



# Extension Connection

Monthly Highlights – November 2013

*4-H members made 18 pans of bars and delivered them to soldiers at Fort Knox KY*

- [Bilingual Dairy Worker Training: Winter Calf Management](#)
- [WNEP Continues to Work with Boys and Girls Club](#)
- [New Horizons – 4-H Leadership & Community Service Experience](#)

## **Bilingual Dairy Worker Training: Winter Calf Management**

With cooler fall temperatures, it is not too early to think about winter calf management. Newborn calves become cold stressed at 50<sup>0</sup>F while one month old calves become stressed at 40<sup>0</sup>F. Data from the 2007 National Animal Health Monitoring System Survey suggests only 33% of dairy producers change calf-feeding practices in cold weather. When we fail to minimize cold stress, calves will have: depressed immune systems, increased risk of sickness, poor response to treatment, decreased growth performance and possible death.

When it gets cold, calves need more energy to stay healthy and gain weight. The goal is not to have calves survive through the winter, but thrive. UW-Extension Sheboygan and Fond du Lac Counties, in partnership with Diamond V, hosted a local “Start Them Right...Raise Them Right” Bilingual Dairy Worker Training on Winter Calf Management. As with past dairy workers’ trainings, a formal presentation was developed and presented by Tina Kohlman sharing the “whys” of calf management and the impact of cold stress. The components (nutrition and environment) of a winter calf management program were discussed, followed up with a hands-on training of key calf management practices. The meeting was also presented in Shawano and Kewaunee Counties reaching a total of 39 Spanish and 34 English speaking participants across the three locations. Based on pre- and post-meeting evaluations (n=53), individuals gained an average 2 points (on a 7 point scale) in knowledge regarding understanding “cold”, components of a winter calf management program, cold weather comfort indicators, and the ability to use an esophageal tube, conduct respiratory exams, identify sick calves and determine nesting scores.

Materials developed for this program will be refined and packaged for other Extension agents to duplicate within their respective counties.

## **WNEP Continues to Work with Boys and Girls Club**

This past summer, WNEP (Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program), conducted cooking classes at our UW-Fond du Lac campus location with elementary and middle school students who attend Boys and Girls Club.

As the new school year got underway, WNEP continued to work with area youth through the Boys and Girls Club after school program. WNEP shared important nutrition information with Boys and Girls Club second and third graders at Chegwin Elementary. Educators read stories and engaged students with nutrition related activities, such as fruit and vegetable bingo. WNEP also attended the Lights on After School program sponsored by Boys and Girls Club at the Johnsonville site. The youth were engaged with a nutrition related craft project while educator Pamela Nelson shared smart snacking information with their parents. During the winter months, WNEP will be conducting classes with second and third graders at the Boys and Girls Club Johnsonville site.

### **New Horizons – 4-H Leadership & Community Service Experience**

Leadership, citizenship and community service are core values of 4-H. From a young age members participate in programs and activities that promote development in these areas.

Last year Denise Retzleff met with a teen that expressed strong interest about wanting a new experience and shared with her ideas from other counties. Together they developed the beginnings of a program to be called New Horizons. Additions were made to the current out-of-state trip experience applications and interview process to specifically inquire about community service. The youth leader approached both the adult and teen leader associations to seek financial support and assess interest. The structure of the program was developed for members in grades 8-12 with learning goals of leadership and skill development, community service learning, understanding of others, and fun. Ten youth and 2 adults held planning meetings from Nov 2012 to June 2013 with the culmination of planning being a week long experience in Kentucky. During the planning sessions youth set agendas, facilitated discussion, took minutes, led icebreakers, shared refreshments, developed an agreement of how they would work together, decided where they would travel to, how they would get there, where they would stay, what service projects to do and how to connect with local groups, what educational stops would be made during the week, how much money would be needed and how to raise it, wrote grants, and designed a t-shirt.

Youth did 2 days of service projects with a church and soldiers in Kentucky, and had 1½ days of leadership training with 4-H teens from KY. Youth increased their understanding of the impact of their service efforts and learned that no matter where you go, service is needed. Youth experienced working with a diverse group, with one youth saying he learned to use each other's different strengths so the team can be strong. In evaluations during the program all participants said they developed skills in planning and organizing, responsibility, cooperation, decision-making, and communication.

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