



Extension Connection

Monthly Highlights – December 2014

*Wis. 4-H Hall of Fame
has inducted local
community members.*

- [Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame Inducts Local Community Members](#)
- [Check Your Free Credit Report Campaign](#)
- [Farm Bill Crop Program Options Addressed](#)

Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame Inducts Local Community Members

The Wisconsin 4-H Fall Forum and Centennial Gala featuring the Hall of Fame induction culminated the year-long recognition of Wisconsin 4-H. Over 300 youth, adults and staff came together in Wisconsin Dells to learn and celebrate Nov. 14-16. Fond du Lac County 4-H was well represented with 11 people from our county who either taught sessions, planned the conference, or were delegates.

As 4-H turned 100, the 4-H Hall of Fame was created to help honor and celebrate those who were active in supporting Wisconsin 4-H. Local honorees included:

- Patrick “Pat” F. O’Brien of Eden who served as an auctioneer for the Governor’s auction at the Wisconsin State Fair for 26 years and a local auctioneer for over 50 years;
- Brandon Meats & Sausage, Inc. owners Al & Janet Feucht, who support 4-H in multiple counties as well as the state fair with donations of 5’ sausages that are auctioned off;
- David Running, former Fond du Lac County 4-H Youth Development Educator, UW-Extension District Director and Interim Wis. 4-H Program Leader.

With the end of 2014 quickly approaching, the official centennial celebrations will come to an end but the atmosphere about celebrating 4-H will continue.

Check Your Free Credit Report Campaign: 2/2, 6/6, 10/10

To make it easier for people to monitor their financial well-being, UW-Extension educators around the state including Shelley Tidemann, Fond du Lac County UWEX Family Living Educator, are promoting the “Check Your Free Credit Report Campaign: 2/2, 6/6, 10/10,” reminding people to view one of their three free credit reports on Feb. 2, June 6 and Oct. 10. Consumers are responsible for checking the accuracy of credit reports prepared by the private firms Equifax, Experian and TransUnion and sold to other businesses. Checking one free credit report every four months lets people do their own credit monitoring without having to pay \$10 or even \$20 a month, which are typical amounts charged for these services.

The information contained in credit reports can play a role in whether you’re offered a job or eligible for a loan. But in spite of the reports’ importance, only about 16 million free reports are ordered each year out of more than 200 million people in the U.S. with credit records. In Wisconsin, around 34 percent of adults reported obtaining a copy of their credit report in the past year, compared to 39 percent nationally, according to a 2012 FINRA Financial Capability Study - <http://www.usfinancialcapability.org>. Fond du Lac County residents are linked to the UW-Extension website at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/creditreport>, which introduces visitors to the “Check Your Free Credit Report Campaign: 2/2, 6/6, 10/10;” tells them why it’s important to check their credit reports; and walks them through the process of pulling and reading the reports.

Farm Bill Crop Program Options Addressed

With the passage of the 2014 Farm Bill came a revamped crop commodity program. No longer will direct payments be made, but farmers must choose between three new price- and revenue-driven program options that are administered by the Farm Service Agency. Further, landowners have the rare opportunity to reallocate their base program acres and update payment yields. This must be done before the end of February.

Though UW-Extension has no role in administering these programs, we do provide educational support to help farmers analyze their options and make an informed decision. This is important because the decisions made this winter are irrevocable; they stay with the farm for the duration of the Farm Bill and cannot be changed.

During the month of December, Mike Rankin teamed with the Fond du Lac County FSA director, Jake Vande Berg, and presented information and analysis to over 200 farm owners and operators at four different meetings. Additionally, the topic was addressed through the print and radio media.

Extension Connection Contributors:

Denise Retzleff, 4-H Youth Development Educator/Co-Dept. Head

Shelley Tidemann, Family Living Educator/Co-Dept. Head

Mike Rankin, Crops & Soils Agent

Fond du Lac County UW-Extension

400 University Drive, AE-227, Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Phone: (920) 929-3170; Fax: (920) 929-3181

Hearing Impaired Relay: 711

<http://fonddulac.uwex.edu>



An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements.

