

**Programming Highlights**

September-October 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.*

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

* Over 200 members’ 4-H record books, officer books (historian, secretary, treasurer) and award applications (citizenship, leadership, community service, growth achievement) were submitted to the county level for review by 23 volunteers. Youth receiving gold and other special recognition will be honored at the annual **4-H achievement night** on October 17.
* The **4-H Horse and Pony Committee** is reviewing and updating their bylaws, electing officers, and planning for the new 4-H year. The project focuses on development of young people with participants who might have their own horse or use one owned by a volunteer. Recently 22 youth from Fond du Lac County were selected to participate in the state 4-H horse show held in West Allis. Youth must qualify at their county fair in order to enter this event.
* Araceli Oswald and Denise Retzleff serve on the **Expanding Access state 4-H team**. Recent plans focus on developing a presentation for the state 4-H Fall Forum and developing materials for educators to use within their own counties to think about reaching new and underserved audiences.
* The **4-H Executive Board** is focusing on increasing participation by volunteers in county leadership roles. They have begun by looking at the content and organization of leader association meetings to make them more engaging and relevant. Feedback from the last two meetings has been positive.
* 4-H members will soon **interview for 2017 travel experiences**. Last year the youth asked for practice interview sessions prior to the real interviews. That feature was added this year, with four young people taking advantage of this practice on how to introduce yourself, shake hands, sit properly, use adequate volume, come prepared with questions, and practice responses out loud ahead of time.
* Diana spoke with each member of the **City of Fond du Lac Downtown Exploratory Committee** individually. Using this input, she worked with committee co-chairs and City staff to plan and facilitate two meetings of the group in September. By openly addressing some unspoken frustrations and with new information contained in the Downtown Fond du Lac Partnership’s Market Analysis (completed with expertise from the UW-Extension Center for Community and Economic Development in Madison), the group was able to move forward with higher confidence and trust.
* Diana facilitated the **IGNITE! Steering Committee** as they planned the IGNITE! Coordinating Council Annual Retreat this month. There are now 18 member organizations cooperating to improve services to entrepreneurs.
* Mike continues his work with the **STEM Academy and the STEM Institute** in Fond du Lac with the kickoff of the 2017 E-Cybermission competition this fall and biweekly programming with the Academy on innovation projects. The County Youth Challenge competition for 2017 is building demand by posting a commercial discussing the benefits to local school districts: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWrqiJGagfU>.
* The **Latino youth group** “Young Dreamers” started the fall program. Twenty youth have participated in this group. They have decided to participate in more community events this year.
* Araceli Oswald continues to work with the **Humanity Project**, a community effort to engage in a conversation about race. This is a yearlong project that will include conversations and a partnership component where people from different races will get to know each other, learn and celebrate our differences.
* Araceli Oswald is part of **DELT (District Equity Leadership Team)**. Others involved are from the FDL school district, non-profit organizations, police department and members of the community. The team’s mission is to eliminate race as a predictor of academic success. The School District has created a new position -- Equity coach to oversee this team.
* The Latino group **“Latinos Unidos” (Latinos United)** planned and organized the Celebration of Independence for the beginning of the National Hispanic Heritage Month at the Lakeside Park. Over 150 people participated in this event. The group will continue to meet monthly.
* Tidemann through the partnership with FDL County Kiwanis groups and Agnesian Healthcare will be featured on the front page of the Action Advertiser in November highlighting the [**Just In Time parent education newsletter**](http://www.jitp.extension.org/) series.  Tidemann has been working to launch the new newsletter series which replaces the Parenting the First Year newsletter series, as well as reach out to new audiences -- foster families and adoption services.

**Food Safety, Food Security & Health**

* This summer, Kris Schaeffer and Pamela Nelson, **Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP)** educators, presented weekly mini lessons to Salvation Army pantry participants.  Two of the topics covered this summer were:  Bringing New Life to Leftovers and Low Cost Fruits and Vegetables. 59 individuals were reached in August and September.  To help individuals feed their families, four Farmers Market [EBT](http://www.fns.usda.gov/ebt/general-electronic-benefit-transfer-ebt-information) Match Days were also promoted where participants could receive up to $10 of free tokens to use for food. Another free food resource that was promoted to Salvation Army participants, as well as Youth For Christ and senior apartments, was the UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of free groceries coming to the YMCA on October 6.  UnitedHealthcare will be giving out reusable tote bags filled with chicken, pasta, fresh vegetables and simple recipes.  WNEP helps connect food resources to the individuals that need them.
* The Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP) will soon have a name change. Stay tuned for more information regarding the **“FoodWIse” Program**. There are no other changes to the program.
* The FoodWIse fiscal year 2016 comes to an end on September 30th and **October 1st marks the beginning of another program year**. Amanda Miller (FoodWIse Coordinator) has been working with partners to schedule a year’s worth of programming. Reporting is underway and each committee member and community partner will soon receive the year-end annual report.
* In Fall 2015, Amanda Miller, alongside representation from Healthy Fond du Lac 2020 and the 4 health priority areas (mental health, obesity, drug/alcohol, and dental health) participated in a short-term **community health coaching** process. Due to the progress achieved by the group, Miller has applied and been awarded a long-term health coaching grant, which is 6 months to 1 year in length and offered by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the UW Population Health Institute. This opportunity is offered to a “handful” of communities across the nation that meet the criteria for coaching, including (but not limited to) an understanding of the “culture of health”, a diverse group of representatives, and commitment to the process.
* Parents of children that attended the **Junior Master Gardener** (JMG) Program had the opportunity to complete a parent survey. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with 100% of the parents reporting the value of the program as “excellent” and “good.” Parents reported specific behavior changes from their child(ren), both in healthy eating and gardening, since taking part in the program. “I liked the hands-on activities! My girls enjoyed getting their hands dirty in the garden and the kitchen. I believe experience is a great teaching tool. I’ve told a number of friends about our great experience.” – JMG Parent
* Amanda Miller assisted the Downtown Fond du Lac Partnership, in partnership with the FDL Living Well coalition, in submitting and receiving nearly $30,000. The Farmers Market SNAP Support Grant is designed to increase SNAP (FoodShare) client **accessibility and participation at the farmers market**. To date, card swipe sales at the Fond du Lac Farmers Market have increased nearly $2,500 since last year, including EBT. Nearly $3,000 dollars of EBT have been redeemed at the market this year. The market manager has reported more FoodShare customers visiting the market to utilize the program and increase their fruits/vegetable consumption.
* FoodWIse staff (Amanda Miller, Kris Schaeffer and Pamela Nelson) attended the annual **“Poverty Matters” Conference** in Appleton. Poverty Matters is offered through WISCAP and is a forum to address poverty in Wisconsin and to discuss innovative ideas, identify new strategies and help build a stronger connection between communities and low-income households. FoodWIse is a Family Living Program that focuses on nutrition education for limited resource families and families on FoodShare.
* Amanda Miller serves as committee member on the **Downtown Fond du Lac Partnership’s Farmers Market Steering Committee**. The group is diverse, including farmers market staff, farmers/vendors, and health leaders. Discussions include logistics of the market, how to diversify the customer base (including FoodShare customers), special events, and market policies and procedures.

**Resilient and Productive Environment**

* Diana is planning a **well water sampling program** for families of students at Rock River Intermediate School in Waupun for October.
* Tina Kohlman continues **farm succession work** in Fond du Lac County, working one-on-one with three farm families who are planning for the future.  Farm Succession Planning involves five segments:  business planning, transition planning, retirement planning, estate planning, and land planning.  Values and goals are identified with the farm family, with resources and guidance provided by this agent to help the family achieve both personal and business goals.
* Based on a UW-Extension Green County [**Ag Plastics Recycling Program**](http://fonddulac.uwex.edu/its-coming-to-fond-du-lac-county-ag-plastics-recycling/), Fond du Lac County farmers were provided an opportunity to receive a collection dumpster to begin collection of on-farm ag plastics.  Over the course of 3 days, an anticipated 70 dumpsters were to be distributed to farmers.  Tina Kohlman worked with the company to provide a site for distribution at the Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds for the dumpsters.  The company will be removing the ag plastics directly from the farms on a regular basis.

**Stronger Economies**

* Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing partnered with Country Visions and the Fond du Lac Forage Council, to hold an **Agronomy Day** on September 1st in Lamartine. The theme was *From the Ground Up*. Approximately 90 producers attended and listened to speakers addressing cover crops, seed treatments, and Ortiz-Ribbing spoke on plant-root interactions in relation to disease, cover crop, and mycorrhizae. Participants also learned about fine-tuning nitrogen applications and viewed plant roots in soil pits.
* Ortiz-Ribbing spoke at the **Pasture Walk** organized by George Koepp and Amanda Young which was held at Salas Farms. Twenty participants talked about grazing practices, fencing, soil sampling and fertility practices for pastures.
* Dr. Ribbing continues to interact and meet with **Forage Councils and Master Gardeners Associations** and boards in both counties, and will be overseeing the **Community Garden** efforts in Fond du Lac County. She is currently working with Master Gardener Sally Boatman to coordinate Master Gardener Trainings for 2017.
* Dr. Ribbing continues to facilitate the **NonPoint Source Workgroup** in Dodge County and learn about local production practices, as well as represent Extension, network with producers, and meet fellow UW-Extension and UW-Madison staff.
* The **Credit Report Campaign** is again being emphasized by Michelle Tidemann.  FDL County employees (900) all received information on the importance of checking their credit reports and were encouraged to check their credit reports for free by using the [UW-Extension FYI website](http://fyi.uwex.edu/creditreport/) which has the links to the [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com) website, as well as assistance to better understand the information provided by a report.

**Office Update**

* Photo: Fond du Lac County Executive Allen Buechel with UW Colleges and UW-Extension Chancellor Cathy Sandeen at the recent awards ceremony where Buechel was presented with the [**2016 Chancellor’s Friend and Advocate Award**](http://fonddulac.uwex.edu/fdl-county-executive-allen-buechel-receives-friend-and-advocate-award-from-uw-colleges-and-uw-extension/). Retzleff and Ortiz-Ribbing attended this event.
* Diana participated in the **Tenure Advisory Committee meeting** of the CNRED Educator in Vilas County to review his documents and coach him on the upcoming tenure process.
* Diana began a **new mentoring relationship** with the CNRED Educator in Brown County.
* Tina Kohlman has been nominated to participate in the **National Extension Leadership Development (NELD) program** provided by the University of Minnesota.  As part of this leadership development opportunity, Kohlman will have the opportunity to learn, apply and reflect on new effective leadership, organizational collaboration and change concepts and strategies.  Funding for the training is provided by UW-Extension Office of Dean & Director.
* Ortiz-Ribbing participated in the 2-day **Forage Team In-Service** at the Marshfield ARS Stratford North Farm and South Farm. Current grazing research by campus specialists was shared and hay, forage, and weed updates were discussed with 30 peers. This event was a great networking tool, as well as an opportunity to tour the soil labs and facilities.
* Ortiz-Ribbing participated in the **State-Wide Agency Cover Crops meeting** with approximately 90 agency staff from UWEX, LWCD, NRCS, DNR, WTCs, etc. from around the state. The purpose was to talk about the region relevant current and best recommendations for farmers that want to effectively integrate cover crops into their rotation.
* In September, Tidemann received a **national award at the National Extension Association for Family and Consumer Sciences annual conference** held in Montana.  Tidemann is a member of the Credit Report Campaign team of six individuals who designed and delivered on point messaging targeted at consumer credit report awareness and increase in knowledge about credit reports throughout the state of Wisconsin. Tidemann was not able to attend, due to State WAHCE job requirements.
* UW College and UW-Extension’s impacts are felt deeply in every corner of our state, but are often not shared beyond our classrooms, offices, or immediate communities. Today, we are changing that.

[***Tap Into It***](https://uwcx.org/)is our effort to facilitate telling our story through our positive impacts. ***Tap Into It*** will help us bring awareness to the work we do as well as build a database of stories and impacts told in the words of those we serve.

To follow our progress or submit your own story, please visit the [***Tap Into It***](https://uwcx.org/)website.

Thank you for your continued support of UW Colleges and UW-Extension, and we look forward to hearing about how you ***Tap Into It***.
* **Budget** **update** through September: Expenses – 61%; Revenues – 77%

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including Title IX and ADA requirements.