



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.

Agriculture

- A field day for farmers and agribusiness professionals in the Farmers for the Upper Sugar group, where roller crimper and closing wheel technology was demonstrated, and producers learned about the benefits of calculating nitrogen use efficiency on their fields, and how cover crops impact nitrogen availability. The goal is to support farmers and agribusiness professionals in preserving clean ground and surface water.
- Development of the bilingual Dairy Workers Training Skills modules for dairy employees to learn principles for each task on the farm. This effort is designed to support them in completing their daily tasks more confidently and efficiently while maintaining employee safety and animal welfare.
- One-on-one consultation with Dane County producers where they learn about farm succession and business startup to provide support and educational material about farm management.
- Planning of a dairy hoof health webinar series for farmers, managers, on-farm employees, veterinarians, and others, developed in collaboration with UW-School of Veterinary Medicine and industry partners. The goal is to teach individuals the prevention and control of infectious hoof diseases in mature cows and young stock, maintenance of a foot bath, and farm safety to improve animal well-being and productivity.
- A training series for diversified organic vegetable farmers where they learn, discuss, and practice labor management techniques to improve employee satisfaction and retention on small-scale vegetable farms.
- Grower gatherings and field days for diversified organic vegetable farmers to 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.

Community Development

- A series of educational and deliberation sessions of the Mount Horeb Housing Task Force to recommend housing strategies for the village that will reduce the affordability gap.
- Planning for facilitation of a county-wide task force on broadband access in collaboration with the Dane County Board of Supervisors and members of the ad-hoc work group. The goal of this effort is to study broadband access and collect data on underserved populations so as to make recommendations to the County board regarding broadband expansion.
- Pre-planning with the strategic planning committee of Chrysalis, a nonprofit organization supporting adults recovering from mental health and substance abuse challenges. Committee members learned about strategic planning strategies and adapted their planning process to include clients to ensure the organization's priorities are driven by its stakeholders.
- A weekly meeting convening for 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.
- A panel discussion for Dane County community sustainability leaders where local food systems leaders explained about their work to strengthen and support the local food system. This effort was designed to help individuals and organizations improve the sustainability of the local food system.

Human Development & Relationships

- A collaborative financial education partnership for low income families, seniors and the disabled that provides free tax assistance resources. The goal of this effort is to maximize income tax refunds, earned income and homestead credit, recover missing stimulus payments, and increase overall financial stability.

Health and Wellbeing

- Monthly educational sessions for clinical pediatricians on nutrition education opportunities, local and federal nutrition assistance and food access programs that mitigate food insecurity among children from low-income families, and expands pediatricians' understanding of food insecurity among their patients.
- A five week virtual education series for kindergartners where they learn the importance of eating fruits, vegetables and foods from all of the food groups as well as what healthy portions look like. The activity is designed to get students excited about eating in a healthy way by making the food on their plates colorful.

Positive Youth Development

- A survey for youth of the education and project area interests are collected by the Dane County 4-H Project Resource Library Workgroup to identify the resources that would be utilized by members and clubs.
- A series of online training programs related to Small Animals and Dairy for 4-H and FFA youth where they prepared presentations and practiced online training best practices in order to confidently educate other youth with related project area information using a Zoom meeting.
- A one-on-one conversation for 4-H club volunteers where they shared progress made and support needed to meet the annual SMART goals related to program quality and expanding access.

Upcoming Events

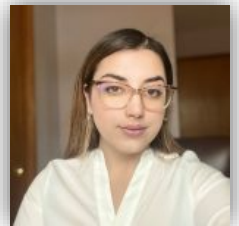
- Teen Eats! A Virtual Cooking Class for High School Students April 8 - May 13, 2021
- Walking Strong: A Hoof Health Webinar Series May 11 - 25, 2021
- Money As you Grow Train the Trainer May 20, 2021 or June 17, 2021
- Green Thumb Gardening May 3 – June 14, 2021
- StrongBodies™ virtual classes for Dane County residents

[View more Upcoming Events](#)

Staff Highlight

We are excited to announce that Javiera Gonzalez has joined the Dane Extension team. Javiera started on Monday, April 19th as the Bilingual Clerk. She will provide customer service and work closely with the educators on program planning and logistics.

Javiera can be reached at 608-224-3704 or Gonzalez.javiera@countyofdane.com.



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