



Extension Connection

Monthly Highlights – March 2014

Fond du Lac County 4-H members and leaders meet with Senator Rick Gudex in Madison to celebrate the centennial of Wisconsin 4-H and share personal stories about the value of 4-H.

- [Junior Master Gardeners](#)
- [4-H Day at the Capitol](#)
- [New Road Rules & Definitions for Agricultural Equipment](#)

Junior Master Gardener Program

The Junior Master Gardener Program begins April 15th. It is a free summer-long gardening/cooking program for youth ages 8-12. Children plant and care for a garden, as well as learn to cook and eat fresh vegetables. All sessions are open to parents, grandparents, and younger siblings accompanied by an adult. Children will learn about insects and soil (thanks to Mike Rankin we no longer call it dirt), learn to create healthy foods, go on field trips, and work on a county fair display. A day of celebration is scheduled where the children prepare food and invite their families to partake of the harvest.

4-H Members and Volunteers Participate in Day at the Capitol

Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development celebrates its 100th birthday this year. One of the special events to commemorate this milestone was 4-H Day at the Capitol, attended by fifteen 4-H members and volunteers from Fond du Lac County and over 800 from across Wisconsin. Two 4-H teens from Fond du Lac County, Allison Opheim and Cole Tidemann, spoke to elected officials at a legislative breakfast. Volunteer Cindy Koffman met with the governor's education committee. Upon visiting the offices of Senator Rick Gudex and Representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt, 4-H members Ellie Karls and Noah Jorgensen and volunteers Fran Trewin and Rae Nell Halbur shared their personal stories about the value and impact of 4-H and how it has changed communities. Dustin Bleuel presented 100's of postcards from Fond du Lac County 4-H members, volunteers and alumni that were not in attendance to the elected officials. The cards included messages about what participants are learning through 4-H and the contributions that members make to their communities. 4-H Day at the Capitol showcased the positive impacts 4-H has had on Wisconsin over the last 100 years and strengthened the relationship between Wisconsin 4-H and its partners in the state government.

New Road Rules and Definitions for Agricultural Equipment

It's been a long time coming, but a concerted effort to change Wisconsin law regarding agricultural equipment on the road has been proposed and is near being signed into law. The proposal (among other things) redefines implements of husbandry (IOH) and creates a new commercial IOH category. Another important change has been the clarification of weight limits and the need for local permitting when certain limits are exceeded. During the past several months, UW-Extension programming has addressed this topic with several different groups using different speakers. Cheryl Skjolaas, UW Extension farm safety specialist, gave a presentation at the Fond du Lac County Dairy Forage Day in December. Cheryl was a member of the working group that

helped draft the legislation. Later in December, Bob Welch, a lobbyist for the Wisconsin Corn Growers, addressed the topic at the local Dodge-Fondy corn growers' annual meeting in Lomira. Finally, Sgt. Mike Klingenberg of the Wisconsin State Patrol offered his understanding of the legislation at the Commercial Vegetable Growers' Clinic in Lomira during February. Klingenberg was also a member of the drafting work group. Once the legislation is officially signed by the governor, educational efforts will be planned to inform local town and county officials, farmers, and law enforcement officers in the county.

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