

## DANE COUNTY AG IN THE CLASSROOM PROGRAM – YEAR 1 REVIEW



BY ALISSA GRENAWALT

DANE COUNTY AG IN THE CLASSROOM PROGRAM COORDINATOR



## DANE COUNTY MAP AND SCHOOLS



Dane County Currently has:

- Public School Districts: 16 with approximately 50 schools
- Private/Parochial Schools: 28
- Charter Schools: 10

Source: madisonwithkids.com

## Dane County Extension Addresses a Need

- Partnership with Dane County Farm Bureau was created
- Currently the only Extension position in Wisconsin
- This model could lead to other counties adding similar positions to address the need for Ag Literacy.

**Extension Dane County**  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Home • 4-H and Youth • Agriculture • Horticulture • Teaching Garden • FoodWise • Financial Education Center • Food Safety and Preservation • Food Systems • Community Development • Natural Resources • Upcoming Events • En Español • Ag in the Classroom • COVID Resources

**Home • Ag in the Classroom**

**Ag in the Classroom**  
**What is Ag in the Classroom?**

The primary purpose of the Dane County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator position is to increase teachers and K-12 students understanding of how their food is produced, increase awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society, increase safety of youth on the farm, and introduce youth to career opportunities in agriculture.

The Coordinator will teach Ag in the Classroom educational programs in Dane County schools and coordinate farm safety educational events. The Coordinator will work closely with Dane County schools, Extension educators and other Ag-related organizations to build partnerships, improve on farm safety and promote agriculture awareness and understanding in Dane County.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Teen East A Visual Cooking Class for High School Students**  
April 18th - May 10th, 2021

**Walking Strong A Heart Health Webinar Series**  
May 11th - 21st, 2021

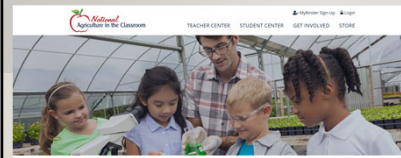
**Money As you Grow Train the Trainer**  
May 18th, 2021

**200th Green Thumb Gardening Live Spring Series Online Sale**  
May 18th - June 10th, 2021

**Money As you Grow Train the Trainer**  
June 10th, 2021

Alissa Grenawalt serves as Dane County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator

## SUPPORT FROM A STATE/NATIONAL LEVEL



- In 1981, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) invited representatives of agricultural groups and educators came to a meeting in Washington, D.C. to discuss agricultural literacy.
- A national task force was selected from this group. Representation came from agriculture, business, education, and governmental agencies, some of whom were already conducting educational programs in agriculture.
- Each state organization addresses agriculture education in a way best suited to its own needs. In some cases, an all-volunteer network is responsible for teacher education and materials distribution.

**Ag in the Classroom Snapshot**

**What is Ag in the Classroom?**  
Ag in the Classroom is a national program that provides teachers and students with the knowledge and skills needed to understand the role of agriculture in our society. The program is designed to be used in classrooms, libraries, and community centers. It includes a variety of resources such as lesson plans, activities, and field trips.

**Resources**

- Lesson Plans:** A variety of lesson plans are available for teachers to use in their classrooms. These plans cover a wide range of topics, from the basics of agriculture to more advanced topics such as food safety and farm safety.
- Activities:** A variety of activities are available for students to use in the classroom. These activities include games, puzzles, and projects that help students learn about agriculture in a fun and engaging way.
- Field Trips:** A variety of field trip options are available for students. These trips include visits to farms, food processing facilities, and agricultural museums.

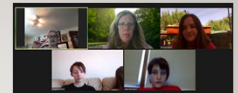
**Ag in the Classroom Online**

Ag in the Classroom Online is a website that provides teachers and students with a variety of resources. These resources include lesson plans, activities, and field trip options. The website is designed to be user-friendly and easy to navigate.

## Dane County has a strong Agriculture Impact in Wisconsin!



## WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE AG IN THE CLASSROOM PROGRAM IN DANE COUNTY??



- To increase teachers and K-12 students understanding of how their food is produced
- Increase awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society, increase safety of youth on the farm, and introduce youth to career opportunities in agriculture.
- Teach Ag in the Classroom educational programs in Dane County schools and coordinate farm safety educational events such as Tractor Safety.
- The Coordinator will work closely with Dane County schools, Extension educators and other Ag related organizations to build partnerships, improve on farm safety and promote agriculture awareness and understanding in Dane County.



## AG IN THE CLASSROOM PROGRAMS

### Book of the Year Program & Essay Contest

Every year the state selects an Ag-Accurate book that is targeted toward 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students each fall. Curriculum

From September to April, promotion is done to encourage these students to participate the annual essay contest. Each county selects a winner. Winners are then moved on to the district level where the district winner moves to the state level.

Topic for 2020 was: How have soybeans fueled Wisconsin's Economy?

Winning essay came from a student from Sun Prairie.



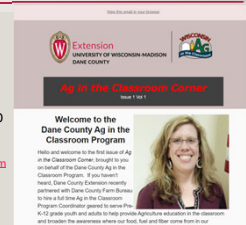
## AG IN THE CLASSROOM CORNER E-NEWSLETTER

Developed an E-Newsletter to help promote What is going on with the Dane County Ag in the Classroom Program

Will be sent 4 times per year.

Targeting Dane County Schools and Partners – Over 1300 Contacts county wide.

View the spring issue at: [Dane County Ag in the Classroom Spring Newsletter \(mailchi.mp\)](mailto:mailchi.mp)



## DANE COUNTY TRACTOR SAFETY

Meeting the needs of the Agriculture community training the next generation of youth Ag workers.

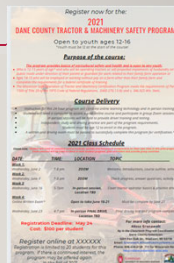
Program will be held in June of 2021 – Through Zoom/In Person sessions Students must complete 24 hour program to earn their certification.

Open to 20 youth. Some neighboring counties do not have a program so could reach some out of county participants.

### 2 Certification Types:

- State:** Given to 12-13 year olds that complete a Tractor Safety Program
- Federal:** Given to youth ages 14-15 that can obtain employment on farms other than immediate family and perform AGE APPROPRIATE tasks.

If there is enough interest, a fall program may be held to make up for no program in 2020.



## FUTURE PLANS

- Hold Dane County Tractor Safety, June 2021
- Update lessons that will be available to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and market AITC opportunities to Dane County Schools for new school year
- Create local videos highlighting Dane County farmers focusing on Dane County's top 5 agriculture commodities: 1. Grain, 2: Milk 3: Cattle & Calves 4: Nursery/Green Industry 5: Swine
- Attend relevant professional development training: National Ag in the Classroom Conference
- Work with local partners on upcoming programs that connect with Ag in the Classroom
- Continue to build awareness and increase contacts to the program



## QUESTIONS?

For more information about the Dane County Ag in the Classroom Program, please contact:

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Phone: 608-224-3728  
711 for Wisconsin Relay  
<http://dane.extension.wisc.edu>

**Be sure to check out Dane County AITC at:**

Website: [Ag in the Classroom - Extension Dane County \(wisc.edu\)](http://Ag in the Classroom - Extension Dane County (wisc.edu))

Social Media:

Facebook: @dcaic  
Instagram: @dancoaitc  
Twitter: @daneprogram



THANK YOU!