

EXTENSION FOND DU LAC COUNTY JULY 2024 HIGHLIGHTS



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
FOND DU LAC COUNTY

AGRICULTURE



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

Liz Gartman, Regional Crops Educator

- A twilight meeting where local forage producers and agriculture professionals learned about opportunities to engage in alfalfa management field trials, keys to managing alfalfa stands for persistence and building consistency in forage programs using crop diversity to improve their ability to harvest high quality forage to support milk production on their farms, improve crop system resilience and improve overall farm profitability.

The Fond du Lac Forage Council partners with Extension to provide programming to their members and local producers. Every other year the forage council plans this program to provide up to date forage management information that supports the needs of those growers and dairy producers. In collaboration with the forage council board, I reached out to speakers that could provide insight on the topics identified for the meeting. There were approximately 40 growers and agribusiness professionals that attended the event. Of particular interest was information related to integrating alfalfa into diverse forage systems, and the methods for building soil health using these techniques. Further, this was an opportunity for regional crops educator and the state Alfalfa Outreach specialist to build relationships and connect with growers in the Fond du Lac county area.

- An interview with the Wisconsin State Farmer to discuss the local crop growing situation in Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, Ozaukee and Washington counties as crop producers navigate challenges with excessive rainfall across the area. The goal of this outreach is to provide a look into the management decisions that producers face as growing conditions continue to challenge our normal practices, and the issues they need to watch out for as the growing season progresses.
- An Introduction to Crop Scouting presentation for Extension Crops educators across the state. The goal is to provide regional and statewide educators the resources they need to effectively scout for weeds, insects and diseases in crop fields; properly stage and monitor crop quality and health and utilize appropriate tools and sampling methods to diagnose crop growth issues. This professional development will lead to a more effective crops team that can better support crop growers across the state.

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.

Noah Reif, Community Development Educator

- A series of planning meetings with the Fond du Lac County Director of Administration, County GIS Specialist, Extension Broadband Specialist, and Community Development Educator. Through Extension's support, Fond du Lac County will strengthen its position to attract bids from internet service providers to increase broadband access to underserved people in the county.

The county director of administration contacted Extension and requested support in creating a community engagement plan that satisfied BEAD grant requirements through NEW North. The extension educator organized and facilitated planning meetings culminating in a community engagement plan. This plan will satisfy the grant requirements and greatly strengthen the county's position as it enters the bidding process for broadband projects in late 2024 or early 2025.

- A 5-week course where nonprofit leaders assessed their current fund development strategies, explored the importance of diversification in fundraising efforts, learned how to cultivate lasting donor relationships, developed strategies for sustainable support, and made plans to measure the impact of their fundraising initiatives. The intent is to increase the ability of nonprofit leaders to sustain and grow financial support for their organization's work. (Noah Reif)

Nationally, nonprofits list "rising operations costs" and "inadequate finances" as the top two challenges. Through county-level need assessments, it is clear this national trend aligns with the challenges of local nonprofits. A team of Extension Organizational and Leadership Development educators delivered a curriculum that provided Wisconsin Nonprofits with the skills and tools to assess, refine, and create fund development strategies necessary to fulfill their organizational mission. The five-week virtual course is part of the Wisconsin Nonprofit Connect to Learn series.

- A series of vision, values, and mission workshops for Broken Bread Food Pantry's board members and staff. Because of the program, staff and volunteers will be better positioned to align the organization's leadership with its purpose, and increase their capacity to meet changing community needs.

The director of Broken Bread food pantry contacted the educator and requested a Vision, Values, and Mission workshop series with the current board. The organization is exploring expanding its programming to more effectively meet the needs of those it serves in the community and wants to align its leadership with its purpose. The educator collaborated with the director on a series of Vision, Values, and Mission workshops that would be held over the summer months. The staff and board members will exit the series with an updated vision statement, organizational values, and an implementation plan for the next steps.

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 3 day camp for youth grades 3-8, where participants learned about science, technology, engineering, and mathematic (STEM) skills and tried out different activities encourage and increase their interest in STEM.
- A Cloverbud Day Camp for youth grades K-2, where participants learned about insects and pollinators. This effort was to promote youth to feel a sense of belonging and increase their interest in insects and pollinators.
- 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.

Community Youth Development

Kelly Dione, Community Youth Development Educator

Coordination and planning with schools and youth-serving agencies for the Fond du Lac County-wide 2024 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, and marketing, which increases the capacity of local organizations by working with young people as future entrepreneurs and philanthropists.

Lemonade Day is a National program that the Fond du Lac County community has participated in since 2015. Lemonade Day took place May 4th, 2024. Planning for Lemonade Day takes about a year to expand the program reach. Youth in 4th-6th grade in Fond du Lac County can participate in this entrepreneurial program which offers lessons to learn how to create and implement a business plan for their own lemonade stand business. On the first weekend in May, all 'teams' that have been formed in the community (schools, churches, youth-serving agencies) open their Lemonade Stand on May 3rd, 2025, aka 'Lemonade Day'. This is a nationally branded program supported locally through a community planning committee, local banks, youth service agencies and schools. Youth teams utilize a Lemonade Day workbook and Extension planned events such as Fun Financial Night, Lemon Loan Interviews (with local banks) to team-build, create a marketing plan, learn cost/profit margins, create a task list for their event and make a 'pitch' to a local bank for a startup loan of \$50 (which needs to be paid back). Youth also plan how to 'save some', 'spend some' and 'give some' of their profits to local nonprofits after May 3rd.

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

- A 5-part series on Read for Health at two Boys and Girls Club summer school sites in Fond du Lac County. The goal of this effort is to encourage healthy habits in school and at home.
- Provided support in the planning of public health billboards across areas of Fond du Lac County. The purpose of these billboards is to promote the local farmers markets.
- Providing technical assistance (such as free pressure canner testing), education, and resources to community members about food preservation safety. This service aims to prevent food borne illness through improper home canning practices.

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.

Carol Bralich, Human Development and Relationships Educator

Planning for a workshop for individuals on probation in collaboration with Fond du Lac County Department of Corrections. The goal is to teach participants how to track their spending, create or update their personal budget and save for emergencies, so that they are able to meet their restitution obligation in the short term and continue to successfully budget for the long term.

A Fond du Lac County Department of Corrections field supervisor reached out to Carol Bralich, Human Development and Relationships Educator in May, 2024, for financial education assistance. The probation and parole agents were tasked with completing a budget form with clients that are court ordered to pay restitution of \$2,000 or more. Due to agent time constraints and lack of formal financial education training, the field supervisor expressed the need for partnering with Extension to meet these needs. In response, Carol developed a budgeting program with three components to meet the needs of the probation participants. The budgeting program includes pre-learning using Extension’s Money Matters Online modules (My Financial Strengths and Make a Spending Plan), an in-person budgeting workshop, and individual coaching to complete the required budget form during the workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to teach participants how to track their spending, create or update their personal household budget and save for emergencies. The main goal is to determine what they can afford for their restitution payments per month. This program will provide a learning experience to further their learning and allow them to successfully complete their monthly budget requirement for probation. The program pilot will begin in August 2024.

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