



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 they learned about the potential of legume cover crops to supply nitrogen credits to the following corn crop, as well as the pros and cons of different cover crop species. The goal of this effort is to support farmers and agribusiness professionals in preserving clean ground and surface water in Wisconsin.
- A series of videos for farmers, agribusiness and conservation professionals on innovative cropping systems and management practices going on within Dane County. The goal of this effort was to increase knowledge between stakeholders of what their innovative neighbors are doing within the county to improve farm profitability, soil health and water quality.
- A Basic Organic Vegetable Enterprise Training for 110 State of Wisconsin Division of Vocational Services personnel.
- A presentation on *Ecommerce Platforms: What to look for and where to find answers* hosted by the University of Missouri Extension for farmers.

Horticulture

- An outdoor workshop where participants learned how to propagate Sansevieria by properly dividing the plant, repotting it and caring for the propagules. Learning these techniques should lead to greater success in propagating and growing the plants, leading to household cost savings while gaining the benefits of growing plants at home.
- Planning for the 2022 online Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Short Course (LGMSC), a four-week course with eight sessions in February for green industry professionals, including arborists, landscapers, nursery and greenhouse operators. As an outcome, attendees will gain knowledge that increases business profitability and will adopt Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies to reduce use of pesticides and/or use only low environmental impact products when needed.

Community Development

- A monthly meeting with food systems partners where we address pressing issues related to regional agriculture and food sovereignty in order to increase land and market opportunities for local growers.
- Planning for continued development and expansion of the Anderson Farm County Park community/market garden site in collaboration with Rooted; Anderson Park Friends, and Dane County Parks. The goal of this effort is to provide land access for community members to grow food to improve their food security and economic livelihood.
- 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.
- Planning support to the Dane County Broadband Task Force (an effort of the Dane County Board of Supervisors) that consists of assisting with planning meetings, identifying educational speakers and resources, and implementing a needs survey. The Task Force is charged with identifying and addressing gaps in broadband availability.

Human Development & Relationships

- A program for diverse, low income families in the Habitat for Humanity home ownership program where they participate in financial education workshops and coaching to learn to save for housing related expenses they will incur after they purchase their first home, to build equity in their home, and strive for overall financial well-being.
- Individual coaching for vulnerable low income families where participants gain valuable knowledge and skills needed to manage their finances in a very tough financial situation. This effort is designed to enhance the participants' ability to reach a financial goal.

4-H & Positive Youth Development

- Planning with United Way and City of Madison partners for the 2021/22 By Youth for Youth (BYFY) program.
- Marketing and planning lessons for the 2021-22 Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year, "Popcorn Country" by Cris Peterson. This will be one of the themed lessons as well as the Ag commodity focus for the 2022 Essay Contest.
- Planning with the Grow Academy staff to provide supportive educational experiences for the youth.
- Partnering with UW Space Place to plan the 4-H Science Fright-Night for youth k-13th grade youth will experience hands-on science involving weird sounds, eerie lights and creepy sights through fun and engaging activities. Youth will share insights at a series of Exploration Stations, connect with scientists, and engage in a presentation with a Thermo Fischer scientist.

Health and Wellbeing

- A 4 week virtual education series for parents with children with special needs where they learn about introducing new fruits and vegetables to their children through "Cooking with my Kids." The goal of this course is to improve overall dietary quality and develop healthy eating patterns among families.

Upcoming Events

- [Aging Mastery Program Series](#)
- [Biological Farmer Friends Fall Field Day](#)
- [Community Gardens: How to Plan for Success](#)
- [Retirement Planning Today®](#)
- [View More Events](#)

Event Highlight

4-H Science Fright Night

Dane County youth in K-13th grade are invited to attend the **4-H Science Fright-Night**. Experience hands-on science involving weird sounds, eerie lights and creepy sights through fun and engaging activities. Youth will share insights at a series of Exploration Stations, connect with scientists, and engage in a presentation with a Thermo Fischer scientist.

Thursday, October 21, 2021 from 7:00-8:30pm

UW Space Place, 2300 S. Park Street, Madison, WI – outside

Free! *First 50 youth to register will receive a **free safety Kit** that includes an apron, goggles, and more!*



[Register today!](https://forms.gle/A8Fg9vPomqprQ1AB8) Complete one form for each youth attending. <https://forms.gle/A8Fg9vPomqprQ1AB8>

Dane County Staff

Gabriella Balza <i>Youth Development Educator</i>	Javiera Gonzalez Clerk (Bilingual)	Deb Neubauer, <i>FEC Director and Human Development Educator</i>
John Bedigian <i>FoodWise Support Staff</i>	Alissa Grenawalt <i>Ag in the Classroom Coordinator</i>	Aracely Portillo <i>Nutrition Educator</i>
Jess Guffey Calkins <i>Food Systems Educator</i>	Sandy Jensen <i>Deputy Director</i>	Taylor Seale <i>Community Youth Development Educator</i>
Zulema Cruz-Hinds <i>Nutrition Educator</i>	Lisa Johnson <i>Horticulture Educator</i>	Holly Simon <i>FoodWise Curriculum Coordinator</i>
a Curley <i>4-H Program Coordinator</i>	Venkata Karri <i>Nutrition Educator</i>	Claire Strader <i>Organic Produce Educator</i>
Carrie Edgar <i>Area Extension Director</i>	Sharon Lezberg <i>Community Development Educator</i>	Chip Thompson <i>Clerk</i>
Jackie Gehin <i>FoodWise Administrator</i>	Claire Mance <i>Healthy Community Coordinator</i>	Chelsea Zegler <i>Crops & Soils Educator</i>