
*We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin,
and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.*

Stronger Economies

- Dr. Ribbing submitted two **grants supporting on-farm research** totaling \$69,296. One was for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Production (DATCP) Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant for the Upper Rock River Watershed that includes portions of Fond du Lac and most of Dodge Counties. The second was for the North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) Partnership Grant. Both grants will allow Dr. Ribbing to assist farmers with implementing on-farm trials with the focus of evaluating and promoting different approaches for establishing cover crops in their region. The long term goal is to increase cover crop use leading to improved water quality.
- Dr. Ribbing hosted one of the seven UW-Madison [Pest Management Update Meetings](#) in Fond du Lac on November 9th. There were 51 attendees who received unbiased pest management information for Wisconsin field and forage crops.
- Working with three Dodge County producers, Dr. Ribbing, completed collection of data (including biomass, soil samples, and yield) for **on-farm cover crop research** focused on two application methods (frost-seeding into wheat and inter-seeding into corn), and one cover crop mixture demonstration plot. Results will be analyzed and shared at the 2018 Healthy Soil-Healthy Water workshop in Juneau on February 7th.
- Dr. Ribbing continues to work with the Dodge County Farmer Led Group, Forage Councils, and Master Gardeners in both counties, UW-Madison, etc. to plan and promote additional 2017-2018 **winter educational meetings** which include [Dairy Forage Days](#) (Dec. 15th, FdL); [Soil & Water, Nutrient Management meeting](#) (Dec. 4th, Juneau); [Agronomy Update meeting](#) (Jan. 3rd, FdL); [Intro and Advanced SNAP+ training](#) (Dec. 14-15th, FdL); Spanish Pesticide Safety Training (Jan 30th, FdL). February and March trainings will be reported later.
- Dr. Ribbing taught four Level 1 [Master Gardener Training](#) sessions in FdL and worked with FdL Master Gardener Board on developing a **member satisfaction survey**. Results have been collected and were shared with the Board and members.
- Using a scholarship from SARE, Dr. Ribbing was able to attend the [Woman Food & Ag Network \(WFAN\) Conference](#), November 2-4 in Madison. This was an excellent opportunity to see the accomplishments of women in agriculture and to share information on ag-related issues and concerns, including social justice in agriculture.
- Tina Kohlman currently serves on the **UW Center for Dairy Profitability “Managing Succession Planning” Grant Team** with the task of developing and piloting a farm business succession workbook and curriculum. Fond du Lac County will serve as a pilot county for the meeting “Cultivating Your Farm Business’s Future.”

- Shelley Tidemann serves on the Fond du Lac High School Reality Day committee as community volunteer recruitment/training lead. Fifty-four community volunteers were secured to man the 20 stations that 250 Fond du Lac High School Soph/Jr/Sr students interacted with as they completed the fall **Reality Day financial literacy simulation** on November 8. Wisconsin Dept. of Financial Institutions Secretary Jay Risch came back to FDL to volunteer for the event for a second time. Sec. Risch is a supporter of financial literacy education and it can be noted for the spring Reality Day event he will be back and he will bring Lt. Governor Kleefisch.
- Tidemann has enrolled 120 Fond du Lac County Head Start families in the [Money Smart in Head Start](#) newsletter **Financial Literacy education project**. Twenty of the families are Hispanic.
- Tidemann is collaborating with [Forward Services Agency](#) to provide five different educational sessions within a six week curriculum focused on Forward Services clients seeking work. Tidemann is teaching the following: Basic Budgeting, Communication Skills, Stress Management (2 weeks) and Navigating Change. Class size is 11 and these five classes will be taught on a cycle throughout the 2018 calendar year.
- [Rent Smart](#) certificates were awarded to six individuals in November as they attended six hours of Rent Smart education taught by Tidemann.
- Tidemann is working with the Money Smart Week Committee emphasis on the Big Read as the [Money as You Grow Book Club](#) books will be used nationwide this year. Tidemann is a member/author in the 3-D State Team which designed the Parent Activity Guides partnered with children's literature aimed at teaching financial literacy which makes up the Money as You Grow Book Club housed within the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau-US Govt.
- Tidemann was secured by Baker Cheese to teach Financial Spending Plan Basics with employees attending company sponsored training.
- The owners of an established business in Fond du Lac and Diana traveled to Waukesha to meet with the director of the **Latino Chamber of Southeast WI**. He offered to mentor the Latinos Unidos leaders and business owners here through the process of organizing and establishing a similar local group.
- **IGNITE!'s Imagination Network** gave the first annual Entrepreneur of the Year award. One of UW-Extension's business clients was nominated for the award and received an IGNITE! Business Success grant this year.

Productive Environments

- Tina Kohlman attended the UW-Madison Department of Biological Systems Engineering two-day **Boot Camp Professional Development** program. The purpose of the boot camp was to provide hands-on training with engineering specialists in the areas of milking parlor management, robotic milking management, manure gas monitoring, ventilation system design, and feed storage calculations.
- Tina Kohlman **hosted nearly 75 UW Madison Farm & Industry Shortcourse students** at Kamy Holsteins (Steve, Doug, Derek & Darren Kamphuis) to share with them opportunities within the dairy industry and how items they learn in short course can be directly applied to their dairy business operation.
- Tina Kohlman is currently in the planning process for several **winter producer meetings** including: Calf Insights, Cultivating Your Farm Business's Future, and the [Wisconsin Dairy & Beef Cattle Well-Being Conference](#).

Thriving Youth, Families, Organizations & Communities

- Tina Kohlman became a certified trainer for the **Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)** curriculum. The YQCA program replaces the previous Meat Animal Quality Assurance Program and is geared to all youth showing livestock (dairy, beef, sheep, swine, goat, poultry, etc.).
- Shelley Tidemann collaboratively taught with FDL County Family Courts two **co-parenting educational sessions** in November. Nine families attended the Paternity co-parenting session and 25 families attended the Divorcing co-parenting session. Each session is court mandated and three hours in length.
- Amanda Miller and Shelley Tidemann coordinated a **large-scale poverty simulation** for 280 Lakeland Care District staff, along with UW-Extension educators from Brown, Door and Calumet Counties. Post session evaluation results indicate increases in participants' understanding of the financial pressures faced by low-income families, the difficult choices families with low resources need to make, the role of community resources, and the emotional stressors associated with poverty. Main takeaways for staff are to be more empathetic with their clients.
- Tidemann completed three **Poverty Simulation evaluation reports** for Lakeland Care District Agency.
- Tidemann with the FDL County Home and Community Education (HCE) President completed the 2018 Educational Program slate. All HCE programs are open to the public and 2018 offerings are: Work Experience in Senegal-Nate Zimdars; Senior Personal Safety-FDL County Sheriff's Dept.; Ticks/Diseases-FDL County Public Health; Tour of FDL Post Office; Polar Bear Conservation-Sandy Knacht-WI Dells; iPhone/iPad Basics.
- Tidemann is collaborating with FDL ADRC to have the UW Extension office participate in **Dementia Friendly Workplace training**.
- Twenty 4-H clubs and three groups submitted their **annual charters** that summarize their accomplishments for the past year and plans for the new year. They also include a financial report. All charters were reviewed and then submitted to the state 4-H office.
- Thirty-eight 4-H volunteers were recognized at the **annual leader banquet** for 5, 10, 15 ... up to 60 years of service. Special recognition went to seven leaders and business people for their leadership and support of 4-H.
- The **4-H Leader Association Executive Board** has the responsibility to provide leadership for the association of 200+ registered volunteers, to recommend on policy issues, keep financial and charter records, and create a vision of enhancing youth development. Elections were held with six adults and three youth serving on the board.
- Denise Retzleff advised six Teen Leader Association members who led the annual **club officer workshop**. New officers learned about applying life skills to their club meetings and activities, and about the responsibilities of their respective offices. Those attending represented 13 4-H clubs.
- Denise co-presented "**Building an Effective Board of Directors**" to 28 adult and youth 4-H volunteers at the WI 4-H Horse Leader Conference in Oshkosh, and to 26 youth 4-H volunteers at the WI 4-H Forum in Wis. Dells. They gave an overview of the materials, using a consent agenda, using core values in decision making, and incorporating the organizational assessment tool.
- At an open house, Weeping Willow 4-H club, past members, and community members **saluted Nan Jean Kiesow on 49 years of serving as a 4-H leader of the club**. Retzleff commended her for her leadership.
- Denise Retzleff taught the **Volunteers in Preparation** session to 27 new 4-H volunteers. This required orientation helps volunteers understand their roles and responsibilities and what resources are available to them.

- Araceli Oswald presented an “**Implicit Bias**” session at the 2017 WI 4-H Fall Forum’s assembly. Over 400 youth and adults explored their role in helping others start their 4-H journey and reflected on the way we engage new members.
- Araceli Oswald and Diana Hammer hosted a meeting for **Latinos Unidos en Fond du Lac**. Group members were interested in learning more about non-profit organizations. Special guests Mary Lynn Bennet, Founder of Casa Guadalupe (West Bend, WI) and Ernesto Gonzalez, Director of Casa Hispana (Menasha, WI) shared their knowledge, experiences and inspired them to keep working together.
- The elementary school Friendship Learning Center in North Fond du Lac in partnership with the Hmong community and UW-Extension are hosting a **holiday gathering for ELL families**. Araceli Oswald met with these organizations to plan an event that will represent these cultures in a respectful and meaningful way.
- Araceli Oswald and the group **Latinos Unidos en FDL met with Pax Christi organization and Sisters of St. Agnes** to share information regarding Latinos in the county, shared personal experiences and answered many questions that were asked by the group.
- A **Youth Dance Club** was created. They currently meet at Bessie Allen Middle School in North Fond du Lac every Tuesday. One volunteer and Araceli Oswald lead the group. They already have 25 youth involved and three invitations to perform their dances.
- Araceli Oswald, Co-Chair of **Latino Employee Resource Group (LERG)**, hosted a meeting with UW-Extension Latino employees. They are currently working on finishing their 2-year plan of work.
- Araceli Oswald is part of the **4-H Expanding Access Task Force**. The statewide team is currently working on addressing the results of the Civil Rights review. Araceli is part of the subcommittee making recommendations to create culturally sensitive and appropriate programs for underserved and underrepresented audiences.

Food Safety, Food Security & Health

- Due to the popularity of the program in Fond du Lac County, there are now two offerings of the **StrongWomen/StrongBodies** Program. Both in partnership with UW-Extension, [StrongWomen](#) is offered by UW-Fond du Lac Continuing Education and StrongBodies is offered by the Fond du Lac Senior Center.
- The FoodWise Program formed a new partnership and will begin programming with the Fond du Lac School District’s **WINGS Program**. WINGS is a program for students 18-21 who recently graduated from high school, have varying intellectual abilities, and are either looking for a job or to live independently. FoodWise will teach basic life skills, such as food preparation and food budgeting.
- Amanda Miller coordinates the **Fond du Lac Food Providers Group**, a networking and resource group for area food pantries and hot meal programs. The group is scheduled to meet quarterly in 2018 with meetings focused on hunger awareness, touring new pantry facilities in Fond du Lac, and sharing community resources. In addition, the [Area Food Resource Guide](#), a comprehensive list of food resources, comes out of this group and is used widely by community agencies and food pantry clients.
- In fiscal year 2017 (October 2016-September 2017), **FoodWise** taught food budgeting, nutrition, and food safety to a total of 4,859 contacts at agencies and schools primarily serving low-income families and individuals. An additional 8,814 contacts were made through printed materials, such as the quarterly FoodWise newsletter, FoodSense.

Office Updates

- Tina Kohlman is currently serving on the **Farm Technology Days 2.2 Workgroup** with the task to develop a position description for a 0.5 FTE UW-Extension Academic Staff to manage UW-Extension's presence and provide consistency from year to year at Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, and a position description (roles and responsibilities) for the local county agent in a county hosting Farm Technology Day.
- National ESP Distinguished Team Award for the **Dollars During Development(3D)** workgroup was awarded. Tidemann is on this workgroup and recipient of the award.
- Michelle Tidemann, representing family living, and Denise Retzleff, representing youth development, serve on the **Faculty Tenure Advisory Committee**. For the November and December meetings, they are each reviewing 17 portfolios submitted by colleagues.
- **Annual evaluation of county office staff** was completed by supervisors using NeoGov.
- The hiring process is underway to recruit a new **Nutrition Educator** for the Fond du Lac/Sheboygan FoodWise Program.
- **Budget update** through November: Expenses – 80%; Revenues – 94%