac and Dodge County 4-H. In addition, Brown County 4-H attended to learn from this program in order to expand their arts fest. Six judges evaluated the performances/entries. Eleven youth and adult volunteers helped plan and carry out this event. Of the youth who responded to the event survey, 100% said this event increased their self-confidence in doing a public presentation.
- **Youth Dreamers** (Latino youth group) started the year’s meetings. This year we are partnering with the FDL Public Library to offer Latino youth the opportunity to explore the Idea Studio. They are excited about this new experience.
- The North Fond du Lac Elementary School Friendship Learning Center hosted a **Multicultural Holiday Celebration** for Latino and Hmong families. Araceli Oswald (4-H Youth Development Assistant) coordinated this event for the third year. The goal of this event is to bring the Latino and Hmong community together to interact, learn from each other, to celebrate diversity, their culture and traditions.
- Araceli Oswald and Savannah Vang (Hmong community leader) worked with **ELL students** at Friendship Learning Center. Youth learned how to make piñatas and a Hmong sewing project.
- Two Fond du Lac County 4-H youth attended the **U.S. Presidential Inauguration** in Washington D.C. as part of a week-long educational experience aimed at developing civic understanding and engagement. Thirty-one youth from Wisconsin 4-H represented the state in a group of approximately 500 young people

from across the country. The program guided youth on a real-world tour of America's democratic process as they developed valuable life skills of citizenship and leadership. Aside from participating in Inauguration Day activities, the youth visited the U.S. Capitol, the Lincoln, Jefferson and FDR Memorials and the Newseum, an interactive museum focused on the history of the First Amendment.

- Tina Kohlman served as one of five judges for the selection of the **WI Junior Holstein Association's** nominations for the national **Distinguished Jr Member and Outstanding Holstein Boy & Girl awards**. Tina reviewed over 20 applications and interviewed 10 individuals for this prestigious award. Two Fond du Lac Youth County dairy members were selected as state Distinguished Jr members.
- Tina Kohlman presented at the first annual **Fond du Lac AC's Career Connections**. Over 300 youth attended the two-day event. Seventh and eighth grade classes rotated every 20-25 minutes to learn about agriculture careers and how they should plan for the future to help achieve their career goals. Tina focused her presentation on "Do You Have What It Takes to be a Dairy & Livestock Agent?"

### **Resilient & Productive Environment**

- Diana garnered the support of Rock River Intermediate School in Waupun to host a second **water sampling program** in March. This program will have a lower cost to participants thanks to the UW-Oshkosh Environmental Research and Innovation Center and will be open to the whole community. Science teacher Leigh Kohlmann's 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will teach parents and interested community members about water contamination concerns during the school's literacy night as a way to promote the program.

### **Food Safety, Food Security & Health**

- Due to popularity of the program, [Strong Women](#) is looking to expand by hiring an additional trained facilitator. Currently, Heather Holland, trained facilitator, leads two sessions for 10 weeks. The program is offered in partnership between UW-Extension Fond du Lac County and UW-Fond du Lac Continuing Education. Amanda Miller has been coordinating the recruitment of an additional trainer.
- The FoodWise Program is currently participating in a 5 week series called "**HealthYouth**" for 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at Parkside, Chegwin and Riverside Schools. FoodWise Nutrition Educators presented on sugars, fats, sodium, beverages and healthy snacking by having two stations at each session (an instruction station and an informational station). The common theme throughout the series was the importance of label reading. Teachers have provided feedback that after participating in a few sessions, students were reading labels of the snack foods offered at a field trip the students participated in. "HealthYouth" is an Agnesian HealthCare program and partnership with FoodWise, the Fond du Lac School District, and multiple community presenters.

### **Office Update**

- A new combined newsletter called [FROM FIELD TO BARN](#) replaced the Dairy Moos & News and the former Bushel and Bales newsletters. Instead of sending individual newsletters, *FROM FIELD TO BARN* will include a combination of news and information pertaining to Crops and Soils as well as Dairy and Livestock. This first monthly newsletter, written jointly by Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing and Tina Kohlman

with the assistance of Tina Engelhardt, was sent via U.S. mail to about 625 producers and is posted on the UW-Fond du Lac website.

- In order to keep abreast of current topics, research, and information on current trends in agriculture, Dr. Ortiz-Ribbing attended the **WI Agribusiness Classic** in Madison from January 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. She networked and made contacts for future guest speakers addressing relevant topics, such as label changes for new herbicide products for corn and soybean.
- Dr. Ortiz-Ribbing was selected to participate in the **Produce Safety Alliance Train-the-Trainer Course** in Bedford Park, IL, on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The regulations are part of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) that includes seven foundational rules proposed to create a modern, risk-based framework for food safety, based on preventative practices to reduce the likelihood of contaminated plant or animal food products from making their way into the market place.
- Diana reviewed a portfolio and attended the **Standards, Rank, & Promotions Committee** meeting to discuss the work of a candidate eligible for promotion in the Department of Community Resource Development.
- Denise Retzleff served on the review team that oversaw funding requests from 17 counties for **East-Metro Region Resource Management Grant** funds.
- Denise submitted her **Tenured Faculty Review** materials. These are required as a summary of professional contributions and scholarly work every five years.
- UW Extension County **Van** replacement has arrived at the UW Extension office in January.
- Tina Kohlman participated in the week long **National Extension Leadership Development (NELD)** Program in Chicago this past month. Tina was one of four individuals selected from the state to participate in this yearlong leadership training. The program consists of four weeks, one each quarter, focusing on various aspects of leadership. All expenses associated with the program are covered by UW-Extension's Office of the Dean.
- **Kristine Schaeffer**, FoodWise Nutrition Educator, has announced her retirement. Her last day is on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kris has been providing quality nutrition education for FoodWise and UW-Extension Fond du Lac County for 20 years.
- Amanda Miller and Araceli Oswald attended the **"Quantitative Evaluation Resource Development Workshop"** on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the workshop was to provide an opportunity for county educator feedback on the evaluation resources available by the state.
- **Budget update** through January: Expenses – 8%; Revenues – 8%