



Sauk County Extension Office

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March 17, 1995

Senator Joseph Leean
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

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Program
Assistant

Mission

*Extending the
resources and
knowledge of
the University
of Wisconsin
System to the
people of Sauk
County.*

Dear Senator Leean,

Enclosed please find two important reports from the Sauk County Extension team: the 1994 Annual Report and the 1995-1999 Program Plan. We are proud of our accomplishments over the past year. We are equally excited about the ideas that were generated by citizens of Sauk County at our recent strategic planning listening session.

True to our mission, the agents and staff of the Sauk County Extension office are extending the resources of the University of Wisconsin System to the people of Sauk County. We have taken a very important step in remaining a relevant part of the federal, state and local partnership by identifying and responding to specific local needs. We provide practical education, research and knowledge to improve the quality of life in local communities, to strengthen families, to increase competitiveness of business and agriculture and to develop leadership skills for managing resources and planning for the future.

We appreciate the interested you have in Extension and look forward to your continued support. The citizens of Sauk County are the focus of our energies. We know from your efforts that we share a common desire to offer them the very best that the State of Wisconsin has to offer. Please contact any of the members of the Sauk County Extension team if you have an issue or concern that we can assist with.

Respectfully yours,

Greg Wise
Community Development Agent/Office Chair

enclosures

cc: Chancellor Hanna
Dean Somersan

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION SAUK COUNTY

1994 ANNUAL REPORT

Sauk County Extension Education Programming: Highlights and Accomplishments

Agriculture & Extension Education Committee:

George Foss, Chairman
Eugene Hackbarth, Vice-Chairman
Richard Halbach, Secretary
Dorothy Williams
William Hutter

Faculty and Staff:

Greg Wise, Community Development/Office Chair
Sandra Kracht, 4-H & Youth Development
Ellen Bjelland, Family Living Education
Tom Kriegl, Agriculture/Agri-business
Karl Hakanson, Water Quality Education
Judy Lewis, Administrative Assistant
Alonna Pointon, Administrative Assistant

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION SAUK COUNTY

1994 ANNUAL REPORT

Sauk County Extension Education Programming:
Highlights and Accomplishments

The Sauk County University of Wisconsin-Extension office is a unique partnership of the county, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Wisconsin working together to help people put knowledge to work. It reflects the vision that has become known as The Wisconsin Idea. This partnership brings education to people where they live, work and play. It supports local educational programs for farmers, businesses, communities, families and young people.

The Sauk County Extension program uses education to help people understand and confront problems and take advantage of opportunities. Programming reflects local concerns and uses knowledge from the University of Wisconsin, other universities and state and federal agencies. Programs are developed and conducted by the following county agents: Tom Kriegl, Agriculture; Greg Wise, Community Development (Office Chair); Jean Brew, Family Living (Ms. Brew resigned effective December 31, 1994; Ellen Bjelland joins the staff as Family Living Educator effective March 1, 1995); Sandra Kracht, 4-H and Youth Development; and Karl Hakanson, Water Quality. Administrative Assistants Judy Lewis and Allona Pointon provide program support.

Local policy direction and oversight are provided by the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee of the Sauk County Board of Supervisors. Chairman George Foss, Vice-Chair Gene Hackbarth, Secretary Dick Halbach, Dorothy Williams and William Hutter serve as committee members.

Funding for the Extension program comes from Sauk County (\$164,117 or 37.2%), revenues (\$1,400 or 0.3%) and the University of Wisconsin (\$275,474 or 62.5%). The Sauk County Extension program funds make up 1.6% of the total 1995 county levy (down from 2.3% a decade earlier). For every \$1 the county spends on extension education programs, the University spends another \$1.70 in Sauk County. Compared to 12 neighboring south-central counties in 1992, Sauk County spends the second lowest amount on extension programming per resident.

The remainder of this report highlights the accomplishments of each of the agents and lists additional duties and activities for 1993.

BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES

Parenting Skills

Sauk County Family Living Programs have been directed to a wide range of families. A series of parenting skill sessions were held for parents in the Baraboo School District. Parenting classes were also taught in the Sauk-Prairie District. Extension and other family focused resources organized a booth at the County Fair to focus on children's issues. A survey of parents showed most use family members to provide child care, in part because there is a lack of affordable quality care available. The "Parenting the First Year" newsletter is made available to parents through the Reedsburg Clinic. Since 1993, the Baraboo and Wisconsin Dells Kiwanis Club sponsored the newsletter for all births at St. Clare Hospital.

Sauk County Partnership Council

Sauk County UW Extension is actively involved in the Interagency Child Abuse Network (with county agencies, school representatives, and law enforcement officials from throughout the county) in planning and providing "prevention" activities. Prevention of child abuse related problems is best done at a county or a community level with various groups working together. Helping parents avoid problems is more beneficial (efficient and cost effective) than treatment or intervention programs.

Young Families Newsletter

The "Parenting Ideas" newsletter is written for and distributed to Sauk County parents who have pre-school and elementary school-age children. The newsletter focusses on the physical and emotional changes in development of children and identifies activities which families can do to foster positive family communications and relationships. In addition to parenting education, other UW-Extension research is shared on consumerism, health issues, housing, environmental concerns and nutrition.

COMPETITIVE AND PROFITABLE AGRICULTURE

Helping Farm Families

A systematic approach is used to determine the needs of farm clients. It is the clients needs which determine what response is appropriate. The conditions of the program year increased demand for farm financial information and assistance. About 400 people leaned about business goals, measuring profit and making farm business decisions at one or more of 15 meetings, and via one-on-one counseling between January and March of 1994. A video tape of the farm business arrangements program was used by

several farm families who were unable to attend the classes.

Agricultural Profitability and Enhancing Water Quality

Ongoing programs emphasizing whole-farm nutrient and pest management. The efforts in Sauk County are helping to direct state-wide efforts addressing water quality impacts from field management of crop nutrients. Survey results from the NBR watershed and the state show inefficient management of crop nutrients common. This costs farmers money and can have deleterious impacts on water quality. Working with co-op agronomists, crop consultants, MATC farm instructor and LCD staff on whole-farm nutrient planning, manure spreader calibrations, worksheet and other educational material development, and one-on-one consultation with farmers.

4-H AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The 4-H Program in Sauk County is based on the mission to positively develop young people to become productive contributing members of society. In 1994, over 610 youth were involved in 23 4-H Clubs. There are 104 projects and numerous activities that are used to develop self-confidence, skills in communication, decision-making and leadership. Over 220 volunteer leaders contribute their time and talents for Sauk County 4-H youth.

4-H Most Popular Projects

One of the roles of the 4-H Office is to set up activities within projects. There are 104 4-H projects offered to the youth of Sauk County. Project areas included are:

Project Name/
Enrolled in Project

Communication, Cultural Arts: 504
Animal Sciences: 570
Family, Home & Health: 293
Mechanical Sciences: 197
Environmental Education: 74
Plant & Soil Sciences: 119
Cloverbud: 91

The projects are supplemented by workshops, clinics and educational sessions. These supplemental programs allow us to further enhance the educational area of extremely active youth in Sauk County.

4-H Unique Opportunities

Members and leaders within Sauk County have many unique

learning and travel opportunities within the 4-H program. We reach outside of our county boundaries to visit certain places and events. Some of the adventures Sauk County 4-H members and leaders have had the opportunity to experience in 1994 were:

SW Dairy & Livestock Days World Beef Expo, Madison
Discover Wisconsin Trip National 4-H Conference
New York/Maryland Inter-State Trip State 4-H Horse Show
Citizenship Washington D.C. Focus American Spirit Trip
State 4-H Club Congress School Conservation Day
Polk County Intra-state Trip
4-H Camp - Upham Woods
State Fair Clothing Revue
Wisconsin State Fair
State Dog Show

Teens and Leadership

The Sauk County program is utilizing teens for teaching and coordinating county-wide project meetings and activities. The Sauk County 4-H Agent helps the youth prepare lesson plans, give ideas for teaching techniques, identifies leadership opportunities and recognizes teens for their leadership skills.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Planning for the Community's Future

Helping Sauk County communities plan for and manage growth is critically important given the dynamic changes being experienced. The town and village of Prairie du Sac and the village of Sauk City continue to explore the needs and opportunities for the future of their communities. These communities are discovering the answers to three critical questions: Where Are We Now?, What Is Our Community Vision?, and How Do We Get There? A public policy forum on managing growth conducted in 1994 included one session devoted to the costs and benefits of growth and one session highlighting unique issues of the Baraboo Range. Efforts were also initiated to bring graduate planning students into Sauk County to lay out a potential county planning program.

Local Government Education

After winning election, local government officials often must quickly learn about their powers and responsibilities. Even continuing elected and appointed officials are finding the complexity of government an awesome task to stay abreast of. A variety of special inquiries are continually being researched and investigated for local officials including: new budgeting procedures, contracting for services, changing management structures, complying with new laws and regulations and more.

These inquiries are addressed through special Educational Teleconference Networking (ETN), satellite programs, regional or state-wide workshops and individually tailored responses.

Improving Organizational Effectiveness

Organizational effectiveness is at the heart of most successful community efforts. Conversely, the root of many efforts gone awry can be found in dysfunctional organizations. Organizational assessment efforts may take the form of helping to renew the organization through leadership, organizational make up, constitutional issues (by-laws) and effective planning (mission, goals and objectives). Organizational assessment and planning assistance projects have been undertaken over the past year for the following organizations:

- Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce
- Sauk Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce
- Badger Army Ammunitions Plant citizen's advisory group
- Town and Village of Prairie du Sac ad hoc planning group
- Sauk Prairie Area Municipalities (council of governments)
- Village of Prairie du Sac Board
- Prairie du Sac Library Study Committee
- Reedsburg Area Chamber of Commerce

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Helping Business and Communities Meet the Recycling Challenge

Meeting the demands of recycling for businesses and communities continues to be important in Sauk County. Seminars, ETNs and small group and one-to-one counseling have been used over the past year to raise awareness of requirements and opportunities alike. A 13-county workshop series continued in 1994 for southern Wisconsin counties to provide education and technical assistance for private recycling and waste haulers and municipal recycling coordinators. This 18-month program assists in understanding the finer points of the recycling law and how to best go about establishing and operating a viable community recycling program.

Narrows Creek and Baraboo River Priority Watershed Project

Major emphasis of UWEX Water Quality Educator is to assist LCD with informational and educational programming for the priority watershed programs in the county, in 1994 primarily the Narrows Creek - Baraboo River, but also the Crossman Creek-Little Baraboo, and Dell Creek watersheds.

The information educational effort for 1994 included working with individuals and groups (adult and youth, rural and urban), to further the goals of the Wisconsin Nonpoint Source Water

Pollution Abatement project, which are to protect Wisconsin's water resources from "nonpoint source water pollution", or polluted runoff. The water quality programming extends beyond the immediate borders of the watershed.

The information and educational programming is designed to bring about individual and community awareness, interest and knowledge about the NBR watershed, the value of clean water, how present land use practices and everyday habits threaten Sauk County's water resources, and to increase participation in the NBR project and use of practices and structures to alleviate water quality problems. The Narrows Creek and Baraboo River Priority Watershed Project (NBR) completed the second year of its three-year sign-up period. The Dell Creek project was selected in 1994 and will begin in 1995. (Refer to the Land Conservation Department report for more detail.)

ADDITIONAL EXTENSION OFFICE DUTIES & ACTIVITIES

Family Living Education Highlights

- Sauk County Association of Family & Community Education (FCE) liaison and educator advisor
- Extension Homemaker Mini-college
- Sauk-Prairie Middle School Mini-courses
- Sauk County 4-H Home & Family activities
- State 4-H Home Environment Committee
- Sauk County Interagency Child Abuse Committee
- Sauk County Public Health Committee - Infant & Children/Adolescents
- Newsletter editor and coordinator
- Survey Sauk County parents regarding child care needs
- Co-taught recycling paper for Youth Conservation Field Days
- Answering food safety questions

Agriculture/Agri-business Highlights

- Worked with the Sauk County Graziers Network
- Surveyed hail and wind damage on area farms
- Advised farmers about custom heifer raising arrangements
- Coordinated and conducted many agriculture-related aspects of Sauk County Junior Fair
- Advised farmers on building and ventilation problems
- Alerted fruit and vegetable growers and greenhouse operators to educational meetings
- Coordinated a private pesticide applicators program (110 farmers certified)
- Distributed maps of hive locations to pesticide applicators to help minimize bee losses
- Assisted the Sauk County Holstein Assn. revive the registered calf project
- Assisted with several statewide UWEX-supported activities

including:

- Wisconsin Forage Council Symposium
 - the large dairy herd seminar
 - World Dairy Expo
- Advised and helped plan many activities including annual meetings, field days and twilight meetings with several county ag-related groups including:
 - Sauk County Holstein Association
 - Sauk County Guernsey Breeder Association
 - Sauk County Pork Producers
 - Sauk County Dairy Promotion Federation
 - South Central DHIA
 - Sauk County Forage Council

4-H/Youth Development Highlights

- "Basics of Babysitting" to Reedsburg, Baraboo, Sauk Prairie, Lake Delton and Merrimac
- Cloverbud programming for the very young including many junior fair exhibitors
- Teen programming including teen judges for Cloverbuds and teen counselors at 4-H camp
- Sauk-Prairie and Baraboo Kids Companion
- "Super Saturday", 37 sessions taught by junior leaders and volunteers, 150 youth attended
- Sauk County Junior Fair and State Fair (entries remained stable)
- 4-H program committees (evaluation and coordination leadership in 4-H activities/ events)
- Newsletter editor and coordinator
- "Up, Up & Away: The Science of Flight" taught to two special education classes
- Club presentations
- Support 4-H leaders and clubs in promotion and development of local programs
- Co-taught recycling paper to youth from Reedsburg and Sauk-Prairie
- Sauk-Prairie Mini-courses
- Rural Safety Day

Community Development Highlights

- Sauk County Junior Fair support and assistance
- Organizational assessment and planning assistance for the following organizations:
 - Sauk Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce
 - Badger Army Ammunitions Plant citizen's advisory group
 - Town and Village of Prairie du Sac ad hoc planning group

- Sauk Prairie Area Municipalities (council of governments)
 - Village of Prairie du Sac Board
 - Reedsburg Area Chamber of Commerce
- Prairie du Sac Village officials planning and management issues counseling and assistance
 - Business assistance and counseling for flood and seasonally hurt businesses
 - Town of Merrimac management options presentation and survey
 - Sauk Prairie Eagle Council eco-tourism study assistance
 - Reedsburg Chamber business assistance (Depot project)
 - Multi-county recycling educational workshop series for communities and businesses
 - Pink Lady Rail Transit Commission assistance
 - One-on-one business counseling
 - ETN series for town, village, city and county elected and appointed officials (variety of local government policy and operations topics)
 - Office Chair responsible for Extension Office management and administration

Water Quality Education Highlights

- Events and Presentations:
 - Proper Well Abandonment Demonstration at the Horkan's "Just-A-Hill" dairy farm. Local well drillers, Sauk County UWEX, UWEX-Madison, and LCD provided education on well abandonment, water quality impacts, and assistance available. Assisted Natural Resource Conservation Service (formerly SCS) with well abandonment programs.
 - "Dairying for Profit and Clean Water Quality Field Day" at the Larry and Bridgett Mundth farm, highlighted nutrient management, rotational grazing and related research at Mundth farm.
 - Organized eight (8) pasture walks with the Sauk County Graziers Network from April to October, ongoing work with Network.
 - "Nutrient Management Workshop", Longley's Restaurant, brought together farmers, agronomists, crop consultants, and agency staff around the topics of preparing nutrient plans and proposals for changes to the State's animal waste regulations.
 - "Soil Conservation Equipment Show and Open House", Nat'l Guard Armory, Baraboo. Area ag. equipment dealers, farm supply co-ops and conservation agency's highlighted importance of soil conservation, displayed latest conservation tillage technology and presented on soil conservation production practice.
 - Small Mouth Bass Alliance
 - MATC-Reedsburg farm classes on nutrient management
 - Sauk County Youth Conservation Day Jr. High

students on groundwater education

- State FmHA staff on principles of nutrient and pest management
- Lake Delton Lake association on Dell Creek watershed project

- Erected six NBR watershed signs with committee and Webb Sr. High teachers, students
- Organized and set up NBR display at Sauk County dairy breakfast
- Assisted with LCD display at County fair and at holstein twilight meeting
- Produced watershed newsletters
- Consulted UW-Madison staff on youth education materials
- Assisted with development of revision to State's animals waste regulations
- Organizational duties for Sauk County Graziers Network
- Ongoing duties with the NBR Citizens Advisory Committee
- Ongoing whole-farm nutrient management and planning efforts on-going with farmers, co-ops, agronomists, crop consultants and UW specialists
- Support County's lake associations and districts with education material

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SUMMARY REPORT
1995 - 1999 Program Plan

University of Wisconsin Sauk County Cooperative Extension
P.O. Box 49 - 515 Oak Street - Courthouse
Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913
(608) 355 - 3250

Section A: Goals Identified as Being Important to Meeting the Future Needs of Sauk County

Following question asked of twelve participants at January 23rd 1995 listening session:

What concerns should Sauk County UWEX address through educational programs during the next four years?

The following list of concerns were generated by the citizens and grouped together in four broad areas. The group selected the headings and voted for their first and second most important area (indicated by number in parentheses)

- | | |
|---|--|
| Meeting family needs (9) | Develop starter funds for getting into agriculture |
| Health Care | Expand knowledge of genetic engineering |
| Prevention programs | Madison research (specialists) to producers |
| Prepare housing for elderly | |
| Cultural diversity education | Sustainable use of the land (4) |
| Adult literacy | Land and backyard gardens |
| Parenting | Preserve natural beauty |
| Childcare | Rural urbanization |
| Family budgeting | Networks for all conservation groups |
| Career choices for youth | Expand youth programs in land use/environment |
| Family stress education | Expand timber usage |
| How to do things simpler (sic) (family) | Growth vs planning vs private ownership |
| Extension work with schools (on) prevention | Water quality issues educating farmers |
| Juvenile crime prevention | |
| Funding youth programs | Reacting (positively) to growth (3) |
| Identify personal habits that are wasteful | Influence on gambling on area |
| Maintaining youth in programs | Develop alternating energy sources |
| Self esteem in youth | Mass transit, car pooling, e.g. Dells to Madison |
| Knowledge of living wills/power of attorney | Controlling industrial growth |
| Recycling education | |
| Nutrition | Keeping public involved in government decisions |
| Chem. vs environ. friendly (household) products | Health care |
| Lack of affordable housing | Continuing education programs and grants |
| | Increase knowledge of tax deferred programs |
| Maintain viability of Sauk County agriculture (7) | Continued education of elected officials |
| Water quality issues education for farmers | Education on local politics/civic lessons |
| Family farm promotion | How shrinking gov. budgets affects you |
| Continued education of agricultural practices | Doing more with less \$; businesses and families |
| Identify strengths and weaknesses of farming | Work-study/internships expand |
| (operations) and do it (make changes) | Rural development/second income enterprises |
| Build on sustainable ag. programs, | Retraining options for employment |
| e.g., contract grazing, milking hire | |
| Public relations; agriculture industry vs | other: Personal contact, 4-H programs in |
| rural (non-farm) living | (existing) child care programs, Extension |
| Transition from agriculture | office do with less |
| Expansion of alternative crops | |
| Balancing animal welfare with production | |
| Chem. vs environ. friendly (outside) products | |

Section B: Prioritization of County Goals

Each agent and the water quality specialist reviewed and reorganized the list under each of their program areas. Many of the issues overlap program areas. These are areas where agents can most easily plan collaborative programs.

COMMUNITY, NATURAL RESOURCES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Local Government Education

- continued education of elected officials
- how shrinking government budgets affect you
- self esteem in youth
- recycling education
- chemicals vs. environmentally friendly (household) products
- education on local politics/civic lessons
- increase knowledge of tax deferred programs
- continuing education programs and grants

Community Planning

- rural urbanization
- growth vs. planning vs. private ownership
- lack of affordable housing
- mass transit, car pooling (e.g. Dells to Madison)
- preserve natural beauty
- chemical vs. environmentally friendly (outside) products
- expand youth programs in land use/environment

Business Development

- rural development/second income enterprises
- childcare
- controlling industrial growth
- doing more with less money; businesses and families
- retraining options for employment
- influence of gambling on area
- expand timber usage
- develop alternative energy sources
- transition from agriculture
- develop starter funds for getting into agriculture
- work study/internships (expand)

- career choices for youth
- health care

Water Quality Education

- water quality issues education for farmers
- continued education of agricultural practices
- build on sustainable agriculture programs
- chemicals vs environmentally friendly products
- Madison research/specialists to producers
- preserve natural beauty
- expand youth programs in land use/environment

4-H and YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

♣ Maintaining Youth in Programs

- funding programs
- self esteem in youth
- career choices for youth

♣ Prevention Programs

- schools
- juvenile crime prevention
- self esteem in youth
- cultural diversity education

♣ Family Programs

- family stress education
- how to do things simpler
- self esteem in youth

♣ Recycling/Environmental Issues

- recycling education
- identify personal habits that are wasteful
- expand youth programs in land use/environment

AGRICULTURE - AGRIBUSINESS

Agriculture Business Management

- identify strengths and weaknesses of farming operations
- build on sustainable agriculture programs
- develop starter funds for getting into agriculture
- transition from agriculture

Dairy

- Madison research specialists to producers
- continued education of agricultural practices
- public relations; agriculture industry vs rural non-farm living
- family farm promotion
- balancing animal welfare with production
- expand knowledge of genetic engineering

Crops

- expansion of alternative crops
- expand timber usage

FAMILY LIVING

Changing Families

- family budgeting
- family stress education
- prevention programs
- extension work with schools (on) prevention
- influence of gambling on area
- retraining options for employment
- doing more with less \$; businesses and families
- lack of affordable housing
- rural development/second income enterprises
- cultural diversity education
- parenting
- childcare
- prepare housing for elderly
- how to do things simpler (sic) (family)
- identify personal habits that are wasteful

- knowledge of living wills/power of attorney
- recycling education
- chem. vs environ. friendly (household) products
- continuing education programs and grants

Families and Youth at Risk

- juvenile crime prevention
- adult literacy

Food Safety, Quality and Human Health

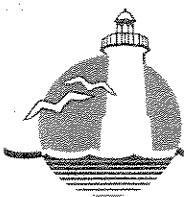
- health care
- nutrition

Section C: UW Sauk County Cooperative Extension Plan with Current Resources

- ▶ The priority programming for the **COMMUNITY, NATURAL RESOURCES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** Agent will be in local government education and community planning.
- ▶ The priority programming for the **4-H AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT** Agent will be in maintaining youth in programs and prevention programs.
- ▶ The priority programming for the **AGRICULTURE** Agent will be in agriculture business management, dairy and crops.
- ▶ The priority programming for the **FAMILY LIVING** Agent will be in changing families.
- ▶ **WATER QUALITY** programming will continue to be a major emphasis of this office through arrangement with the State's priority watershed program.

Section D: UW Sauk County Cooperative Extension Plan with Additional Resources

- ▶ Any additional programming in **COMMUNITY, NATURAL RESOURCES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** will be in the area of business development.
- ▶ Any additional programming in **4-H AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT** will be in the areas of family programs and recycling/environmental issues.
- ▶ Any additional programming in **AGRICULTURE** will be more emphasis on dairy/livestock and crop production.
- ▶ Any additional programming in **FAMILY LIVING** will be in the areas of families and youth at risk and food safety, quality and human health.
- ▶ Lack of support for a water quality specialist in the county will result in significant re-allocation of programming priorities in the office, particularly for the Agriculture and CNRED agents.



Fond du Lac County

WEX COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE • UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION

U.W. Center, 112 Classroom Building,
400 Campus Drive
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54935

Telephone (414)—
929-3170—Family Living/Continuing Education
929-3171—Dairy & Livestock/Crops & Soils
929-3172—4-H
929-3173—Resource Development/Family Living
748-7565 / 324-2879

June 23, 1995

Joseph Leean
115 South, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Leean:

Enclosed is a copy of the 1994 Fond du Lac County University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Service annual report. The report highlights major educational programs that have positively impacted the lives of Fond du Lac County clientele this past year.

If you have any questions or suggestions on our programming, please feel free to contact me.

Your continued support of Fond du Lac County University of Wisconsin-Extension is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Nan A. Baumgartner
Office Chairperson
Family Living Agent

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FAMILIES AND YOUTH AT RISK

Teaching Life Skills to JOBS Participants

Problem solving. Decision making. Stress and Time Management. Budgeting. Parenting. These are important life skills that help us manage the responsibilities of work and family commitments. As part of the JOBS/Work Not Welfare program, individuals receiving benefits participate in educational programs to better prepare them for handling work and family situations.

In a cooperative agreement with the Department of Social Services, the University of Wisconsin-Extension provides the training for teaching these life skills. When participants complete the training, they are asked to identify whether they will use the information taught and in what ways.

Within the parenting segments, 78 percent indicate they plan to use the information learned immediately. Another 18 percent plan to apply the parenting information gained within the next six months. Specific changes include, 88 percent plan to use the 1-2-3 Magic process; discipline with dignity and respect; and reduce criticism. Ninety-four (94) percent plan to encourage responsible behavior with their children. Total number participating in 1994 was 106.

Women's Financial Information Program

The bad news is that the wage gap, conservative investing habits, interrupted careers, and/or longer widowhood may threaten many women's retirement security. The good news is that Fond du Lac County women completing the Women's Financial Information Program report feeling more secure and better prepared to make financial decisions.

This seven workshop series held in the fall had a capacity enrollment. Evaluation comments indicate nearly all participants took some actions to improve their control of finances. This included: starting a financial notebook, compiling a net worth statement, completing a cash flow worksheet, reviewing forms such as insurance policies, will or durable power of attorney for finances, consulting a professional or discussing finances with a spouse or other family member.

The series was co-sponsored by UW-Extension, UW-Continuing Education, Friends of the Fond du Lac Senior Center, and AARP.

Who Declares Bankruptcy in America Today?

Well-educated, middle-class boomers with big-time credit card debt. These baby-boomers make up 44% of the adult population, but account for 59% of the personal bankruptcies. Increasingly, that debtor is also female with women accounting for 28.6% of the filers. Bankruptcy filers are more likely than the general adult population to have had a divorce or job disruption and 12.4% say medical debt triggered their bankruptcy.

"Debt Collection, Garnishment, and Bankruptcy," a two hour UWEX seminar for community volunteers and agency personnel, provided needed information on current laws and procedures. Connie Kilmark, financial consultant, enhanced the legal information with her observations of the human side of financial stress.

An audio tape of the program and supportive print materials are available from our office.

*The contrast
between growing
materialism and
affluence for some
and persistent
poverty and
hopelessness
for others is
striking.*

Fond du Lac County UWEX Staff
Nan Baumgartner, Family Living/
Office Chair
Jim Hovland, Community
Resource Development
Irv Possin, Dairy & Livestock
Mike Rankin, Crops & Soils
Barbara Roder, Family Living
Dave Tice, 4-H & Youth

University of Wisconsin
Extension applies
University research,
knowledge, and
resources...

*"The family is the
most powerful, the
most humane, and,
by far, the most
economical system
for building
competence and
character."*

CHANGING FAMILIES AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Balancing Work and Family National Satellite Teleconference

Child care. Elder care. Flex time. Part-time work. Job sharing. Family leave. Employee assistance programs. Effective and innovative family/work policies. These were some of the issues discussed as part of a national satellite teleconference hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Extension office. The program targeted business and industry administrators, human resource managers, union leaders, and other interested citizens. Its purpose -- to begin to explore options and alternatives which make the workplace more "family-friendly."

The satellite program featured companies which allow employees to work part-time and flexible hours or offer job sharing opportunities. These alternative work schedules allow employees to spend more time with family members while simultaneously creating more productive employees at the workplace. Other examples of family friendly programs include Employee Assistance programs, like the one currently being implemented for Fond du Lac County.

Educational Support for Families

"...The condition of children's lives and their future prospects largely reflect the well-being of their families. When families are strong, stable, and loving, children have a sound basis for becoming caring and competent adults...Many of the nation's gravest social problems are rooted in damaged families."

This quote comes from a report by the National Commission on Children. It is an important glimpse into the need for educational programs and support systems for families. The University of Wisconsin-Extension recognizes the importance of family and offers programs to help families be the best they can be. Currently, UWEX teaches parenting skills to JOBS participants through a collaborative effort of the Department of Social Services and UWEX which began January 1, 1994. Likewise, we provide training to Head Start Family Development specialists in a family strengthening curriculum entitled "Family Times." These are just two examples of ways UWEX provides educational support for families.

4-H Provides Many Opportunities for Young People

One thing 4-H does differently from most other youth organizations is meet co-educationally and include members of all ages. 4-H is modeled after the one-room schoolhouse of years ago; a model in which young people from all ages work and support each other together.

4-H follows the idea of older young people mentoring or supporting younger children. Young people from different backgrounds: financial, religious, or ethnic; come together to learn and cooperate with each other. Young people have many opportunities in roles as leaders as project leaders, camp counselors, club officers, activity coordinators, plus others.

4-H is also a family program where young people see mothers and fathers actively involved as 4-H leaders. Opportunities for adults and youth are available based on an individual's interest.

In Fond du Lac County there were 30 4-H clubs for 1993-94. Club size varied from 90 to 2 members with an average club size of 36 members. There were 429 adults who served as volunteer leaders at club and county levels.

The 4-H Program has 1,074 club members. Eighty percent were 14 years of age or younger. Approximately 3,200 projects were taken by members averaging just under three projects per member. Animal Science accounted for 26% of projects taken with Arts and Crafts at 15% and Clothing & Foods at 10%.



...to meet the educational needs of Wisconsin people wherever they live and work.

Today's UWEX

volunteers receive

more training

and ongoing

professional

development

opportunities.

4-H Opportunities

Members of 4-H can participate in activities beyond the club such as summer camp and out of county trips.

The annual Fond du Lac County 4-H summer camp is held each June at Camp Sinawa in Valders, Wisconsin. Members age 11-14 can attend the three day summer camp. Exploring camp provides a one night camp stay for members 8-10 years old. The success of the camping program is largely credited to the volunteer adults and older youth who plan all activities, including counselor interviews and training, workshops, and guest speakers.

Out of county trips are made available to 4-H members ages 14 and older. Destinations included Madison, Washington, DC, Chicago, and Orlando, Florida.

Selection is based on completion of a resume-like evaluation form and in interview process. This format gives older 4-H members practice in interviewing and preparation of an application form--skills needed as adults.

Your Credit Report

A growing number of "credit repair clinics" advertise that they can clean up a person's credit history or establish credit for people with no credit history. Their fees range from \$50 to \$1,000. All these clinics really do is investigate an individual's credit history and correct any errors. This is something an individual can do for themselves at little or no cost.

About 1,800 credit bureaus exist nationwide, and about 12 operate in Wisconsin. Credit reporting agencies do not rate a person's credit history or grant credit. Their main purpose is to provide information about consumers' bill paying habits to companies that grant credit. Banks, merchants and credit unions may make decisions on whether to extend credit based on the background information supplied from credit bureaus.

If a person wants to check his or her credit report, he or she can call a credit bureau directly. A credit file review costs about \$8. The report is free if one has been denied credit within the last 60 days.

A popular UW-Extension publication, "Your Credit Report" gives information on how to obtain a credit history and correct any errors. This is just one of the ways information is available to those who need it most.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Resource Conservation District

Fond du Lac County is participating in the multi-county Glacierland Resource Conservation District. Thirty-seven citizens representing different county/community organizations and individuals in the county met and identified issues affecting Fond du Lac County. The following priorities were identified:

- Leadership & Self-Esteem Training for Youth (junior and senior high)
- Continued Development of Trails - Multi Purpose (Old Plank Trail, Eldorado/Ripon Trail, Tourism around trails-Bed and Breakfast, Paved Bike Trail on KM Scenic Drive, Tourism along rural Scenic Road)
- Develop Competitive Marketing for all Recyclable Products
- Rural Residential Development - Infrastructure impacts and land use conflicts (Lake areas, Ag Land, Zoning)
- Watershed Projects (Cooperation and Involvement, Storm Water & Sewage Issues)

These priorities along with the other counties in the district will be utilized by the RC&D Council to identify potential projects for the region.



As a division of UW-Extension, Cooperative Extension identifies and responds to specific community needs for practical education,...

Information technologies are changing the way people communicate, where they work, how and what they learn, how they earn a living, and how they entertain themselves.

New Ways to Get the Job Done

Technology is having an impact on everything we do -- how we live, work, play, communicate, and make decisions. Technology is making a significant impact upon UW-Extension, as well. With the help of technology, University of Wisconsin-Extension can provide consumers with quick, reliable information on a variety of questions, 24 hours a day; faculty and staff can access national databases for current information on a wide spectrum of topics; they can interact with colleagues and access data throughout the world; they can quickly access research-based information in a multi-media format from universities across the United States; and they can manage and use large volumes of data locally.

These capabilities are possible with computers, modems, CD-ROM, telephones, software programs, and information databases. Resources like InfoSource, 4-H Blue Ribbon program, and Internet are a few of the ways we "get the job done."

Interest in Dairying Strong in Fond du Lac County

Reading and listening to the Wisconsin press one would believe everyone wants to get out of dairying and few want to get in. Quite contrary in Fond du Lac County. Realtors report that there is a shortage of well maintained optimum size units to sell or rent to potential producers. Dairy 2020's new Aggie loan program, a beginning farmer program through WHEDA (Wisconsin Housing & Economic Development Authority), has sparked a lot of interest in young couples and individuals. Also there are producers from other areas of Wisconsin and the U.S. that would like to relocate to Fond du Lac County if buildings and land were available at current market prices.

The Fond du Lac County UWEX uses the FINLRB computer software program to assist in analyzing the feasibility of the business based on size of operation, loan structure, and production efficiencies for cash flow and rate of return.

Effective Rental Practices

Part-time landlords, housing advocates, and others interested in effective rental practices attended a University of Wisconsin-Extension video satellite program in June. The program focused on the two aspects of rental practice that most often create misunderstandings and hassles for landlords--the tenant selection process and security deposits and responsibilities for repairs and maintenance. Most landlords prefer to avoid legal proceedings concerning security deposits and evictions. Knowing the laws and learning how to effectively and legally screen potential tenants can help property owners avoid difficulties.

The content of this program continues to be available to landlords through a self-teaching packet using the video copies of the satellite broadcast and print materials.

Lake to Lake Government Education Series

This program series was developed by Community Resource Agents in four counties -- Fond du Lac, Calumet, Sheboygan, and Manitowoc. This last year, the educational programs addressed issues and concerns of public officials. One session held recently focused on "Developing a Recycling Ordinance for Your Community." Another program held at Eden addressed "Resource Extraction Issues for Local Officials." University of Wisconsin-Extension specialists, as well as County Extension staff, presented information at these programs.



...research and knowledge to improve the quality of life in local communities,...

The attainment of high quality, low cost food is a remarkable accomplishment.

Kettle Moraine Area Leadership Program

The four month session provides leadership training for individuals interested in improving their skills as leaders. The program is sponsored by the UW-Extension Fond du Lac County, Rural Development Institute, and Campbellsport FFA/Alumni. The program presenters include UW-Extension State and County faculty. Participants included business owners, citizens, and youth from the Campbellsport area.

COMPETITIVE AND PROFITABLE AGRICULTURE

Fall Crop Meetings Held

The annual Agronomy Field Day was held at the Boelk Brothers farm and was attended by 200 crop producers and agribusiness personnel. Participants were able to view UW corn hybrid and soybean variety evaluation trials in addition to herbicide field trials. UW-Extension faculty presented information on current research and problems associated with the 1994 growing season, corn hybrid selection, and crop herbicide injury.

The Fond du Lac County Forage Council's Fall Twilight Meeting was held at the Don and Dave Schmitz farm. A forage particle size separator developed by the UW Ag Engineering Department was on site for particle size testing. Each producer received a computer printout of results. Extension faculty and specialists were at the meeting to discuss mechanical and feeding aspects associated with forage particle size, forage production considerations for the 1995 growing season and presented data from past alfalfa scissor cut and Green Gold programs in Fond du Lac County.

Forage Expo a Big Success

Over 1300 farmers and agribusiness people from around the state attended the 1994 Wisconsin Forage Expo on June 29-30 held at the Doug and Linda Hodorff farm near Eden. This event was hosted by the Fond du Lac County Forage Council with support from the Wisconsin Forage Council. Educational tours included a trip to the dairy grazing operation of Tim and Jelaine Scannell as well as tours focusing on alfalfa establishment, forage harvesting, and forage utilization. UW-Extension personnel from around the state presented information at various stops along each tour.

Other highlights of the Expo included an extensive trade show, field plots, a manure application rate demonstration, and an antique farm machinery display organized by the Empire Threshing Association. Attendees were also able to tour the milking parlor and freestall facilities at the Hodorff farm.

Twilight Meetings and Field Demonstrations Highlight Summer Meetings

Twilight meetings and field demonstrations are excellent ways to reach dairy producers in the summertime.

A Pasture Hog Farrowing Twilight meeting at the John Posthuma farm, Waupun, and Tom Badtke farm, Rosendale, enabled producers to see and learn firsthand the production practices of farrowing and processing baby pigs on pasture.

The Fond du Lac County Holstein Breeders Twilight meeting at the Mel and Robin Gunnick farm, Brandon, featured poster displays on tunnel ventilation and the economic advantages of heifer A.I.



...to strengthen families,
to increase the
competitiveness of
businesses and
agriculture,...

UW-Extension
provides
educational support
for all sectors --
including schools,
government
agencies, business,
and private
organizations.

Milk Parlors are More Labor Efficient

Wisconsin's dairy industry is currently undergoing considerable change. As herd sizes increase in Fond du Lac County, dairy producers are exploring the use of milking parlors to milk cows. Milking parlors are more labor efficient allowing for milking rates of 50 to 100 cows per hour per person versus 25 cows per hour per person in stanchion/tie stall barns. Operator health and safety are also improved in milking parlors by eliminating the numerous deep knee bends that cause hip and knee joint problems.

A Fond du Lac County parlor tour was held featuring flat barn parlors on the Larry Dins and Bill Averbeck farms, a New Zealand swing over parlor at Spirit Farms and a herringbone rapid exit parlor at the Hodorff farm. The tour focused on two key ingredients -- holding pen/crowd gate and automatic detachers. The economics of sizing and cost were analyzed at each farm.

Top Ten Dairy Herd Management Analysis

A dairy herd management and ration analysis of the top ten DHIA production herds in Fond du Lac County was conducted for the Dairy/Forage Seminar. The dairy herd management analysis compares genetic value, days in milk, and linear score. The ration analysis compares energy, fat, fiber, protein minerals and vitamins to recommended levels. An economic analysis compares feed cost per hundred weight of milk.

The average size and production of the top ten herds is 57 cows each milking at 24,145 pounds of milk per year. The top ten dairy herd analysis teaches: 1) what and how the top ten dairy producers are doing to be the best; 2) the data is used as benchmarks for other dairy producers in the county; and 3) dairy producers can compare nutritional consultants on performance.

The bottom line in the analysis is the comparison on who has the lowest feed cost per hundred weight. The lowest feed cost/cwt was \$2.73 compared to the highest at \$4.09. That's a \$1.36 difference or with 50 cows producing at 24,000 pounds of milk netted \$16,320 more.

Top ten herds were John & Linda Diederichs, John & John Zellner, Norm & Kathy Waldschmidt, Joe & Diane Thome, David Schultz, Steve & Cheryl Wessing, Eugene Duwell Family, Bee-Bow Acres, and Clarence & Sara Kraus.

How will Dairy Producers be Dairying in the Year 2000 or 2005?

Successful businesses are always planning for the future, or at least anticipating changes. Dairy 2020's On-Farm Profitability Committee gathered together dairy producers who plan to be dairy in the year 2000 or 2005 to ask them what their business will look like in 5 to 10 years. The group was a cross-section of small, medium and large herds, using conventional stall, free stall/parlor and grazing methods of farming.

The majority stated whether they would be grazing or confinement dairying, milking more cows, using a low-cost step approach to expand their herds. Flat or pit parlors will be more common.

Dairy producers will spend more time managing resources than actually milking. They will be more specialized: milking cows only or raising just forage for crops. They will use cost-effective consultants and have a higher quality of life with a better balance between work and family. As herd sizes climb, dairy producers in the future will be more people managers, acquiring human relations and personnel management skills for family and hired labor. Records and farm business analyses will be the key in making management decisions.

Overall, Wisconsin dairy producers will enjoy what they are doing and have a positive attitude. They will achieve their goals by networking, staying informed and reassessing their business structure periodically for optimum profitability.



...and to develop leadership skills for managing resources and planning for the future.

Agriculture remains the most hazardous occupation in the United States. About one agriculture related death occurs each week in Wisconsin.

East Wisconsin's Professional Landscapers Conference

Each year a workshop is held in Fond du Lac for professional grounds maintenance people. This year the workshop focused on vines and ground cover plants. Participants gained a working knowledge of plant selection, management techniques, pest control methods, and worker safety standards for pesticide application. UW-Extension County staff and specialists presented the information to the 72 people in attendance.

Crops and Soils Extension Supports More Than Farmers

Although agricultural UW-Extension programs have traditionally targeted farmers, this group of clientele by no means is the only one that benefits from our resources and knowledge. County agribusinesses often call on Extension for advice, educational support for client programs, as a non-biased party when disputes arise with clients, and for clarification of UW research results. Public educational institutions also call on UW-Extension for support. In the past year, Fond du Lac County UW-Extension faculty have taught and helped plan a soils management seminar for MPTC farm training students, assisted biology students at Goodrich High School with their senior projects, assisted several area FFA chapters with their projects and programs, talked to elementary school students about the importance of agriculture, and helped both professors and students at Marian College, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Fond du Lac, and Ripon College with information needs related to agriculture.

UWEX has also assisted other county departments when called upon. These include the county planning department, land conservation department, public nurses department, highway department, and the department of emergency government. Assistance is also routinely sought by federal agencies, such as ASCS and SCS. Thus, the scope of information and services available from the county UW-Extension office is by no means limited to the farm gates of the county. A significant amount of time and effort is applied to these many other clientele groups who seek our resources.

FOOD SAFETY, QUALITY AND HUMAN HEALTH

UWEX Family Living Information Shared Through Industry Newsletter

Working in cooperation with the Health Waves Department at Mercury Marine, UWEX is able to share current food and nutrition information to over 2,000 households through a bi-monthly newsletter. Articles are written by the Family Living Agent on health related nutrition topics. This is an excellent opportunity for getting reliable information to large numbers of people in a cost effective manner.

In addition to the newsletter project, the Family Living Agent provided a table top display on fat in the diet for a recent health and wellness promotion for Mercury Marine employees. Materials on the new food labeling, planning menus low in fat and cholesterol and tips for healthier eating were distributed to participants.

Tractor Safety Program Continues to Grow in Fond du Lac County

The tractor safety and certification program is coordinated each year by Fond du Lac County UW-Extension and encompasses a series of eight evening meetings plus a final Saturday afternoon for participants to take a written and tractor driving test. By Federal law, youth who are 14 or 15 years of age must be certified to operate a farm tractor and implement for employers other than their immediate parents or guardians. This year, over 40 first-year youth are enrolled



*Awareness of how
local and regional
actions contribute
to environmental
problems is
growing.*

in the program (the largest group in many years). Many of these participants do not need to be certified by law but their parents have used the program as means of stressing safe tractor and machine operation to their sons or daughters. A continuation of the program is offered to youth who come back for a 2nd, 3rd, or 4th year. These students learn about how an engine and various tractor and implement components work or should be adjusted.

This program embodies a true coordination effort between UW-Extension, adult 4-H leaders who help teach the course, ag implement dealers who host some of the meetings, and guest speakers who offer their expertise in the area of farm safety. Guest speakers include Gary Zielicke, a Fond du Lac County patrolman with the sheriff's department and a part time farmer, and members of the Mt. Calvary EMT unit. With the expected passage of current farm safety legislation before the state legislature, the tractor safety and certification program is expected to grow in both size and scope.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Master Gardeners

Fond du Lac County Master Gardeners are county residents who receive training in horticulture. In return, they provide volunteer hours for community service horticulture projects. Master Gardeners have been involved in a wide range of projects -- presentations on gardening in local and area schools, community service organizations, conduct leader and member training sessions for the 4-H plant and soil science project area, answer consumer questions in the horticulture area, develop and maintain flower garden beds at the UW Center in Fond du Lac and in the county.

Each year a training session is available for new and existing Master Gardeners. In 1994 the emphasis was on flowers and house plants. There are presently 39 Master Gardeners in Fond du Lac County.

Outdoor Education Conservation Field Days

Helping youth appreciate and protect the natural environment is important. Educational programs focused on water quality, forestry, and recycling. Educational programs were presented to ten classes of students in Fond du Lac on recycling and forestry. Sessions on forestry were presented to seven classes of sixth grade students at the Outdoor Education Camp Program. Over 300 Fond du Lac County students participated in an Outdoor Education Conservation Field Day at the Henry Hayes farm. Sessions were taught by the staff from UW-Extension, SCS, DNR, and private citizens.

Fox River Valley Woodland Owners Conference

The Woodland Owners Conference provided educational information to over 225 woodlot owners. The topics covered for the one day conference included firewood harvesting, lumber harvesting, maple syrup productivity, using tools safely, and Christmas tree management.



MANAGING SOCIETY'S WASTES

Businesses and communities have begun to accept environmental ethics as part of their operation.

Ag Clean Sweep a Big Success

Fond du Lac County's first Agricultural Clean Sweep was a big success. Held on September 9 at the fairgrounds livestock building, over 7500 pounds of ag chemical waste was collected. Of this, nearly 1600 pounds comprised cancelled or suspended products. Specific amounts included DDT - 280 lbs., Atrazine - 550 lbs., Arsenicals - 285 lbs., 2,4,5-T - 36 lbs., Pentachlorophenol - 34 lbs., Aldicarb - 35 lbs., Captan - 56 lbs., 2,4-D - 639 lbs., and Mercury - 17 lbs. These products will no longer pose a threat to the environment or human health.

Over 70 agricultural producers brought chemicals to the Ag Clean Sweep. Volunteers who helped run the Clean Sweep noted that many of the participants thanked them for the opportunity to properly dispose of the chemical waste. The Agricultural Clean Sweep was made possible from grant money provided by Fond du Lac County, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection.

Household Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep Program for Fond du Lac County Held at the North Fond du Lac Village Garage

Fond du Lac County conducted a Household Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep Program designed to allow households to dispose of hazardous waste products properly.

The UW-Extension office, along with community organization volunteers, were involved in the information and education for the program. Information was presented through newsletters, newspaper articles, radio programs, flyers, and presentations to service clubs and schools. School programs involved presentations to over 1,000 students on the importance of protecting the environment. Information stressed the importance of using and disposing of household products wisely, as well as alternative products.

550 households disposed of their household products at the event. Plans are being made for a program in 1995.



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Parenting The First Year
Nan Baumgartner, Family Living

"Parenting the First Year", a 12-part newsletter series of parenting advice was mailed monthly to first time mothers of babies born at St. Agnes Hospital and Ripon Medical Center beginning March and April of 1993. To date, over 1,000 parents have received the newsletter in Fond du Lac County. The project is a joint effort of 5 local Kiwanis clubs, St. Agnes Hospital in Fond du Lac County, Ripon Medical Center in Ripon and the UWEX office.

An evaluation of the project was conducted in spring of 1994 with parents who gave birth at St. Agnes. Two hundred questionnaires were distributed, and 125 returned, for a 62% return rate. The evaluations revealed impressive results:

- Eighty-four (84%) found the newsletter somewhat or much more useful than other written information they received from their hospital after the birth of their child.
- Seventy-seven percent (77%) said they became less angry when their baby was difficult.
- Sixty-seven (67%) said they talked to and played with their babies more.

One of the goals in distributing the newsletters was to influence positive behavior changes in new parents. Parents in Fond du Lac County benefitted from "Parenting the First Year" in four main ways.

1. Most parents report that they read every article in every issue, and keep them for later reference. The newsletter was rated as "very useful" more often than any other source of child-rearing information.
2. Almost three out of four respondents say an additional person, most often the child's father, regularly reads the newsletter.
3. Parents report that reading the newsletters leads them to change their child-rearing behaviors in five key areas.

- They:
- * provide more things to stimulate their baby (85%)
 - * are less angry when their baby is difficult (77%)
 - * talk to their baby more (67%)
 - * smile, kiss, and hug their baby more (58%)
 - * respond more quickly when their baby cries (62%)

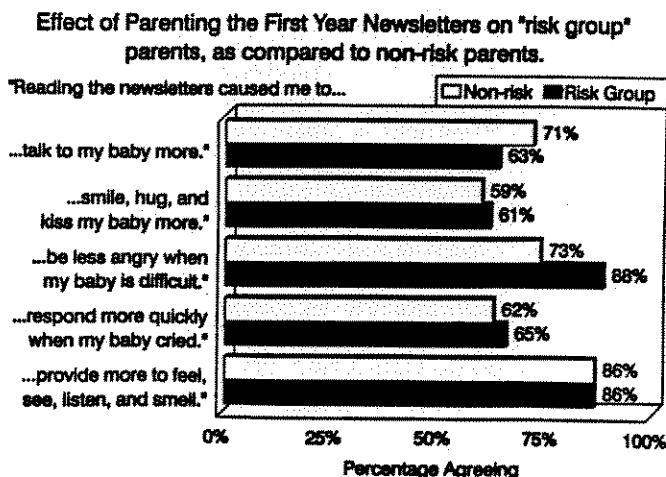
4. The newsletter may be reducing child abuse by bringing information about child development that runs counter to abusive beliefs and attitudes. It is an equally effective tool for all parents regardless of risk status. (See figure below) Some of the most positive results come

directly from the parents' comments written on the evaluation.

"This newsletter is great! I'm a first time mother and boy, did it ever help me. I had no clue for some instances. Thank you so very much! Keep sending to everyone having a baby."

"This newsletter is the best! It gives me information about (our daughter's) development when she's going through it - RIGHT WHEN WE NEED IT! It encourages stimulation, discourages pushing her before she's ready, etc. It really encourages interaction with the infant."

In addition to the success of the project from a positive child rearing perspective, the collaborative effort of Kiwanis, the hospital and UWEX cannot be overlooked. The project provides great opportunity for collaboration at its finest. The resources and expertise of each of the team players was integral to its success. As a result, the project is continuing. Additional funding has been secured through a grant from the Sisters of St. Agnes to send the newsletter to all parents not just first time birth parents.



East Central Radon Information Center
Barbara J. Roder, Family Living
James Hovland, Community Resource/Development

Since April 1991, Fond du Lac County University of Wisconsin-Extension, Public Health Department and the County Code Enforcement Office have functioned as a team making up the East Central Radon Information Center (ECRIC). UWEX agents -- Barbara Roder, Family Living and James Hovland, Community Resource -- coordinate education resources and teaching related to Radon. The Public Health Nurses Office is primarily responsible for administration of funding and sale of radon test kits. County Code Enforcement staff do home inspections when requested.

Funding to establish and maintain this Radon Information Center is through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), State of Wisconsin, Department of Health and Social Services. The center serves Calumet, Dodge, Green Lake, Fond du Lac, Sheboygan and Winnebago Counties. We are now entering the fifth year of a \$10,000 annual grant. Grant funds have been used for clerical support, educational materials, display materials, equipment, paid advertising and to offset the cost of radon gas test kits.

Fond du Lac County UWEX agents, James Hovland and Barbara Roder, share responsibilities for the educational arm of the ECRIC.

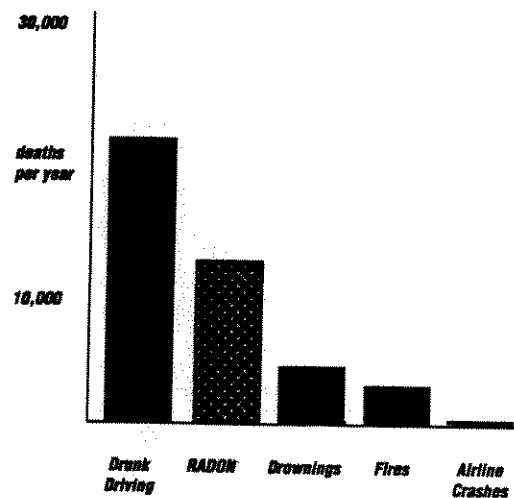
To date this has included:

- Conducting in-service introducing radon information and education resources to Public Health Offices in the ECRIC region. Resource packets provided to each office are updated annually. Public Health Nursing Offices report using these materials for staff training.
- Designing and preparing display visuals on radon risks and testing procedures. One set of visuals and a display board were distributed to each county Public Health Office in the region. Family Living and Community Resource/Development agents in each county were mailed information about the displays. To date, these displays have been used at over 30 sites, including fairs, home shows, senior sites, health fairs, and courthouse lobbies.
- Maintaining resources on radon including print literature, videos, teaching outline, research data including Wisconsin test results by county and by zip code.

- Promoting homeowner testing for radon with news articles, distribution of discount coupons, test kit giveaways, and use of paid advertisements.
- Teaching 1-hour workshops, "Radon - Should You Worry", to non-profit organizations and employee groups. Four workshops reaching 172 individuals have been taught since 1991.
- Responding to telephone inquiries on radon. An "800" telephone number is available to consumers outside the local calling area. Documentation indicates an average of 18 telephone calls requesting information on radon are handled by the UWEX office each month. Sixty percent of these were followed up with print information related to the radon issue.

Overall, the number of homeowner tests conducted in the six county region has almost doubled in the 4 years since 1991. Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Service records show an increase in home testing in every county.

**Radon is
estimated
to cause
thousands of
cancer deaths
in the U.S.
each year.**



Wander Country Roads in Fond du Lac County

James Hovland, Community Resource/Development

Tourism in Fond du Lac County is a vital part of the economy. In the past, each community would develop and promote tourism opportunities for their area. Each part of Fond du Lac County offers unique opportunities for tourists.

Discussions involving the Ripon, Waupun, and Campbellsport Chambers of Commerce and the Fond du Lac Convention & Visitors Bureau identified a need to market attractions for the different areas of the county. It was felt that rather than form another tourism organization, each chamber director should be contacted to discuss tourism promotion.

A meeting was scheduled with representatives from each of the organizations to talk about tourism promotion in Fond du Lac County. This effort resulted in:

1. Development of a rural/ag tourism promotional map for Fond du Lac County which involved public and private sectors working together.
2. Development of a promotional campaign, centered around the map.
3. Secure funding for the map and promotional campaign.
4. Continued interest in working together to develop additional tourism promotion.

The "Wander Country Roads In Fond du Lac County" tourism map features Farm

Markets, Specialty Shops, Country Foods, attractions, and activities; as well as parks, hiking and cross-country skiing areas in the county. Thirty thousand (30,000) maps were produced.

Funding for the development of the map came from Fond du Lac County, Fond du Lac, Ripon, Waupun and Campbellsport Chambers of Commerce.

Because of the success of this endeavor, the group has met to develop ideas and implement future tourism promotion projects for Fond du Lac County.

Family Nutrition Program

Barbara J. Roder, Family Living

The Family Nutrition Program is in the 4th year of funding in Fond du Lac County. Using grant monies to fund 3 paraprofessional nutrition educators and one 40% coordinator, nutrition information is distributed throughout the county at 12 agencies and organizations. Some teaching activities are "learn-while-you-wait", classes, and a bi-monthly newsletter.

Group classes on nutrition, food management and money management are taught in conjunction with other agency programs. For instance, Head Start parent education groups learn to cook and interact with their

children in "Kids in the Kitchen" classes held at Head Start centers. Residents of group shelters (homeless shelter, shelter from domestic abuse) learn to cook and make nutritious food choices in the shelter kitchen. Individuals entering the Department of Social Services JOBS Program receive an introduction to nutrition--food choices based on the Food Pyramid--as part of a required week-long motivation workshop.

In addition to enhancing cooking skills at shelter sites, residents may also attend a class titled "Food in Transition". This covers the importance of thinking ahead to provide for the food needs of the family when they move out of the shelter.

Children benefit from regular meals and freedom of worry about what and when they will eat. Each participant is given a list with examples of three days of possible meals that can be purchased for less than \$25.00 and that require little preparation or equipment. This menu is adapted to fit the families taste preferences.

Three new groups were added this year--WIC New Baby Classes, High School Teen Parent Class, and English as a Second Language class for Asian residents.

Fond du Lac County 4-H Leader Enrollment Program

Dave Tice, 4-H Youth Development Agent

The issue of child safety has become a large concern for parents, educators, and youth serving organizations. Since 1989, Wisconsin has had a significant increase in suspected maltreatment of individuals ages 18 and under. Myron D. Johnsrud, Administrator of Extension Services of USDA recommended that states address the needs of child abuse and the increasing incidence of reporting. The Wisconsin 4-H Program developed the Recruitment Orientation Placement Educational System to effectively address this need.

This system was implemented during the 1993-94 year as a new enrollment process for adults wishing to become 4-H volunteer leaders. All new and returning adults interested in becoming volunteer leaders were required to participate.

A 3-step enrollment process consisted of:

- filling out a volunteer application form giving authorization to do a criminal records background check
- attend a 2-hour, 4-H volunteer training session
- sign a list of 4-H volunteer behavior guidelines

A two-hour volunteer training was provided to all adults wishing to enroll as 4-H leaders. The focus of this training program was to increase volunteer knowledge of:

- their role as a volunteer in the 4-H organization

- the youth protection policy and how it relates to their volunteer role

- 4-H youth program philosophy of how volunteers positively work with youth.

Lecture, video, and small group discussion was led by UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development faculty.

A total of 10 training sessions were offered from November of 1993 until June 1994. Sessions were offered at a variety of locations within the county both at night and on Saturdays. An independent training program was offered from June 21 to July 8 to interested adults.

- * A total of 376 adults attended the 2 hour volunteer training

- * 86% of the adults who completed the volunteer application form attended the volunteer training session.

- * 47% of those who participated in the volunteer orientation training stated that the training was "very valuable" to them.

- * 74% of those who participated in the volunteer orientation stated that their knowledge about child abuse increased "some" or "greatly".

Numerous positive comments were given by participants.

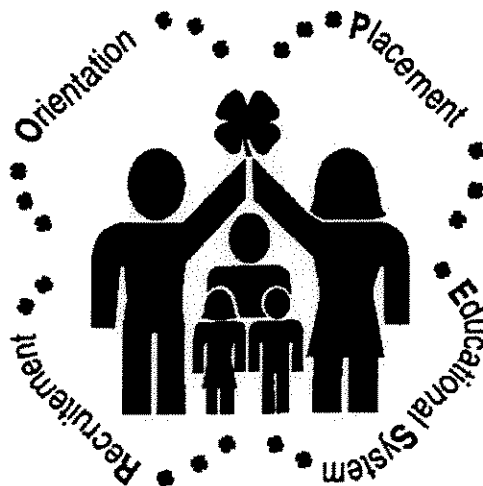
"For new leaders, it is helpful to them to learn about their roles."

"I think this orientation session was presented very well, with a lot of valuable information presented."

"I wish this program had been available 8 years ago, especially the 4-H structure."

"I'm glad to see this program. I was not familiar with 4-H when we joined and it's taken a few years to understand what is going on."

This program's main thrust is to prepare and provide volunteer leaders with effective tools in guiding, supporting and mentoring today's young people.



Aphanomyces Testing Project

Mike Rankin, Crops & Soil

Soil samples from 16 spring-seeded alfalfa fields were taken by this agent to determine the frequency of the aphanomyces pathogen in Fond du Lac County. The samples were sent to the UW Plant Pathogen Detection Clinic for analysis. Fifty percent of the samples tested positive for the disease pathogen. Armed with this information, an educational program was developed and presented at the Fond du Lac County Forage Council's Fall Twilight Meeting in September. The 52 participants at this meeting learned about the potential impact aphanomyces root rot can have on alfalfa establishment and its relationship with phytophthora root rot. The results from the local aphanomyces testing program were presented in slide and paper format. This information was later distributed through media and newsletter sources.

Following this agent's presentation at the Forage Council's Fall Twilight Meeting, a post-meeting evaluation was distributed to program participants and yielded the following results:

1. 100% indicated an increased understanding of aphanomyces root rot and the impact it has on alfalfa establishment.
2. 81% correctly identified that aphanomyces root rot is not considered in the calculation of an alfalfa

variety's disease resistance index as reported in variety performance trial literature.

3. 84% correctly identified that aphanomyces root rot is most likely to be a problem where phytophthora root rot is present and environmental or soil conditions favor activity of both diseases.

4. 100% indicated they will give more attention to aphanomyces root rot resistance ratings when selecting alfalfa varieties.

Because this sampling effort was somewhat innovative, this agent was asked to prepare a paper and slide presentation on the topic for the Wisconsin Fertilizer, Aglime, and Pest Management Conference in January, 1994. Additionally, two other local forage council's indicated they would initiate an aphanomyces root rot testing program in their respective counties.

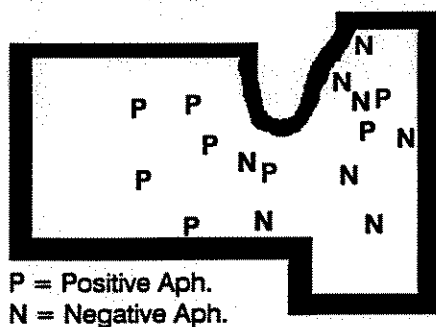


Figure 1. Distribution of aphanomyces test results in Fond du Lac County, 1993

Table 2. Aphanomyces test results from sixteen spring-seeded alfalfa fields in Fond du Lac County, 1993

Name	Soil Type	Aph ¹	Variety	Resistance ²
Averbeck	Kewaunee/Manawa	+	Many	-
Riedeman	Mendota SL	+	Trident II	MR
Schmitz-2	Poygan SCL	+	Blazer XL	R
Schmitz-3	Kewaunee SL	+	Blazer XL	R
Flood	Beecher SL	+	LegenDairy	R
Jaeger	Lomira SL	+	Pioneer 5373/5262	LR/S
B Costello	Pella SL	+	Appiause	S
Julka	Brookston/Dodge/ Lomira SL	+	DK133	R
G. Costello	Theresa SL	-	DK 122	S
Hodorff	Dodge/Pella SL	-	Many	-
Schmitz-1	Manawa SCL	-	Trident II	MR
Kelroy	Beecher SL	-	RC/ALF Mix	-
Diederichs	Theresa SL	-	DK 133	R
Burlingham	Kewaunee SL	-	DK 125	S
Gellings	Theresa SL	-	Magnum III - Wet	MR
Rankin	Kewaunee SL	-	RC/ALF Mix	-

^{1/} (+) = positive aphanomyces, (-) = negative aphanomyces

^{2/} R = Resistant, MR = Moderate Resistance, LR = Low Resistance, S = Susceptible

Improving Cow Comfort *Irv Possin, Dairy and Livestock*

In order to provide greater cow comfort and improved environment, two Fond du Lac County dairy producers were selected to install and demonstrate using sand for bedding or using rubber dust-filled tube mattresses, bedded lightly with shavings and straw in a conventional stall barn. The literature and/or research basis for using sand and rubber dust tube mattresses was obtained from attending the Third International Dairy Housing Conference in February, 1994. Upon successfully installing and operating sand and tube mattresses in stall barns, a spring barn meeting was held

at each farm. A freestall dairy operation was also selected to demonstrate rubber dust-filled mattresses.

Over 75 dairy producers and agri-business leaders attended the barn meetings to view the new technology.

Three veterinary clinics are recommending sand as a low-cost, inorganic bedding that does not support bacterial growth and provides greater cow comfort in stall barns.

Six dairy producers have installed PVC pipe bedding keepers with 3 to 4 inches of sand in the bed. All are surprised and pleased at how much the cows like the sand, have seen a slight decrease in herd somatic cell

count and an increase in milk production.

Three freestall herds have installed rubber dust mattresses as a result of the demonstration.

One hundred percent (100%) of the farmers attending the spring barn meeting are concerned about cow comfort and intend to make stall improvements.

As a result of the demonstration, two weekly agricultural newspapers and one monthly agricultural magazine have covered stories on improving cow comfort and environment in stall barns using sand bedding or rubber dust tube mattresses.

Pasture Hog Farrowing Video Produced

Irv Possin, Dairy and Livestock

A 20-minute video was produced featuring the production and management requirements for farrowing hogs on pasture.

Pasture farrowing is a low-input method of getting started or expanding in the swine business. Energy cost is minimal since gilts are farrowed in June and July, eliminating heating, lighting and ventilation.

The video discusses the advantages and disadvantages of pasture farrowing. It explains the husbandry of working with a sow in a natural environment. Total hours of labor per sow may be slightly less for pasture

farrowing than conventional. But the hours of work per day farrowing on pasture can be quite long. Timeliness in processing baby pigs, breeding, moving gilts to pasture and bedding is crucial.

Pasture farrowing also provides a healthier environment for both the operator and hogs. There is better air exchange, no manure pit gasses, and less dust and airborne organisms to combat.

Pasture farrowing also fits well into a year-round confinement hog operation. Sows coming off pasture are bred in groups to later farrow in a confinement barn. The advantages are "all-in" and "all-out" farrowing, working with

experienced sows over nervous gilts in crates, and year-round income.

Copies of the video have been sent to University of Wisconsin Agricultural Colleges, Wisconsin Pork Producers, 22 Vo-Ag instructors, 27 county agricultural agents and the sustainable agricultural library in the Department of Agriculture.

A Pasture Hog Farrowing Twilight Meeting was held attracting 18 producers and agri-business representatives. Among the group, 55% were engaged in farrowing on pasture. Four of the eighteen were planning to start up next year.

Realities & Choices

A New Educational Agenda

Cooperative



Extension:



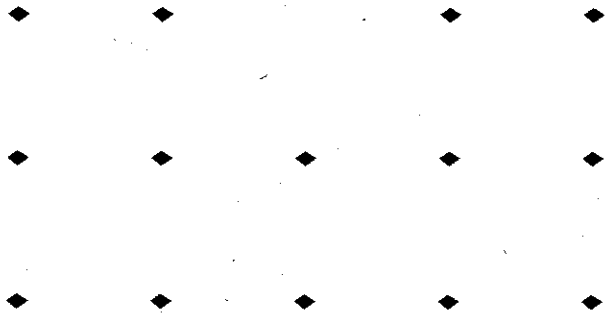
enriching people

with knowledge,

perspective,

skills and

aspirations.



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