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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

- Tidemann taught four Fresh Start clients **Budgeting Skills** in January. The clients are from Fond du Lac and Winnebago County Fresh Start programs.
- Thirteen individuals received their **Rent Smart** certificates for attending the 6 hour Rent Smart class taught by Tidemann.
- Thirteen Forward Services clients have attended the **Success Series** classes taught by Tidemann. Classes taught in January are: budgeting, communications and stress reduction.
- Tidemann is working with the **Money Smart Week Committee** emphasis on the Big Read as the [“Money as You Grow” Book Club](#) books will be used nationwide this year as a pilot. Wisconsin is one of three states in the pilot. Tidemann is a member/author in the 3-D State Team which designed the Parent Activity Guides partnered with children’s literature aimed at teaching financial literacy which makes up the “Money as You Grow” Book Club housed within the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau-US Gov.
- Tidemann has promoted throughout the county **Free Income Tax Preparation** information, as well as Earned Income/Homestead Tax Credit/Child Care Credit information.
- Tidemann will be awarded a [Governor’s Financial Literacy Award](#) on Feb 14 for work done in Fond du Lac County regarding Credit Report Education with the State Credit Report Campaign. Fond du Lac County led the state in Credit Report retrieval to check for errors and fraud.
- Tidemann using the “Money as You Grow” children’s books with parent guides taught 14 **Head Start parents/kids about saving and decision making** using the “Curious George Saves His Pennies” book.
- Tidemann set up two educational displays with Head Start focusing on the **Money Smart Head Start** newsletter series that 120 families are receiving. One display is at Fond du Lac Head Start and the other is rotating between Ripon, North Fond du Lac and Presbyterian church sites.
- Dr. Ribbing hosted the UW-Madison [Soil & Water, Nutrient Management](#) (Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, Juneau) and [Agronomy Update](#) meetings (Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>, FdL). Coincidentally both locations had about 51 attendees who received unbiased information for Wisconsin **field and forage crop production**. In addition, she partnered with FdL LWCD to help host the Intro and [Advanced SNAP+ training](#) (Dec. 14-15<sup>th</sup>, FdL).
- In December, Dr. Ribbing also helped coordinate speakers for and spoke at the [Dairy Forage Day](#) in Fond du Lac (Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>). About 30 attendees were updated on **alfalfa production**-related topics by Drs. Ribbing and Yoana Newman (from UWRF). In addition, Tina Kohlman gave an overview on **Farm Succession** planning.

- Dr. Ribbing, participated in two live radio shows, 1 phone interview in January, as well as wrote and sent out 5 press releases promoting UW-Extension winter **educational programming surrounding crop production and environment stewardship**.
- Dr. Ribbing has been selected for the **Ad Hoc Industrial Hemp Working Group** appointed by the UW-Extension Associate Dean Patrick Robinson. This ad hoc work group was formed to address the emerging industrial hemp issue in Wisconsin, and prepare FAQ documents, fact sheets/publications, summary of recommendations, etc. related to industrial hemp topics such as production, processing, and distribution, for internal and external audiences (this is an immediate, high priority need).
- Tina Kohlman and neighboring agents (Washington and Dodge County) developed, organized, and hosted a **“Cultivating Your Farm Business’s Future: Farm Business Succession.”** Twenty-eight individuals from the three county area attended to learn about transfer of management, taxes related to farm transfer, operating agreements, and types of operating entities.
- Tina Kohlman serves as a member of the **Lakeshore Technical College Dairy Herd Management Program Advisory Committee**, providing guidance and input into their technical degree program. The committee meets twice a year, January and August.
- The **Fond du Lac County Holstein Breeders’ Association** held their annual meeting this past month, where Tina Kohlman gave a State of the County Address and Extension Update. Tina serves as the advisor to this local producer group.
- With suppressed milk and commodity prices for the last three years, UW-Extension Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Ozaukee & Washington Counties developed and hosted the **“Working with Farmers during Challenging Times” meeting** for nearly 100 agri-business professionals. Tina Kohlman served as the lead for the meeting which focused on farm finances, stress and the brain, and nutrition costs.
- Fifteen individuals attended the **“Calf InSight: Are Automated Calf Feeders in Your Future?”** meeting developed by and hosted by Tina Kohlman. Tina presented the **“Cost of Raising Dairy Calves: Traditional versus Automated Feeding.”** Based on post meeting evaluations, attendees increased their knowledge 1.4 points on a five-point scale in knowledge.
- Diana taught the **business simulation game Going Solo** to seven participants from the Regional People of Color Business Association. They commented that it was a fun way to learn pricing, marketing, and strategy for their businesses, which include catering, hair styling, homemade cookies, a non-profit, and two businesses in development.
- Diana also taught the **Going Solo** business simulation game to the 50 high school students participating in the [Youth Leadership Fond du Lac program](#) and the [IGNITE! Youth Idea Challenge](#). Both groups improved in identifying the leverage points they had to improve their profit as the game proceeded, and reported new learning in the areas of fixed costs, variable costs, and risk management.
- Diana coached students in the [Horace Mann High School IncubatorEDU entrepreneurship class](#) and then served as one of the “sharks” on the panel of judges to whom they presented their final ideas at the end of the semester. Students received feedback on presentation style, overall knowledge of their product and business, sales approach, and financial projections. Two teams from this class are also competing in the IGNITE! Youth Idea Challenge.
- At the request of the director of the [Wisconsin Women’s Business Initiative Corporation \(WWBIC\)](#), Diana organized a meeting with her and 11 area **Latino entrepreneurs**. WWBIC is a non-profit organization with offices in

Milwaukee, Madison, Racine, and Kenosha that offers start-up loans and business development classes in English and Spanish. They have not offered programming or support to this part of the state before.

## Thriving Youth, Families, Organizations & Communities

- **Co-Parenting court mandated classes** for 25 divorcing parents and for 3 paternity parents were taught by Tidemann in January. Thirty-three children were involved with these 28 parents.
- Tidemann coordinated **Dementia Friendly** training for the office and also UW FDL staff joined the training in January. This was provided by the Dementia Training Team from ADRC.
- Tidemann serves on the [Healthy 2020](#) committee and work will begin to prepare for the next county health survey results.
- Tidemann will be meeting with DSS staff to discuss their request for collaborative parent education.
- Dr. Ribbing had the pleasure and opportunity to be one of three judges in the **65<sup>th</sup> Annual Wisconsin Outstanding Young Farmer Awards** (Jan. 26 & 27<sup>th</sup>). It was a very difficult decision with such an exceptional group of young farmers. All deserve recognition for their outstanding efforts and contributions towards Wisconsin Agriculture. The criteria for judging were progress in their agricultural career; soil and water conservation; and contributions to community, state, and nation. As judge she helped choose from the finalists, the WI winner (Andy Fisher), runners up (Justin and Darci Daniels), and Speak-Up for Ag spokespersons (Justin and Darci Daniels), who will have the opportunity to compete nationally.
- Working with the FdL **Master Gardener** Board, Dr. Ribbing has been assisting the board develop more effective project approval forms and processes for running organizational tasks more smoothly and transparently.
- Dr. Ribbing wishes to thank Master Gardeners Sally Boatman, Mary Gorske, and others who coordinated and assisted her with teaching and conducting the [MGV Level 1 training](#) this past September to December. Twelve students completed the program in December 2017 and are now MGV interns.
- Twenty-four youth participated in this year's **Dairy Night of Learning**, which focused on milk alternatives and the consumer, show heifer nutrition, and herd health. Tina Kohlman provided an update on state fair junior dairy show and new dairy ID sheets.
- Diana collaborated with Daisy Frazier of Ebony Vision and The Humanity Project and Bob Hoffmaster of KFIZ radio on a new monthly series that will address **race in Fond du Lac**. [The first segment](#) available online (24:38 minutes) aired on January 31 and [explored aspects of white privilege](#) that white people do not usually notice they are experiencing. Examples include *"I can be pretty sure that if I ask to talk to the 'person in charge,' I will be facing a person of my race,"* and *"I can swear, dress in second hand clothes, or not answer letters, without having people attribute these choices to the bad morals, poverty or illiteracy of my race."* The series of conversations is planned to continue the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month in 2018.
- Twelve 4-H youth have been selected and will be traveling to San Antonio, TX, in June to learn about people and places in our nation and participate in a service project. As part of this [New Horizons](#) experience they get to know each other, talk about the purpose of the program (service learning and cultural awareness), determine where and when to travel, and accept responsibilities to gather information to aid in decision-making for further planning meetings.
- The **Creative Arts Festival** is an opportunity for youth to practice and share their singing, drama, instrumental, speaking, photography, writing and art skills. Forty-eight youth participated. This included community youth and

Fond du Lac County 4-H members. Judges evaluated the performances/entries. Ten youth and adult volunteers helped plan and carry out this event.

## Resilient & Productive Environment

- Dr. Ribbing was 50% successful in her submission of 2 grants. She was awarded one grant, totalling \$27,500, for her on-farm research from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Production (DATCP). The [Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant](#) for the Upper Rock River Watershed includes portions of Fond du Lac and most of Dodge Counties. This one-year grant will allow Dr. Ribbing to assist farmers implement on-farm trials with the focus of evaluating and promoting different approaches for establishing cover crops. The long term goal is to increase cover crop use leading to improved water quality in the Upper Rock River Watershed.
- In preparation for the upcoming two-day [Healthy Soil-Healthy Water \(HSHW\) Workshop](#) on Feb. 7-8, Dr. Ribbing continues to facilitate/lead coordination of the 15-20 member HSHW planning group holding bi-monthly meetings. In addition to coordinating everyone's efforts surrounding the preparation details for this workshop, she has also been busy creating the 2-day meeting's program/agenda, speaker bios, and evaluation. Dr. Ribbing has also been statistically analyzing 2017 data (yield, biomass, costs, soil nematodes and soil samples) from 3 field trials. She will share 2017 on-farm results at the 2018 Healthy Soil-Healthy Water workshop, Follow-Up at the Farm Shop, and the evening Save OUR Lakes program. Furthermore, she is helping 3 farmers create PowerPoint slide presentations, in addition to her own 4 PowerPoint presentations for 3-meeting series.
- The 2018 DATCP grant, written by Dr. Ribbing, was the highest funded grant of the 21 submitted for consideration. With respect to the grant obligations, she has been meeting with the Dodge County Farmers for Healthy Soil-Healthy Water, to develop guidelines and an application for the grant's **cover crop cost-share incentive program**. This new incentive program will be rolled out at the Feb. HSHW workshop on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Food Safety, Food Security & Health

- Last January, Dr. Ribbing was certified as a trainer by the Produce Safety Alliance, and this January she is partnering with DATCP to plan and deliver training for vegetable and fruit growers. The new Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) rules require training. Preparations are ongoing for this new training and Fond du Lac County will be among the first to host it in the state of WI. This [Produce Safety Alliance \(PSA\) grower training](#) course, on Monday Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, will teach fruit and vegetable growers and others about produce safety, the FSMA Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and co-management of natural resources and food safety.
- Amanda Miller is currently participating in a 3-part series "**FoodWise Expanding Access.**" The series provides census tract data on race, ethnicity and poverty for Fond du Lac County. This is intended to better understand where people eat, work, play and live, and to help plan programs that better reach any underserved audiences that may exist.
- The **Food Providers Group** is a networking group of approximately 60 food providers, hot meal programs, and agencies in Fond du Lac County. Facilitated by Amanda Miller, the group is scheduled to meet quarterly in 2018 to provide a space for local food providers to learn from one another, build relationships and stay current on local, state and federal updates. This year's schedule also includes a tour of the new Fondy Food Pantry and the "Community Food Challenge" hunger simulation.
- **HealthYouth**, a nutrition and healthy living program offered in partnership by FoodWise and Agnesian HealthCare, will be offered to all 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at Chegwin Elementary School starting the end of January. This is a 5 part series.

- Amanda Miller is currently meeting one-on-one for 3 times with an individual in need of **food budgeting and healthy eating** information. This individual was referred by a community agency.
- Pamela Nelson and Shelley Tidemann partnered to teach a session on **budgeting/food budgeting** to Head Start parents and children. This is a part of the Healthy Kids, Healthy Families series, offered by FoodWise.

## Office Updates

- As part of her responsibilities for receiving the DATCP Producer Led Grant, Dr. Ribbing attended the Annual **DATCP Producer Led Grant Workshop** at the WI Dells in December, to learn more about the grant and its requirements.
- Dr. Ribbing also attended the **UW Discovery Farms 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference** at the WI Dells as an opportunity to learn from farmers using conservation practices and hear the latest results of Discovery Farm research.
- Tina Kohlman serves on the **Department of Agriculture & Life Sciences Professors' Committee** which meets once a year to recommend a faculty members' promotion from associate professor to full professor. The committee met in January.
- Tina Kohlman continues to serve on the **Farm Technology Days (FTD) 2.2 Workgroup** with the task to develop position descriptions for a 0.5 FTE position focusing on UW-Extension's educational presence at the state's largest outdoor farm show and one for the local county agent's role when the home county is hosting a show. The workgroup convened in November with work completed in January.
- Tina Kohlman will serve on **the Search & Screen Committee for the UW-Extension Agriculture Institute Director**.
- Preliminary interviews are currently being held for the part-time (60%) **FoodWise Nutrition Educator** position.