



This monthly summary report highlights some of the programs and projects that Extension Educators in Dane County are currently working on as well as upcoming events. If you would like more information on any of the programs mentioned here, please contact us or visit our [website](#).

Carrie Edgar, Director

Agriculture

- A prerecorded radio show episode for farmer-listeners of WBEV to provide listeners with both a research and experienced-based perspective on winter bale grazing in order to provide farmers with new approaches to winter-feeding to improve nutrient management, labor, and profitability. (Will Fulwider)
- Multiple on-farm research trials and studies including: (Will Fulwider)
 - Estimating the nitrogen credits farmers can get from multi-species cover crop mixtures after wheat in order to incentivize to diversify crop rotations by adding wheat and take advantage of the growing window to plant cover crops that can reduce inputs for the following corn crop.
 - Optimizing nutrient management for alternative forages for profitability, feed quality and water quality to provide dairy and livestock farmers with research-based management recommendations for alternative forages to lower knowledge barriers to entry to diversifying cropping systems from corn-alfalfa rotations.
 - Evaluating performance of corn and cover crops when establishing covers into standing corn through inter-seeding to provide both data for analysis of inter-seeding performance across farms and offer field day demonstrations on how to get better establishment of cover crops for the winter.
 - Investigating the maximum returns to nitrogen through incremental applications of nitrogen in strips to help farmers reduce nitrogen rates and maximize profitability from corn crops as well as reducing nitrate leaching, runoff, and nitrous oxide emissions.
 - Surveying the impact of copper sulfate footbath materials application via manure on soil and alfalfa copper concentrations and alfalfa quality and productivity on dairy farms.
- Planning a presentation for the DATCP Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grants Annual Workshop in collaboration with two members of a producer-led group to inform other conference attendees about the economics of integrating more grazing into both a beef and a dairy operation. (Will Fulwider)
- An e-newsletter for farmers and partner organizations that provides timely, research-based updates on growing and farm management practices with a focus on sustainable production and improving profitability. (Will Fulwider)
- A statewide webinar series (Badger Dairy Insight) for dairy farmers, employees, industry representatives promoting the latest research based information. (Alison Pfau and Dairy team colleagues)
- Development of a survey of high producing dairy producers to share results with dairy producers interested in increasing productivity. (Alison Pfau and colleagues)
- A registered apprenticeship for beginning organic vegetable farmers where experienced producers provide hands on training and educators provide classroom instruction to build production skills for new growers and improve employee recruitment and retention for experienced growers. (Claire Strader)
- A series of training sessions for diversified organic vegetable farmers where they learn about labor management techniques to improve employee satisfaction and retention on small-scale vegetable farms. (Claire Strader)
- Convening a new Midwest Vegetable Growers Network for farmers and technical assistance providers where we identify and meet the needs of vegetable farmers serving direct markets and focusing on organic practices. The purpose is to increase the success of vegetable growers. (Claire Strader)

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- A series of field days for diversified organic vegetable growers where they visit farms to learn about high tunnel techniques, cover crops, rice production, and organic weed control. The purpose of this program is for farmers to learn from each other and improve their production practices. (Claire Strader)
 - Planning for a conference for organic vegetable growers where they learn about crop production and farm management practices in order to improve the viability of small farms serving direct markets. (Claire Strader)
 - An on-farm research project to study the use of living aisles and no-till planting strips to mitigate the impacts of intense rain events. The results will be used by diversified vegetable producers to improve the productivity of their organic vegetable farms while reducing soil erosion and effects on water quality. (Claire Strader)
 - A Biological Farmer Friends field day for members of multiple producer-led watershed groups to discuss inter-seeding cover crops, soil health, and water quality to encourage the adoption of conservation practices and increase knowledge of high risk time-periods for nitrate leaching and phosphorus runoff. (Chelsea Zegler)

Community Development

- Planning for a "Farm to Food Access" landscape analysis for farm & food access stakeholders, local decision makers, and funders, where we will identify areas for growth and opportunity. This effort is designed to ensure that cumulative lessons from individual farm to food access initiatives and the recent influx of federal funding for new and existing programs contribute to improvements at local and system scales. (Jessica Calkins, Lindsey Farnsworth)
- Developing a Dane County food system concept paper for food system stakeholders in collaboration with Food Plan work group members. The goals are to facilitate understanding of the food system and build resources, support, and funding so that the food system can be strengthened. (Jessica Calkins)
- Meetings convened for state and county partners, where we strategize on collaborating to support BIPOC and immigrant food producers. This effort is designed to pool partners' funding and resources to maximize opportunities, support, and assistance offered to under-served food producers. (Jessica Calkins)
- Planning initiative for growers, food producers, and school food service staff with UW-Madison and community organizations to expand access to farm-to-school market opportunities (especially for people of color) and improve school food service worker labor conditions, in order to increase equity in school food operations. (Jessica Calkins)
- Planning for a study where food systems leaders and policymakers will learn about food systems needs. This effort will inform development of policies and programs to address food systems needs. (Jessica Calkins)
- Produce incentive program for FoodShare participants in collaboration with City of Madison, Public Health Madison Dane, Community Action Coalition of South Central Wisconsin, and Willy Street Grocery Co-op. (Jessica Calkins)
- A monthly meeting with food council members where we address pressing issues related to the food system in Madison and Dane County in order to strengthen and support the local food system. (Jessica Calkins)

Health and Wellbeing

- Pressure canner testing to give home preservers reassurance that they are preserving food in a safe environment and increase opportunities for saving money on groceries through an increase in preserved food. (Claire Mance)
- Planning for a community listening session that brings together Dane County community organizations and service providers in collaboration with partners from Unite Us. This effort is designed to convene partners to share their thoughts about efforts they are proud of, opportunities for improvement, how our communities are addressing the social determinants of health, and where collaborations are possible. (Claire Mance)
- A coalition of 50 public and private organizations working together to monitor and improve traffic safety and identify opportunities for traffic safety initiatives in Dane County. The goal of FoodWise participation in this coalition and its Pedestrian Crash Work Group is to understand the safety risks that limit engagement in active transportation, and identify strategies to increase residents' access to walking and its related health benefits. (Claire Mance)
- Participation in a monthly, multi-sector coalition (Dane County HealthWatch) that advocates for underserved populations on issues relating to access to coverage and quality health care services, with particular emphasis on populations in which health disparities are particularly prevalent. (Claire Mance)

Horticulture

- A statewide mini-webinar series on preparing landscape plants for winter for participants to learn how to winterize landscape plants and other useful end-of-season garden tasks. (Lisa Johnson and state horticulture colleagues)
- An in-person class at Meadowridge Library where they learned about pollinators found in Wisconsin and appropriate native/nativar plants and techniques to support them in home gardens. (Lisa Johnson)
- Online Green Thumb Gardening series where participants learned about the plant diseases, lawn care, selecting shade trees, and Insect and pest management. (Lisa Johnson and other presenters)
- An online class for Green Lake County Master Gardeners where they learned about woody plants and perennials that have outstanding fall color to assist with plant selection that add to the value of their landscape. (Lisa Johnson)
- Planning for the 2022 Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Course (LGMSC), an 8-session course in February for green industry professionals, including arborists, landscapers, nursery and greenhouse operators. Attendees will gain knowledge to increase business profitability and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies to reduce use of pesticides and/or use only low environmental impact products. (Lisa Johnson and horticulture colleagues)
- A webinar for consumer horticulture audiences across the state where participants learned about how to protect landscape plants from winter damage to increase survivability. (Lisa Johnson and state horticulture colleagues)
- A monthly meeting with community garden partners to address issues related to community gardening in Dane County in order to improve and increase opportunities and success in growing food. (Lisa Johnson)

Human Development and Relationships

- Planning for the 2023 Volunteer Income Tax Site to serve individuals and families (Clare Dahl)
- Planning meetings with community partners to schedule future financial literacy trainings. (Clare Dahl)
- Planning for sessions of Retirement Planning Today to assist participants in defining long-term goals. (Clare Dahl)
- A series of seminars and discussion groups for parents of children between 0 and 12 years old, where participants learned how to manage common behavioral and emotional problems, and developmental issues, to improve communication, reduce stress, and gain skills in effective discipline. This effort was designed to build positive parenting skills and improve parent child relationships. (State colleagues)

Natural Resources

- A planning process for the board of directors of Friends of Lake Wingra to help them develop a vision and expand their board. The goal is to help move the organization forward and diversify their board. (Michelle Probst)
- A presentation for graduate students at University of Wisconsin - Madison where students learned about climate change in Dane County to help students understand planning processes for climate adaptation and mitigation work. (Michelle Probst, Sharon Lezberg)
- A program where youth in Dane County learn about our environment and climate change through art and discuss action steps individuals can take to mitigate climate change. (Michelle Probst, Taylor Seale)
- Development of a public engagement process for the City of Stoughton's Sustainability Committee. This effort is designed to solicit input from community members on Stoughton's Sustainability Plan and develop goals and policies that will address climate change in Stoughton. (Michelle Probst, Sharon Lezberg)

Positive Youth Development

- A 4-H education meeting where youth learned about veterinary science. This activity introduced youth to the role of a veterinarian, disease prevention and the structure of animals. (Lisa Curley)
- A 4-H education meeting where youth could learn and practice new photography skills. This activity also helped teach them about mindfulness, gratitude for nature, and creativity in their photography. (Lisa Curley)
- A STEM event for Dane County youth where educational hands-on activities were offered to spark interest in a variety of science and technology project areas. (Lisa Curley)

- A series of meetings for a committee of high school youth (By Youth for Youth) where they learn about community programs for youth, identify issues and set funding priorities. The purpose is to provide an opportunity for youth to identify and support projects developed and implemented by youth to serve youth. (Taylor Seale)
- Discussions and planning efforts with the Public Health Madison/Dane for a collaboration effort for a Tobacco Prevention Youth Coalition in the Warner Park neighborhood with a focus on reaching BIPOC youth. (Taylor Seale)
- Planning for phase 2 of the Fitchburg Teen Center community development project. Efforts include drafting an RFP and preparing meeting activities before recruiting youth in the Winter of 2022. (Taylor Seale, Claire Mance,)
- Ongoing facilitation and support for youth and adult leaders in Dane County focused on developing 4-H education meetings in project areas related to STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math). The goal is to support volunteers in the development of new project area learning. (Lisa Curley)
- Ongoing facilitation and support for 4-H Photography volunteers, providing them with resources and strategies to help them develop a plan of action and make sure youth have education opportunities and authentic leadership roles in the project. (Lisa Curley)
- Collaboration with UW Health's Healthy Kids Collaborative for a local youth-centered coalition around LGBTQ+ behavioral health initiatives. Current preparation includes reaching out to existing stakeholders and organizations who are involved in this work. (Taylor Seale)
- Providing youth and mentor support for the Youth in Governance program to provide youth opportunities for civic engagement and leadership and to increase youth voice in county government. (Maya Walther and Carrie Edgar)

Visit our website to learn more about Extension and upcoming program opportunities

<https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/>

Dane County Staff

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Lisa Curley 4-H Extension Educator	Claire Mance Healthy Community Coordinator	Claire Strader Organic Produce Educator
Clare Dahl Finance and Life Span Educator	Javiera Morales Clerk (Bilingual - Spanish)	Phin Ter Thao Nutrition Educator (Bilingual – Hmong)
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