



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
FOND DU LAC COUNTY

# Programming Highlights

January - February 2020

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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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## Food Safety, Security & Health

- FoodWise is offering a 5 part nutrition education series to 2nd grade students at the **Boys and Girls Club-Johnsonville**. FoodWise Educators, Pamela Nelson and Melanie Phillips, cover topics such as: the 5 food groups, fruits and vegetables, and physical activity.
- Nelson taught a new cooking program, Cooking Matters, at **ADVOCAP Head Start**. The topic was feeding your family healthy snacks. During the event, parents and children practiced food preparation skills by making fruity parfaits and fruit smoothies. At the end of the event, parents received groceries to make both recipes at home.
- As a member of the Downtown Fond du Lac Farmers Market Steering Committee, Amanda Miller is helping prepare for the annual **farmers market vendor open house**. The event usually takes place in April and is a 'one stop shop' for farmers market vendors. During the event, the application and/or payment process can take place, weights can be measured, and information/resources are shared about food safety, accepting FoodShare, and donating to local food pantries.
- The **Veterans THRIVE garden** received special recognition during the January Fond du Lac City Council meeting. Receiving the recognition included: Miller and Patty Percy with Extension, as well as Salute the Troops. The garden was established in 2018 from the "Growing Together Wisconsin" grant, which is a collaboration between Extension programs FoodWise and Master Gardeners.
- Miller is partnering with health coaches from the **UW-Population Health Institute** to provide guidance for the local Population Health Group, a component of Fond du Lac Healthy 2020 that specifically addresses social determinants of health.

- Miller and Percy will soon begin the planning and registration for the 2020 **Junior Master Gardener (JMG) program**, which will begin in April.
- FoodWise staff have participated in online trainings that provide professional development on **classroom management**. A significant portion of the nutrition education classes offered by FoodWise take place at either preschools, elementary schools, after school programs, and with parents and their children.
- Miller hosted the quarterly meeting of the **Food Providers Group**, a networking/resource group for food pantries and hot meal programs. During the recent meeting, the group learned about TEFAP (Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program), the senior dining program, and discussed helping pantry volunteers and customers better understand product dating (use by, sell by, expiration dates) on foods.
- Miller is presenting at the upcoming **Wisconsin Head Start Association** conference. The presentation will focus on Go NAPSACC, a toolkit to help early education sites become healthier through nutrition and physical activity.

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

- Extension Dairy & Livestock Agent Tina Kohlman conducted a “**Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)**” training for 123 Wisconsin Jr Holstein members at their annual convention. The purpose of YQCA is to teach youth how their fair/4H/Jr Holstein project animal fits into real-world agriculture, including the judicious use of antibiotics, animal husbandry, and record keeping.
- Diana Hammer mentored the Executive Director and Board President of the **Waupun Area Chamber of Commerce Board**, doing interviews with all current board members, to give guidance and feedback as they work through some upheaval.
- Hammer taught board best practices and the importance of mission statements to the new **Waupun Downtown Promotions** board as they get organized, write bylaws, and create a strategic direction for their new nonprofit.
- Hammer designed and facilitated a retreat for the **American Association of University Women (AAUW)**, Fond du Lac Chapter, allowing them to find a new way to move forward in an aging organization.
- Cindy Sarkady was the guest presenter at **Latinos Unidos en Fond du Lac** to talk about her personal leadership journey with nine leaders who also shared what motivates them and how this group has influenced their decisions.
- Ron Jakubisin participates in the **Lemonade Day Committee (Envision Greater Fond du Lac)** and will train youth through Extension starting in February with an orientation, including a minimum of 6 lessons which lead to the event day May 2.

- Jakubisin taught a science-based lesson on *Opioid and Prescription Drug Misuse* to the youth and adults mentors of the **Men of Vision program (of Ebony Vision)**
- Jakubisin continues to work with **FDL City government** (point person Ben Giles) on developing structure of a Youth In Governance program, now in MOU phase.
- Jakubisin met with **Boys and Girls Club's** Director of Teen Services to schedule Extension's *Application and Interview* workshop to B/G Club youth and explore future programming that Extension can offer in Positive Youth Development educational opportunities.
- **Co-Parenting** court mandated classes for 30 divorcing parents were co-taught by Shelley Tidemann in January. Thirty eight children were involved with these 36 parents. 2019 numbers- 323 individuals attended Co-Parenting classes (Divorcing and Paternity) and the number of children involved with these class participants is 404. In 2019 FDL County had 513 marriages, 300 Divorces ;Divorces with minor children 167.
- **Co-Parenting digital education** texting project. In 2019 FDL County had 424 individuals offered the co-parenting education text supports- 194 received texts and 86 received the texts in email form and 230 participants declined messages. Statewide there were 480 participants receiving the texts and 207 receiving emails. Fond du Lac County was 40% of the state wide users for text education and 42% for email education.
- **Just in Time Parenting age paced newsletter(JIT Newsletter)** partnership met for annual meeting. 2019 stats- 724 births in the county with 365 families participating in the JIT Newsletter. Seventy nine percent receive the newsletter via digital mail and 21% request surface mail delivery.. Tidemann continues to serve on the National Just In Time Review Board to assist with the national use of the age paced newsletter. Tidemann presented to a statewide Community of Practice how to use the JIT newsletter, based upon the work in Fond du Lac County.
- Tidemann continues with Waupun City Aging Coalition Committee, **HealthyAging in Rural Towns (HeART) grant.**
- **Tidemann continues the Caring Kids Facebook** posts bi-weekly in two languages, providing parenting education information located on the UWEX Website for readers.
- **Community Garden** registrations have been mailed and are beginning to trickle in. Gardeners are always so optimistic every winter, which makes this program so enjoyable. Returning gardeners have the opportunity to receive their same plot for rental if they wish.

## Stronger Economies

- An electronic survey was developed and distributed by Kohlman to gauge the agriculture communities **interest in hosting a future Farm Technology Days**. An open forum was held at the end of the month to share the results with the community and to determine future interest. Fond du Lac County last hosted the the state's largest, 3-day outdoor agriculture show in 2000.
- In partnership with Texas A&M, Kohlman hosted a **producer financial focus group** to determine a consensus with progressive dairy farmers financial and production values which are then used to develop a "representative dairy farm". This representative dairy farm's data is used to determine the success and challenges of many of the congressional agriculture policies and programs before implementation. Two focus groups were held, a large herd group and a mid-size group.
- Tidemann taught **Rent Smart** budgeting classes with 8 Forward Services clients in January with recurrent sessions every 6 weeks. Rent Smart Certificates were received in January by 16 individuals attending class, February class is filling up. Tidemann preparing the National Rent Smart Training Materials for Extension Educator who is Co-Chair with Tidemann for a training in Santa Barbara CA. Tidemann will not be conducting this training.
- Tidemann continues the **3-D Dollars During Development** program with Waupun Rock River Elementary December through February, and Boys and Girls Club in Fond du Lac January and February.. A total of 70 children are involved. Tidemann presented on Facebook Live parenting skill of teaching children about money in February.
- Tidemann is working with the **Money Smart Week** Committee, preparing for the Kids Read event for the 2020 event. Tidemann presented as part of a panel on a statewide Zoom to Extension Educators interested in starting Money Smart Week in their counties on January 13th.
- Hammer taught the **business simulation game Going Solo** to the Youth Leadership Fond du Lac program participants. They observed that it was complicated to be a business owner and had learned a variety of things that affect success, including competitors, pricing, and marketing.
- Hammer represented Extension on a higher education panel with adult **Leadership Fond du Lac** participants, explaining the Wisconsin Idea and community-based education. She shared [similar comments on KFIZ](#) this month also.

- Hammer participated in an **entrepreneurship program in an Illinois prison** to learn more about it while working with coworkers Angie Allen and Jerry Braatz to bring it to Wisconsin in a pilot, hopefully starting later in 2020.
- Crops and soils educator Joe Zimbric and colleagues hosted a **crop insurance informational meeting** with Fond du Lac county farmers to provide them with background and recommendations for how to sign up for the 2020 federal commodity support programs.

## Resilient & Productive Environment

- Kohlman and colleagues from area Extension counties hosted “**Building Your Dairy Future: Robotic Milking Systems & Efficiency**” Meeting for 88 dairy farmers and agribusiness professionals. The purpose of the meeting was to share with audience facilities, economic, and labor considerations when adopting the technology for their milking system.
- Kohlman continues work related to the **Dairy Workers Training Modules Series, Making the Connection Resource & Pocket Guide, and From Cull Cow to Market Cow, and Calf Disbudding and Management Practices Survey** projects.
- Zimbric and colleagues hosted an **Agronomy Update** meeting in early January where participants learned about the results from the 2019 corn, soybean, and small grain research trials in Wisconsin.
- Zimbric presented material at the **Wisconsin Soil and Water Conservation Society’s annual meeting** and present the group with novel information on crop production practices that can reduce soil erosion and enhance water quality

## Office Updates

- 3-D Financial Literacy for Youth received 2019 Governor’s Financial Literacy Award. Tidemann is a part of this team. Award ceremony at capitol on 2.19.2020.
- Miller, Katie Gindt, and Cassi Worster attended the **Intercultural Competence Training** offered by Marian University. During the session, attendees completed a cultural competency assessment, learned more about being culturally competent, and created an action plan.
- Miller applied for and received **title promotion**, advancing from no-prefix to senior level. The application process includes past record of positive performance reviews and examples of positive outcomes/projects successfully completed in past work. Approvals need to take place at multiple levels, including: the Area Extension Director, program area, Dean of Extension, and the Office of Human Resources.



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Diana Hammer, Community Development Educator

Ron Jakubisin, Positive Youth Development Educator (Fond du Lac/Washington Counties)

Tracy Keifenheim, 4-H Program Coordinator

Tina Kohlman, Dairy & Livestock Agriculture Agent

Amanda Miller, FoodWise Coordinator/Health & Well-Being Educator (Fond du Lac/Sheboygan Counties)

Pamela Nelson, FoodWise Educator

Patty Percy, Community Garden Coordinator

Melanie Phillips, FoodWise Educator

Cindy Sarkady, Area Extension Director

Shelley Tidemann, Human Development & Relationships Educator

Joe Zimbric, Crops & Soils Agriculture Educator (Fond du Lac/Dodge Counties)