

# FOND DU LAC COUNTY EXTENSION

## JUNE 2021 HIGHLIGHTS



Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
FOND DU LAC COUNTY

### SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE PROFESSIONALS



*If it happens on a farm or in a field, the Extension Institute of Agriculture works with you to achieve better results. Our innovative dairy management programs range from genetics to farm and business management. Extension researchers work hand-in-hand with row crop, forage and fresh produce growers to provide best practices for every aspect of the growing phase. We also advise communities on using sustainable practices to create inviting spaces free from invasive species.*

Tina Kohlman, Dairy & Livestock Agent

- A bi-weekly radio interview for 12,000 Fond du Lac County farmers, agricultural industry persons, youth livestock, and youth dairy where extension agriculture related resources, information, and timely webinars are shared to help them to be connected and supported, and make better informed decisions regarding their farm business operations or youth large animal project.
- A field survey project to better understand the growth and maturity of first crop alfalfa. Results from this project will help farmers to determine the optimal time to harvest 1st crop alfalfa haylage to ensure highest quality haylage for the dairy herd, thus reducing purchased feed costs for their dairy operation.
- A field survey to better understand the crop yield, milk per ton alfalfa, and persistence of 4 local alfalfa plots. Results from this field survey will help farmers in determining the yield and life of an alfalfa field to maximize the crop from an established field.
- A June Dairy Month social media campaign for Fond du Lac County Facebook followers where they learned about the impact of the dairy industry to understand the importance of dairy to the local economy.
- A series of virtual sessions for youth ages 12-15 who will be employed on a farm or operating tractors on public highways for their family's farm, where they learn about workplace safety and other safety-related topics on farms and agricultural operations. The goal of this effort is support them in receiving the required Tractor and Machinery Certification Certificate to satisfy state and federal requirements.
- A virtual workshop for agribusiness professionals, where participants learned about the current market outlook and drivers and the impact of changing weather conditions on the agronomy and dairy industry in Wisconsin. The goal of this effort is increase their high performance decision-making skills and business resilience.
- Development/revisions of the bilingual Dairy Workers Training Skills modules for dairy employees where they will learn principles of and how to do each task on the farm. This effort is designed to support them in doing their daily tasks more confidently and efficiently while maintaining employee safety and animal welfare.

## FOOD SECURITY, HEALTHY EATING, AND HEALTHY LIVING



*FoodWise* advances healthy eating habits, active lifestyles and healthy community environments for families with limited incomes through nutrition education at the individual, community and systems levels. *FoodWise* reaches individuals and families through local community partners by providing nutrition classes in-person and virtually, indirect education (newsletters, etc.), and social media/marketing. *FoodWise* is an obesity prevention program that addresses policy, system and environmental changes through local and state public health efforts.

*FoodWise* is federally funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

*Health & Well-Being* works to catalyze positive change in Wisconsin families through evidence-based programs focused on nutrition, food security and safety, chronic disease prevention, mental health promotion, prevention of substance abuse and health insurance literacy. Local health coalitions efforts are supported by coalition capacity building tools and health equity frameworks. Rooted in both urban and rural communities, we're working together to help solve the state's most pressing well-being needs and to ensure that all Wisconsinites live stronger, healthier lives.

*Amanda Miller, FoodWise Coordinator & Health & Wellbeing Educator*

- A series of fruit and vegetable publications for farmers market customers. These publications promote buying fresh produce and helps customers better understand how to select, prepare, and store specific produce items.
- A series of meetings with local public health departments where they received feedback from Extension regarding the Community Health Improvement Plan. This effort was designed to improve community adoption of health and nutrition practices.
- A series of newsletters for older adults to learn about health and nutrition during COVID.
- Distribution of e-newsletter for Fond du Lac County residents to learn about food preservation and food safety. The goal is to help home canners use current food safety practices and to decrease the incidence of foodborne illnesses.
- Planning meetings with senior center and food pantry leadership to implement the StockBox Program in Fond du Lac County. This effort will address barriers to accessing supplemental emergency foods for senior populations.
- Planning of COVID-19 vaccination education and awareness campaign for Fond du Lac County residents to receive current information on the vaccine. The goal is to increase vaccination rates and help community members make more informed health decision.
- Planning of the FDL Fresh 5 farmers market donation program. This program helps reduce food waste and increases access to fresh, local produce for food pantry clients.
- Shared COVID-related resources to local public health and hospitals. This effort was intended to help share current information on the COVID vaccination.
- Virtual classes offered for parents to learn about feeding young children. The purpose of this class is to help WIC participants better understand how to use their additional WIC farmers market benefits.

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



*Positive Youth Development prepares the youth of today to become the effective, empathetic adults of tomorrow. Our research-based youth enrichment programs like teens in governance build youth and adult capacity and partnerships that help both sides grow. 4-H clubs, camps and after-school programs give young people the hands-on experiences they need to develop an understanding of themselves and the world.*

### 4-H

*Tracy Keifenheim, 4-H Program Educator*

- 4-H Teen Leader Youth held a meeting, where youth discussed future meetings, planned a recreation activity, and completed a service-learning project. The goal of this effort is to provide youth educational opportunities and grow leadership skills.
- A clothing revue for 4-H youth, where youth modeled crocheting, knitting, or sewing projects they made. This effort is designed to build confidence as well as increase their crocheting, knitting, or sewing knowledge.
- A foods revue for youth, where participants make a recipe containing apples to present for feedback based on recipe and place setting. This effort is designed to promote culinary skills, build confidence, and healthy lifestyle choices.
- A series of radio interviews for Fond du Lac County listeners, where they learned about upcoming 4-H events / activities and updates with Covid policy. This effort is designed to educate the listeners as well as expand access.
- A training for adults who are interested in becoming 4-H volunteers, where they learned what Extension is, how volunteers contribute to Extension programs, volunteer roles, and responsibilities, what makes a quality youth development program, and what resources are available to 4-H volunteers. This effort is intended to prepare all future 4-H volunteers.
- Adult leader board meeting for youth and adult board members, where fundraisers, summer 4-H programming, budgets, and 4-H promotion opportunities were discussed. The goal of this effort was to plan for modifications and plan out the rest of summer with new covid guidance.
- Planning for a Cloverbud Day Camp in collaboration with adult volunteers and teen leaders. The goal of this effort is to provide a hands-on learning experience for kindergarten -2nd-grade youth.

### **Positive Youth Development**

*Ron Jakubisin, Positive Youth Development Extension Educator*

- Final meeting of school year for STAAND (Students Taking Action Against Negative Decisions) where students learn leadership skills and effective AOD strategies. This meeting set goals to be continued when students return in September.
- Monthly community meetings, and sub-committees meeting for the FDL Drug-Free Coalition committee members which coordinates efforts in prevention, intervention, treatment and support in order to reduce underage drinking & substance abuse in FDL County

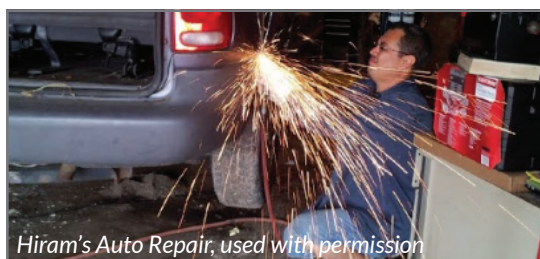
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## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

### Continued

- Planning with a community entity ('Envision Greater Fond Du Lac') to scope out how Extension's PYD can be the new lead and managers for the 2022 community-wide program that aims at empowering FDL's youth (4-6 grade) to become business-minded. The program/ curriculum focuses on youth becoming entrepreneurs and teaches business planning, budgeting, marketing, donating to community organizations and implementing the business of a Lemonade Stand.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



*Community Development provides educational programming to assist leaders, communities, and organizations realize their fullest potential. We work with communities to build the vitality that enhances their quality of life and enriches the lives of their residents. We educate in leadership development, organizational development, food systems, community economic development, local government education and much more. In short, the Community Development Institute plants and cultivates the seeds for thriving communities and organizations.*

*Diana Hammer, Community Resource, Development Educator*

- A 13-week online program for formerly incarcerated adults, where we are teaching entrepreneurship and personal development skills so they can "defy the odds" by overcoming barriers in the workplace due their criminal histories, start their own businesses, and potentially employ others with criminal records.

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