A partnership between the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Dane County, Extension staff use research-based information, a variety of educational delivery methods and local collaborations to strengthen the lives of Dane County citizens.

Our work is based on local needs, experiences and assets and focuses on supporting:

- Empowering families and communities
- Fostering leadership and civic engagement
- Supporting Dane County agriculture
- Promoting health and wellbeing
- Enhancing resilient natural resource systems
- Supporting positive youth development

Extension works alongside the people of Dane County to deliver practical educational programs—on the farm, in schools, and throughout urban and rural communities. To learn more about Dane County Extension visit https://dane.extension.wisc.edu or contact us at 608-224-3700.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Carrie Edgar, Director
Dane County Extension

MEET YOUR DANE COUNTY EXTENSION EDUCATORS

Deb Neubauer, Human Development & Relationships Educator & Director of Financial Education Center, Neubauer@countyofdane.com or 608-244-3722.
Deb delivers programs in family financial management, food safety, and food preservation.

Karina Mendoza, Bilingual Financial Educator mendoza.karina@countyofdane.com or 608-283-1262
Karina provides financial education to groups and financial coaching for individuals and families.

- **Financial Education Center** - Located in the south Madison neighborhood, the mission of the Financial Education Center is to teach money management skills to Dane County families. By providing information, tools, and other resources, the Financial Education Center equips families with the necessary skills to increase credit worthiness, reduce barriers to housing, eat healthy on a budget, and improve their overall financial capability.
- **The Richard Dilly Tax Center** provides free tax preparation services for low-income, elderly and people with disabilities.
**Agriculture**

**María José Fuenzalida, Dairy and Livestock Educator**  
[fuenzalida@countyofdane.com](mailto:fuenzalida@countyofdane.com) or 605-224-3708  
María José provides bi-lingual education and support to Dairy and Livestock producers on a variety of topics including milk quality, animal health, grazing and calf care.  
- Animal wellness issues for dairies and other farms  
- Mental health and suicide prevention programs for Ag professionals  
- Farm succession planning for families thinking about the future

**Claire Strader, Organic Vegetable Educator**  
[strader.claire@countyofdane.com](mailto:strader.claire@countyofdane.com) or 608-234-1561  
Claire works with diversified organic vegetable producers on both production and farm management issues. This position is co-funded with the FairShare CSA Coalition.  
- Organic Vegetable Production Conference provides detailed technical information for 200 participants annually  
- On-Farm cover crop and vegetable research focuses on adaptations to climate change  
- Organic Vegetable Farm Manager Apprenticeship addresses farm labor and farmer training

**Chelsea Zegler, Crops and Soils Educator**  
[zeğer.chelsea@countyofdane.com](mailto:zeğer.chelsea@countyofdane.com) or 608-224-3716  
Chelsea works on soil and water conservation practices for both small and large scale producers including cover crops and nutrient management planning. She also covers farm business management and cost of production.  
- Pesticide Applicator Program provides training and exam for private applicators  
- Cover Crop research and education program

**Horticulture**

**Lisa Johnson, Horticulture Educator**  
[johnson.lisa@countyofdane.com](mailto:johnson.lisa@countyofdane.com) or 608-224-3715  
Lisa provides education to the home gardener and green industry professionals. She also writes a weekly column in the WI State Journal, a bi-monthly column in WI Gardening magazine, and makes frequent appearances on WPR Garden Talk.  
- **Master Gardener Volunteers** (MGVs) - Horticultural course for adults who volunteer time providing education and garden projects that benefit the local community. The Horticulture Helpline is staffed by MGVs who answer gardening questions. MGVs regularly staff booths at six local farmers markets to answer gardening questions. And they provide presentations on various topics to garden clubs, non-profits, and other groups.  
- **Green Industry programs** – Annual educational short course for green industry professionals

**Ag in the Classroom**

**Alissa Grenawalt, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator**  
[grenawalt.alissa@countyofdane.com](mailto:grenawalt.alissa@countyofdane.com) or 608-224-3728  
The Ag in the Classroom program provides educational programs and resources for K-12 students and teachers on the importance of agriculture in our economy and society. This program is funded through a partnership with Dane County Farm Bureau and Dane County.  
Ag in the Classroom provides educational activities on topics such as:  
- How our food is produced  
- Farm and tractor safety  
- Career opportunities in agriculture
Positive Youth Development

Lisa Curley, 4-H Program Coordinator
curley.lisa@countyofdane.com or 608-224-3702
Lisa manages the 4-H Community Club program providing guidance and education to adult volunteers and youth members.

- **4-H Community Clubs** - Dane County youth and adults learn together to think clearly and make decisions, to care about others, to develop skills for living and to practice healthy lifestyles. Education happens through 4-H projects, group programs, activities and in-depth learning experiences.

Javier Neira, Community Youth Development Educator
neira.javier@countyofdane.com or 608-224-3717
Javier coordinates positive youth development programs and provides services to other youth organizations in Dane County.

- **By Youth For Youth** (BYFY) is a partnership of United Way, City of Madison and Dane County. BYFY engages diverse high school students from throughout Dane County to identify needs and priorities, develop and implement a grant process, review proposals and recommend funding for community youth groups.
- **Youth Governance Program** provides opportunities for youth leadership, development and empowerment in Dane County through direct participation in county government decision-making; provides real-life learning opportunities for youth on the functioning of local government; and brings youth voice to community issues while fostering the development of confident, capable, and independent leaders for the next generation.

Community Development

Jess Guffey Calkins, Community Food Systems Coordinator
calkins.jessica@countyofdane.com or 608-224-3712
Jess works on a variety of food production and access issues in Dane County.

- **Food Policy** through support of the Dane County Food Council, a committee of the Dane County Board that explores issues and develops recommendations to create an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable local food system.

Sharon Lezberg, Community & Economic Development Educator
lezberg.sharon@countyofdane.com or 608-224-3719
Sharon provides educational, planning, and facilitation support for community economic development, organizational development, community planning, and public input processes.

- **Strategic planning and facilitation** for non-profit and government organizations
- **Food & Farm Entrepreneur education, support, and networking programs**
- **Market Analysis** support for towns and villages

Natural Resources

Mindy Habecker, Natural Resources & Organizational Development Educator
habecker@countyofdane.com or 608-224-3718.
Mindy provides educational programs on natural resource issues and works with communities, local government and non-profits on visioning, strategic planning and community planning by providing education, design, facilitation and evaluation services.

- **Natural Resources Education Resource Center** - a lending library that provides equipment and training for residents on natural resource issues
- **Madison Area Woodland Owners Conference** for those who own and manage woods
- **Exploring Water program** teaches watershed literacy principles with a focus on experiential learning activities
- **Pollinator Protection** educational programs, displays and demonstration gardens
Health and Wellbeing

Jackie Gehin, FoodWIse Administrator
gerhin@countyofdane.com or 608-224-3714
Jackie oversees the nutrition education program in Dane County.

The FoodWIse nutrition educators assist limited resource families and individuals to choose healthful diets, purchase and prepare healthy food, handle it safely, and become more food secure by spending their food dollars wisely. The program is primarily offered in elementary schools, community centers and senior meal sites. This program is federally funded.

Dane County FoodWIse Team:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Bedigian</td>
<td>Zulema Cruz-Hinds</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mance.claire@countyofdane.com">mance.claire@countyofdane.com</a> or 608-224-3699</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lytonia Floyd</td>
<td>Venkata Karri</td>
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<td>Kazoua Moua</td>
<td>Udai Olivares</td>
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<td>Aracely Portillo</td>
<td>Holly Simon</td>
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Claire Mance, Healthy Communities Coordinator
mance.claire@countyofdane.com or 608-224-3699
Claire addresses diet-related disparities by contributing to advancing policy, systems, and environmental changes to promote healthy eating and physical activity. She works closely with the food councils and other groups addressing food and hunger issues throughout Dane County.

To learn more about Dane County Extension please visit our website at https://dane.extension.wisc.edu

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