



Extension Connection

Monthly Highlights – May 2016

*4-H Grows...
Opportunities to Learn*

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4-H Grows...Opportunities to Learn

- **Family Learning Day** is an opportunity for members, community youth and those from neighboring county 4-H programs to participate in hands-on learning. Topics included photography, volleyball, Japanese braiding, wildlife, veterinary science, birdhouse building, a taste of Spain, knitting and more. 21 different topics were offered and were taught by 32 people. An estimated 221 people were involved in some capacity (planning team, teaching, attendees, or volunteers for the day). Selected participant comments:
 - This was amazingly helpful. – Knitting class
 - I loved this class. I tried something totally new. – Wildlife class
 - I want to join veterinary science now. – Vet Science class
 - Excellent class to understand concepts of photography. – Photography class
 - Absolutely loved this class! Instructor did an awesome job and was very helpful. – Art of Braiding class
- The **Wisconsin 4-H State Wildlife annual contest** was held in West Bend. Fond du Lac County 4-H members participated in the taxidermy division, recycling, wildlife and archery. This was the first year for our county to participate. Eleven year old Courtney says, “The tournament was very fun and interesting. When we arrived the staff had to check my bow and arrows. Then I took a test in the Junior Wildlife category. I got 10th place for that test. We got there a little early, so we had to wait until it was my turn to shoot. I was really nervous at first, but then I got more comfortable and shooting became really fun. I did pretty well at shooting, and finished 4th in my category. The Archery Tournament was a really fun thing to participate in, and I plan to do it next year.”

- **Horse Bowl and Hippology Teams** had great success at the state competition where the senior team was grand champion and the junior team took fifth place out of 21 teams. In this competition teams answer questions about the horse industry – breeding, management, feeding, anatomy, history, and showing. Team member Cassandra Burke says, “This is only my second year in Horse Bowl, and I find it extremely resourceful and fun. Horse Bowl has taught me to work well with others and to cooperate with them also because you are a team and have to work together to do well. I have also learned to be a much better sportsman, because you cannot win everything. I have also learned that you have to try and help your team members because you might think of something they never thought of and that might be the winning answer.”



- Members traveled to **Space Camp** in Huntsville Alabama. Sam Mess reports, “I was part of Team Collins at Space Camp. We trained for a mission and then were able to simulate a mission to outer space. I was the mission specialist and I had to fix the heat tiles on the outside of the shuttle. As mission specialist, I wore a space suit and I hung from a cable like I was in space. I also built and launched my own rocket. I went on several simulators. My favorite was called the MAT (multi access trainer). I learned about the first people in space.”

Poverty Awareness for Community Engagement

Amanda Miller and Michelle Tidemann partnered with R.E.A.C.H. Waupun to offer a class on poverty to the wider Waupun community. UW-Extension’s PACE (Poverty Awareness for Community Engagement) is a toolkit that offers a wide range of workshops, including data presentations, activities, discussion groups, and simulations. Workshops range in complexity and length. Miller and Tidemann offered an introduction, with the goal of starting a conversation on the complex issue of poverty. Current, up-to-date information was provided on poverty in Fond du Lac and Dodge Counties, an explanation of how poverty is defined and measured, and interactive activities to explore personal paradigms, including “Find Someone Who...” and “What’s Class Got to Do with It?” The group engaged in thoughtful discussion.

An example of a more complex presentation of poverty is the “poverty simulation.” The goal is to raise awareness of the barriers associated with poverty by having participants “walk in the shoes of.” A simulation requires about 3 hours and a minimum of 75 participants. As participants enter the simulation, they are randomly assigned a “family” and assigned tasks to meet their basic needs for a month (times in four 15-minute increments). Approximately 15 staffers are assigned the role of community agencies that provide services or goods to the families. At the end of the simulation, a debriefing session allows participants to reflect on the thoughts and emotions during the activity.

Miller and Tidemann plan to offer two upcoming poverty simulations. Waupun School District administration has requested a simulation on June 6th to 150+ staff, which will be offered in partnership between the Fond du Lac and Dodge County UW-Extension Family Living/WNEP programs. In addition, a simulation will be offered on June 22nd to various interested community agency partners within the City of Fond du Lac.

Fact Sheet: [Poverty and Food Security in Fond du Lac County](http://www.apl.wisc.edu/resource_profiles/pfs_profiles/fonddulac_2014.pdf) -- http://www.apl.wisc.edu/resource_profiles/pfs_profiles/fonddulac_2014.pdf

Community Gardens

Gardens are off to a great start. Attendance at the garden open meeting was well attended and there were many gardeners who offered to help with plot marking and mowing. The water is hooked up and ready and plots are getting planted. The second phase of cover crop seeding will be starting soon.

Junior Master Gardeners

The Junior Master Gardeners have started planting their garden plot at UW-Fond du Lac. Potatoes were planted in the lasagna bed and peas, carrots, radishes, and onions are all in. Next week they will be planting the tomato and pepper plants they started from seed in the UW-Fond du Lac greenhouse. We are making plans for guest speakers and a field trip in the Green Bay area.

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