

**Programming Highlights**

October-November 2016

UW-Extension, Coop

erative 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.*

**Food Safety, Food Security & Health**

* Closing date for the **Community Gardens** was Oct. 23.  The final newsletter went out a short time ago with a refresher on clean-up and a listing of food pantries for their donations.  Many gardens were extremely wet this fall.  The dilemma will be the fall tilling question…we will be researching how we can handle the wet soil this fall to best prepare for the next season.
* **Junior Master Gardeners** closed their garden on Oct. 20.  Tomato plants, kale and broccoli were harvested one final time and all the plants were taken out.  Several of the kids love this part of gardening…demolition!  The extra produce was taken to a local food pantry.
* Amanda Miller is currently serving as a member on the **Food for Thought Committee**. “Food for Thought” provides weekend bagged lunches for students in need from 6 elementary schools and 1 middle school in the Fond du Lac School District. It operates with an oversight committee and 30 volunteers. Nearly 650-700 bagged lunches were provided last school year alone.
* The last **canning demonstration at the farmers market** was held on Saturday, October 1st. Amanda Miller was present at the Downtown Fond du Lac Farmers Market once a month, July – October. A total of 77 individuals were provided up-to-date, research-based education and information on food preservation. As a result of initial contact at the farmers market, many have returned for follow-up phone calls, emails or mailings.
* WNEP (the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program) has a long historical legacy of providing high quality, evidence-based nutrition education to families and individuals with limited incomes. While the strength of the program remains, much has changed at the national, state and local levels since the program first began. WNEP will be moving to a **new program name, FoodWIse**. To learn more, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2XG10RZOSY&feature=youtu.be>.

Watch for the following logo:

* The **Junior Master Gardener (JMG) Program** was selected to be featured in a promotional video that highlights quality FoodWIse programs throughout the state. To learn more about the youth gardening programming offered by Amanda Miller and Patty Percy, watch the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwruk4e16aI>.
* The **Safe and Healthy Food Pantries Project** is a toolkit that guides food pantry coordinators and volunteers to make improvements to the food pantry environment, specifically the nutritional quality and safety of the foods offered. The goal of the project is to improve access to and availability of adequate, appropriate, safe and nutritious food for low-income people who utilize food pantries. Amanda Miller serves on the state team working on this project.
* From October 2015 to September 2016 (fiscal year 16), FoodWIse in Fond du Lac and Green Lake Counties taught 5,876 teaching contacts that attended 414 classes. The FoodWIse staff include Amanda Miller (Coordinator), Kris Schaeffer (Educator), and Pamela Nelson (Educator.) Look for more information in the detailed **annual report** soon to come.

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

* **National 4-H Week** was celebrated on October 2-8. Clubs hosted special events, promoted 4-H, arranged 4-H project displays at schools and libraries, painted windows, featured scholarship awarded members on Facebook, etc.
* Araceli Oswald was a **mentor at the Soroptimist Conference**: “Dream it, be it.” The conference is for 8th grade girls to inspire them to continue their education and make a plan for their future.
* 4-H participated at the **Lights on Afterschool** event hosted by the Boys and Girls Club. The 4-H booth offered fine motor skills games and 4-H promotion. Over 200 people participated in this event.
* Araceli Oswald continues to work with “**Latinos United in Fond du Lac**.” Their goal is to connect, educate and empower the Latino community in our county. They will continue to meet every month. Their next meeting will be on November 1. The event will be a conversation between community agencies and organizations, including the Police Department and the Latino community to learn from each other and encourage a positive relationship.
* **Just in Time age paced newsletter** has replaced the Parenting the First Year newsletter project.  This newsletter project is a joint effort between UW-Extension, Agnesian HealthCare and the six Kiwanis clubs in Fond du Lac County.  Tidemann is meeting with FDL County Foster Parent coordinators to expand the offering of this newsletter to FDL County foster parents.  Additional work is being researched with adoption agencies to include them with the outreach for new parents.
* **Credit Report Campaign** was once again provided by Tidemann.  County residents received information to check their credit report for free through the following UW-Extension website: [fyi.uwex.edu/creditreport](http://fyi.uwex.edu/creditreport/)/.  Since the 1st of October, seventeen Fond du Lac County individuals had signed up for the free credit report check, which was the largest increase of registrants for the state.
* Araceli & Diana staffed a table at the City/County Government Center on two days to assist people with **voter registration** and absentee ballot information in English and Spanish. At least 12 people voted or registered because UW-Extension reminded them they could.
* Diana and Mike participated with IGNITE! partners in constructing an idea and letter of support for a grant proposal for a **WI Economic Development Corporation entrepreneurship grant**.
* Diana presented “**Business Success Interviews with African-American, Asian, Latino, Native American and Immigrant Business Owners in Fond du Lac County**” at the UW-Extension Department of Community Resource Development conference with Specialists Tessa Conroy and Steve Deller. Several colleagues expressed an interest in assisting with an expanded version of the study in their counties. The research question would further define who minority business owners trust for help.
* Diana met with board members of **Pillar and Vine**, a new non-profit providing foster care and respite services in Brandon, to review their board structure and set goals for becoming an even stronger decision-making body.
* Mike provided a Lynda.com **entrepreneurship education course** to other colleagues in Extension in hope of adopting a statewide “Business 101” course that is completely exportable, self-paced, and could be used with high school students and community members.  All UW-Extension employees and UW Colleges employees/students have access to the Lynda.com learning platform.
* Mike attended a **STEM Academy field trip** at the nuclear power plant in Kewaunee, as part of the eCybermission 2016/2017 competition kickoff. Teams now decide on community-based issues they can apply engineering or scientific method to solve.
* **Interviewing** can often be stressful. 4-H is building skills in members to help them be confident and successful when interviewing. Twenty-three youth who applied for educational trips were interviewed and provided feedback. Prior to the interviews the youth receive information on timeliness, how to dress and a list of potential questions. The interviews are a means to select youth for trip participation and also to prepare them for other interview situations.
* Seven youth and adult volunteers in the **4-H shooting sports project** met to plan for the new year. Focus is on recruiting more adults due to increasing youth numbers in the project. Archery will be offered in January and archery, air rifle and shotgun will each be offered in May.
* **The 4-H year starts October 1**. Many committees have been engaged in planning for the new year. This includes Small Animal Project, Creative Arts Fest, Summer Camp, and Family Learning Day. Both youth and adult volunteers organize these events, develop guidelines, prepare materials and work as a team to have a welcoming educational program. In addition to these committees the Teen Leaders Association and the Adult Leaders Association have also drafted their annual goals and plans.
* The **annual 4-H Achievement program** was held with 213 youth being recognized for outstanding project work, citizenship, leadership and club officer success. Award sponsors for this event include Wings Over WI-Eden Chapter, Kiwanis, The Reporter, and Farm Bureau Women.
* Denise Retzleff, along with colleagues from Oconto and Manitowoc County, presented “**Building an Effective and Engaged Board**” as a scholarly highlight report on the UW-Extension Dean’s monthly teleconference.
* The annual **4-H Cloverbud Pumpkin Contest** was held with 25 children participating. They show a pumpkin they either grew or painted. This event grows self-confidence as these grade K-2 youth tell about their project.
* The **annual meeting** of the Fond du Lac County 4-H Leaders Association was held, with 29 volunteers attending. The program included leaning about the use of consent agendas, incorporating life skills into club work, electing of board members, and an older youth reporting on what she has learned from her 4-H career. She was recently awarded the WI 4-H Key Award, the highest state 4-H award.

**Resilient & Productive Environment**

* Diana and Pam Bartoli worked with Groundwater Specialist Kevin Masarik and science teacher Leigh Kohlmann to promote and organize a **well water sampling program** for families at Rock River Intermediate School in Waupun. Seven families will sample their water through the program, and all sixth graders will learn about water sampling at an assembly in November. A second program with the school is being planned for February.

**Office Update**

* Araceli Oswald attended the **National Association of Extension 4-H Professionals Conference** in New Orleans, LA. Over 1600 4-H professionals participated. She was able to gather ideas and information and learn from professionals across the country.
* Denise Retzleff serves on the **East-Metro Resource Management Team**. They are meeting to develop the grant process for county offices to request funds for technology and marketing support.
* Amanda Miller continues to serve as Secretary on **CASI (Committee for Academic Staff Issues)**. CASI functions to serve as an advisory to the Dean on issues relevant to UW-Extension Academic Staff across the state. Items most recently worked on include the performance review process and title promotion.
* **Budget** **update** through October: Expenses – 64%; Revenues – 84%

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