



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
DANE COUNTY

August 2022 Summary Report

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

- Developed a podcast for farmers and listeners of WBEV in Dodge County to provide farmers with a research and experienced-based perspective on inter-seeding cover crops into corn in order to make an informed decision if this conservation practice works with their farming system. (Will Fulwider and Extension colleague)
- Preparation for an on-farm research trial collaborating with farmers in the Dodge Co. Farmers and Biological Farmer Friends watershed groups. The goal is to estimate the nitrogen credits farmers can get from multi-species cover crop mixtures after wheat to incentivize farmers to diversify their 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. (Will Fulwider)
- An on-farm research project evaluating performance of corn and cover crops when establishing covers into standing corn through inter-seeding. The goal is to provide both data for analysis of inter-seeding performance across farms in Wisconsin while also using those farms as demonstrations for field days to show farmers how to get better establishment of cover crops for the winter. (Will Fulwider)
- An on-farm research project investigating the maximum returns through incremental applications of nitrogen in strips, replicated across a study field. The info will assist in reducing nitrogen rates and maximizing profitability from their corn crops as well as reducing nitrate leaching, runoff, and nitrous oxide emissions. (Will Fulwider)
- Support of the Farmers for the Upper Sugar River watershed group to plan events and meetings, bolster rigor of on-farm research projects through connections with research at UW-Madison, and connecting their educational efforts with the resources of the University. (Will Fulwider)
- A research project to serve as a case study & pilot project, 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. Results of the project will be disseminated through Extension publications and presentations and will serve as the supporting data for a larger grant proposal, if significant results are found. (Will Fulwider and Extension colleagues)
- 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)
- 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 to improve the productivity on organic vegetable farms while reducing soil erosion and effects on water quality. (Claire Strader and an Extension colleague)
- A registered apprenticeship program 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 and Extension colleagues)
- 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 to identify and meet the needs of vegetable farmers serving direct markets and focusing on organic practices. (Claire Strader)
- 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 to improve production practices. (Claire Strader)

Community Development

- Planning meetings for state & county partners to collaborate to support BIPOC and immigrant food producers. This effort is designed to maximize opportunities and assistance to under-served food producers. (Jessica Calkins)
- Consultations with food bank staff, where Extension provided information about the multi-sector benefits of farm to foodbank programs to support the food bank in pursuing resources to expand their farm to foodbank programming, which supports individuals experiencing food insecurity, local growers, and the community. (Jessica Calkins)
- Planning public engagement activities with the Stoughton Sustainability Task Force to identify ways to engage the public in efforts that increase sustainability in City government and community. The results of planning sessions will be an inclusive engagement process to hear the voices of residents through surveys, open house sessions, and community input sessions. (Sharon Lezberg, Michelle Probst)
- Planning for an initiative for growers, food producers, and school food service staff in collaboration with UW-Madison and community organizations. The goal is 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 and an Extension colleague)
- Planning for a pandemic food system study for food systems partners, where food systems leaders and policymakers will learn about food system needs. This effort is designed to inform development of policies and programs to address food system needs. (Jessica Calkins)
- 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. (Jessica Calkins)
- A weekly meeting with local food policy council leadership where we address pressing issues for the two food councils to take up in order for the food councils to make policy and planning recommendations to improve and strengthen the local food system. (Jessica Calkins)
- A monthly meeting with food council members to 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

- A 4 week summer nutrition education series for elementary youth to learn the importance of choosing from the five food groups and how to create snacks without a stove or oven. The goal is to help youth make healthy choices and improve their dietary habits at a young age. (Jackie Gehin, Emily Randerson, Holly Simon, Venkata Karri)
- Adaptation and translation of a youth-focused physical activity promotion material created and used in 2021 and distributed to over 1,000 youth. This effort was designed to encourage youth to stay physically active over the summer months when participation in structured physical activities may decrease. The goal of adapting and translating the material is to expand access to more Dane County families. (Claire Mance, Venkata Karri)
- A monthly meeting with food systems partners to address issues related to regional agriculture and food sovereignty in order to increase land and market opportunities for local growers. (Jessica Calkins, Claire Mance)
- Monthly educational sessions and training for pediatric residents that describe school nutrition programs and policies that mitigate food insecurity among children from low-income families, and provides resources and training to expand pediatricians' understanding of food insecurity among their patient population and actions they can take. (Claire Mance, Jackie Gehin)

"I love this recipe so much. I want to ask my mom if we have spinach."
Youth participant

Horticulture

- A monthly meeting with community garden coordinating partners to address issues related to community gardening in Madison and Dane County to improve and increase food growing opportunities. (Jessica Calkins, Lisa Johnson)
- Planning for a statewide webinar series for consumer horticulture audiences where participants learn about pollinator decline, climate change, and environmental contamination. (Lisa Johnson and Extension colleagues)

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- An online webinar for consumer horticulture audiences across the state where participants learned about yard and garden care to reduce pest problems. (Lisa Johnson and state colleagues)
 - An online statewide advanced training program for Master Gardener audiences where participants learned in-depth information on horticulture topics in order to improve their knowledge pertinent to participation in the Master Gardener Program and earn continuing education hours. (Lisa Johnson and state colleagues)
 - A workshop featuring presenters from Urban Triage, Rooted, Dane County Extension and Traderoots Culinary Collective on growing and cooking with African Diaspora Crops. Participants learned about the history of African Diaspora crops. (Lisa Johnson)
 - A presentation for Dodge County Master Gardeners on aggressive perennial plants to avoid. Participants learned about characteristics of aggressive plants and cultural and chemical control methods for each plant (Lisa Johnson)
 - Planning meeting for activities surrounding preserving and propagating Heritage Oaks and educating the public about these historic trees. (Lisa Johnson)
 - Provide ongoing staffing for Dane County Tree Board providing educational resources, outreach services and tree preservation/canopy policy recommendations focused on urban forestry issues. (Lisa Johnson)
 - Tours for members of the Greentree Garden Club and the Sun Prairie Garden Club of the Extension Teaching Garden maintained by Master Gardener volunteers at Fen Oak. (Lisa Johnson)
 - Providing ongoing technical assistance, relationship building, and support for the services provided by Urban Triage's Supporting Healthy Black Agriculture program. (Lisa Johnson)
 - Dane County Tree Canopy Working Group meetings to address tree planting/equity projects. Planting sites are identified using LiDAR maps and census tract information to reveal areas of high tree loss or historically low tree canopy that also correspond with under-resourced communities. Community engagement sessions and planting events are being planned. (Lisa Johnson, Michelle Probst, Sharon Lezberg)

Natural Resources

- A session for the WI Master Naturalist Training where participants learned how climate change is impacting our environment. The goal of this session was to empower participants to be a voice in their community and advocate for action against climate change. (Michelle Probst)
- 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)
- Development of a program for Dane County youth to 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 an online composting training where participants learn how to reduce food waste in their home and compost and teach others in their community about composting. (Michelle Probst)

Positive Youth Development

- 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)
- Planning efforts for the upcoming By Youth For Youth 2022-2023 cohort. Efforts include reducing access barriers for youth across Dane County to participate. (Taylor Seale)
- Planning, mentor support, and orientation for the 2022-2023 Youth in Governance cohort. (Carrie Edgar)

Meet the new members of the Dane County Extension team

Clare Dahl, Finance and Life Span Educator



Clare graduated from UW-Madison in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in International Studies and Spanish with a Certificate in African Studies. In addition to earning a State of WI teaching license, Clare worked as a home visitor that partnered with parents and caregivers of small children to support them in reaching education and employment goals. She served multiple community-based locations around the Madison area with a concentration in Madison's Southwest corridor and worked extensively with immigrant and undocumented populations. Clare's arrival to her new position of Financial and Life Span Educator combines many of her personal and professional interests. She hopes to support current institute programming using a lens of cultural humility and trauma-informed care to increase engagement and impact on Dane County's diverse communities. Clare has lived in Madrid, Spain and Santiago, Chile. She recently returned from Aruba and is looking forward to exploring more of the Caribbean.

Ely Moya Malaver, Juntos 4-H Coordinator



As a Bilingual Juntos 4-H Coordinator, I will work with the Latinx communities in Dane County at schools and other community partners to promote student and family involvement and focus on academic success, career exploration, and college readiness. I'm originally from Venezuela, with a strong commitment to increasing the sense of belonging among Latinx students in their schools and community. With my background in education, I've dedicated myself to supporting and providing academic success strategies to students, as well as designing engaging instructions and activities. I look forward to applying my experience, insights, and cultural knowledge to ensure access to educational services for diverse audiences.

Dane County Staff

John Bedigian
FoodWise Support Staff

Jess Guffey Calkins
Food Systems Educator

Lisa Curley
4-H Extension Educator

Clare Dahl
Finance and Life Span Educator

Carrie Edgar
Area Extension Director

Will Fulwider
Regional Crops Educator

Jackie Gehin
FoodWise Administrator

Edwin Huayta
Nutrition Educator Bilingual (Spanish)

Sandy Jensen
Deputy Director

Lisa Johnson
Horticulture Educator

Venkata Karri
Nutrition Educator

Sharon Lezberg
Community Development Educator

Claire Mance
Healthy Community Coordinator

Javiera Morales
Clerk (Bilingual - Spanish)

Ely Moya Malaver
4-H Juntos Coordinator (Bilingual – Spanish)

Alison Pfau
Regional Dairy Educator

Michelle Probst
Natural Resources Educator

Emily Randerson
Nutrition Educator

Kelsi Salm
Nutrition Educator

Taylor Seale
Community Youth Development Educator

Holly Simon
FoodWise Curriculum Coordinator

Claire Strader
Organic Produce Educator

Phin Ter Thao
Nutrition Educator (Bilingual – Hmong)

Chip Thompson
Clerk

Maya Walther
Natural Resources Intern

Carla Williams
Communication Specialist

Ze Yang
Nutrition Educator (Bilingual – Hmong)

Chelsea Zegler
Agriculture & Water Quality Educator