

**Programming Highlights**

June-August 2016

UW-Extension, Cooperative Extension, Fond du Lac County

*We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin,*

*and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.*

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

* Eight youth participated in this year’s **Dairy Management Project** with Tina Kohlman and 4-H volunteer Mark Ludtke.  The group traveled to four farms in Clark County to learn more about the dairy industry, practices and philosophies “outside the barn doors”.  Youth will prepare a presentation on what they learned and how they can incorporate the practices on their own farms.
* **4-H Camp** annually offers youth ages 9 to 15 the opportunity to explore the outdoors, interact with new people, build self-confidence, or try out new experiences, such as canoeing. The four-day camp included swimming, sports, games, crafts, campfire, talent show and healthy meals for 11 Boys & Girls Club members, 11 community youth and 61 4-H members. The program is planned and led by 14 teen counselors who apply, are interviewed and participate in training.  Thirteen adult volunteers advise the group and provide oversight.
* Thirteen 4-H members participated in the **2016 Wisconsin 4-H Youth Conference** in Madison. This four day, state-wide event included service-learning experiences, aquatic, science and project seminars, fun activities, such as Madison tours, music, etc. to allow delegates to make new friends across the state. The conference inspired and encouraged every delegate to become leaders in their own community, to volunteer, to be kind and to make a difference in their own future. 550 youth from across Wisconsin attended. In addition, a teen from Fond du Lac County serves on the state youth leader council who had leadership roles at the event. One youth had art exhibited at this state event.
* Four 4-H youth were delegates to **American Spirit**, which is a nine-day experience to the east coast to learn about early American history.
* Five older 4-H teens were delegates to **Citizenship Washington Focus**. They traveled to Washington DC to learn about the federal government and meet with elected officials.
* Members from six 4-H clubs participated in the National Exchange Bank sponsored **Dairy Days**. These clubs worked games, served food, participated in the Yogurt at its Best competition, passed out dairy information and also brought in animals. This is an annual service project by clubs to support this community event.
* Two 4-H members were delegates to **Western Spirit Experience**, a ten-day travel opportunity to national parks. They learned about the history and impact of national parks during this year of celebrating 100 years of national parks in the USA.
* Helping Hands 4-H members represented 4-H at the **National Flag Day ceremony** held at the KC Hall. They presented the 4-H flag and led the 4-H pledge. This community event honors our national flag and those who serve our country.
* At **Area Animal Science Day** 4-H members compete in a variety of events related to horses, market livestock and dairy cattle. This year for the first time Fond du Lac County had a market livestock team consisting of 3 youth. They are already eager to participate again next year. Participants practice for many weeks ahead learning how to analyze and judge their particular species.
* **Friends of 4-H** is a fund development initiative for the Fond du Lac County 4-H Association. At a recent meeting plans were being developed for 4-H teens to call and thank the major donors and to share with them how 4-H has impacted them.
* The **State Hunt & Dressage Show** that was held in Plymouth had one 4-Her from Fond du Lac compete. This is English style riding and fence jumping. She participated in five different areas of competition.
* The 2016 **Foods Revue** was held on June 6. This year’s theme was: “I Love Beef.” Eleven 4-H members participated in this event. The judges spent time with everyone talking about their recipes, techniques and inspiration and sharing knowledge through cooking tips and encouraged them to come back next year. The audience was able to admire the creativity of each table set up and taste their food.
* Araceli Oswald and Michelle Ruelas began a **summer youth program** in the North Fond du Lac community where the majority of the residents are Latinos. They will facilitate a total of 6 sessions at this location. A total of 20 youth have participated in “hands-on” learning activities.  SRO Shawn Hendrix from the North Fond du Lac Police Department visited the group. He shared his experience as a police officer, talked about his personal equipment, answered many questions asked by the youth, addressed personal safety and emergency procedures and youth had the opportunity to explore the police vehicle!
* Denise Retzleff led **orientation for county fair superintendents and judges**. The emphasis was on understanding their roles, relating to youth exhibitors and providing positive educational experiences. The county fair offers an opportunity for members to publicly display the projects they have created, grown or worked on over several months. Through the face-to face judging process youth describe what they have done and learned. This process develops communication skills and builds self-confidence.
* Denise Retzleff, two chaperones and six 4-H members completed the **New Horizons service learning leadership experience**. It began last fall with youth applying and interviewing. The youth decide where to travel to and make the arrangements for service projects, educational sightseeing, lodging and connecting with other youth groups.  This year the youth traveled to New Orleans to volunteer at Second Harvest, New Orleans Mission and with an assisted living center. Visits to the National WWII Museum, a plantation and a swamp tour were included.
* Two 4-H families **hosted youth from Japan** from mid-July to mid-August. The young people travel to the US to experience our culture and practice their English skills. 4-H members in the host families also develop cultural understanding and patience as they incorporate the visitor into their family’s daily schedule.
* 4-H members helped at the **“Action Center,” a promotional booth** at the County Fair. This is an opportunity for youth to interact with youth and talk to parents about their 4-H experience and to promote the program.
* The **Latino Hub** is a project initiated by the UW-Extension. The Hub aims to educate, inform, empower and connect Latinos in the Fond du Lac area. Michelle Ruelas and Araceli Oswald began contacting Latinos in the Fond du Lac area. Michelle did this by going out and talking to people in the La Mexican store and by phone calls to a Latino database that was created by Michelle and Araceli. The purpose of contacting Latinos was so Araceli and Michelle could get a group of Latinos to meet with and discuss barriers, ideas and ways of communication. Before the meeting, Michelle met with the library staff to discuss how we can partner and if their rooms would be available for our meetings. The library staff agreed to let us use their rooms. The reason being that the library is centrally located, most people know where it is, and it is a public space where Latinos can feel safe.  
    
  Days before the meeting, Michelle prepared the sign in sheets and agenda and made sure everyone in the Latino database was contacted. Six people attended the meeting. During our meeting every Latino participated in our discussion.  After our first meeting, we mentioned to our six participants that we will be holding another meeting, but this time hope to gather more people, so it would be necessary for them to help spread the word. We are now looking forward to the second meeting with the Latinos, and to meet with organizations/institutions that can potentially partner with us to help this project move along.
* **Summer 4-H Intern Update** -- For the month of July Michelle attended two professional development seminars which were emotional intelligence and leadership conference. Also for the majority of the month, she worked on initiating the Latino Facebook group and creating advertisement materials, such as an ad for the Hispanic magazine and business cards for the Latino group. After the Facebook group was launched, she then worked on getting people to join the group. She began by simply adding to the group people she knew and then asked for them to add people they knew. She also made institutions/ agencies and Latino business owners aware by emailing, calling, or physically going to visit them to invite people to add posts and join the group. For a couple of days she did some research to see what other states have done for Latinos and programs that exist for Latinos, and she began to create a database of the websites to keep record. She also worked on adding other groups to the Facebook page of Latinos that might be good resources for the next person who will be in charge of keeping up with the Latino group on Facebook. For the remaining last days of the month she worked on maintaining the group of Latinos and working on gathering information of different services for future posts. Aside from working on the Latino Facebook group she attended the county fair for two days and led two different activities for those days. She also has continued to work with the NFDL summer program.
* **Real Colors Training** was conducted with 28 individuals from Charter Communications HR Department, Maintenance and Support Services in June.  Michelle Tidemann and Washington County FLE led the training which is focused to assist individuals and teams to increase ability to recognize personal strengths and strengths of others, understand how others process information, build rapport quickly with clientele, colleagues, family and friends and the ability to modify one’s communication to connect with others.  This is the 4th set of Charter employees to go through Colors training in the past year equaling 116 employees.  Tidemann and Bralich from Washington County will be initiating a focus group with Charter administration to discuss the changes noted in the workplace as a result of the Colors training.   An August Colors training is scheduled for administration at Lakeland Care District.
* **Co-Parent Education** was held for divorcing parents and parents with paternity cases in June and July. Michelle Tidemann and Kylee Ernst collaborated to teach how to better co-parent children to 27 divorcing parents and 6 paternity parents.  A total of 37 & 10 children are associated with these parents, respectively.   Tidemann is investigating updating the videos used in the curriculum, as well as including information on resiliency needs of children.
* Tidemann presented on the outcomes for the **Parenting the First Year newsletter** project to the Early Bird Kiwanis club in Ripon.   Kiwanis, St. Agnes and UW Extension Family Living have been partners in the age-paced newsletter project for 23 years.  The new digital newsletter is entitled: “Just in Time” and Tidemann and Gloria Kelroy have assisted the Fond du Lac subscriptions to be transferred.
* Diana planned and facilitated a retreat for the **Fond du Lac Area United Way Board** to analyze information about neighboring United Way organizations, develop a new vision statement, and frame strategic issues for the organization as a result of the new vision.
* Diana continues to plan and facilitate monthly meetings of the **City of Fond du Lac Downtown Exploratory Committee**. The group has interviewed members of the Downtown Fond du Lac Partnership Board, a representative of the WI Main Street program, and staff with the City of Fond du Lac. The group determined they want to take that work into account as they make their suggestions.

**Resilient & Productive Environment**

* Area agents are conducting a **farm field survey** on soil decomposition and soil health.  Tina Kohlman organized three area farms with a total of five fields in Fond du Lac County with various tillage and nutrient management practices to bury a cloth in the field and to later retrieve the cloth for decomposition analysis.  The cloth will be retrieved in five to six weeks and will be used as visual aids on soil health.
* Diana shared what was learned from the **“Fond du Lac County Well Water User Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behavior Change” research** with the WI Town’s Association Unit meeting in Alto and at a break-out session of the Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committees Conference in Wausau. Each of the 50 participants in these sessions received a simple handout to read and then share with a younger woman they know. The research showed that people under age 55 know less about water testing and women are less certain of the safety of their water.
* Diana and Tina E. discussed the new format of the **Level One Master Gardener Training Program** with state Master Gardener Program Director and Sally Boatman, the lead volunteer coordinator of the new program. The “reverse classroom” model of studying videos and materials at home and doing group discussions and demonstrations in class was considered highly successful by organizers and participants. The 16 students who passed the exam have already met current Master Gardeners and volunteered for community projects even prior to graduating.
* **Community Garden** Coordinator, Patty Percy, is collaborating with the airport, land conservation and highway department to address run-off from the heavy rains and winter melt so that it does not travel through the surrounding residential lots.
* **Junior Master Gardeners** are off to a great start this summer.  After starting their own vegetables from seed, the ‘Garden of Eatin’ is growing well.  The group has learned how to care for the plants and have been harvesting some of the produce.  The kids have also enjoyed learning how to prepare fresh healthy snacks.
* Diana led a discussion to conclude **The Natural Step book study** with City of Fond du Lac and County employees. Participants agreed on action steps they will take as a result and work on those before the next meeting together in August.

**Stronger Economies**

* Mike taught teens at the **Boys and Girls Club** some business basics to make their own jewelry. The following Saturday, Diana coached the teens in selling strategies, pricing, and customer relations skills at the Juneteenth event (hosted by Ebony Vision to celebrate when the enslaved people learned of the abolition of slavery). The teens made about $50 for the Club, and four adults agreed to talk more about their business idea with IGNITE!

Diana and teens from the Boys and Girls Club of Fond du Lac discussed what they learned by selling jewelry at Juneteenth. The teens decided to make more necklaces, decided together about pricing, to use more active selling techniques, and try again at a Farmers Market stand later in the summer.

* As part of their roles with **IGNITE! Business Success**, Diana and Mike:
  + - contributed to the planning and facilitation of the monthly Coordinating Council meeting and the newly formed Steering Team.
    - met with a new IGNITE! partner organization representative to explain more about the coalition and potential roles she could play.
    - arranged for a former Going Solo participant to meet with an IGNITE! partner about his long-time business idea and contracted with an interpreter to attend the appointment with him.
    - Contributed to the Youth Subcommittee plans to offer the Youth Idea Challenge sooner in the year to high school students and involve more teachers and mentors in the effort.
* **State Rent Smart** **curriculum writing** continues with modules completed and editors are proofing the six modules. Tidemann is working on the website design, as well as a text messaging component for evaluation. Tidemann serves as co-chair of the Rent Smart curriculum renew for the state.
* Five individuals received Rent Smart certificates for attending the 6 hour **Rent Smart course** in July, taught by Michelle Tidemann.  Tidemann met with the Fond du Lac Apartment Association in July presenting on the updated Rent Smart curriculum, as well as discussion on landlord/tenant educational needs.
* In June and July, two individuals received **financial coaching assistance** and another individual has scheduled time for financial coaching assistance, plus seven individuals attended Where Does the Money Go - basic spending plan class in July at the FDL Public Library taught by Tidemann.
* Michelle Tidemann collaborates with Fond du Lac High School on the **Reality Day** simulation for Fond du Lac High School students.  In June simulation station information was reviewed and updated for present day costs by Tidemann and Sandi Linde, FDL High Business Ed Educator, and Jill Walker, FDL High Family and Consumer Ed Educator.
* Tidemann is collaborating with Kate Mood of Ripon College to initiate **Financial Coaching Training** for college student coaches at Ripon College for the 2016-2017 year with additional Saturday sessions of financial ed training to support the coaches and interested Ripon College students.
* Tidemann collaborated with Campbellsport Library to offer a session on **Who Gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate** to three individuals in June.  The program focus is on non-titled property transfer.
* **Communication Ring Around** wastaught at Forward Services Corp. by Michelle Tidemann to four individuals in June.  This class targets the communication process, how to become a better listener and building better communication through the use of “I” statements.  This is a mandatory attendance class for Forward Services customers.
* Diana worked extensively with UW-Extension Specialists Steve Deller and Tessa Conroy to finalize the analysis of the **Business Success Interviews** done with minority business owners. The article has been sent to other UW-Extension educators for edits and feedback.  
    
  Diana presented about the Business Success interviews at the Community Development Society/International Association for Community Development Conference in Bloomington, MN. Her presentation attracted 30 participants who offered suggestions for improving the analysis and report. Additionally, representatives from Extension and business development services in MN, IL, and WI asked to talk further about replicating and expanding the research to learn more about minority business owners in these three states.
* **Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing** started June 1 and hit the ground running. She has already helped facilitate the Fond du Lac and Dodge County Forage Councils hold their annual Twilight meeting on June 22, which was attended by 109 forage producers from both Fond du Lac and Dodge counties. She is currently partnering with Country Visions Coop in Fond du Lac and with the Fond du Lac Forage Council to organize the annual Agronomy Field Day in Lamartine which will be Sept. 1. In addition, Ortiz-Ribbing is facilitating the 22 member Rock River NonPoint Source Workgroup and 11 members in NonPoint Source Education and Farmer Lead Council Subgroups in Dodge County as they organize a producer educational workshop in February and trying to encourage the development of a producer lead watershed council. She is also enjoying meeting people in both counties.

**Food Safety, Food Security & Health**

* This summer the **Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program** (WNEP) taught 5 classes to all the Boys and Girls Club kids going into second grade next year. Thirty-eight children were reached during the program.  Topics included:  being physically active, hand washing/food safety, dairy group, vegetables and trying new foods/MyPlate.  At the end of the session one teacher commented, “Thank you for coming in each year!  We love what you do!”

**Office Update**

* **nEXT Generation** is the reorganization process that UW-Extension will be undertaking. Several committees have been formed to look at needs, current programs, where gaps exist and to envision the future. Denise Retzleff will co-chair the Organizational Structure Category Work Group. This work group will assess, analyze, and recommend changes to the organizational structures and support models across Cooperative Extension. Araceli Oswald is a member of the 4-H Youth Development Program Work Group which will focus on the programs offered to the residents of Wisconsin, how these programs are offered and the way these programs are organized within Cooperative Extension. Michelle Tidemann is co-chair of the Volunteer Work Group which will be assessing the current and future needs for volunteers and determining current processes for recruiting, managing, supporting and developing volunteers across all levels of Cooperative Extension.
* We are working to inform **new county board supervisors** about the work of UW-Extension and to acquaint them with people in our office. At this time, we have scheduled visits to our office with four supervisors.
* UW-Extension office will be using Neo-Gov for **performance evaluations** this fall. Justin Kluesner trained 10 members on its use.
* Mike Winkler was on a month-long **military leave** in July, serving with the U. S. Army in Rock Island, IL.
* Michelle Tidemann, Ann Kaiser and Denise Retzleff have been orientating our new **Dodge/Fond du Lac County Crops and Soils Agent** to the Fond du Lac office and UW Extension policies.
* **Gloria Kelroy** retired from the UW Extension office with 25 years of service in July.  Pam Bartoli has been hired to fill this position as an LTE until December.
* Araceli Oswald participated in the East-Metro **professional development workshops**: “Listening for a Change”, “The Joy of Meetings” and “Honoring our Common Differences” facilitated by Kathy Germann.
* **Budget** **update** through July: Expenses - 46%; Revenues - 62%

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