



DANE COUNTY

Melissa Agard
County Executive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: execmedia@danecounty.gov | 608-800-1127

DATE: April 16, 2026

Dane County Executive Melissa Agard Calls for De-escalation at Ridglan Farms

DANE COUNTY, WI – Dane County Executive Melissa Agard is calling for calm and de-escalation as tensions rise around planned protest activity at Ridglan Farms in Blue Mounds. The County Executive released the following statement:

“Dane County has a long and proud tradition of civic engagement and peaceful protest. People have a First Amendment right to speak out, organize, and advocate for causes they believe in. I understand and share the deep concern many in our community feel for the welfare of animals. But it is essential that all demonstrations remain non-violent and lawful. Escalation helps no one and puts people, animals, and our broader community at risk.

“There is a responsibility on all sides to prioritize safety, respect the law, and avoid actions that could lead to further conflict. I trust the Dane County Sheriff’s Office and our local law enforcement partners to manage this situation professionally and keep everyone safe. Their role is to protect the rights of all involved while ensuring public safety, and I appreciate their continued commitment to that mission.

“This is an emotional issue for many people, and understandably so. But the path forward must be rooted in respect, safety, and the rule of law. Dane County is at its best when we come together to solve problems, not escalate them.”

###