



This monthly report highlights a few of the programs and projects that Extension Educators in Dane County are currently working on as well as upcoming events.

Human Development & Relationships

- A program for diverse, low income families in the Habitat for Humanity home ownership program where they participate in financial education workshops and coaching to learn to save for housing related expenses they will incur after they purchase their first home, to build equity in their home, and strive for overall financial well-being.
- Individual coaching for vulnerable low income families where participants gain valuable knowledge and skills needed to manage their finances in a very tough financial situation. This effort is designed to enhance the participants' ability to reach a financial goal.

Health and Wellbeing

- A series of collaborative meetings with local, state, and national partners to plan a 12-week fresh produce box distribution program for 500 Dane county families with limited incomes as a means of mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on local communities. The goal of this program is to increase access to fresh, healthy food for communities who have been disproportionately impacted by health inequities while creating a platform to raise awareness of the longer-term food system changes that are needed to achieve health equity.
- Twelve 3rd and 4th grade youth participated in Choose Health, Food, Fun and Fitness with Dane County FoodWise at Theresa Terrace. The *hands-on* lesson was "Color Your Plate: Eat More Vegetables and Fruit". The youth created individual whole wheat English Muffin Pizzas baked with a variety of fresh, colorful vegetables. The recipe is easy and fun and is sent home with the youth to encourage them to make it with their family.

Agriculture

- A series of videos for farmers, agribusiness and conservation professionals on innovative cropping systems and management practices going on in Dane County. The goal is to increase knowledge between stakeholders of what their innovative neighbors are doing to improve farm profitability, soil health and water quality.
- A booth at the Dane County Dairy Breakfast where attendees learned about the work producer-led groups are doing to improve water quality and soil health. The purpose of this effort is to increase awareness and support for farmers who participate in conservation practices.
- A training series for diversified organic vegetable farmers where they learn about, discuss, and practice labor management techniques to improve employee satisfaction and retention on small-scale vegetable farms.
- Regular grower gatherings and field days for diversified organic vegetable farmers, where we discuss reducing tillage, production practices, direct marketing, and COVID-19 to increase climate resilience, farm financial stability, and overall farm success.
- Two on-farm research projects for diversified vegetable producers looking at the use of living aisles and no-till planting strips to mitigate the impacts of intense rain events on organic vegetable farms.

Horticulture

- A Green Thumb Gardening online class for the general public where they learned about how to best grow and maintain annual/bedding plants, different species to use and how to design with annuals in garden spaces and container plantings for greater success in growing and maintaining these plants.
- A Green Thumb Gardening online class for the general public where they learned about woody and herbaceous invasive plant species. Through the class, attendees learned about the difference between invasive species and 'regular' weeds, invasive species regulation by the DNR and how to identify and be able to manage a number of common species in gardens, landscapes and especially in natural areas to protect those natural ecosystems.

Community Development

- A monthly meeting with food systems partners where we address pressing issues related to regional agriculture and food sovereignty in order to increase land and market opportunities for local growers.
- A weekly meeting convening Dane County food access stakeholders, where we support them in collaboration and resource-sharing so they can adapt to COVID-19 conditions and continue to provide their services to the community.
- Planning for a produce incentive program for FoodShare participants in collaboration with City of Madison, Public Health Madison Dane County, Community Action Coalition of South Central Wisconsin, and Willy Street Grocery Co-op. The goal of this effort is to improve and enhance access to produce incentives so that more people can receive more healthy food, which also supports local growers.
- Planning for continued development and expansion of the Anderson Farm County Park community/market garden site in collaboration with Rooted; Anderson Park Friends, and Dane County Parks. The goal of this effort is to provide land access for community members to grow food to improve their food security and economic livelihood.
- Collaborative design and planning for a pilot training program for nonprofit leaders in Dane & St. Croix Counties that includes development of curriculum, facilitation plans, and preparing teaching materials for use in a blended learning environment. Participants in the training program (early stage nonprofit leaders) will learn aspects of nonprofit management through peer learning and instructor led exercises and engagement.
- Planning support to the Dane County Broadband Task Force (an effort of the Dane County Board of Supervisors) that consists of assisting with planning meetings, identifying educational speakers and resources, and implementing a needs survey. The Task Force is charged with identifying and addressing gaps in broadband availability.
- The second of three strategic planning sessions with the board and staff of Chrysalis, a Dane County nonprofit organization, where participants developed an organizational identity statement, a strategy screen, and began formulating action plans for two key themes. The intent of the multi-session planning process is to align strategic direction with the current environment, and to create an action plan to address issues identified by board and staff.
- An electronic newsletter for nonprofit organizations where they learn about Extension training programs, community-based professional development opportunities, and grants that might support their work. The purpose of this effort is to improve communications with nonprofit organizations and to expand access to resources.
- Planning for the Edible Startup Summit in the fall for food preparation, production, and value added entrepreneurs in collaboration with local regional partners. The goal of this effort is for Wisconsin food entrepreneurs to learn how to startup, operate, and expand a food related business and to network with other businesses and resources in their region, so their business succeeds and enhances the local food system.
- A strategic planning session with the board and staff of the Wisconsin Association of Homeless and Runaway Services, a statewide nonprofit, where participants discussed organization mission, vision, and values. The intent of the multi-session planning process is to align strategic direction with the current environment, and to address identified issues for the organization.

4-H & Positive Youth Development

- The 2021/22 Youth in Governance cohort was selected and approved. Eleven Dane County high school students were selected from a pool of youth applicants to serve on Dane County Committees for the academic year. The youth were paired with 11 Dane County Board Supervisors who will serve as mentors. Students attended an orientation to learn more about local government, civic engagement, and youth leadership in order to better prepare them to serve on their assigned committees. During the orientation, youth met with Extension Staff, the County Chairperson, and Chief of Staff who provided insight and encouragement. The youth will begin serving alongside their mentors in September.
- Ag in the Classroom Coordinator presented at the Madison College Pro-Start Teacher training.
- Ag in the Classroom Coordinator assisted at the Wisconsin State Fair with conducting the Performance Livestock Division Contest results for youth exhibiting in the beef, swine and sheep divisions.
- Ag in the Classroom staff hosted a booth at the 2021 Dane County Breakfast on the Farm where we offered an interactive game with information about WI Agriculture.
- Plans are underway for the 2021/22 By Youth for Youth (BYFY) program.

Upcoming Events

- [Elevando Wisconsin](#)
- [Nonprofit Peer Learning Program Dane County](#)
- [Aging Mastery Program Series](#)
- [Retirement Planning Today®](#)
- [View More Events](#)

Event Highlight



The Wisconsin Restorative Justice Summit Planning Committee to host the second annual summit. The Restorative Justice Summit is a statewide educational forum that brings together young people and youth-serving professionals to collaborate in advancing equitable, evidence-based restorative justice and peacemaking practices that aim to transform youth services, programs, and communities in Wisconsin.

On September 10, October 8, and November 12, the virtual summit starts at 9:30 am with a keynote followed by a diverse set of breakout sessions. We highly encourage you to bring in youth voices and perspectives from your community or participate as a professional team!

Ananda Mirilli, Nina Collective, will start the 2021 summit with Restoring Ourselves and Our Communities in Times of Racial Reckoning. In October, Cecelia Rose LaPointe will keynote with Racial Justice in Anishinaabe Aki. And David Muhammed of Milwaukee County Health and Human Services will conclude the series in November with a presentation entitled Treating Violence through Public Health.

For more information and to register: <https://youth.extension.wisc.edu/programs/restorative-justice-summit/>

Dane County Staff

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For more information on Dane County Extension visit: <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/>