



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
FOND DU LAC COUNTY

# Programming Highlights

July - August 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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## Agriculture/Agri-Business (Tina Kohlman & Joe Zimbric)

- Partnered with Extension Washington County and area FFA/vo-ag instructors in providing an online training for **Youth Tractor & Machinery Safety Certification Training** in June. In July, A face-to-face written and driving exam was provided following physical distancing guidelines for youth to complete the training and become state (ages 12-15) and/or federally (ages 14-15) certified to drive a tractor on the road.
- Participated in the **Fond du Lac County Ad-Hoc Farmland Preservation Plan Workgroup** to provide agriculture land use trends impacting the agricultural economy; issues, barriers, and opportunities impacting growth, transportation, and processing of commodities in the area; and recommendations for revisions to current criteria for mapping farmland preservation areas.
- Supported **Fond du Lac County Fair Large Animal Shows** remotely through the development of online submission forms and the use of Google Docs. Kohlman provided advice in the implementation of a modified, formatted show to provide youth a safe environment to show while practicing physical distancing.
- Continued leadership of 20 extension colleagues and development/revisions of eight **bilingual Dairy Workers Training Skills modules** for dairy employees where they will learn principles of and how to do each task on the farm in order to do their daily tasks more confidently and efficiently. Current focus is on production of calving assistance and animal handling videos.
- Collaborated with state-wide county-based educators in the **development of dairy cattle heat stress related impacts factsheets and videocasts**.
- Partnered with Agriculture Educators from across the state of Wisconsin to develop a new **podcast series that features alternative crops** and how farmers can begin the process of diversifying their farming operations. The

podcast website is now live and can be listened to here:

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/grain/cutting-edge/>

- Developing a new online workshop to help farmers think through the construction, maintenance, and safety considerations that are associated with grain bin storage.
- Continuing to respond to multitudes of agriculture and garden questions that come through the office during the growing season.

## Community Development

- Diana Hammer continues **individual check-ins with Entrepreneurs of Color** in northeast Wisconsin to assess general wellbeing and business needs which has resulted in increased access to emergency financial resources and better understanding for how Extension can respond to business needs.
- Hammer and colleagues on the Entrepreneurs of Color Support Team hosted a **virtual networking meeting for business owners in northeast WI**. Eleven participants shared that they found it useful and would like to do another.
- Community Gardens are looking very productive this season. Our new garden sign is the same place as the outdated one, and looking good. Working on helping gardeners with their garden problems this growing season.
- Amanda Miller and Hammer have offered to assist in the project “Building Extension Capacity to work with Hmoob (Hmong) Farmers”, a multi-disciplinary project that was recently awarded the Division of Extension Innovation Funding Initiative. The group will hold its first meeting in August.

## Health & Well-Being

- To stay connected with senior populations, FoodWise created the “**Stay Home, Stay Healthy**” **newsletters series**. Each newsletter is bi-weekly and includes food safety, food budgeting, nutrition, and a recipe.
- FoodWise continues to provide the most **up-to-date information on food resources** at:  
<https://fonddulac.extension.wisc.edu/fond-du-lac-county-food-resources-during-covid-19/>
- The FoodWise team has been active in numerous state workgroups. For example, the curriculum workgroups are **adapting lessons to virtual classes**. The food security workgroup is addressing the changing needs around hunger during COVID. Miller was asked to present to the food security workgroup because of the successes of the Food Providers Group.

- Miller was invited to replace Shelley Tidemann (recently retired) to join the **Fond du Lac Healthy 2020 Steering Committee**. This committee oversees the various health coalitions responsible for meeting the Community Health Improvement Plan goals. Miller previously worked with this group when she led the Robert Wood Johnson Coalition Coaching process for 3 years.
- The local **Population Health Group** continues to meet virtually to plan for community conversations around health topics with populations that are generally underserved and underrepresented in this work.
- Miller is currently attending a **two part series on food safety for food businesses** offered by the state Extension.
- The state Extension's Health and Well-Being Institute is now offering **virtual StrongBodies classes** for interested participants. Miller distributed hand and ankle weights to those participants that were interested in participating virtually, but did not have the necessary equipment.
- The FoodWise team continues to share weekly tips on cooking through the **Tasty Tuesday Facebook posts**. Topics have included: Excellent Eggs, Making Smoothies, Using Dried Beans, and One Pot Meals, to name a few.
- Miller is a member of the **Coalition Community of Practice group**, which meets monthly to help local educators build their skills in working with and/or leading public health coalitions. The group is led by the UW-Madison Population Health Institute.
- Multiple local food pantries are currently applying for **additional grant opportunities**. They have consulted with Miller on a variety of items during the grant application process. For example, one pantry requested poverty and food insecurity rates.
- It is **canning season**, so there has been an increase in the number of phone calls and emails about canning from community members. Miller responds using the most up-to-date resources and information on food safety and food preservation.
- Miller contributed to a state farmers market survey which will help inform a proposal for local legislators on the costs and needs for a successful **FoodShare EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) program** at farmers markets.
- The FoodWise program built a new relationship with **The Arc of Fond du Lac**. The goal is to offer nutrition education classes at the site in the future.
- Miller is currently adapting resources from the Safe and Healthy Food Pantries toolkit to create a class for staff and volunteers at local food pantries to learn **tips on food pantry management**.
- The Food Providers Group is hosting a **dairy distribution event** for Fond du Lac County residents. Prairie Farms, with the help from Birdseye Dairy, is providing

each family with 6-7 dairy products in a food box. Miller coordinated the event with assistance from the Salvation Army. 15 volunteers will assist to distribute approximately 480 boxes during a drive-thru only event.

- FoodWise is partnering with the **Boys and Girls Club of Fond du Lac** to offer two virtual classes to all 2nd and 3rd graders (about 57 students) at two different sites. The students will learn about MyPlate and physical activity.

#### 4-H & Youth Development

- Tracy Keifenheim, 4-H Program Educator, partnered with Washington and Ozaukee County 4-H Program Educators in providing an **online training for club charters** covering questions about updates to the charter as well as questions related to Covid-19 effects. This training reached 5 4-H volunteers.
- Keifenheim also partnered with Washington and Ozaukee County 4-H Program Educators to offer a **summer virtual exchange program**. The Tri-county exchange had 10 WI youth and 10 youth from Chattanooga, Tennessee who participated in 3 youth led Zoom meetings. Of the youth who completed the final evaluation, 100% agreed or strongly agreed that they enjoyed participating in the program, that they learned something new, and that the program helped them feel more connected to 4-H.
- Keifenheim has worked with several club leaders and volunteers to **modify activities and meetings following the guidelines** of The University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Extension. The wildflower project, horseback riding lessons, and the Llama and Alpaca projects are just a few of the activities and meetings that have been modified.
- Ron Jakubisin, Positive Youth Development (PYD) Educator has collaborated with FDL 4-H Educator and set August dates (18th/19th) for virtual trainings: ***Applications & Interviewing Skills (middle school audience) and Application & Interviewing Skills (high school audience)***. Both workshops will be promoted beyond 4-H audience (i.e. Boys/Girls Club, Men of Vision, YMCA, etc.)
- Jakubisin has developed two workshops that have been accepted by the Wis. Extension Virtual Learning Community committee. Those workshops are placed on the statewide calendar for Aug. 17th/18th and 25th/26th. Workshops will be on Zoom and live: ***'Thinking Outside The Box (problem-solving strategies)' and 'Develop Your T.E.A.M. (together everyone achieves more!)*** will be promoted to youth organizations around the county via web, social media, e-newsletters, etc.
- Jakubisin maintains relationships with his PYD partners such as Boys/Girls Club, Men of Vision, etc. about summer programming (i.e. organizations phasing in

and/or limiting outside programming) due to COVID policies in place for each individual organization. Jakubisin will continue to offer resources, collaborate and seek opportunities for remote learning.

### Office Updates

- Mid-point performance reviews for Academic Staff are due by August 31. Cindy Sarkady and Amanda Miller have participated in trainings offered by the Office of Human Resources to hold **effective mid-point conversations**.
- Miller has completed her final term as Secretary for the Committee for Academic Staff Issues (CASI), an advisory group to the Dean of Extension. Miller served on CASI for 6 years (3 two year terms.)



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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 Educator

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

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