



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
FOND DU LAC COUNTY

# Programming Highlights

June - July 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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**We are heart broken by the senseless loss of yet another Black life, a reflection of the ongoing systemic racism and the broader social and economic injustices in our country. As members of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Fond du Lac County community, we concur with the words of [Karl Martin, Dean of](#)**

**[Extension](#)**

**(<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/news/2020/06/01/condemnation-and-extensions-commitment-to-inclusion/>)**

**We are in this together; and we are committed to engaging in the conversations and difficult work necessary to bring about a more just and equitable society.**

**Sincerely,**

**The Fond du Lac County Extension team**

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

- Collaborated with agricultural extension colleagues in developing, implementing, and evaluating a three-part **“Dry Cow Management for a Successful Lactation” webinar series** where approximately 75 agriculture-business professionals learned about strategies to improve udder health and development; nutrition, and reducing risk of mastitis to ensure a successful subsequent lactation in dairy cows.
- Collaborated with an extension colleague and vocational high school agriculture instructor in transitioning, developing, hosting, teaching, and evaluating an eight-class **online Youth Tractor and Machinery Safety Certification Course** for 32

youth where they learned tractor safety to become state and federal certified to drive tractors on the road.

- Facilitated **Fond du Lac County Dairy Youth Project and Market Livestock Project Committees** in developing options and solutions for a county fair junior dairy, beef, sheep, swine, and meat goat shows where exhibitors and spectators can participate in a show while following COVID-19 physical distancing guidance.
- Awarded \$5200 fund from WI Department of Agriculture Trade & Consumer Protection in the printing and distribution of **Making the Connection: Supporting Farmers During Challenging Times** Resource Guides and Pocket Guides for four areas across Wisconsin to help agribusiness professionals and farmers identify signs of mental health distress.
- Collaborated in several planning and development meetings with local mental health collaborators to discuss and develop **social media campaigns to promote mental health and well-being resources** for farmers, families, businesses, and the community.
- 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.
- Coordinated the 2020 alfalfa scissor clip program geared towards forage producers interested in **science based management** of alfalfa harvest timing.
- Collaborating with four Fond du Lac County farms in the **Wisconsin Alfalfa Yield and Persistence Project** where collaborators will provide data to determine the yield and quality persistence of an alfalfa field over the life of the stand.
- Collaborating with UW-Madison forage researchers on development of a new **research proposal** that will **examine key management factors that will close the alfalfa yield gap** in Wisconsin.
- Patty Percy and Worster have developed a new **updated Community Gardens sign**. The County Highway Department will be placing it on site soon. The gardens are looking phenomenal this summer!

## Community Development

- Diana Hammer was invited to co-design and co-facilitate a **process for a meeting of community members led by Ebony Vision and the Fond du Lac Police Department** in response to vulgar comments posted by an officer in a public Facebook discussion after the first meeting of the groups led to no outcome or change.

- Hammer used empathy, case management, social capital, and communication with power brokers to respond when a **recovering Latino immigrant COVID patient contacted her with financial worries**. This motivated the United Way Director to call the hospital, the Agnesian Foundation, Consumer Credit Counseling, and 211 to motivate a systems response for this situation which is likely to happen more often in coming months.
- Hammer hosted a virtual educational and networking session with Latinos Unidos en Fond du Lac and Latino leaders in Green County in which participants learned from a bilingual therapist about **stress management to improve individual and community health and wellbeing**.
- 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.
- Because of the relationships built in the check-in calls, Hammer convened a Zoom meeting to introduce Green Bay businesses to the business development staff person with the City of Green Bay who can provide loans and grants to fund their ventures. *[Brown County Community Development Educator Patrick Nehring focuses on work with nonprofits and has helped Hammer throughout the years on bylaws development and other organizational development issues in Fond du Lac County.]*

## Health & Well-Being

- Amanda Miller, Melanie Phillips and Pamela Nelson have developed a **digital series called Tasty Tuesday**. The series includes a recipe, fact sheet and video for each topic. Starting in June, a new topic is released every Tuesday.
- FoodWise is working on developing **new virtual and indirect summer programming**, due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Phillips and Nelson participated in a state training offered by the FoodWise program that focused on **classroom management and strategies to help when teaching nutrition education to young children**.
- Miller is a certified **Training Consultant with Go NAPSACC**, a toolkit to help early childcare sites implement healthier policies and practices.
- Miller is a member of a state workgroup **addressing food insecurity/hunger, both during COVID-19 and beyond**. Miller has been asked to present to the entire organization on the work of the Fond du Lac/Sheboygan FoodWise team in this area.

- **The Food Providers Group** has been actively communicating regarding hunger and food insecurity during COVID-19. The group is led by Miller, who has been sharing up-to-date local and state information.
- Miller is currently partnering with **local dairy farmers and Prairie Farms** to apply for a grant to receive surplus dairy boxes. She is coordinating these efforts with the Food Providers Group to get the boxes into the local food pantries.
- Miller and Cassi Worster have developed this **summer's Veggie Bites series**, a weekly highlight of produce at the local farmers market. For more information, visit: <https://fonddulac.extension.wisc.edu/veggie-bites/>
- Miller has been sharing health and racial equity resources with the **local Population Health Group**. The group is currently planning to conduct local focus groups with Black/African Americans, Hispanic/Latinx, and low-income individuals on health and well-being.
- Miller is currently attending **multiple trainings on the effects of racism on public health**, with plans to become a trained facilitator on the issue. The Wisconsin Public Health Association and American Public Health Association have both declared racism as a public health crisis.
- **FoodWise** has built a new relationship with **The Arc of Fond du Lac, Inc.** The two programs are meeting to discuss opportunities to partner in the future.
- **The Food Providers Group** has led the way in sharing information about local food resources during COVID-19. For more information, visit: <https://fonddulac.extension.wisc.edu/fond-du-lac-county-food-resources-during-covid-19/>
- Miller continues to **support the local farmers markets** by providing them with resources recently developed by Extension as a result of COVID-19. For example, one resource is guidelines on how to safely reopen this summer.

#### 4-H & Youth Development

- A virtual **Fashion Revue** for 12 Fond du Lac, Dodge, Winnebago, and Manitowoc county youth, where participants modeled their sewing skills in order to build confidence, foster leadership, and stronger communication skills.
- A **Tri-county online training for 4-H volunteers** where they learned about Extension, Expanding Access/Equity/Opportunity, Risk Management, Policies and Procedures, and Youth Development in order to guide youth leadership and youth-adult partnerships.
- A **multi-county summer virtual exchange for 4-H youth** where they organize, plan and facilitate exchange meetings in order to develop relationships, build communication skills and learn about other cultures.

- Ron Jakubisin, Positive Youth Development Educator (PYD), **submits 'Team Challenges' activities** for 4-H, blog, web and social media posting in which participants can email answers or ask for hints in order to complete challenges.
- Jakubisin met with Boys/Girls Club Youth Director (Dillon Wiese) to **coordinate and resume Extension education sessions** (Aug/Sept.dates TBD) taking place prior to COVID. Jakubisin maintains relationships with his PYD partners and contacts during COVID to better understand summer programming, offer resources, etc. ( i.e. agencies phasing in programming and those that are not).
- Jakubisin met with 4-H Coordinator and PYD colleagues from surrounding counties in separate meetings discussing **local and state policies for youth programming in July/Aug.**
- Jakubisin attended **the FDL Juneteenth Rally** on 6/21, supporting PYD partners Ebony Vision and mentoring program Men of Vision
- Jakubisin takes part in a professional development offering with a weekly book study, 'Waking Up White' with colleagues to discuss current race issues and effective communication skills when delivering programming.
- Jakubisin took scheduled Furlough day on the 26th. His position is shared with Fond du Lac and Washington Counties.

## Office Updates

- All staff continue to telecommute. Working on a plan for safety when they are advised to return to the workspace.
- Numerous office staff participating in professional development book reads "Waking up White" and "Dare to Lead"



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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)