

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES



Growing Hispanic Population Motivates Group Study in Mexico – Diana Hammer Tscheschlok

On July 15th, the Fond du Lac Area Association of Commerce held an AC University session on Hispanic Employee Recruitment & Retention. As an introduction to the topic, Fond du Lac Area Association of Commerce Vice President Terri Fleming and I put together some state and local information about Hispanic folks in Wisconsin. Here are some of the facts we shared with the audience of 22:

- ⊗ Fond du Lac County is ranked #14 in the state for number of Hispanic residents.
- ⊗ 40% of WI Hispanics were born in WI. 40% were born in another country.
- ⊗ 66% of WI Hispanics are of Mexican ancestry.
- ⊗ 46% of WI Hispanics speak Spanish at home and also speak good English. 33% speak English at home.
- ⊗ Half of Hispanic workers in Fond du Lac County earn less than \$20,000/year.
- ⊗ The unemployment rate for Hispanic men and women in WI is double that of the state as a whole.

As the Hispanic population increases in our state and county, 14 community members will be joining Marie Stafford, Denise Retzleff and me on a cultural immersion experience in Cuernavaca, Mexico, this month. We will study the economic and social impacts of immigration, globalization, international trade, and Mexican culture to be more informed about the heritage of the largest ethnic minority group in the county and more understanding of diversity matters in our workplaces and schools. We look forward to sharing our experiences with you upon our return.

References: Racial & Ethnic Diversity Census, 2000; UW Applied Population Lab, 2001; University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Employment and Training Institute Employer Diversity Drill Downs from Census 2000; Census 2000.

AGRICULTURAL PROFITABILITY



Growing Season Hampered by Wet June – Mike Rankin

Another year.....another record rainfall month. It was May in 2004 and now June in 2008 when heavy and frequent rains to the tune of over 10 inches pounded area crop fields. The visual dramatic impact was the acres of flooded crops. The less dramatic impact was the long term effects on surviving crops and fields that will remain through the remainder of this growing season and beyond. Falling into the latter category included the excessive loss of soil nitrogen, the increased risk for disease pressure, slow plant root development, a delayed hay harvest, the loss of soil and nutrients off fields and into surface waters, and delayed weed control. Couple these factors with acres that were flooded but not replanted and you have total losses that will probably approach \$30 million in value when the final chapter is written. UW-Extension programs have again focused on ways to make the best of a bad situation. In addition, we have worked with county, state, and federal agencies to assess losses and identify needs.



HUMAN HEALTH & NUTRITION



Back to Basics: The Art of Food Preservation – Nan Baumgartner

When gardens overflow with red, plump tomatoes hanging on the vine, when the farmers market is abundant with fresh produce, and when crates of peaches, pears and other fruits arrive in stores, it's time to think "food preservation." The tradition of "putting up" fruits and vegetables is making a come back as more and more families take an interest in ways to cut costs around food. In response, UW-Extension was asked by two local groups to do a presentation on the Basics of Food Preservation. Thirty-five individuals participated in the program held at the Fond du Lac Public Library. Participants learned about the three main methods of food preservation – canning, freezing and drying, the need to follow research tested recipes and the safety issues around each of the food preservation methods. New food preservation bulletins were shared and are available to view or purchase at www.foodsafety.wisc.edu. A repeat of the workshop will be offered at the North Fond du Lac Public Library on September 11, 2008.

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