



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
OZAUKEE COUNTY

AUGUST 2024 REPORT

AGRICULTURE



If it happens on a farm or in a field, the Extension Institute of Agriculture works with you to achieve better results. Our innovative dairy management programs range from genetics to farm and business management. Extension researchers work hand-in-hand with row crop, forage and fresh produce growers to provide best practices for every aspect of the growing phase. We also advise communities on using sustainable practices to create inviting spaces free from invasive species

Crops

Liz Gartman, Regional Crops Educator

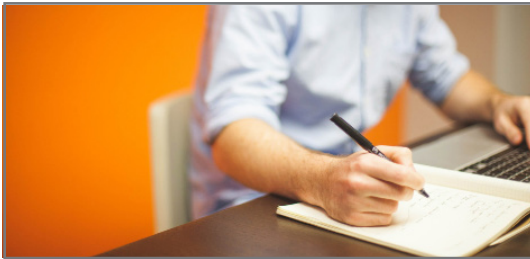
Planning to coordinate Extension educators state wide to ensure uniform data collection related to corn silage harvest management. The goal is to share whole plant moisture with forage growers in each region and aggregate additional silage data including planting date, relative maturity, corn hybrid, fungicide use, grain stage and previous crop. This data would be utilized to inform future corn silage harvest recommendations.

Corn silage dry down events are held across the state as means to determine when optimum corn silage harvest should occur due to whole plant moisture measurements. As we are already gathering some data regarding the samples collected, we determined there is additional information that would be beneficial to better understand the factors affecting when corn silage should be harvested. This prompted the forage team in the crops and soils program to look further to determine what data might be beneficial to informing harvest management decisions. Resources were prepared for educators and partners to utilize when gathering data at local corn silage dry down events. Partners will be provided a worksheet for producers to fill out and return with their stalk samples. Additionally, an Excel document is available to collect that data as well. Data will be collected and used to inform future management recommendations.

A webinar for agribusiness professionals, crop growers and livestock producers where attendees learned about managing alfalfa and corn silage due to challenges during the 2024 growing season. Through this effort, participants can manage their corn silage and late season alfalfa harvests to optimize forage quality and improve and farm profitability.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Community Development provides educational programming to assist leaders, communities, and organizations realize their fullest potential. We work with communities to build the vitality that enhances their quality of life and enriches the lives of their residents. IN short, the Community Development Institute plants and cultivates the seeds for thriving communities and organizations.

Paul Roback, Community Development Educator

A series of surveys with four Ozaukee County area nonprofits where we engaged stakeholders to provide feedback on organizational mission, vision, and programs. The intent of the stakeholder engagement is for nonprofit board and staff to use the survey data for more informed decision making in the strategic planning process.

Community-serving organizations, including nonprofits, are more effective when they have a clear purpose/mission, vision, and goals. When there are changes in leadership, resources, community needs, and other internal or external factors that affect the organization, it is a best practice to engage in some form of strategic planning to set priorities, focus energy and resources, and ensure everyone is working towards common goals. When undertaking strategic planning, it is often beneficial to seek input from external stakeholders to help inform the planning process. These stakeholders can be service recipients, partners, key community members, funders, and others who may be connected to the organization. Extension Community Development Educator Paul Roback is facilitating strategic planning processes with four Ozaukee County area nonprofits, including the Rotary Club of Cedarburg-Grafton, Portal, the Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership, and the Lakeshore Regional Child Advocacy Center. For three of these organizations, Paul designed and launched online surveys to solicit stakeholder feedback on organizational mission, vision, and programs. For Rotary, Paul designed and launched an online membership satisfaction survey. The staff of the Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership used stakeholder feedback when updating the organization's mission and vision statements. Survey results will also be discussed during an upcoming strategic planning retreat with board members and staff. The Rotary Board discussed membership feedback and will solicit additional feedback during an upcoming in-person membership meeting. Data from the survey and membership meeting will inform a future strategic planning workshop. The surveys for Portal and the Lakeshore Regional Child Advocacy Center are currently active and results will be compiled and discussed with the leadership of each organization at upcoming strategic planning workshops.

We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.

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