

## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

### Fond du Lac County Celebrates Money Smart Week – Shelley Tidemann

Open your calendars to October and pencil in Money Smart Week for October 7-13. 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 500 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-six partners have been working together to plan and hold Money Smart Week in Fond du Lac.

Second, Fond du Lac County has been selected to be one of 12 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 first year Fond du Lac County has been involved with Money Smart Week. It is the second 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, Job Center, US Bank, Fox Valley Savings Bank, M&I Bank, National Exchange Bank, Fond du Lac Credit Union, or you can see the calendar on line at: [www.moneysmartwi.org](http://www.moneysmartwi.org).

### 4-H and Boys & Girls Club Increase Youth Access to Afterschool Programs – Denise Retzleff

The Boys & Girls Club of Fond du Lac and UW-Extension 4-H are giving 100 young people in our community the opportunity to participate in afterschool programs through mini-grants from National 4-H Council and the JCPenney Afterschool Fund. Fond du Lac County received a \$50,000 mini-grant to increase access to safe, enriching places to go during weekday out-of-school hours for youth who are not in an afterschool program or are on the verge of leaving due to their family's economic situation. Programs are held Monday through Friday at Chegwin, Riverside, Pier, and Franklin Schools and involve activities and skill development in areas such as: nutrition, computers, expressive arts, and environmental awareness.

National 4-H Council received \$1 million from the JCPenney Afterschool Fund to award mini-grants to county-based afterschool programs across the United States that partner with 4-H. Programs were chosen through an application process and will receive after-school training and technical assistance provided by 4-H professionals, 4-H Afterschool curricula and 4-H clubs.

Youth receiving mini-grants will be given \$50 gift cards to JCPenney stores to purchase clothing and items for the new school year. 4-H provided high quality after-school experiences for more than 400,000 youth nationwide in 2006. These mini-grants ensure all young people, regardless of their circumstances, have access to high-quality afterschool programs.

## AGRICULTURAL PROFITABILITY

### Surveying the Needs of Dairy Producers in Fond du Lac County – Paul Dyk

A survey was completed this summer by Paul Dyk (Dairy and Livestock Agent) to assess the demographics and needs of the dairy producers in Fond du Lac County. There were 390 surveys delivered (by mail or in person) to all farms with a permit to sell raw milk. A total of 146 surveys were returned for a 37.4% return rate. Of those surveyed, 76% were under 150 cows and 34% were above 150 cows. Respondants were an average age of 50 years; they averaged 29 years employed in farming. Most respondents (97%) were male. When looking at education levels, 7% had less than a high school degree, 53% had a high school degree, and 40% had education beyond high school. For farms over 150 cows, 18% intend to continue milking for 5-10 years and 82% intend to milk for more than 10 years. For farms less than 150 cows, 12% intend to continue milking for less than 5 years, 27% for 5-10 years, and 61% for more than 10 years. Average daily milk production for herds over 150 cows was 67 lbs. while herds over 150 cows averaged 78 lbs. Most herds (94%) over 150 cows used freestalls for housing while only 25% of herds under 150 cows utilized freestalls.

In Fond du Lac County it is easy to see that there are large differences in management styles between smaller (<150 cows) and larger herds (>150 cows). Education programs will need to target the needs of these differing groups.

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ak 9/27/07