

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

4-H Happens Beyond a Member's Backyard – Denise Retzleff

Where can you participate in a simulation of a space walk? Where do you try parasailing? Where do you witness Congress in action and learn how a bill becomes a law? How do you retrace Paul Revere's ride? When do you personally meet with your US Senator and discuss the value of 4-H to you and your community? Each of these learning experiences happen through 4-H when a member wants to dig deeper into the program.

- Members participate in Space Camp held in Alabama where they learn about the history of the US space program and the discoveries made through space exploration.
 - Youth apply and interview to attend Wisconsin 4-H Youth Conference held at UW Madison where they experience living on campus as well as many new hands-on 4-H project related activities.
 - 4-H delegates are selected to represent their county at Citizenship Washington Focus in Washington DC. They see the US government, including the judicial, executive and legislative branches up close.
 - Young teens participate in the American Spirit week long program where they travel to the east coast and learn about early American history and visit famous landmarks such as the site where the pilgrims landed.
 - Older 4-H teens meet in person with their congressmen in Washington DC to explain the positive difference that 4-H brings to a community. The youth are participants in National 4-H Conference. This annual event also provides an opportunity for youth from across the nation to engage in discussion with National 4-H staff on the future of 4-H programming.
- Through these opportunities 4-H members explore, learn, discuss, engage, and move out of their comfort zone as they develop skills and knowledge to better themselves and the communities they represent.



Photo: Katelyn Santy, Fond du Lac County 4-H member (far left) and other Wisconsin delegates to National 4-H Conference stand in front of the US Capitol in Washington D.C.

Ultimate Money Quest – Shelley Tidemann

If you are a middle school age child or know someone this age, then the Ultimate Money Quest is an opportunity to check out this summer.

UW-Extension, St. Agnes Hospital Foundation, Marine Credit Union, Citizens First Credit Union, Guaranty Bank, Fox Valley Savings Bank, Associated Bank, M&I Bank and US Bank are coordinating a day devoted to learning about financial literacy for middle school age youth. This collaboration is in its second year offering this educational opportunity in the Fond du Lac area. The Ultimate Money Quest will be held on June 12th at UW-Fond du Lac. Youth attending will have an opportunity to increase their financial literacy skills in the areas of wants and needs, consumer decisions, money matters for youth, credit, investing using the stock market and understanding the operations of banks and credit unions, plus they will participate in a Reality Store Simulation.

Youth attending will be involved with interactive learning that will give them a reality check about financial decisions they will make in their lives now and in the future.

Financial Literacy education for youth has been identified as an area in which the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, standards for teaching personal finance in high schools in Wisconsin have been developed. Educating youth to become financially literate gives them skills and tools to help make better financial decisions throughout their lives.

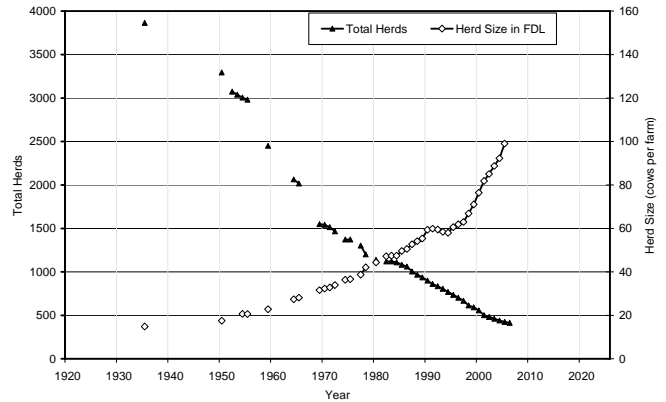
AGRICULTURAL PROFITABILITY

Fond du Lac Dairy Industry Keeps Changing – Paul Dyk

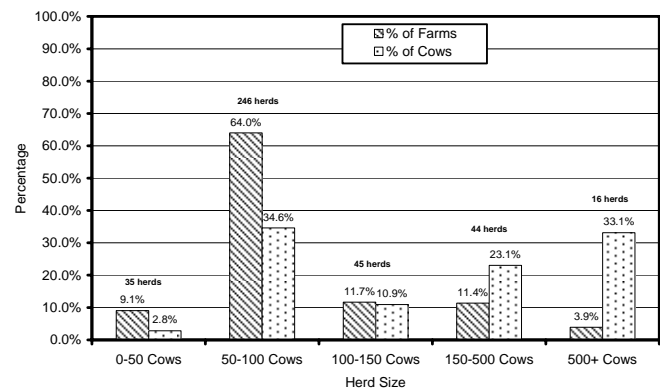
To assess the situation of the Fond du Lac Dairy Industry, records from the last 80 years were summarized. As seen in the table to the left, the number of dairies in Fond du Lac has fallen from a high of 3866 herds in 1935 to less than 400 today. This has been coupled with an increase in herd size from 15 cows/herd in 1935 to today's average herd size of 100 cows. Interestingly these trends in herd numbers and herd size are not just a product of the last decade but have been happening for at least 80 years.

The trends in **average** herd size are only part of the story. A phone survey with the agribusiness community brought to light the large differences in herd size within this average. In the table to the left, it can be seen that although a large percentage (73%) of the dairies are less than 100 cows, they represent only 36% of the cows in Fond du Lac. In fact, one third of the cows in Fond du Lac are located on 16 farms (3.9%). This bipolar nature is mirrored in most counties in NE Wisconsin and provides challenges for all in the dairy industry.

Herd Information for FDL



Herd Information on FDL Herds (386 herds)



FOND DU LAC COUNTY UW-EXTENSION

Room 227, Administration/Extension Building
 400 University Drive
 Fond du Lac, WI 54935
 Phone: (920) 929-3170/748-7565/324-2879
 Website: <http://fonddulac.uwex.edu>

Nan Baumgartner, Family Living Educator
 Paul Dyk, Dairy and Livestock Agent
 Position Vacant, Community Resource Dev. Agent
 Mike Rankin, Crops and Soils Agent
 Denise Retzleff, 4-H Youth Development Educator
 Shelley Tidemann, Family Living Educator