



Extension Connection

Monthly Highlights – August 2016

Lameness of dairy cattle is a main concern.

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Walking Strong - Focusing on Hoof Health

When it comes to health issues on a dairy farm, lameness is usually a main concern along with mastitis and reproductive issues. Lameness includes any abnormality which causes a cow to change the way she walks. It can be caused by a range of foot and leg conditions including foot rot, digital dermatitis, laminitis, and claw disease. Lameness can be influenced by nutrition, disease, genetic influences, management, and environmental factors. Not only does lameness cause pain and distress for dairy cattle, but it also has a large economic impact on the dairy operation.

Once a cow has digital dermatitis (hairy heel warts), one cannot cure it, only manage the lesion in order not to infect other cows. To address awareness of digital dermatitis and management practices to improve hoof health on farms, Tina Kohlman collaborated with five other area dairy agents to conduct an on-farm field survey of digital dermatitis (hairy heel warts). Kohlman has identified and scored stages of digital dermatitis of over 1,000 dairy cows on seven farms in Fond du Lac County, ranging in size from 50 to 1,500 cows. By participating in the project, farmers receive a report specific to their farm of cows infected with digital dermatitis and management practices to reduce the incidences of active digital dermatitis.

The project is currently being conducted with follow-up reports, presentations, and resource materials being developed through the Spring of 2017.

Nutrition Education at Friendship Corner

During the past year Pamela Nelson through the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP) has partnered with Friendship Corner to teach six 60 minute classes. Friendship Corner is a drop-in center for individuals with intellectual disabilities/mental illness.

Pamela Nelson taught 32 individuals the following topics this past year using the MyPlate for My Family curriculum: How to balance food and physical activity; Simple solutions to eating vegetables and fruits; How to make easy and healthy meals; Be active today; Watch your fats, sugars and sodium; and Eat whole grains.

Some of the comments of things learned from the fat, sugar and sodium lesson include: *“I’m going to start reading the Nutrition Facts label and choosing foods that are low in fat, I will read the Nutrition Facts label more and choose foods that are low in fat, I will read the Nutrition Facts label more and choose foods that are low in sugar and sodium, I will reduce my use of water flavorings.”*

WNEP helps individuals gain life skills and supports individuals/families helping them to make healthy food choices. Healthy food choices are especially important to this group, because they have additional challenges due to the medicines they are on and the challenges that they face every day.

Junior Master Gardeners

Junior Master Gardeners began meeting every week since mid-June. Along with the families who came to plant the garden, the Boys and Girls Club brings about 9 youth to participate in the care of the garden and help prepare fresh garden snacks. They had a speaker talk about vermicomposting, bees and other stinging insects. They had a great time on their recent field trip to the Green Bay Botanical Gardens and the Oneida Nation Reservation learning about the native culture.

They had their final celebration dinner for the parents. It was a busy afternoon beginning with the kids arriving at 2:00 pm to prepare dinner for their parents. When the parents arrived, they were greeted by great homemade veggie and fruit pizzas with beautiful centerpiece bouquets they picked from the garden and fun-filled games. They are invited to attend after school through the end of October to help pick and distribute the produce and clean out the gardens.

Community Gardens

The Community Gardens are in great condition this summer. There are currently 85 families renting plots again that are loaded with good looking produce. The summer newsletter was sent out with information on integrated pest management, caring for the crops in their gardens, and easy recipes to use with fresh produce. Thank you to the airport staff that assist with the mowing of the cover crop areas.

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