

New Department Head Joins Dane Co UW Extension

Since joining Extension on October 1st, Carrie Edgar has spent much of her time getting to know the people and places of Dane County. A native of Quincy, Illinois with eleven years of Extension experience in the U of I system, she has found while there are many similarities there are also some differences in how Extension functions in the two states.



"I am enjoying being here in Dane County. The past 3 months have been an incredible learning experience and everyone has been very welcoming and helpful." states Edgar, "I am continuously impressed with the quality of programming done by the Dane County UW Extension staff."

In addition to Department Head duties, Edgar will be focusing on food systems and program planning & evaluation in her 25% educator role. Contact Carrie at edgar@countyofdane.com or 224-3706.

School Forest Naturalists learn about soils and ecology

Much of our life's activities and pursuits are related and influenced by the behavior of the soil around us. The Madison School Forest Naturalists wished to have a better understanding of how soils form and how they influence the forest ecology. They also wished to have teaching tools, hands-on exercises, and a good understanding of soils so that they then can teach and have activities related to Dane County's forest soils as they work with students. Dane County UW-Extension worked with the naturalists to first learn what they wished to know, then provided a half -day tailored naturalist training that focused expressly on the naturalists' learning needs. It provided them with both the background information on soils, localized soil and related ecological and forestry knowledge, and hand-on practice with activities designed for upper elementary to high school youth. They also received additional resources for field-based teaching. The twenty naturalists gained knowledge, skills and experience in teaching soils and forest ecology concepts to our county's youth.

Mindy Habecker, Natural Res./Comm. Development Educator, 224-3718 Habecker@co.dane.wi.us

Sessions help responders train for farm accident scenarios

A training event was sponsored by the UW-Extension and Farm Bureaus of Rock, Green and Dane Counties. The goal: to show firefighters, police and emergency technicians how to handle everything from livestock attacks to farm chemical spills to tractor rollovers. About 60 emergency responders practiced responding to simulated farming accidents at Worthington Ag parts in rural Evansville. Emergency crews practiced extricating a victim trapped in a combine. Crews learned how to work in tight quarters, and how to dismantle moving parts on big machinery. Participants also practiced using straps to stabilize the wheels of a tractor that was overturned and lying on a victim, crushing its chest. The sessions also showed emergency crews the dangers of anhydrous ammonia with training from Red Brewer of Frontier FS and farm animal safety with Dane and Green County UWEX staff.

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