



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Agriculture: Crops & Soils Program Update



Extension Crops & Soils Educator Liz Gartman connects with crop growers, dairy producers, conservationists, and agricultural professionals to better manage the balance between crop production, nutrient management, and soil health.

Ongoing Regional Needs Assessment

- Discussions with ag producers including row crop grain producers, forage growers, dairy farmers & graziers
- Connect with agribusiness professionals including agency staff, agronomists, consultants, grazing planners, and ag lenders
- Partner with agriculture groups in 4 counties – particularly Land & Water Departments and Producer-Led Watershed Groups
- In depth reviews of current agriculture statistics

Additional Projects

- PEAQ Alfalfa Quality Management Project
 - Field study measuring ideal alfalfa plant maturity harvest to inform harvest decisions
 - 5 sites in Sheboygan & Fond du Lac Co.
 - Obtained grant funding to expand project across the state
- Extension Crop Scout School
 - Provide just-in-time crop scouting skills to farms, co-ops, crop consultants
 - Blend of online/field days
- DATCP Pest Trapping Network

Current Projects

- Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP)
 - Dornacker Prairie Acres – focus on Manure & Nitrogen Use – Year 2
 - Ramthun's Hickory View Farm – focus on Legume Cover Crop & Nitrogen Use
- Beef Cow Nutrition Management Fact Sheet Series
 - Focus on managing grazing & forage to meet cow needs
- Corn Silage Harvest Management Project
 - Creating a tool for users to make harvest decisions based on local dry down results
- Forage Analysis Report Fact Sheets
 - Collaboration with Dairy Educators
 - Create guidance for dairy producers to better understand and compare forage results
- Badger Crop Connect Webinar Team
 - Provide timely crop management resources
 - Bi-Monthly Webinar

- WAYP – WI Alfalfa Yield & Persistency Project
 - Field study measuring alfalfa quality and yield across all harvests for the year
 - 2 sites in Fond du Lac Co. + 1 potential site in Sheboygan Co.

Completed Projects

- Badger Crop Update Meeting Planning Team
- Focus on Forage Webinar Team
 - 4 Webinars focused on alfalfa, corn silage and forage cover crops
 - 111 average attendance per session
- Article on Silage Storage Maintenance
- Wisconsin Water & Soil Health Conference Session Moderator