

## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

### Positive Parenting Workshop: Effective Parenting Tools – Nan Baumgartner

Whether gardening, woodworking or cooking, we need and use different tools to build and create. Parenting too relies on different tools to nurture, teach and guide. And the more tools a parent has, the more effective they will be. Most parents will identify the “time-out” as a tool they use regularly, but also indicate that it doesn’t work in every situation. That’s why in this workshop parents have an opportunity to explore a variety of tools to help them in their important role as parents. Discussion focuses on three main types of parenting strategies: 1) **Nurturance and Prevention Tools** – what to do when children are **not** misbehaving that will keep problems from occurring; 2) **Guidance Tools** – what to do when a problem occurs to help manage conflict and teach children responsibility; and 3) **Consequence Tools** – what to do when other tools don’t work and children misbehave. The workshop is being presented to parents with the Even Start program and male caregivers (dads, uncles, grandpas, etc.) with the Head Start program.

## AGRICULTURAL PROFITABILITY

### Fond du Lac County Agronomy Web Site Celebrates 10-year Anniversary – Mike Rankin

It all started in 1996 with the thought that this World Wide Web thing might catch-on and what a convenient way it would be to both offer and obtain information. Armed with some primitive software and free server space from the University of Wisconsin, the Fond du Lac County Agronomy web site was launched. The basic premise of the site has not changed in the past ten years.....to provide east central Wisconsin crop producers and agribusinesses with both timely and timeless information that will aid in the profitable production of crops. It has proved invaluable in that role. What has changed significantly in the past ten years have been the number of users, especially among farmers. It has now become the primary method to obtain alfalfa forage quality information in the spring, corn silage whole plant moisture testing results in the fall, and quality tested hay auction prices in the winter. Further, information from the past ten years is archived such that the hundreds of web based articles and fact sheets are accessible at any time. This makes it possible to reference information to clients and have them obtain it immediately from their home or farm office without us needing to send it out or the client having to make a trip to our office. Yep, this World Wide Web might just be here to stay.

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

### East Central Radon Information Center – Jim Hovland

Since 1991, Fond du Lac County UW-Extension has been partnering with the Fond du Lac County Department of Public Health as the East Central Radon Information Center serving Fond du Lac, Calumet, Sheboygan, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties. UW-Extension provides the lead role in education and the Dept. of Public Health handles testing and mediation for radon.

To spread the word about radon, encourage testing and mitigation, the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services created a network of regional Radon Information Centers (RICS). These centers provide radon information and consultation to residents.

A radon educational display was developed for the Fond du Lac County Home Builders Show and the summer Parade of Homes. The display focused on indoor air quality with an emphasis on radon construction techniques for new homes. The display highlighted the importance of testing your home for radon. East Central Radon Information Center partnered with a builder that built a house for the 2006 Fond du Lac County Home Builders Parade of Homes. The home featured radon reducing construction techniques in the home. People attending the Parade of Homes viewed the radon construction techniques.

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