

2018 Program Highlights

More than 32,500 Dane County residents participated in an Extension educational program in 2018 including over 6,500 youth who participated either in a classroom or out of school setting.

Positive Youth Development:

More than 1,000 Dane County youth and 322 adult and 194 youth volunteers participated in the Dane County 4-H Community Club program in 2018.

Some of the other youth development programming in 2018 included:

- Grow Academy: 24
- By Youth For Youth program: 216
- Youth Advocates for Community Health: 7
- FoodSmart Families: 120
- Youth Governance Program: 12
- Padres y Hijos Youth Garden Nutrition Club: 12

Horticulture:

The Master Gardener Program in Dane County started in 1981. Over 1,790 people have been trained since that time and there are currently 171 certified Master Gardener Volunteers in the Dane County program. Dane County Master Gardener Volunteers reported 13,100 hours of community service, worth a value of over \$314,400*.

815 people participated in a home horticulture program in 2018 including 149 green industry professionals who completed continuing education programs.

Youth horticulture programming was offered at the Grow Academy, Mellowood in South Madison, Centro Hispano, and several school and community gardens throughout Dane County.

Financial Education:

During the 2018 tax year, 3,514 people had their taxes prepared free of charge at the Volunteer Income Tax site yielding \$4.3 million in refunds to taxpayers including \$1.8 in Earned Income Credits.

65 people received one to one financial coaching and more than 640 Dane County residents attended one of the many financial education workshops offered including Retirement Planning, Estate Planning, and First Time Home Buyers.

Agriculture:

More than 2,500 contacts were made by our Ag educators through workshops, farm visits, field days, conferences, research projects and one to one consulting. Some of the highlights for 2018 include:

- Cover Crop Conference and Outreach: 713
- EWEniversity: 186
- Pesticide Applicator Training: 81
- Nutrient Management Planning Workshop: 12
- Annual Organic Vegetable Conference: 183
- CSA workshops and field days: 364
- Youth Tractor Safety Course: 30

Natural Resources:

Our Natural Resources Educator oversaw the Natural Resource Education Center and provided a variety of natural resource educational opportunities.

- Dane County Natural Resource Education Center
 - 38 groups borrowed equipment to run local stewardship projects and educational programs at schools, community centers, youth meetings, camp activities and special events
 - 8,314 individuals volunteered at these various educational or stewardship activities including monitoring surface water, exploring local soils and habitats, and marking county storm drains
 - 41 individuals marked 104 storm drains
- 192 attended the Woodland Owners Conference
- 75 people benefitted from the Dane County Pollinator Protection Educational Resources

Community and Economic Development:

The Dane County Extension Community & Economic Development Educator worked with entrepreneurs, the business community, municipalities, and many organizations in 2018.

Some of the efforts included:

- 23 completed the Art of Facilitation training
- Worked directly with 199 people throughout Dane County to provide strategic planning and organization development services for non-profits and communities.
- WI Food Business Roadmap website developed
- Assisted 51 food entrepreneurs through referrals and training.
- 96 food entrepreneurs attended the Edible Start Up Summit.

FoodWise:

The Dane County FoodWise program partnered with 13 schools and 59 agency partners in FY18 to deliver direct education. More than 13,350 educational contacts with 4,426 unduplicated learners.

Nutrition Educators engaged learners in schools, after-school programs, community & recreational programs, food pantries, WIC clinics, neighborhood & community centers, maternal Infant programs, apartment complexes and Senior Centers.

Our new Healthy Community Coordinator has added policy, systems and evaluation efforts to the FoodWise program. Her efforts in 2018 included: Youth Advocates for Community Health, Smarter Lunchrooms, Double Dollars Task Force, and school based wellness policies through her work with the Healthy Schools, Healthy Kids Learning Collaborative.

Community Food Systems:

Community Food System highlights for 2018 included hosting four interns who developed the [Food Waste and Recovery Guide](#). Led efforts to develop the [Food Business Roadmap website](#) for food entrepreneurs. The Sweet Potato Project continues with gardeners raising and contributing sweet potatoes to local food pantries. We had our first farm take advantage of the Organic Certification Incentive program in 2018. Assisted the Office of Equity and Inclusion with the first Partners in Equity (PIE) Food Projects grant process. And the new van was secured for Healthy Food for All to recover and deliver food for families in need.

2019 PROGRAM PRIORITIES

A partnership between Dane County and the University of Wisconsin - Madison, Extension educators use research-based information, a variety of educational delivery methods and local collaborations to strengthen the lives of Dane County residents.

Our educational programs are developed and measured against the following strategic directives:

- Thriving youth, families and communities
- Access to opportunity
- Resilient and productive environments
- Food safety, security and health
- Stronger communities

THRIVING YOUTH, FAMILIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

4-H Community Clubs – Dane County youth and adult volunteers learn together and work to improve their individual lives and the communities in which they live. Youth Development staff are working to expand membership options through various program delivery models, such as site-based clubs, special interest clubs, and afterschool clubs.

Youth Governance Program offers opportunities for youth leadership, development and empowerment through direct participation in county government decision-making.

The Financial Education Center's goal is to increase the financial literacy skills of residents to achieve financial security. Services include:

- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Site
- Financial Coaching program
- First Time Home Buyers program
- Budgeting and Credit classes
- Retirement Planning workshops
- Financial Education for Latino families

Farm Succession and Transfer – Agriculture educators work closely with farm families looking to transition their farming operations to the younger generations ensuring family farms continue to thrive.

Organizational development and strategic planning – Community Development educators work with organizations throughout the county on a variety of planning processes. Strategic planning helps boards and staff of non-profit and civic community groups tailor their organizational strategies to meet their mission and vision. Planning strengthens organizational effectiveness and cohesiveness. Educators also assist organizations with program/project planning, fund development and evaluation.

Community Engagement and Public Participation facilitation - Educators facilitate public input processes and work in conjunction with County departments and other groups to plan and execute public input processes. Educators also work with local communities and organizations to help gather input, design, plan and implement their local projects using community development principles.

Building Capacity in Youth Serving Organizations – Our Positive Youth Development Educator provides education and assistance to other youth organizations to build knowledge and skills of direct service providers and improve program impact.

ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY

By Youth For Youth (BYFY) - A partnership between United Way of Dane County, City of Madison and Dane County-UW Extension. BYFY includes diverse high school students from throughout Dane County in identifying youth needs and priorities. The youth develop and implement a process to publicize a request for proposal, review proposals and recommend funding for community youth groups.

Youth Development Expanding Access - Youth development staff are pursuing local and statewide efforts to engage youth who have not previously had access to all opportunities in 4-H and other youth programs. A partnership with Mendota Elementary has been developed and funding secured to allow families to attend a weekend camping experience at Upham Woods.

Grow Academy – Through a contract with the Department of Corrections, our Youth Horticulture Educator provides hands-on agricultural education. The residential program strives to reduce recidivism by offering delinquent, high school credit deficient youth with cognitive-behavioral treatment, job skills training, and an ag-based curriculum.

P.A.I.D. Program, Mellowood Foundation – Youth Horticulture Educator provides educational programming and mentoring to youth during summer urban agriculture program to encourage youth to become engaged, productive citizens with job skills and a sense of personal and community responsibility.

Inclusiveness and community building – Extension educators are providing consulting, educational programming, and resource support to emerging organizations that work with underserved populations and run by people of color.

RESILIENT AND PRODUCTIVE ENVIRONMENTS

Organic Certification Incentive Pilot Program – A small grant program that provides an incentive for farmers to convert to certified organic practices by providing up to \$250 each year for up to three years to assist with costs associated with the conversion period and organic certification.

Dane County Grazers Network – The new Dairy & Livestock Educator will partner with Land & Water Resources Department to provide support and education to livestock farmers interested in grazing and pasture management.

Research and Education for Grain and Dairy Farms – Conduct research and provide education to farmers on a variety of conservation and farm management issues including using cover crops to keep soil and manure from leaving their fields.

Research and Education for Vegetable Farms – Organic Produce Educator conducts on-farm research and coordinates workshops and field days for vegetable growers on crop specifics and organic management practices to increase environmental sustainability, profitability, and farmer quality of life.

Water Quality issues – Partner with Land & Water Resource Department and other key partners to assist with improving water quality throughout the County.

Pollinator Protection – Extension provides outreach on the importance of protecting pollinators for both rural and urban populations in Dane County by developing demonstration gardens, educational materials and activities, providing direct education, and assisting with UW researchers.

Natural Resources Education Center - A lending center of resources, equipment, expertise and training for area residents concerning water quality and other natural resource issues. The center helps citizens take on active stewardship roles in helping Dane County's environment.

Dane County Master Gardener Volunteers - Trained by Extension, these volunteers support parks and other public spaces with invasive plant removal, prairie and forest restoration, and the creation and maintenance of urban green spaces. They provide educational programs at schools, community gardens, farmers' markets and other public places.

Teaching Garden - an educational demonstration garden at the Lyman Anderson Center on Fen Oak Drive. Plans are underway to add a greenhouse to the garden in 2019 and exploring options to add an ADA accessible path through the garden.

Dane County Master Composter Training - A program designed to provide volunteers with basic knowledge, skills and tools to teach others to reduce organic waste in the landfill. Volunteers organize workshops and use demonstration displays to teach others to compost on site where they live and work.

FOOD SAFETY, FOOD SECURITY AND HEALTH

FoodWise – Assists limited resource families and individuals to choose healthful diets, purchase and prepare healthy food, handle food safely, and become more food secure. The program is funded through a USDA grant and offered in elementary schools, senior meal sites, community centers, food pantries and other locations throughout Dane County.

Healthy Communities – Implements evidence-based tools and strategies guided by national obesity prevention frameworks to promote healthy lifestyles, strengthen new and existing coalitions, expand direct education efforts and mobilize champions of change to advance policy, systems, and environment work in the County.

Community Gardens Network – Extension provides horticulture support, garden leadership and youth development educational resources to community gardens throughout the county. We partner with the City of Madison and Community GroundWorks to provide leadership to the Gardens Network.

Food Waste and Recovery – Develop resources and support efforts to maximize economic, social and environmental benefits by pursuing the following waste reduction actions: prevent food waste, recover edible food for redistribution, recycle food scraps as animal feed, compost and clean energy. A Food Waste & Recovery Business Convocation is scheduled for March 19 to engage food businesses in utilizing food waste reduction strategies.

Youth Advocates for Community Health - Staff engage high school teens in identifying and addressing a health issue facing their community. Youth Advocates for Community Health (YACH) is a food systems leadership program focused on strengthening youth research, leadership, and interpersonal skills. This program brings youth perspective to community food access conversations.

FoodSmart Families - This partnership with Centro Hispano's Escalera program at West High School engages teens as leaders in planning and delivering healthy-living programs to younger children and their families. The programs are designed to increase participant knowledge of healthy food choices, food budgeting, food selection and safe preparation.

Green Thumb Gardening – This series and other horticulture workshops are providing residents with the knowledge and skills to raise food and beautify their greenspaces.

Food Safety and Preservation – Offer classes and resources on safe food preservation and pressure canner testing. This included testing pressure canners for county residents.

STRONGER ECONOMIES

Organic Vegetable Production Conference – Annual conference offers practical production and farm management information to growers from Wisconsin and beyond. A scholarship program and Spanish and Hmong interpretation make the conference more accessible to growers.

Organic Vegetable Grower Apprenticeship – Partnered with UW-Madison College of Agriculture and the Dept. of Workforce Development to develop a formal apprenticeship program in organic vegetable production. This is the second agricultural apprenticeship registered in the state. The first apprentices were placed on farms in 2018. In 2019, the Organic Vegetable Educator will continue to support the apprenticeship program and develop additional resources for farms with seasonal labor but without management level positions.

Beginning Farmer Business Planning - Dairy & Livestock Educator works one on one with beginning livestock farmers to develop and plan for a financially viable and productive farm business.

Continuing Education for the Green Industry – An annual short course to update business owners, employees and municipal workers on current horticulture related issues in their field.

Edible Startup Summit – An annual training for food business entrepreneurs focused on business development and expansion. A scholarship program assures that the training is accessible to resource limited entrepreneurs.

Food Entrepreneur Outreach and Technical Assistance - Collaborate with FEED Kitchens and Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation to develop programs to build capacity of low-income and minority food businesses through outreach, training programs, technical assistance, and funding support.

Community Economic Development - Assist Chambers of Commerce and economic development initiatives to address community identity and downtown development in the smaller communities within Dane County.