



Extension Connection

Monthly Highlights – November 2015

*Team Workgroup Leadership
and Responsiveness Award
Recipients*

- [4-H Volunteers are Life-long Learners](#)
- [Midwest Manure Summit](#)
- [Food Insecurity](#)

4-H Volunteers are Life-long Learners

The desire for life-long learning is one of the life skills we work to impart to 4-H members. In October and November volunteers model this behavior as the new 4-H year unfolds.

Eleven 4-H volunteers participated in Volunteers in Preparation training which provides an overview of UW-Extension, clarifies the role of the volunteer, and deepens participants' understanding of youth development.

Eleven volunteers participated in the Heart of Community workshop that focused on building skills in young people to engage in community service learning. As a result of this training, attendees said they intend to ask more open-ended questions when working with young people, to get members to think about why they do service learning, and to implement the steps of service learning into community service efforts they are planning to do this year.

Ten volunteers participated the Heart of Belonging workshop that focused on ways to create an inclusive 4-H club atmosphere. Attendees said they learned to:

- be inclusive and accommodating
- be more aware of individual needs
- share information with everyone and to learn to understand others' beliefs
- be open to make adaptations for children and families wanting to be in 4-H
- include everyone regardless of abilities

Nineteen individuals were present for the annual meeting of the 4-H Leaders Association. They learned about opportunities for international travel through 4-H, as well as using the theme (4-H Grows...) for the new 4-H year.

Two adult volunteers and six youth (one who was on the planning team) were delegates to Fall Forum, a statewide 4-H workshop held November 6-8 in Wisconsin Dells. It focused on developing youth and adult partnerships.

Six individuals attended the Wisconsin 4-H Horse Leadership Conference held at UW Oshkosh. Sessions focused on well-being of horses, improving your horse's jumping skills, ring stewarding and more.

Learning and sharing this knowledge is one of the ways 4-H volunteers positively impact the 4-H experience for young people.

Midwest Manure Summit

Manure management is key to the continued growth of the dairy industry in Fond du Lac County and Wisconsin. Manure handling technologies are constantly changing and improving each day.

To help keep the industry abreast to new manure handling technologies, as well as provide a resource of unbiased, university-based research, UW-Extension Agriculture Agents, including Fond du Lac County's Dairy & Livestock Agent Tina Kohlman, hosted the 2015 Midwest Manure Summit this past winter. Nearly 200 individuals attended this year's Summit.

The Midwest Manure Summit began in 2007 as a local "Manure Handling & Technologies" meeting for approximately 70 local dairy farmers and agri-business professionals. Today the local one-day meeting has evolved into the premier Midwest Manure Summit, with over 850 total participants attending the 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015 conferences representing 15 states and two Canadian provinces.

The purpose of the Midwest Manure Summit is to provide a platform of sharing of ideas regarding manure handling technologies, as well as networking opportunities for farms and the industry. Included in the two-conference were presentations regarding manure chemistry, irrigation, economics, composting, processing, water recycling systems, leachate collection, anaerobic digestion, manure odor management, ammonia and nutrient recovery, and farm tours. Based on post-meeting evaluations, 81 percent of the individuals ranked the conference "good" or "excellent". Fifty-four individuals attended the post-conference tours, with 100 percent of the post-tour evaluations indicating yes to "overall the farm tours were an effective use of my time".

This month, Tina Kohlman and the planning committee for the Midwest Manure Summit received the UW-Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Area "2015 Team Workgroup Leadership & Responsiveness Award". The team award was given for effectively working together, for demonstrating leadership, and collaboratively providing a forum about manure handling technologies that will support the continued growth of Wisconsin's dairy industry.

The Midwest Manure Summit is held every other year, with the next conference set for February 2017. In 2016 during the off year, a two-day tour will be organized in Eastern Wisconsin focusing on manure handling systems.

Food Insecurity

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines food security as existing "when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life." Food security is built on three pillars: food availability (sufficient quantities of food available on a consistent basis), food access (having sufficient resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet), and food use (appropriate use based on knowledge of basic nutrition and care).

Conversely, food insecurity is when the above pillars are not met. Poverty increases the risk of food insecurity and hunger. Both are linked to other problems, including poor health, like obesity or malnutrition, chronic conditions, and behavior, learning, and academic problems. With 9.6% of the Fond du Lac County population experiencing poverty, food insecurity is a growing issue.

Amanda Miller, Nutrition Coordinator and Family Living Educator, is receiving more requests from community agencies and churches to present on food insecurity/hunger in Fond du Lac County. Presentations have been on an introduction of hunger in Fond du Lac County, what programs exist, and where there are existing gaps that agencies/faith based organizations could fill. To date, Miller has received requests from Moraine Park Technical College, Pilgrim UCC, CARE Inc., and the Kiwanis Club, to name a few.

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