

November 2025 Program Report

Recognizing Years of Leadership and Community Impact

As Community Development Educator, **Sharon Lezberg** prepares to retire from UW–Madison Extension Dane County, we extend our deep appreciation for 21 years of service in various UW-Extension roles. Throughout her time with Extension, Sharon partnered with agencies, nonprofits, and community organizations to advance climate change education, expand broadband accessibility, and strengthen nonprofit board leadership across Dane County. Her work reflects the core of Extension's mission, connecting people, knowledge, and community to create meaningful, lasting change.

Colleagues describe Sharon as community-centered, passionate, and always ready to lend her support. She has been a mentor and connector for many, helping organizations build stronger boards, clarify their vision, and better serve residents.



The impact of her work is visible in the increased capacity, collaboration, and opportunity now present in the communities she supported.

We offer our sincere gratitude to Sharon for her dedication, partnership, and commitment to Extension's values. We wish her joy, rest, and fulfillment in retirement and celebrate the enduring legacy she leaves in Dane County and beyond.

Expanding Spanish-Language Dairy Education in Wisconsin

Our Bilingual Regional Dairy Educator, **Alison Pfau**, alongside other agriculture educators, offered a Spanish-language educational webinar series to share research-based information on key dairy topics. The goal was to help Latino dairy employees and industry members stay informed about new management practices that support production, efficiency, and animal care.

Many dairy workers across Wisconsin face language barriers and have limited access to reliable information in Spanish. Recognizing this gap, Extension developed a weekly webinar series during Hispanic Heritage Month to deliver up-to-date research and practical knowledge in a format—and language—that meets the needs of the workforce.

Participants shared strong satisfaction with the information provided and expressed appreciation for having high-quality resources available in Spanish. Several farms have begun using the recorded sessions as part of their employee training, extending the program's impact beyond the live webinars.

This work was supported by Smart Farming Consulting, an international consulting firm that assisted with outreach and promotion.

To learn more about this program or contact Alison Pfau, Bilingual Regional Dairy Educator at Pfau.Alison@danecounty.gov



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This summary report highlights just a few of the programs and projects Dane County Extension Educators facilitated or taught this past month. If you would like more information on any of our programs, please [contact me](#) or [visit our website](#).

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The University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.



Event Flyer for our language access program for fair farmers.

Welcome Our New Nutrition Program Administrator

We are pleased to introduce **Shana Leith**, the Health and Well-Being Nutrition Administrator for Dane and Rock Counties. Shana began her career with UW–Madison Extension in 1998 as a Nutrition Educator in Rock County and has spent nearly two decades helping individuals and families build healthy habits, expand food access, and strengthen overall wellness.

Shana is known for her collaborative approach, strong mentorship, and ability to build partnerships that deepen community impact.

We are grateful for Shana's leadership and her continued commitment to ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to achieve optimal health.



To learn more about Extension's Health and Well-Being Program visit our [website](#) or contact Shana Leith, Nutrition Administrator at Leith.Shana@danecounty.gov

Welcome Our New Bilingual Nutrition Educator



We are delighted to welcome **Fernanda (Ferne) Magaña** as the new Bilingual Nutrition Educator for Dane County. Fernie joined UW–Madison Extension in 2023, first serving Milwaukee County before transitioning to Dane County in 2025.

In her role, Fernie is committed to helping individuals and families make healthy, culturally meaningful, and budget-friendly food choices. She enjoys traveling, cooking, and spending time with loved ones. We are excited to have Fernie on the Dane County Health and Well-Being team and look forward to the impact she will make.

To learn more about Extension's Health and Well-Being Program visit our [website](#) or contact Fernie Magaña, Bilingual Nutrition Educator at Magaña.Fernie@danecounty.gov

Estate Planning Education for Older Adults

Clare Dahl, our Bilingual Financial and Life Span Educator delivered an Estate Planning presentation for residents of Oakwood Village, providing clear guidance on planning ahead and connecting participants with additional Extension resources that support financial and end-of-life decision-making.

A social worker at Oakwood Village requested an educational session for residents.

Extension used the Planning Ahead Estate Planning module to provide practical, research-based guidance. Participants gained a better understanding of estate planning and available resources, while the program strengthened Extension's partnership with Oakwood Village for future collaboration.

To learn more about this program contact Clare Dahl at Dahl.Clare@danecounty.gov

Upcoming Extension Programs



Becoming the Employer of Choice

Mon & Thur, Nov 13-Dec 11 | 9 AM-11 AM | Zoom

Join for 8 sessions, where you'll learn with and from your farmer peers to explore farm culture, intercultural competence.



Houseplant Propagation

Thur, Dec 4 & Sat, Dec 13 | 10 AM - 12 PM | 5201 Fen Oak Dr

This in-person, 2-hour class will include a lecture on propagation science and techniques.



Resilient Co-Parenting

Thur, Dec 4th | 7 PM-8 PM | Zoom

Join this monthly virtual session of topic-specific classes designed for parents or caregivers raising children together while living apart.



Ask Your Gardening Question

Mon, Dec 15 | 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM | Zoom

Join a free monthly web series where you can find answers to all your plant-related questions.



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Dane County 4-H Fright Night

Originally designed to strengthen the connection between Dane County 4-H, the University of Wisconsin Biotechnology Center, and the Wisconsin Science Museum, the Dane County 4-H Science Fright Night also aimed to attract non-4-H youth. This initiative provided an opportunity for these youth in grades K-12 to learn more about 4-H and its offerings, fostering a sense of community and inclusivity. By highlighting the diverse range of activities and projects available through 4-H, the event sought to broaden its reach and impact.

The Dane County 4-H Science Fright Night is a dynamic, one-night event aimed at igniting youth interest in various STEM-related 4-H project areas while promoting 4-H to the broader community. The first of five annual events was held in 2021 and each year the number of collaborators increases.

Over the past five years, the event has expanded to include more youth and partner collaborators sharing activities, reflecting the growing interest and success of the program. This evolution highlights the event's ability to adapt and thrive, continually enhancing its scope and impact on the community.

The 2025 4-H Science Fright Night held on Thursday, November 6 featured 21 activities organized by 12 collaborating organizations. This one-night STEM celebration was designed to ignite curiosity and showcase the range of 4-H projects while welcoming the broader community. And it delivered! More than 110 youth in grades K-12 and 80 family members packed the event, with 20 percent of those youth brand new to 4-H. Behind the scenes, 21 youth volunteers and 20 adult volunteers worked together to make the magic happen. Best of all? It was completely free.

The theme this year, inspired by the Wisconsin Science Festival, was Rock & Roll: Music, Motion & Geology, and the activities were as lively as the name suggests. Youth-led stations included laughing cups, squealing sticks, screaming balloons, and oscilloscopes and a Chladni plate made with household items. There was even an interactive Theremin demonstration that let youth play music without touching a single string or key.

And that was just the start. Guests got to hold a real brain with students from the UW-Madison Neuroscience Program, explore the cosmos with the Astronomy Club, and learn the

physics behind sound with the UW Physics Department. The Kelch Aviation Museum showed off tools that move air, while the Madison West High Rocket Club helped kids launch air rockets they made into the night sky. Everywhere you turned, there was something new to discover.



Science Fright Night began as a way to connect Dane County 4-H with the UW Biotechnology Center and the Wisconsin Science Museum, but it has grown into so much more—a celebration of

STEM, community, and youth leadership. The planning committee included the Dane County 4-H Educator, five 4-H youth members, staff from UW- Biotechnology Center and the Wisconsin Science Museum. Youth didn't just help plan; they researched activities, pitched ideas, and even created their own stations. That's leadership in action!

The impact was clear. Reflection sheets encouraged participants to jot down what they learned and share it at home, and evaluations showed that the activities were engaging and educational. The overall experience score was a 4.5 out of 5.

When asked to 'share a smile', one family shared
"The activities were fun, engaging, and appropriate for multiple age groups. All of the volunteers were super helpful and made the experience a lot of fun."

In 2025, the event won a Wisconsin Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals Collaboration Partnership award. Better than an award, the collaborators at the event feel their time is well spent and are excited to return next year with more STEM activities for our youth! For more information on this project, contact Lisa Curley, 4-H Extension Educator at Curley.Lisa@danecounty.gov.