

## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES



### 4-H Rocket Team Takes Off - Denise Retzleff

The Fond du Lac County 4H “Swirling Tornadoes” rocket team participated in the Rockets for Schools program held on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at Spaceport Sheboygan, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. The event was attended by over 800 middle and high school students from Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. A big part of the event is young people interacting with kids their own age from other schools across Wisconsin and the surrounding states. This was the first year for Fond du Lac to have a 4-H team.

Fond du Lac 4-H received an \$1,800 grant from the Milwaukee School of Engineering to fund the team. This grant encourages middle and high school age girls to learn about science and technology. Members included Eleanore Mueller, Shannon Ramirez, Mindy Fude, Sarah Hoepfner, Courtney Koss, Katie Murphy, and Jenny Rose Hawk. Katie Murphy says, “I decided to join the rocket team because for the last couple of years my dad and I have gone to Blue Harbor to watch the launch. I always wanted to be in the launch but my school is too small to have a team. When I heard that 4-H and MSOE were sponsoring an all girls rocket team for Fond du Lac County, I was very excited! I knew from that moment on that I was going to be on the team.” The team was advised by Carol Dahlinger, John Hawk and Anna Haen.



For two months the team worked to build a class one rocket to launch at the event. An experiment testing three different kinds of packaging and light bulbs was created to fly in the rocket. In addition to building the four foot rocket, the team had to create both a Power Point and poster board presentation, and take a written test. (continued on back page)



### The Ultimate Money Quest – Shelley Tidemann

How do you get the attention of children who live in a high-speed, high-tech, consumer society? How can financial literacy be taught and practiced by our youth?

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, 38 middle school-age youth gathered for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ultimate Money Quest, at the UW-Fond du Lac Campus. Their mission began at 9:00 a.m. and concluded at 3:30 p.m.

Fifty-nine percent of the youth came from the City of Fond du Lac. Outlying cities/towns represented were: Campbellsport, Van Dyne, Malone, Horicon, Waupun, Rosendale, Eden, Mt Calvary, Elkhart Lake, Adell, Fox Lake and Waldo.

Forty-six percent of the participants were girls and 54% were boys. As far as what ages participated: 15% of the youth were 5<sup>th</sup> graders; 33% were 6<sup>th</sup> graders; 39% were 7<sup>th</sup> graders; and 13% were 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

What were these youth in pursuit of you might ask? Well, their search focused on understanding the value of money and how they use it. Youth attending the Ultimate Money Quest stretched their financial literacy knowledge in regards to understanding money concepts – knowledge that will help them to make better decisions on spending, saving, and taking care of their money now, and into the future. The Ultimate Money Quest youth participated in interactive, fun, and energizing hands-on sessions. (continued on back page)



## AGRICULTURAL PROFITABILITY



### Radio Frequency Identification at the Fond du Lac County Fair – Paul Dyk

In 2008, the Fond du Lac County Fair implemented new technology to help identify and track livestock. The market livestock committee of Fond du Lac County with the help of Paul Dyk, Dairy and Livestock Agent for UW Extension, used radio frequency identification (RFID) tags to identify market beef, swine, goat, and lamb entries. At the initial weigh-in for each species, animals were tagged with these special RFID tags. The RFID tags emit a radio frequency that can be read with specially designed palm readers. Each animal is assigned a unique ID number. At the time of final weigh-in, the animals could be identified quickly with the palm reader and data could

be edited on the palm. Fond du Lac is one of 10 counties pioneering the use of this technology in their county fair in Wisconsin. The implementation of this technology exposed over 150 youth and their families to important technology that tracks individual animals. The identification and tracking of individual animals is the key to responding to potential biosecurity concerns like Mad Cow disease and TB (tuberculosis) in cattle.

#### 4-H Rocket Team Takes Off - continued

During the two day conference the team learned about aviation and space flight by participating in workshops and viewing presentations by many organizations including NASA, EAA and the Air National Guard.

Katie Murphy says, "I will definitely do this again. I am counting down the days until next year's launch. I am very excited and I hope that we can get more girls and can do a class 2 rocket!"

*Photo: Mindy Fude and Shannon Ramirez, members of the Fond du Lac County 4H "Swirling Tornadoes" rocket team, carry their rocket in preparation for launch in Sheboygan at the Rockets for Schools program.*

#### The Ultimate Money Quest – continued

The keynote address was "The Power of Investing instead of Spending" which had youth thinking about how one thinks about money and the power of saving, especially now when one is young. In addition, all youth attended the following sessions: **What Change?** – Learning how to count change; **Using a Debit/Checking Account** – Using a checkbook register and balancing a register; **The Price is Right** – What influences our choices; **What is the Federal Reserve Bank** – Overview of the Federal Bank of Chicago and what goes on there; **ID Theft Prevention** – Learning techniques on how to keep ones identity safe and safe use of the internet; and **Financial Jeopardy** – There is more to it than just a face on our coin and currency. Learn why our coin and currency are what it is today. The day included an opportunity to participate in a Reality Store simulation, which involved setting up a virtual savings account, purchasing a virtual piece of clothing, giving to charities, and decision-making in the Reality Store. On top of all that, they enjoyed healthy snacks and a great noon meal.

Some of the comments gathered from the participant evaluations were: What did you like most about this program? The fate/reward cards and the reality store; Learning how to save money!; Identity Theft part; the Federal Reserve Bank program. Keep this next year along with identity theft; This was fun and the learning (8 responses); The cool and fun activities and what you all learn! Follow up evaluation is planned for participants from both last year's and this year's Money Quest programs.

The Ultimate Money Quest is a collaborative effort of UW-Extension Fond du Lac County; St. Agnes Hospital Foundation; several financial institutions – Citizens First Credit Union, Fox Valley Savings Bank, Guaranty Bank, Marine Credit Union, M&I Bank, US Bank; and Wisconsin Women for Agriculture Rock River Chapter.

The mission to teach money skills to youth can be complex. It makes sense to add to a youth's knowledge and skills base in the area of financial literacy as learning to manage money wisely and well is a lifelong endeavor.

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