

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES



5th Graders Give Back to the Community – Denise Retzleff

Fifth graders from Boys & Girls Club impacted the community while realizing for themselves that 10 year olds can make a difference. They painted door hangers that the Senior Center delivered to nursing home residents who do not have family members in the area. They learned the purpose of the Humane Society and that the shelter had recently acquired a large number of cats that would need to be put up for adoption. To help encourage adoption of the cats, the children wrote mini advertisements that were hung on the cat cages. The children cut out and decorated hundreds of hearts that the Volunteer Center will use in their thank you's to local volunteers. They prepared a complete meal for a 12 member flood disaster relief team that was working in Fond du Lac.

From the end of June until early August, 29 children participated in the service learning program led by Denise Retzleff, 4-H Youth Development Educator. Children explored the concepts of "community" and "service learning."

In the reflection activities at the end of the program, children reviewed how they had learned and used decision-making, communication, cooperation and responsibility to carry out their service projects. Each of the youth felt proud of the work they had done and agreed that 5th graders can make a positive difference in the community. Cherish Billings summed it up best, "You get to help others even when you are little." MetLife Foundation and Wisconsin 4-H Foundation provided funds to support this summer service learning program.



Right: Chad Stowe shows off a completed cat advertisement that was created by 5th graders. The signs were hung on the cages of over 100 cats that were put up for adoption at the Humane Society.



Left: Hundreds of hearts were cut out and decorated by 5th graders to be sent as thank you's to volunteers from the Volunteer Center.



Fond du Lac County Celebrates Money Smart Week – Shelley Tidemann

Open your calendars to October and pencil in Money Smart Week for October 12 - 18, 2008. Why should you be excited about Money Smart Week?

First, it is a collaborative effort of financial institutions, schools, non-profit organizations and government agencies joining together to provide a week of classes and events aimed to help consumers make informed choices when managing their personal finances. The activities and events are free and open to the public with no selling of products/services. In the state there will be roughly 800 free classes; in Fond du Lac, there are approximately 50 free classes being offered on many different financial topics for people of all ages and walks of life. Twenty-three partners have been working together to plan and hold Money Smart Week in Fond du Lac. The Fond du Lac group will be hosting a meeting for all Money Smart Week Committees throughout the state on October 17th with special guest, Charles Evans, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

Second, Fond du Lac County has been selected to be one of 14 local efforts in the state that will have the heaviest concentration of activities by the Governors Council on Financial Literacy, Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions; plus the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago has provided resources for the effort. This is the second year Fond du Lac County has been involved with Money Smart Week. It is the third year for Money Smart Week in Wisconsin.

Finally, you will want to look at all the classes being offered and find one that peaks your interest. To see the calendar of events, you can pick up a calendar from the UW-Extension Office, Fond du Lac Public Library, lobby of the City/County Building, or you can go online at: www.moneysmartWI.org to see the calendar.



AGRICULTURAL PROFITABILITY



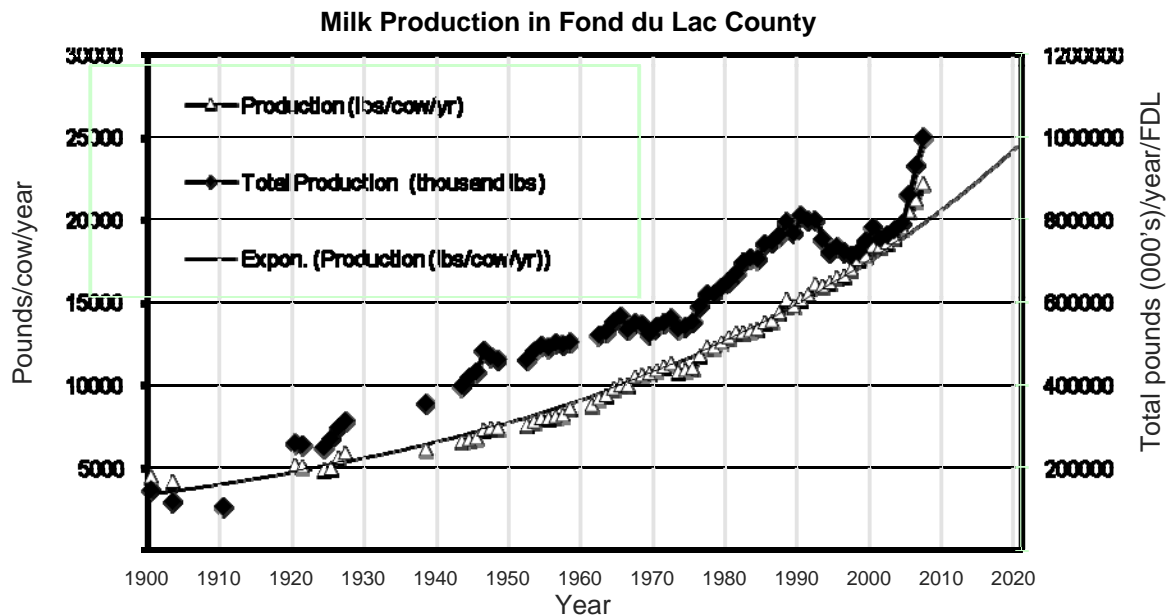
One Billion Pounds of Milk from Fond du Lac County – Paul Dyk

One billion pounds of milk. That is the amount of milk produced by Fond du Lac County dairy producers this past year. That is 1176 gallons for every person in Fond du Lac County (about 100,000 people). This is the most milk ever produced by the dairy producers in this county. With today's milk price, the value of this milk is about \$170 million.

There are two factors that have led to the 1 billion pound milestone, increasing cow numbers and increasing productivity (more milk from each cow). In the last few years we have seen a turnaround in cow numbers in Fond du Lac County. We are currently at 45,000 cows; it is very reasonable to think that we will be over 50,000 in the next couple of years. New large startups and increasing herd sizes have accounted for this increase. In addition to increasing cow numbers, milk production is at an all time high of 22,200 lbs per cow per year.

Where will Fond du Lac County be in 5 years? Extending current trends could put us at 25,000 lbs. of milk per cow per year and we may reach 55,000 cows. This would be more than a 35% increase in total production by 2013.

Paul Dyk, UW-Extension Dairy and Livestock Agent, has been working to facilitate this continuing growth. Major projects that Paul is leading include the Midwest Manure Symposium and the Dairy Employee Feeder Module. The Symposium will focus on bringing new technology to producers to handle and process manure, the number one obstacle to continued growth in the dairy industry. The Feeder Module will focus on training of employees that feed cattle. Feed prices are more than 50% of a dairy farms expenses and feeding accurately and consistently is a key to profitability.



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