

EXTENSION FOND DU LAC COUNTY JUNE 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
FOND DU LAC COUNTY

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

- A clothing revue for 4-H youth, where youth modeled consumer savvy, crocheting, knitting, or sewing projects they made. This effort is designed to build confidence as well as increase their fashion, 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 meeting for youth where they learned about LEGO building skills and participated in a LEGO Build Challenge. This effort is designed to encourage engineering, use of technology, and increase knowledge of LEGO building skills.
- Ongoing support for youth interested in the visual arts, where they learn how to prepare a portfolio, critique their own and others' artwork, investigate the arts in their community and explore future career paths within the visual arts.

Positive Youth Development

Ron Jakubisin, Positive Youth Development Educator

- A series of planning meetings with the City of Fond du Lac City Manager and his team preparing to implement a Youth In Governance (YIG) program in which youth join the City of Fond du Lac Committees and Boards for a year-long experience. The goal is to provide youth the opportunity to develop leadership and problem solving skills, increase community awareness, and participate in representative government.
- Collaboration with the Fond du Lac County Juvenile Detention Supervisor in planning a series of workshops with incarcerated youth addressing life-skill issues such as problem-solving skills, goals-setting, positive decision making and alcohol, vaping facts. Workshops would be delivered (separately) to the populations divided at the detention center as 'male' and 'female'.
- Coordinating the 2022 Fond du Lac County-wide 2022 Lemonade Day 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 county organizations and then youth implementing their business plan by opening their Lemonade Stand on May 7, 2022.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS



*The Extension Institute of **Human Development & Relationships** provides the tools Wisconsinites need to thrive as well-rounded, capable individuals and families. We support families in caring for each other in ways that promote growth and understanding. Our programs promote aging-friendly communities, coach effective parents and help families put technology, mindfulness and financial awareness to use.*

Amy Mangan-Fischer, Human Development & Relationships Educator

SPOTLIGHT

Rent Smart is an in-person 6-hour course for incarcerated men at the Fond du Lac County Jail, where participants learned how to find and apply for rental housing, understand their responsibilities as a renter, how to communicate effectively with their landlords, and manage housing expenses. Through this, the men will be able to increase their ability to find and keep safe affordable housing in the future, thereby increasing their stability and decreasing their reliance on public support systems.

Evaluation data was collected at the end of the session. All participants marked that they strongly agreed that they “understand the importance of building a positive relationship with the landlord” and all participants strongly agreed or agreed that they now have “tools and ways to manage my monthly expenses.” When asked about the most important idea learned in the Rent Smart program, some participants commented, “all the information on building credit will be very useful for me,” “all the different ways that I can talk to the landlord,” and “communication and the application process.”

Participants were also asked what they plan to do differently when renting going forward due to this Rent Smart program. Comments included “making sure I understand everything I’m putting my signature on,” “saving money and paying the rent on time,” and “I haven’t officially rented in the past, but I most definitely will use these skills in the future.”



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 & Well-Being Educator

- 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.
- Educational updates on outreach nutrition materials for farmers' markets. The material updates included healthy eating, food storage and safety, and facts about seasonal fruits, vegetables, and herbs. The goal of this effort is to expand local nutrition education reach beyond farmers' markets.
- Planned implementation of the Small Steps program, a fruit and vegetable prescription program. The purpose of this project is to have community partners, including doctors and medical professionals connect with local food retailers, to use healthy foods as a way to address food security concerns and improve health.
- Planning of the Fond du Lac Fresh 5 farmers market donation program. This program helps with farmer market vendors and food pantries to reduce food waste and increases access to fresh, local produce for food pantry clients.
- Responded to local community members questions regarding food preservation and food safety. This information will help prevent incidences of food-borne illness among home canners.
- Hosted farmers market tours in partnership with senior housing site. This program helped older adults better understand the Fond du Lac Farmers Market and have more access to local, fresh produce.

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.

Crops and Soils

Mike Ballweg, Regional Crops and Soils Agent

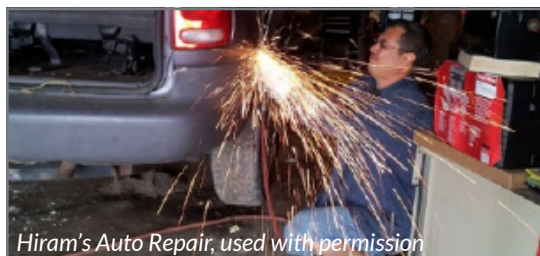
- One-on-one consultations with farmers from Sheboygan, Fond Du Lac, Washington and Ozaukee Counties where farmers learned about: crimping winter rye and no-till planting soybeans, understanding alfalfa quality reports to better time harvest for high quality dairy forage, weed control on small scale organic vegetable farms, and lastly helping buyers and sellers to determine a fair market price of standing alfalfa off the field. Better understanding of these agronomic topics result in greater farm profits.
- An on-farm demonstration project in Ozaukee County where farmers learned about planting unit closing wheels made by different manufacturers that will improve no-till planting, seed placement and better germination.
- As a member of the Ozaukee County USDA Demo Farm Management Team, assisted in developing educational programs and outreach for Ozaukee County. Farmers, industry agronomists and agency personnel will learn about soil health and cover crop practices that improve water quality, by improving soil infiltration rates and enhanced nutrient utilization.

Dairy & Livestock

Tina Kohlman, Regional Dairy Agent

- A consultation with county conservationist, where he learned about community-shared manure processing research and technologies to include in the county's Request for Proposal seeking proposals from qualified environmental consulting firms to conduct a feasibility study for an animal waste treatment system for the county and its farming community that can be used by multiple farms.
- A popular press article written for Wisconsin Agriculturist readers, where they learned about dairy calf quality assurance. This effort is designed to show industry and university research-based best management practices to maintain and/or improve the growth, wellbeing, and welfare of a newborn calf.
- Planning and development for bi-annual forage twilight meeting for farmers, nutritionists, agronomists, and other service providers in collaboration with Fond du Lac County Forage Council. The goal of this effort is to share with individuals how to manage and retain employees, so that they can create a positive work environment and culture on the farm.

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 Development Educator

SPOTLIGHT

Angie Allen, Milwaukee County Community Development Educator, received two Dean's Innovation Grants and a grant from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation to fund research in Milwaukee County with an existing group of networked Black business owners. Allen took another job in Feb. 2022. Jerry Braatz has become the PI for the Greater Milwaukee County funding, and Diana supervised graduate research assistant Rajon Hall as he finished the semester working on this project. One of the Dean's grants is paying to keep Rajon through the summer to ensure that the deliverables are done by Aug. 31.

Rajon completed interviews with 25 Milwaukee-based entrepreneurs in 2021. In 2022, he invited 10 pairs of business owners – one from NE WI and one from Milwaukee – to join him in a podcast interview. The next step is to interview the Milwaukee area business owners about their networks. Extension colleagues Tessa Conroy and Deanna Schneider will perform a network analysis, allowing us to make conclusions about how networks inform business success. We plan a networking and educational event for August in which NE & Milwaukee business owners learn and connect more. We will position the group for more formal collaborations and peer learning activities going forward.

To publicize and publish this work, Rajon, Diana, and Christian are using MAXQDA to subcode the interview transcripts for themes such as financial barriers and social circle, building on coding that an undergraduate research assistant did in the spring 2022 semester.

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Area Extension Director

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Area Dairy Agent

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