

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

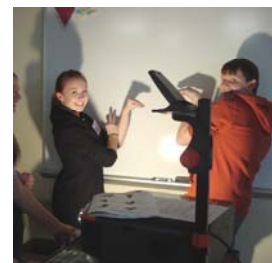


Fond du Lac County 4-H Hosts First Annual Leaders Around the Lake 4-H Youth and Adult Volunteer Conference – Denise Retzleff

4-H youth and adult leaders gained new skills and gathered ideas to strengthen their clubs by participating in the first annual Leaders Around the Lake Volunteer Conference. Held at UW Fond du Lac on January 26, 67 4-H volunteers participated in sessions on strengthening community service learning experiences, learning about Facebook, discovering new science curriculum to use with 4-H projects, gathering ideas for fun and easy club meetings, getting tips on interviewing and completing applications, and finding out about new 4-H opportunities.

Though there are occasional opportunities for 4-H leaders to attend state or regional training, this conference was different in that it was held locally, thus offering volunteers a chance to learn with limited travel and cost. The name of the conference, "Leaders Around the Lake," was adopted because the conference specifically targeted 4-H volunteers from the counties surrounding Lake Winnebago - Fond du Lac, Outagamie, Calumet and Winnebago. Lois Ronca, a new parent in the Wee Bee 4-H club, says, "The conference really helped me see the breadth of the 4-H program and better understand the various opportunities." After attending the community service workshop, Jeanette Boda of Helping Hands 4-H says she has new ideas on how members can use reflection techniques after they participate in service projects so they gain even better understanding of the impact of their involvement.

A central part of the 4-H mission is that youth and adults work in partnership. This meant that planning for the event, beginning last spring, involved teens and adults from all four counties. The initial meeting was in-person to get to know each other, but all other decisions were made through phone conferences and e-mail exchanges. Cindy Koffman, volunteer from Welcome 4-H, says, "This was a great way to meet because we could do it from home and it saved time and gas money." Jeanna Zuelke, youth planning committee member from Green Valley 4-H, says, "I continue to be amazed at all the awesome opportunities that 4-H has to offer. To be involved in something brand new for our county and other counties was a really cool experience. It was something a little different that I haven't really been involved with before. It's something I hope will continue in the future and pick up even more involvement for current and future 4-H families."



Each of the four participating counties will have an opportunity to serve as host, with next year's conference being held in Outagamie County. Partial funding for this conference was provided by Wisconsin 4-H Foundation.



Left: Cindy Koffman and Jeanna Zuelke welcome participants to the first annual 4-H Youth and Adult Leader Conference hosted by Fond du Lac County 4-H at UW Fond du Lac. Background: Meagan Roltgen, 4-H Junior Leader, looks on as she serves as morning hostess.

Upper Right: Kelsey Cobb and Joey Dabringer, both of South Byron 4-H, participate in the Science is Fun session at the 4-H Youth and Adult Leader Conference held in Fond du Lac. They were experimenting with light.

HUMAN HEALTH & NUTRITION



Sisters in Health: Outreach to a Diverse Audience through Nutrition Education – Shelley Tidemann

Fond du Lac County is growing in diverseness. The largest growing ethnic minority in Fond du Lac County is the Hispanic population, an estimated 3% of the county population. The Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP) has seen a consistent increase over the years of Hispanic participants participating in youth after school programming and Head Start centers. In 2007, the Family Resource Center, which serves Fond du Lac County, contacted WNEP to investigate the possibility of having nutrition classes for their Hispanic Mothers group that meets at the Family Resource Center.

WNEP approached the request through use of the Sisters in Health curriculum from Cornell University. There were initial challenges when reaching out to a new audience, but the new relationships developed with the Hispanic mothers group have been beneficial. Five participants with children that ranged from 3 months old to 5 years of age chartered the Sisters in Health group, which currently has a membership that ranges from 6 – 12 participants. The group originally met twice a month for 7 months, but now meets monthly. The Sisters in Health has been meeting since November 2007. The nutrition education focus is on increasing vegetable consumption in their families' diets, as well as learning how to read food labels, unit pricing, plus food safety. These skills have been addressed in addition to the Sisters in Health curriculum topics.

The WNEP program evaluated the effectiveness of the educational outreach being provided by using the Sisters in Health evaluation tool and also a focus group session led by the Fond du Lac County UWEX Community Resource Development Educator.

The focus group evaluation was done one year after beginning the program. Results from the program evaluation and focus group session found participants repeatedly responding that they strongly agreed that because of the Sisters in Health program, they felt their families were eating more fruits and vegetables as they (participants) know how to select, prepare and serve a better variety of vegetables and fruits. The Sisters in Health group is requesting more programming from WNEP and UWEX in the area of parenting. The Family Resource Center considers the Sisters in Health group a great success in reaching out to the Hispanic community. A front page article in the Fond du Lac Reporter on Hispanic outreach was done and our Sisters group members were featured and a photo appeared. This collaboration between our two agencies has grown and has expanded WNEP's abilities to provide outreach to a more diverse clientele.

AGRICULTURAL PROFITABILITY



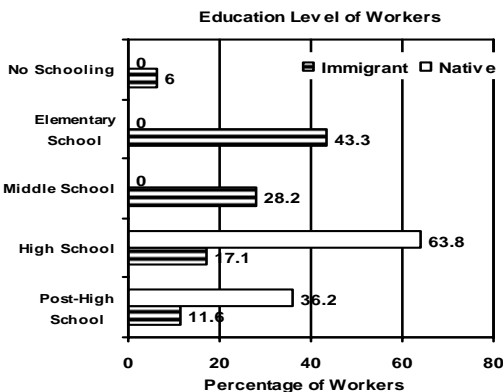
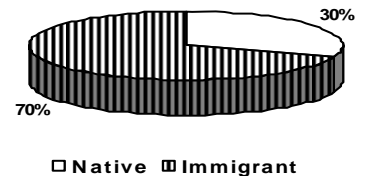
Hispanic Labor is Becoming Integral Part of Dairy Industry – Paul Dyk

The dairy producer's role is changing. Whereas a producer at one time did all the manual labor on the farm himself, now he spends more of his time managing employees. There have been a few studies that have looked at these changes on dairy farms, but almost all have come from the employer's perspective. This past summer (2007), I wanted to look more closely at these changes from the employee level. Collaborators on the project included Jill

Harrison from the Department of Rural Sociology (UW), Tina Kohlman (UWEX Sheboygan), and Brent Valentine (moderator & chief information surveyor). We wanted to look at the demographics, goals, and working conditions of employees on dairy farms in this part of the

state. Over a couple of months, Brent visited **34 dairies** and interviewed **309 employees** in Fond du Lac and Sheboygan Counties.

Who are the Workers?



So what did we find?

About 70% of the employees on these farms are Hispanic, and 87% were male. For those who have been watching the industry over the last few years, the shift to Hispanic employees has been very apparent. The agribusiness community has adapted to this change through bilingual literature and labels. This survey is one of the first to actually put a number on the impact of this Hispanic labor.

Education levels. There is quite a difference in the educational levels between Immigrant (Hispanic) and Native (English Speaking) workers. About 63% of the Native workers had started or completed high school and 37% had some educational training beyond high

school. For Hispanic workers, 6% had no schooling while another 43% had only completed or started primary (1-6) school.

Wages. On average the native workers are making more money than the non-Hispanic workers; this is primarily due to the fact that Hispanics are in the "starting" jobs on the farm (milking). When looking at just milkers, over 30% are making above \$10/hour.

Other. The other 35 questions on the survey give an interesting look at the dairy industry from the perspective of the dairy employee. Full results of the survey can be found at the UW-Extension website at: <http://fonddulac.uwex.edu/ag/dairy.html>.

	Immigrant	Native
	7	7
\$7-\$8	30	4
\$8-\$9	33	6
\$10-\$11	20	29
\$11-\$12	7	18
\$12 plus	3	35

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