



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
DANE COUNTY

April 2023 Summary Report

This monthly summary report highlights a single program or project that each of the Dane County Extension Educators worked on this past month to provide just a sample of the type and breadth of programming offered. Also included are upcoming events and an Impact Report on the By Youth for Youth (BYFY) Program. If you would like more information on any of our programs, please contact us or visit our [website](#).


Carrie Edgar, Director

Agriculture

Will Fulwider, Crops & Soils Educator, co-wrote an [article](#) for farmers and crop consultants explaining how agricultural conservation practices affect soil carbon. The goal is to provide readers with a base level understanding of soil carbon in agriculture in order to make informed decisions before engaging in carbon credits.

Alison Pfau, Dairy Educator, spent time on a local dairy farm producing short educational videos in Spanish and English, emphasizing different dairy farming practices and topics such as calf care, nutrition, dairy production, reproduction, health, farm worker/farm manager relationship and animal welfare.

Claire Strader, Organic Produce Educator, is coordinating a new coaching program for diversified vegetable farmers where they meet with a professional peer coach to discuss their struggles and goals in order to increase their business success and quality of life.

Community Development

Jess Guffey-Calkins, Food Systems Educator, assisted with the [2023 Spring FEED series of webinars](#) to equip food entrepreneurs with increased skills and knowledge for operating successful food business enterprises.

Sharon Lezberg, Community & Organizational Development Educator, published an [article on bike friendly communities](#) for the Dane County Extension Climate Change Blog. The blog helps connect members in the community to the science of climate change and discusses how climate change is affecting Dane County.

Health and Well-being

Claire Mance, Healthy Communities Coordinator and **Michelle Probst**, Natural Resources Educator are planning for programming with city and county partners by co-developing materials that promote the use of Dane County trails for all residents. The goal is to encourage more people to use trails as a means of physical activity and equip them with the information they need to stay safe and healthy while using the trail system.

Edwin Huayta Perez and Kelsi Salm, FoodWise Educators, taught a 6 week series in a juvenile corrections residential program. Teens learned basic cooking skills, safe knife handling skills, food safety principles, label reading and choosing healthy alternatives for recipes. The goal is to build confidence in the kitchen and empower teens to make healthy choices by teaching them the skills needed to prepare nutritious recipes on their own.

Horticulture

Lisa Johnson, Horticulture Educator, is partnering with a team of educators and local, regional and state partners to plan activities for [National Pollinator Week](#). This effort is designed to increase knowledge and awareness of pollinators, pollinator habitat, and adopt practices that increase habitat and mitigate pollinator decline.



Wisconsin Celebrates
POLLINATOR WEEK
June 19-25, 2023

Human Development and Relationships

Clare Dahl, Financial Security and LifeSpan Educator, provided technical assistance and financial coaching to participants in vehicle loan program for low-income families to learn to better manage their finances and improve their credit worthiness. The goal is to help participants build personal finance skills necessary for creating financial stability and security enabling them to purchase a vehicle necessary to access and keep employment.

Kula Yang, Family Relationships and Financial Security Educator, tabled at the Hmong Professional and Business Network event for young Hmong professionals to share information on Extension's Family Engagement & Relationships programs.

Natural Resources

Michelle Probst, Natural Resources Educator, and **Sharon Lezberg**, Community & Organizational Development Educator are assisting on the development of a program to engage black and LatinX communities in climate policies. This effort is in collaboration with an ongoing UW research project. The goal is to create local climate policies that center equity.

Positive Youth Development

Lisa Curley, 4-H Extension Educator, coordinated with 4-H volunteers a Dane County 4-H Discovery Art Day in April. 4-H members learned new skills like wool felting, wood burning, glass etching, resin casting, and more. Discovery Art Days help youth build new skills while doing something they enjoy.

Ely Moya Malaver, Bilingual Youth Development Educator, and **Taylor Seale**, Community Youth Development Educator are assisting with planning the Leadership & Civic Engagement Track of the [2023 Summer Academy](#) to be held June 19-22 on the UW-Madison campus where youth in grades 7-10 will learn about and engage with their local government. The objective is to give students a practical study of local government and civic engagement in a hands-on environment, as well as provide students with the resources to discover pathways to their future.

Taylor Seale, Community Youth Development Educator, wrapped up coordination of the 2022/23 By Youth for Youth (BYFY) program in April. BYFY is a committee of high school youth where they identify community issues facing youth and develop funding priorities. Check out the attached impact report to learn more.

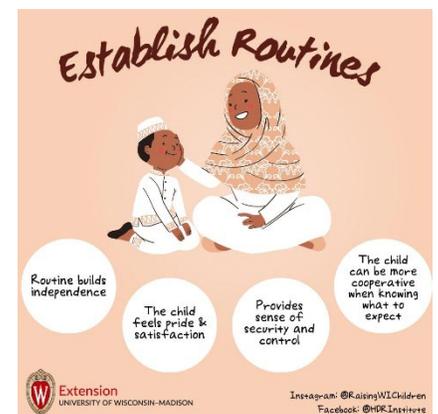
Upcoming Events

- [Plant Diseases to watch for in 2023](#)
- [Bee Lawns: Using Your Lawn to Provide Food for Pollinators](#)
- [Badger Crop Connect: Planting Date Risk Management and Alfalfa Stand Assessment](#)
- [Dane County Master Gardener Plant Sale](#) – May 21, 11am – 3 pm at 5201 Fen Oak in Madison
- [Planting for Pollinators](#)
- [Environmental Fun Fair](#)

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about Extension and other upcoming program opportunities



The Cutting Edge Podcast
Join UW-Madison Division of Extension as they search for new crops for Wisconsin growers, processors, and consumers.



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



By Youth for Youth

Supporting Youth as Decision Makers in their Community

Situation: There is a need to connect youth programming to public health, in particular for youth to understand how their work (whether in community development, civic engagement, or school club settings) connects to the health of their community. Additionally, there is a need to advocate for youth to be at the center of decision-making processes with adults, where youth are valued as key stakeholders and experts of their community. The By Youth For Youth (BYFY) program addresses this need. BYFY is a unique volunteer committee composed of Dane County high school students that make investment decisions for youth-led programming and initiatives. BYFY members identify critical issues impacting youth in Dane County, establish funding priorities, review grant proposals, and recommend funding to support projects developed and implemented by youth to serve youth.

Response: Each year, United Way of Dane County, the City of Madison, and Dane County provide funding for BYFY grant projects. Taylor Seale, Extension’s Youth Development Educator, provides administrative and programmatic oversight in partnership with the City of Madison staff and United Way serves as the fiscal agent. 22/23 BYFY program activities included members analyzing the Dane County Youth Assessment Report to identify data driven funding priorities. They attended organized site visits and had guest speaker panels from community organizations to learn more about the issues and opportunities for systemic impact. BYFY members then evaluated 34 received grant proposals totaling \$85,170 in requests. The youth individually reviewed, evaluated, and ranked each proposal, deliberated the merits of each proposal as a group, and then recommended funding to City and County adult partners. An awards ceremony was hosted at the Urban League of Greater Madison to celebrate all grant awardees and BYFY youth accomplishments.

2023 BYFY Priorities

- Poverty, food insecurity, homelessness
- School programming & student support
- Youth mental & physical health
- Immigrant youth
- Climate Change
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)

Extension empowers young people in decision making directly in their community, preparing the next generation of civic leaders, and building systems in which youth voice is valued and prioritized.

13

funded projects that directly impact youth and their families

\$36,447

awarded to selected grant applicants

18

youth participated representing 10 Dane County high schools

Evidence: BYFY is a unique and innovative funding and youth engagement model, being only one of two programs of its kind in the state of Wisconsin. Overall, BYFY youth vocalize their personal improvements in leadership skills, critical thinking skills, facilitation, ability to work in a large group as well as gaining a better understanding of the issues youth face in Dane County and how to address them. City and County partners, and BYFY youth alike overwhelmingly support the BYFY program.

“BYFY is a program where youth are given the opportunity to impact their community by funding different youth programs in the area. It’s a great program to be a part of and helps you understand the needs of our community along with helping others.”

- BYFY Youth Member

“We are honored to provide funding to BYFY each year. This program provides Dane County high school students the experience of allocating tangible funds that positively impact youth county-wide. It’s a unique and wonderful experience for youth interested in making a difference in their communities.”

- Joe Parisi, Dane County Executive

“BYFY is a one-of-a-kind youth program and the City of Madison is proud to partner with them. BYFY puts decision-making power in the hands of young people in real and structural ways, allowing participants to fund other youth programs, preparing them to be community leaders and participate in policy-making and funding decisions. BYFY supports young people in understanding and exercising the power they have to better their communities.”

- Satya Rhodes-Conway, Mayor of Madison



An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.