

Your county
extension office



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Extension
Cooperative Extension
Fond du Lac County

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Cooperative Extension Marks 100 Years of Working for Wisconsin

Cooperative Extension's first agent, E.L. Luther, hired in 1912 in Oneida County, made farm visits using a two-cylinder motorbike. One hundred years later, both modes of transportation and Cooperative Extension programming have changed, but one important point remains the same. Cooperative Extension educators continue to serve as a portal to educational resources from the University of Wisconsin to address issues faced by individuals, families, businesses and communities around the state. "Our centennial creates opportunities for us to celebrate 100 years of Cooperative Extension history through stories that highlight how we've evolved and changed to meet the needs of people, businesses and communities in Wisconsin and beyond," said Cooperative Extension Dean and Director Richard M. Klemme. (continued on pg. 2)

4-H Clubs and Committees Undertake Chartering Process

All 4-H clubs and committees that have their own financial accounts are required to complete a chartering process to meet Wisconsin 4-H and IRS guidelines. This process safeguards the tax exempt status of 4-H. Charters formally recognize a group's affiliation with 4-H and grant that group permission to use the 4-H name and emblem. To be a chartered 4-H Club in Wisconsin, the following requirements need to be met and maintained:

- Five or more youth from at least three families
- Adult leadership that has been approved through the Youth Protection process
- Educational plan which meets the purposes of the 4-H program
- Youth involvement in leadership and decision-making (continued on pg. 2)

Community Development and Natural Resources Programs

Happy New Year! Here are some community development and natural resources programs to look forward to in 2012.

Radon: Reduce your risk of lung cancer and test for this radioactive gas in your home. Visit www.FDLHealthyAir.com for more information and a coupon.

Inclusive Workplace: An Association of Commerce and Moraine Park Technical College study shows that the area could have up to 19,000 unfilled jobs in the next years as retirements outnumber new workers. Research Diana Tscheschlok is working on locally shows that workplace culture is a primary factor in how included, and therefore how productive, workers are. Contact Diana if you'd like to learn more about the research or have a survey done at your company. (continued on pg. 2)

2011 Major Accomplishments of the Fond du Lac County Master Gardeners Association

In 2011, the Fond du Lac County Master Gardener volunteers (MGV) logged 3,544 hours of community service and 468 hours of teaching to youth and adults. Here are a few highlights from their 2011 annual report:

- This spring the Fond du Lac Public Library requested help in designing and planting the current beds near the main entrance. Three members took on this project that included general spring clean-up, mulching the beds, acquiring two urns to place near the main entrance and planting them with seasonal items several times a year. The MGA helped with the funding of this project.
- A large flower bed was renovated in front of the Fond du Lac Humane Society shelter, removing extensive weeds and planting drought resistant perennials and grasses. Low maintenance plants were selected to ensure that the garden is not time consuming for the shelter staff and volunteers. (continued on pg. 2)

Cooperative Extension Marks 100 Years of Working for Wisconsin - continued

In 1911, the Wisconsin legislature provided funds for counties to jointly employ with the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture “an agriculturist who is an agent of a restricted area, a county or a part of one.” The Oneida County Board was the first county to send three of their members to Madison, asking the University for this service, with expenses to be shared on a 50/50 basis. Luther was hired in February 1912, and two additional agents were hired that same year, one in Eau Claire County and the other in Barron County.

In 1912, Luther provided agricultural information about livestock, winter feed, soils and legumes. Today, Cooperative Extension is home to four program areas offering local information in person and online, providing research-based information 24/7. Local Cooperative Extension offices also connect communities with University of Wisconsin campuses, where Cooperative Extension faculty and staff provide research-based information about the issues facing the people of Wisconsin.



With an office in each of Wisconsin’s 72 counties and on three Native American reservations, Cooperative Extension develops practical educational programs tailored to local needs and based on university knowledge and research. Cooperative Extension delivers expertise to the public, addressing a wide range of needs, in both urban and rural areas of the states. Information about County Cooperative Extension offices is available online at <http://www.yourcountyextensionoffice.org/>.

Photo: E.L. Luther, the first agent of Cooperative Extension, a division of the University of Wisconsin-Extension, made his rounds on a two-cylinder Indian motorcycle. Photo courtesy of UW-Madison Archives.

4-H Clubs and Committees Undertake Chartering Process - continued

- Meet on a continuing basis
- Have written operating guidelines or bylaws approved by members to govern the club
- Open to any youth eligible for 4-H membership, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, ancestry, sexual orientation, pregnancy, and marital or parental status.

4-H leaders received information on completing the correct documents, including writing bylaws and articles of incorporation, submitting an annual plan, doing a financial audit, changes in the fiscal year, and changes in IRS 990 submissions. 22 clubs and 4 committees completed the process. The result is 4-H clubs and committees with accurate financial accountability, goals for the year that are established in conjunction with members, and meeting of IRS criteria.

Community Development and Natural Resources Programs - continued

Lake Education Series: Fond du Lac County and UW-Extension are partnering to host a series of workshops on lake ecology. Beginning at 6:30pm on Monday, March 5, at UW-Fond du Lac, we’ll explore a different topic every other week for six weeks. Users of and residents along Lake Winnebago will be especially interested in the sessions on aquatic plants, the history of the Winnebago Lakes System, and the economic impact of the lake.

Clean Sweep: We will be collecting hazardous chemicals at the Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 5, from 9am-12pm. Businesses, Farms, and Schools need to pre-register. Visit www.fonddulac.uwex.edu/cleansweep for more information.

Well Water Sampling: The Towns of Byron and Lamartine will be offering a complete water sampling educational program to their residents in April. Rural residents in other parts of the county are encouraged to sample water for bacteria and nitrates every 15 months to protect their health. Bottles can be obtained at the Fond du Lac County Health Dept. (160 S. Macy, FDL).

2011 Major Accomplishments of the Fond du Lac County Master Gardeners Association - continued

- The first thing one sees upon entering Pier Elementary School is the courtyard garden, with an explosion of plant life. This micro-climate cottage garden has inspired everyone who sees it. The I-spy feature, which teachers have integrated into their curriculum, has engaged the students and increased their learning. A MGV rearranges the I-spy items weekly and adds new things regularly.
- The Horticulture Helpline staff was busy again this year with phone coverage three days per week from April 11 through September 30. The team of seven MGVs responded to 118 phone calls and 37 e-mailed questions. The major issues for the growing season were disease and growing conditions.
- In addition to the planting and maintenance of the annuals and perennials at the Free Spirit Garden, this year four truckloads of wood chips were spread over newspapers around the perennials.