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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

- Tina Kohlman & Kewaunee County Agriculture Agent Aerica Bjurstrom presented **“Walking Strong-Prevalence of Digital Dermatitis on Eastern Wisconsin Dairy Farms”** poster at the annual East-Metro All-Faculty Conference, PDPW Conference & the WPS Farm Show this past month. The purpose of the poster is to provide awareness of digital dermatitis project conducted on Eastern WI dairy farms, as well as the tools and resources developed by county agents.
- Tina Kohlman once again hosted a UW-Extension booth at the **annual Fond du Lac County Agri-Business Council’s Ag Showcase**. Nearly 3,000 individuals attended the day-long event to learn more about Fond du Lac County’s agriculture industry.
- Two of the **Becoming the Manager of Choice Meetings on Human Resources in Agriculture** were hosted this past month with 20 English and Spanish speaking individuals attending both times. Tina Kohlman presented “Developing a Motivated Workforce” and “From Managers to Leaders” teaching attendees skills and resources needed to empower their on-farm employees.
- Nearly 40 individuals attended the annual **Raising Quality Dairy Heifers Regional Heifer Management Meeting**. Tina Kohlman co-organized this annual event. Tina also developed and presented “To Beef or Not to Beef: A Look at Culling Heifers.”
- Diana continued to improve the app she is creating for **IGNITE! Business Success** partners to coordinate on implementation of the \$40,000 grant received from the WI Economic Development Corporation. Applications for businesses wanting to participate in the program can contact IGNITE!  
<http://www.ignitefonddulacounty.com/2017-entrepreneur-startup-grant/>
- Diana arranged two meetings with interpreters for Latino business owners to meet with **ADVOCAP Business Development Specialists** and discuss next steps toward their business goals. One will be working with IGNITE! on plans to find a permanent new building for his existing business. The other worked with Diana on a business plan for a start-up he hopes to launch in 2017.
- Diana attended an **IGNITE! workshop** to learn the Business Model Canvas approach to developing a business idea taught by Amy Pietsch with Fox Valley Technical College Venture Center, the newest organizational partner to join IGNITE!
- Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing presented the final two **Pesticide Applicator Trainings (PAT)** in both Fond du Lac and Dodge Counties on March 2 and March 9th, respectively. A total of 70 producers were trained from both counties and 100% passed their DATCP exam certifying them to apply Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs). Dr. Ribbing also added issue-related content regarding new pesticide labeling requirements for herbicide use on dicamba and 2,4-D tolerant crops, as well as information about pollinators, drift, personal protection, and environmental safety.
- Dr. Ribbing continues to interact and meet with and provide educational support for the **Forage Councils and Master Gardeners** in Fond du Lac and Dodge Counties. She is currently partnering with the Fond du Lac Forage Council as they plan this year’s Twilight Forage Meeting scheduled for June 14. Please mark your calendars.

- One result of the **Healthy Soil-Healthy Water workshop**, held in February was interest in and the formation of a farmer led initiative/workgroup composed of producers from Dodge County, as well as Fond du Lac and other counties. Dr. Ribbing met with and helped advise/facilitate the first meeting of 14 producers on March 15<sup>th</sup>, as they determined their group's mission and goals for water quality and soil health in the Rock River Watershed. While a name was not selected, the group's mission was determined to be: *Improving our community's soil & water through conservation practices & education*. Three goals for this year will be doing a field day in 2017, holding the second Healthy Soil-Healthy Water workshop Feb. 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> 2018, and establishing on-farm trials with cover crops.
- As one goal of the **Farmer Led Workgroup**, Dr. Ribbing will be assisting producers design, establish, monitor, and measure on-farm trials in Dodge County with respect to cover crops. One trial, frost seeding red clover to winter wheat, was designed and frost seeded last week on the farm of Jeff Gaska. Other on-farm trials that Dr. Ribbing will assist producers with will evaluate interseeding cover crops into corn at the V3 or V4 growth stages and planting cover crops following wheat harvest.
- Dr. Ribbing, Amanda Young, and Tina Kohlman have shared their **Agricultural Needs Assessment Survey** at many winter meetings and via various outlets to reach a broad range of producers, agricultural industry reps, government/agency partners, and stakeholders. Approximately 203 completed paper surveys along with 6 online surveys have been collected. Data is currently being manually entered and will be analyzed in the coming month.

### Thriving Youth, Families, Organizations & Communities

- Thirty women participated in the annual **Heart of the Farm Women's Conference** hosted by Tina Kohlman and counterparts in Manitowoc and Washington Counties. The purpose of Heart of the Farm is to connect women with others who face the same experiences and challenges in the agriculture community.
- Over 200 members and parents participated in **4-H Family Learning Day** which was held Sat., February 25. There were 35 different topics (with 47 presenters) to choose from including woodworking, photography, rocketry, mini-gardens, macramé, wildlife, veterinary science, crafts, volleyball, basketball, new leader orientation, plant propagation and more. It is an opportunity for young people to learn a new skill. Many volunteers – planning committee, instructors, babysitters, registration desk, those who carry in supplies, clean-up crew, and photo takers make this event possible.
- Diana planned and facilitated a retreat for the board of **REACH Waupun**, a new non-profit seeking to support young people and their families via education and long-term mentoring relationships.
- Diana continued to coordinate the **First Impressions** exchange between the Fond du Lac Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, the City of Fond du Lac, and the Downtown Fond du Lac Partnership and two Downtown organizations in Green Bay. Teams are visiting each city this month to give positive and constructive feedback which will be summarized by UW-Extension into reports for each organization to use as they move forward in their respective goals.
- The **Latino youth group "Young Dreamers"** hosted the Fond du Lac County 4-H station at the Multicultural event hosted by the Boys and Girls Club. 10 members were engaged in leadership roles, making decision about decorations and booth activities. The booth theme was Mexico and they taught other youth from the community how to make maracas.
- 21 youth (4-H and non-members) have registered for **"Lemonade Day,"** an entrepreneurship program that includes lessons about: budgeting, goals, partners, promotion and other important topics to consider to become a business owner. Fond du Lac Area "Lemonade Day" is Saturday, May 6, 2017.

- The annual **4-H basketball tournament** was held on Saturday, March 25th, at Lomira High School. Six junior teams and four senior teams competed. Over 100 4-H members participated in this tournament filled with friendship, sportsmanship and fun.
- Araceli Oswald, as part of the **Humanity Project**, telling the untold story, talked to members of the community about the Latino experience. This event was an open conversation about the history of Latinos in the USA, immigration issues, ITIN, deportation, etc. Participants expressed that they learned something new and would like to learn more.
- **Latinos Unidos (adult Latino group)** gathered for their monthly meeting. They learned about the IGNITE grant opportunity, water quality and radon. They also planned upcoming meetings and topics. Next time they will meet at the Library to coincide with the FDL School District meeting for parents and in May they would like to host a Higher Education Information night.
- **Just in Time Parenting Newsletter**, partnership between UW Extension Family Living, Agnesian Health Care System and Kiwanis Clubs in Fond du Lac County continues to grow in the county. Michelle Tidemann presented to 22 different agencies at the Birth to 3 Consortium meeting held at Agnesian Health Care. New network connections for the newsletter have been made with adoption agencies, UMOS and North Fond du Lac School and Fond du Lac School Districts early learning departments. Tidemann is following up on these new network connections to enroll more families of children ages 0 – 5 to receive the newsletter.
- **Money Smart Week** for Fond du Lac County preparations are in full swing - April 22 – 29<sup>th</sup>. Tidemann is scheduled to do worksite education for the following businesses: MidStates Aluminum, TitleServe, and Fond du Lac County to date, focusing on building a spending plan. Additionally, Tidemann is partnering with the Fond du Lac Public Library to co-present “Sundae on Saturday Challenge” a financial session for teens grade 6-12. Tidemann will be presenting the “It’s Your Credit - Do You Know What it Means” session on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> for the general public at the FDL library. Besides teaching, Tidemann has been leading the preparations for the Women’s Finance Conference which is the kickoff event for the week.
- Tidemann continues work with Karen Warren, **FDL County Wellness Coordinator**, in regards to the county’s interest in financial wellness education for employees.
- Tidemann has secured 60 community volunteers who will interact with the Fond du Lac High School students at the different stations for the **Reality Day simulation**. The simulation is held two times a year with approximately 150 + students participating. The spring event is set for April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Twelve individuals received Rent Smart certificates for attending the 6 hour **Rent Smart course** in March taught by Michelle Tidemann. Tidemann presented the Rent Smart curriculum updates to the **Fond du Lac County Housing Coalition** and Tidemann has been asked to serve on the **Housing Authority Board of Commission**.

### **Food Safety, Food Security & Health**

- Since the northeast corner of Fond du Lac County is located in the risk zone in the event of a Point Beach Nuclear Plant emergency, members of Fond du Lac County Emergency Management and Tina Kohlman participated in the **Point Beach Ingestion Zone Planning Workshop**. The purpose of the workshop was for community members to have discussions regarding agriculture in the event of an emergency involving the nuclear plant.
- In April, 57 **Chegwin second grade students** learned about the dairy group and how milk travels from the cow to the store. The students learned why it is important to eat and drink dairy foods and why their

school lunch program has fat free and 1% milk. Teachers commented on how much the students learn when we are in the classrooms.

- JMG begins on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> and ends on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Thirteen families, not including the attendees from the Boys and Girls Club, are registered for the program. There is currently a waiting list. The **Junior Master Gardener** program is an opportunity for young children to gain experience with gardening and cooking. It is a collaboration between UW-Extension's Master Gardener Program and the FoodWise (nutrition) Program.
- Amanda Miller (FoodWise Coordinator) attended the **annual FoodWise Coordinator's conference** on March 6-8. At these annual meetings, FoodWise Coordinators throughout the state are updated by state staff on the federal program budget, new program guidance, and program impacts/outcomes from the previous year. It also kicks off the annual program budget planning process for fiscal year 2018, which Amanda Miller works on every spring. The next fiscal year is from October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018.
- Amanda Miller continues to have conversations with the state FoodWise office and Human Resources regarding the hiring of a **Nutrition Educator** to fill the position previously held by Kris Schaeffer, who retired on March 3.
- Amanda Miller currently serves as Secretary on the **Food for Thought Committee**, which oversees the operations of the weekend backpack program. The weekend backpack program is offered to children in need within the Fond du Lac School District. The program is a part of the Fondy Food Pantry. The group is currently working on a new survey tool to administer to parents and teachers.

## Resilient & Productive Environment

- Diana attended Literacy Night at Rock River Intermediate School in Waupun to promote the **well water sampling program**. At the event, 6<sup>th</sup> grade science students taught their parents about groundwater contamination using the Wisconsin Well Water Viewer and a sand tank model. Both of these tools were developed and taught to their teacher, Leigh Kohlmann, by UW-Extension groundwater specialist Kevin Masarik.

In total 26 families chose to test their water through this program. The number of families participating from the Waupun area (14) doubled from the last time the program was offered in October (7), and an additional 12 employees of UW-Fond du Lac and Fond du Lac County also took advantage of the opportunity to sample with this program. Results will be shared with participants in April.

## Office Update

- Tina Kohlman serves as a tri-chairperson for the **2017 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days Extension Education Committee**, focusing on the UW-Extension's presence at the state's largest farm show. With changes due to nEXT Generation, UW-Extension is looking at how it can have a smaller footprint, but meaningful impact at this farm show while being conscientious of past traditions and history.
- Tina Kohlman is participating in this year's **National Extension Leadership Development Program**. Session 2 will be held March 31-April 8 in Costa Rica focusing on cultural differences.
- Tina Kohlman continues to pilot **My EMMA e-marketing web-based program** on the web by developing e-newsletters for UW-Extension's Dairy Team. UW-Extension Fond du Lac County will also look at piloting this marketing resource.

- All UWEX educators completed the **“Preventing Harassment and Sexual Violence”** on-line training which was mandated through UW Systems. It created awareness of preventing, reporting and stopping harassment and sexual violence in order to have a safe and welcoming work environment.
- Michelle Tidemann (a member of the Department of Family Development) and Denise Retzleff (a member of the Department of Youth Development) read and reviewed portfolios from six UW-Extension colleagues who are eligible for tenure. Tidemann and Retzleff serve on the **Faculty Tenure Advisory Committee**.
- Dr. Ribbing participated the **UW-Extension Tri-Team meeting** (March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>), where she met with members of the Forage, Grains, and Cover Crops teams to develop this year’s plan-of-work for each team.
- Dr. Ribbing also participated in **professional development** activities including a University of Wisconsin-Extension New Colleagues Orientation in Madison on March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, and a Multicultural Awareness Workshop in Appleton (March 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>) to enhance understanding and learning about programming to diverse audiences.
- Tidemann conducted an **annual Performance Review** with one UWEX staff member.
- Tidemann is a member of the Dollars During Development workgroup and has been notified the team she is a member of has received the **2017 ESP Distinguished Team Award**, as well as the **WEAFCS Team Award for 2017**. Both awards are being sent on for national consideration. Awards will be given out on April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Joint Council of Extension Professionals meeting, which Tidemann cannot attend due to Reality Day at the Fond du Lac High School commitment.
- **Budget update** through March: Expenses – 16%; Revenues – 26%