



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
DANE COUNTY

May 2024 Program Report

This summary report highlights just a few of the programs or projects Dane County Extension Educators were working on in May to provide you a sample of the type and breadth of programming offered. Also included are upcoming events. Be sure to check out the impact reports on the volunteer income tax site and on farm research at the end. If you would like more information on any of our programs, please contact me or visit our [website](#).

Carrie Edgar, Director

Meet Jasmine Carbajal, Bilingual Youth Development Educator, to lead new Career Pathways Program



Jasmine Carbajal started her new position as a Bilingual Community Youth Educator on May 20th. She previously served as the Bilingual 4-H Associate Educator in central Wisconsin. And her previous experience includes being a Family and Consumer Sciences/4-H agent at Montana State University-Extension and a nutrition educator for FoodWise in Rock County, WI. She holds a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Spanish and a Master's of Arts in Teaching English as a Second Language. She also spent a semester abroad at Tecnológico de Monterrey-Querétaro, Mexico during her undergrad. Jasmine brings a passion for Extension and youth to her work. She has a talent for building connections, immersing herself in the community, and a positive attitude that will make her the ideal fit for

building a new career-pathways program in Dane County. She will provide support to youth programs to better serve Latino youth and families. Jasmine loves collaborating so please get in touch with her today! Connect with Jasmine at 608-224-3718 or carbajal.jasmine@danecounty.gov.

Agriculture

Alison Pfau, Regional Dairy Educator, partnered with her colleague, Carolina Pinzón-Sánchez, State Dairy Specialist, on a workshop for dairy workers with managerial responsibilities. The program was presented in Spanish for an audience of Hispanic dairy workers about topics related to milk quality, especially mastitis prevention and milking equipment. Improving milk quality impacts dairy farms bottom-line. 26 Hispanic dairy leaders from 17 farms participated.

Alison Pfau wrote an [article](#) for dairy farmers and consultants explaining the importance of water consumption in dairy calves. The goal of this effort is to provide readers with a base level understanding the importance of water consumption in dairy calves systems in order to make informed decisions about how it could affect the rumen development and the animal performance during their stage of growth. The article has been picked up by local media.

Will Fulwider, Regional Crops & Soils Educator, **Chelsea Zegler**, Ag Water Quality Specialist, and **Wade Moder**, Natural Resources Educator, advise the Farmers for the Upper Sugar River by helping the producer-led watershed group to connect their educational efforts and field days with the resources of the University and identify on-farm research and demonstration opportunities. The goal is to increase producer engagement in the group and adoption of conservation practices within the watershed. The group is a vital connection to progressive farms that are ideal candidates for on-farm research, which serve as local interpretations of research conducted at the Ag research stations and encourage farmers to take a more systematic and research-based approach to answering the challenges facing agriculture.

Community Development

Sharon Lezberg, Community Development Educator, conducted focus groups with various audiences (commuters, large employers, small businesses, seniors, developers, public sector employees) to learn about housing issues in DeForest. Participants learned from each other about how availability and affordability of housing affects economic development, individual household finances, and community well-being. The Village staff will use the information to suggest strategies to increase housing options to the Village Council. Reach: 30 representatives of various sectors in the community.

Health and Wellbeing

Venkata Karri, Nutrition Educator taught a 6 week series for first graders 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 activities are designed to get students excited about eating in a healthy way by making their plates at home colorful. Total Reach: 360 first graders.

Human Development and Relationships

Clare Dahl, Financial Security Educator, taught a three part in-person series for families in the Habitat for Humanity program, where participants learned about budgeting, saving, new expenses related to homeownership, and investing for the future. Through this program, families are more prepared to address new financial situations and continue their financial education. Total Reach: 26 people from 19 families.

Kula Yang, Family Engagement & Relationships Educator, taught a workshop for Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin & Upper Michigan where participants living in low income housing learned the benefits and different strategies to build positive conflict management skills. Through this activity, participants gain skills to build resilience and increase bonding within the family dynamic. Total Reach: 7 caregivers from Lutheran Social Services residences.

Positive Youth Development

Lisa Curley, 4-H Extension Educator, provides ongoing facilitation and logistics support for 4-H Horse Project volunteers, providing them with resources and strategies to make sure youth have authentic leadership roles in the project. The 4-H Horse Project also provides youth the opportunity to explore their sparks while creating a sense of belonging and engagement. Total Reach: 8 Horse and Pony Education Committee/adult volunteers and 110 Dane County 4-H Horse & Pony Project Area Members

Taylor Seale, Community Youth Development Educator, facilitated a youth-designed health poster campaign event with local youth and Public Health Madison & Dane County. Posters focus on commercial tobacco prevention efforts among teens. The campaign event highlighted the youth-designed posters, the process and value of engaging youth as key stakeholders for prevention efforts, and resources for quitting commercial tobacco. In addition to distributing the posters across Dane County, [posters are available](#) to download for other health departments, schools, and organizations. Total Reach: 30 attendees at the event and 6 participating youth members.



Upcoming Events

[Fund Development & Donor Relations Course](#) – June 19 1-2:30 pm

[The Parent's Guide to the Teenage Brain 13-18 year olds](#) – June 20 1-2 pm

[Easy Ways to Connect with Your Kids](#) – June 20 & 27 6-7:30 pm

[Cloverbud Circus Camp](#) – June 23 1-:30 pm

[Focus on Fathers Series: Fathers Help Children Handle Emotions](#) – July 9 6-7 pm

[How Kids Develop Self Control 1-5 year olds](#) – July 18 1-2 pm

[Garden & Landscape Q&A Session](#) – July 22 1-2 pm

[Teaching Children About Emotions](#) – July 23 6-7:15 pm

[Dane County 4-H Camp – Grades 3-5](#) – July 24-27

[Dane County 4-H Camp – Grades 6-8](#) – July 27-30

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



Come see us at the Dane County Fair! July 18-21
Where 4-H members share what they have learned
in their 4-H project areas throughout the year!
<https://www.danecountyfair.com/>



Richard Dilley Tax Center

Providing Access to Free Tax Preparation Assistance

Since 2005, Dane County UW Extension has been involved in the free tax preparation initiative known as the Richard Dilley Tax Center. This collaborative effort is possible through a partnership with many incredible volunteers, the UW Madison South Madison Partnership Office, and the Wisconsin Department of Revenue with funding support from the Internal Revenue Services. Each year, the Richard Dilley Tax Center provides FREE income tax preparation to thousands of low-income workers, seniors, and those with disabilities. This site is crucial for people who need their tax refunds to pay bills and meet current expenses. [Click here to learn more about the Richard Dilley Tax Center.](#)

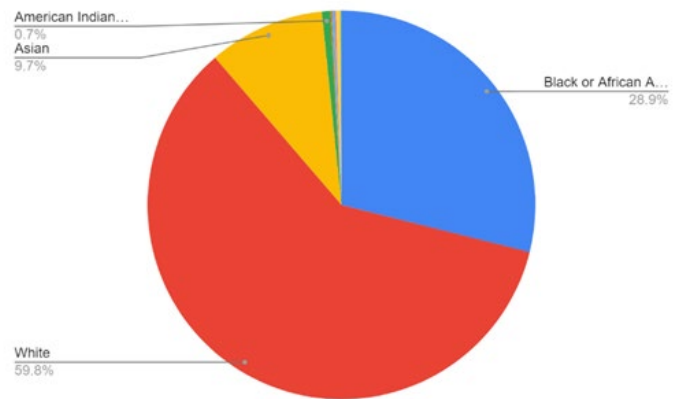
81 Volunteers	2,894 Returns filed	\$2.87 million in federal returns	\$1.44 million in state returns	93% Highly recommend the Site
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Extension’s Financial Education program helps families and individuals achieve financial well being – keeping pace with day-to-day expenses, reaching financial goals, planning for life’s unexpected events and securing their financial future.

2024 Taxpayer Demographics*

- 83% had earnings under \$63,398
- 44% were over the age of 60
- 24% identified as having a disability
- 7.2% identified as a veteran
- 19% identified as Latino or Hispanic
- 19% reported less than proficient speaking skills in English
- 19% reported less than proficient reading skills in English

*2660 taxpayers completed demographics survey.



Language Access Services and/or IRS forms were provided in Spanish, French, Swahili, Laotian, Hmong, Vietnamese, Russian, Mandarin, Arabic and American Sign Language.

Feedback from a few 2024 RDTC Site Users:

“The Richard Dilley Tax Center is an amazing place to go to get your taxes done. I am vision impaired so it’s technically impossible for me to fill out my own taxes and I’m so happy that they’re available to do this service for me. I really trust them, they never make mistakes.”

“I have been using this service for six years now and am most appreciative of the kind and caring professionalism. In addition, I have recommended this service to my co-workers who are not bilingual. The feedback I got from them has been AMAZING!!! Thank you so much for helping my Latino/a community. BRAVO!”

“Thank you for providing translation services. Volunteers were helpful and the process was quick.”

“I love going to the VITA site for tax help. Being older, and not up to date on tax changes, it is nice to have someone else help file the tax forms. Everyone is friendly and helpful.”



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On-Farm Research Measures Management Changes

Dane County Farms first to implement new technology to better evaluate effectiveness of conservation practices

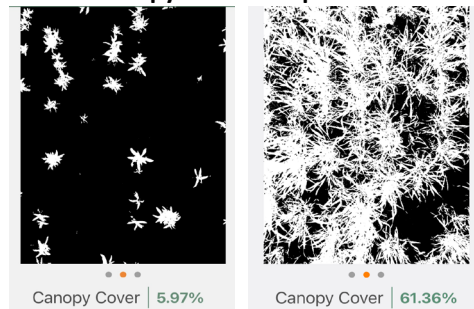
Situation: Farmers have limited options for overwintering cover crop species after corn and soybean crops due to a short time window for establishment before freezing. Cereal rye has been a reliable option that can help mitigate nitrate leaching that often occurs in the spring before the next cash crop is planted and the ground is typically fallow. However cereal rye can impact the following year’s corn yield by reducing nitrogen availability. Farmers are interested in new species that can provide the environmental benefits without the agronomic tradeoffs. Winter camelina is an oil seed crop that the University of Minnesota has bred to overwinter and become a cover crop option in northern climates. Water quality monitoring on-farms is often expensive and disruptive, and therefore typical on-farm research and demonstration is limited to agronomic and proxy water quality measurements. In addition, very little groundwater quality monitoring has occurred within Wisconsin. The Ag community is interested in local on-farm data that can help quantify the impact of management changes.

Response: After identifying the need for more information on winter camelina and nitrate leaching within the county. Will Fulwider, Crops & Soils Educator, and Chelsea Zegler, Ag Water Quality Specialist, convened colleagues from Extension, UW-Madison CALS, and local producer-led groups to create a research protocol and recruit 3 farmers for participation in the study. Initial research has been conducted on winter camelina at the Dairy Forage Research Center (USDA) in Sauk County, but typically after corn silage harvest not soybean harvest. The goals of the research are to learn more about appropriate seeding rates and typical biomass accumulation, and to measure cover crop species’ impact on nitrate leaching and corn yield. Farmer collaborators are members of Farmers for the Upper Sugar River or Yahara Pride Farms and have not conducted on-farm research before.

Chelsea and Will worked with Dr. Steven Hall, Agriculture water quality faculty member in the College of Ag and Life Science, to conduct nitrate leaching estimates. Resin “lysimeters” were placed below the root zone before cover planting in each plot to compare cumulative nitrate concentrations after the spring (when a majority of nitrate leaching occurs). The resin “lysimeters” are a low cost alternative to tension lysimeters that measure both quality and quantity of water leaving the root zone. The Dane County on-farm research sites were the first implementation of this technology and will allow the agriculture and conservation communities to better evaluate outcome effectiveness of each conservation practice.

Chelsea and Will just finished removing over 80 resin lysimeters, 50 soil samples and 25 cover crop biomass samples from the research locations and will continue to monitor the fields throughout the growing season. Farmers for the Upper Sugar River have already discussed initial growth of the cover crop at a spring meeting and we envision results from the project will be presented at both producer-led groups annual meetings. Discussing research results will give Extension an opportunity to connect practices with outcomes and focus on factors that contribute to nitrate leaching. This is a vital next step since most of the programming in Dane County has focused on phosphorus and surface water quality.

Canopy Cover Comparison



UW-Madison Extension’s Agriculture Program educates and responds to the needs of the agriculture community while providing resources that promote economic and environmental sustainability in Wisconsin. We apply research to challenges facing communities and businesses.

Results: Samples are still being processed and corn is still being planted, but initial results demonstrated differences in cover crop species establishment success. Cereal rye out performed winter camelina at most locations, indicating adjustments in seeding rate or drill settings are necessary. However, winter camelina survived the winter and at one location was a similar height to cereal rye. Winter camelina was starting to flower May 6th in Verona, showing its benefit to pollinators. There has been initial excitement from farmers in using winter camelina as a forage or cash crop. Using winter camelina in a cover crop species mix may help farmers qualify for different cost-share opportunities and increase diversity into their systems. We plan to continue the research project in 2025, including adding a drone seeding treatment.

For more information contact Chelsea Zegler (chelsea.zegler@wisc.edu) or Will Fulwider (will.fulwider@wisc.edu)



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