



## Dane County Youth Celebrate National 4-H Week October 2-8

October 2-8 is National 4-H Week, and Dane County is celebrating the 4-H youth who have made an impact on the community, and are stepping up to the challenges of a complex and changing world.

Recent findings from Tufts University's 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development indicate that young people in 4-H are three times more likely to contribute to their communities than youth not participating in 4-H. Notably, the Tufts research discovered that the structured learning, encouragement and adult mentoring that 4-H'ers receive play a vital role in helping them actively contribute to their communities. In Dane County, more than 1500 members and 400 volunteers are involved in 4-H.

4-H youth are a living breathing, culture-changing revolution for doing the right thing, breaking through obstacles and pushing our country forward by making a measurable difference right where they live. Learn how you can Join the Revolution of Responsibility at [4-H.org/revolution](http://4-H.org/revolution), or contact Jackie at the Dane County UW Extension office at [Gehin@countyofdane.com](mailto:Gehin@countyofdane.com) or 608-224-3728.

**NATIONAL 4-H WEEK**  
OCTOBER 2-8, 2011

## Composting Basics Workshop

This workshop will provide the information to start or improve a home compost system. Participants will learn the basics for successful composting along with an introduction to vermicomposting (composting with worms).

Home composting enables you to recycle leaves, grass clippings, garden debris and food waste into valuable compost that improves soil health when applied to gardens and lawns. Home composting also reduces the cost for the community to collect and manage these materials.

**Thursday, November 3, 2011 6-8 pm**  
**1 Fen Oak Court Madison, WI 53718**  
**\$5 per person**

**Presenters:**

Joanne Tooley, Master Composter and vermicomposting enthusiast

Joe Muellenberg, Master Composter

**To Register:**

Registration is due by Monday, Oct. 31. Visit our website or call Emily at 608-224-3707

## Planning and Financing your Local Food Business

Have an idea that could turn into a thriving local food business? Or a current business that you are thinking about expanding? Want to start farming but not sure how to start? With smart business planning you can cultivate a food business that will thrive.

Attend the **Seeds for Success Seminar** to learn how you can help your business thrive on **Nov. 2nd** at the Dane County UW Extension office from 9am – 3pm.

Carl Rainey, Business Consultant with the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP), will facilitate the morning program on business planning.

The afternoon will feature a panel of local financial experts focusing on loans, cooperative-based funding and grant opportunities.

Lunch and morning refreshments will be provided at each location. Registration is \$10 per person.

Please register with Diane Tiry at 715-723-5561 (or) [dtiry@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:dtiry@wisconsinfarmersunion.com) for the seminar by October 25, 2011.

This seminar is part of a series is sponsored by the Wisconsin Local Food Network. WLFN

**Visit our website to keep up with the latest happenings  
at Dane County UW Extension!**  
<http://dane.uwex.edu/>





## So. WI Food Hub – Fresh Market Packinghouse Meeting

Tuesday, October 4, 8:30 am- 4:00 pm

Dane County UW Extension office at 1 Fen Oak Court, Madison, WI 53718

Please join the Dane County Packinghouse Feasibility Study Team for a meeting to discuss the exciting results of the feasibility study and the opportunities ahead. The purpose of the meeting is to provide a detailed summary of the study findings, discuss the opportunities, and identify next steps. The first part of the day will include a detailed review of the following:

- Study methodology
- Supply and demand identified including areas of overlap and mis-match
- Business analysis – model used, ownership structure and assumptions
- Facility size and type
- Job creation
- Pricing and variables
- Packing house services
- Outcomes, opportunities and recommendations

The morning session will be followed by a question and answer period, and a review of next steps and time-lines. The afternoon will be reserved for growers interested in moving forward, and include a more in-depth discussion about business structure and owner/operator preferences, production costs and issues, level and type of participation, and how best to move forward.

Registration is required to attend and seating is limited. Please RSVP to Olivia Parry at (608) 266-4270 or by email at [parry@countyofdane.com](mailto:parry@countyofdane.com) by Friday, Sept. 16, 2011.

## Little Free Library at Dane County UW Extension

Little Free Libraries are popping up all over Dane County and beyond. The library is a small wooden box, a little bigger than a birdhouse, that holds 20 to 30 books for kids and adults. The idea is that you can take a book and hopefully leave a book the next time you visit. The goal is to encourage reading but the libraries also help build a sense of community.

Since Extension is all about education, we loved the idea of the Little Free Library and decided we needed one here at the Dane County office.

Nolan Andersen, our Dairy and Livestock Agent, is also a wood-worker and agreed to build one for us. We were just expecting a little wooden box but were

thrilled when Nolan brought the barn into the office a few weeks ago.

The little library is modeled after the barn on the family farm where Nolan grew up here in Dane County which stood just a few miles from the current Extension office.

Nolan had stored the wood from the barn when it was destroyed in a storm 25 years ago. He decided the Little Library was the perfect project to utilize the wood. In fact, he used mostly recycled materials for the little library.



Andersen Barn

The Little Free Library is now located just outside the door of the Dane County UW Extension office in the Lyman Anderson Ag & Conservation Center. The barn filled with books from the building staff almost immediately and has become a popular spot for staff, 4-Hers, and others who visit the building. New books continue to show up keeping the library stocked on a variety of topics.



Little Free Library at Dane UW Extension

If you would like to learn more about Little Free Libraries visit: [www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org) and please make a point to check out the Barn Little Free Library some time soon.