



# 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 four counties – particularly Land & Water Departments and Producer-Led Watershed Groups
- In depth reviews of current agriculture statistics

## Current Projects

- Focus on Forage Webinar Series
  - 2026 Season Planning
  - Four webinar series – grazing, alfalfa, cover crops & economics
- Fond du Lac Forage Council
  - Plan Dairy Forage Day – 1/14/26
  - Program focus on corn silage digestibility & BMR replacement
- Corn Silage Harvest Management Project
  - Year 2 – Expanded Data Collection
  - Launched tool for users to make harvest decisions based on local dry down results
- Beef Cow Nutrition Management Fact Sheet Series
  - Focus on managing grazing & forage to meet cow needs
- Scout School Planning – 2026
  - Updating Scouting Manual
  - Adding pest focused field days
  - Provide key training for local consultants/interns

## Additional Projects

- Badger Crop Update Meeting Planning
  - Share 2025 growing season debrief & planning for 2026
  - Three in person & one virtual site
- Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP)
  - Ramthun's Hickory View Farm – Legume Cover Crop & Nitrogen Use
  - Partner w/Wash Co. Land & Water
  - Dornacker Prairie Acres – wrapped up
- WI Alfalfa Yield & Persistence Project
  - Two fields, collected four samples from each
  - Currently analyzing data

- Articles in Popular Press
  - WI Cover Crop Data Project – MFA Clippings E-News
  - Corn Silage Tool Summary – MFA Forage Focus Magazine
- PEAQ Alfalfa Quality Management Project
  - Finalizing report
- Badger Crop Connect Webinar Team
  - Provide timely crop management resources
  - Final evaluation in process
- DATCP Pest Trapping Network
- Forage & Grazing Workgroup Facilitator