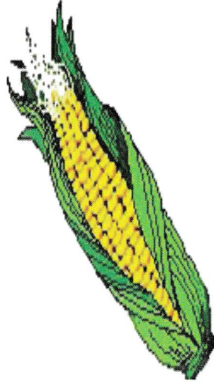




Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MARINETTE AND OCONTO COUNTIES

Resource Center
1926 Hall Avenue
Marinette WI 54143
Phone: 715-732-7510



If you will need any type of accommodation or assistance as you attend any Extension sponsored event, please contact the host county or Scott at the Marinette County office at least two days prior to the event. All requests will be confidential.

Scott Reuss—Crops/Soils
715-732-7510
Cell 715-701-0966
scott.reuss@wisc.edu

Stephanie Bowers—Dairy in
Oconto & Shawano Counties
920-470-0531
stephanie.bowers@wisc.edu

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.

February, 2025 Ag Newsletter

The winter conditions have not been great for crops, but I am hoping that the lack of snow until this week has not caused mortality issues. I am concerned about desiccation in winter annuals and cold injury on perennials, but not exactly worried. That said, plan on scouting for stand thinning this early spring, especially fields you know tend to be problematic.

We have a number of events upcoming and hope to see you at some of them as you prepare for cropping season ahead.

Table of Contents

Page 2	Drainage Workshop; Pesticide App Trng; Healthy Soils wksp
Page 3	Crop Ins & FSA Programs wksp; Manure Applicator Trng.
Page 4	Green Bay West Shores Demo Farms' Winter Meeting
Page 5	Valuing Margins Project; Women are VITAL workshop
Page 6	Beef Management Workshop; Winter annual forages
Page 7	Corn Silage Management Workshop & Forage Council mtg
Page 8	Nutrient Management Training & Plan Devpt Workshop

Calendar of Events

Feb. 20	Fond du Lac	Drainage Workshop (pg 2)
Feb. 21	Coleman	Pesticide Applicator Training (pg 2)
Feb 21	Shawano	Conservation Workshop (pg 2)
Feb. 26	Spruce	GBWS Demo Farm Network meeting (pg 4)
	Green Bay	Midwest Manure Summit
Feb. 27	Biramwood	Crop Insurance & FSA Programs Decision Making workshop, starting at 12:30 p.m. @ Matsche Community Ctr. (pg 3)
Feb. 28	Lena Town Hall	Nutrient Management Workshop—understanding nutrient dynamics and optimizing returns on nutrient additions, manure and fertilizers. (pg 8)
March 4 10 am	Lena Town Hall	Crop Ins & FSA Programs wksp(pg 3) With bonus crop cost of production analysis opportunity afterward.
March 4 530 pm	Cecil Comm Ctr	Beef Management Workshop, with focus on cow/calf. Handling facilities, EPD's, Virtual fencing, etc.. (Pg 6)
March 5 @ 12:30 p.m.		Focus on Forage: Alfalfa Management webinar, register at go.wisc.edu/FoF2025 Free event.
March 6	Shawano	Pesticide Applicator Training (pg 2)
March 7	Lena TH	Understanding and Using SNAP+ for your farm's nutrient management planning (pg 8)
March 7	Manitowoc	Farm Women are VITAL (pg 6)
March 17	Advance	Manure Applicator Trng @ Bulger Farms(p.3)
March 19	Biramwood	Manure Applicator Trng @ Matsche Farms (3)
March 19 & 20	Antigo	Langlade County Nutrient Management Farmer Training—contact Kbahr-bender@co.langlade.wi.us 715/627-6292 to regis.
March 25	Lena TH	Pesticide Applicator Training (pg 2)
March 26	Doc's HD Hog Barn	Shawano County Forage Council Winter Workshop: Managing Corn Silage (pg. 7)

Drainage Workshop: Feb 20, 2025

The 2025 Drainage workshop is designed to give farmers, tile installers, and landowners:

- an introduction to laying out and designing your system to succeed
- an understanding of the regulations (both Wisconsin water law and agency regulations impacting drainage activities)
- knowledge of how to find existing tile systems in a field

The event will be held Thursday, February 20, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Fond du Lac County Highway Department, 1820 S. Hickory, Fond du Lac.

Register at <https://cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu/upcoming-event-drainage-workshop-feb-20/>

Registration fees **per person** are \$40 at the door.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training & Testing

We are not allowed to take walk-in's, nor are we allowed to sell the books through county offices. Please make sure you give yourself time to get the book ordered and sent to you ahead of the training dates. If you have any questions about PAT licensing or the process, contact Scott Reuss, 715-732-7510, 715-701-0966, scott.reuss@wisc.edu

Everything starts by going to the PAT store website, <https://patstore.wisc.edu/> Click on the Private Applicator button, then click the appropriate category on the left hand side of the page. For most, it will be the '100/101 General Farming' tab, but some of you may want to do the Fruit Crops or Greenhouse/Nursery version.

Click 'Add to Cart'. Before you pay for the manual (\$43), think about how you want to take the test and if you want to attend a training session. If you want to attend a training class, you will need to click 'Continue Shopping', then click on the "Training Classes" tab on the left. You will need to scroll through the alphabetical list of counties that are hosting training. Look for the County name and then click add to cart (\$10). You will then pay be able to checkout and pay via credit card. Our area's remaining sessions, all of which start at 9 a.m. and expect test completion between 2 and 3 p.m. Lunch will not be provided, although coffee/water/milk and snacks will be available. Plan on being at the site about 8:50 and feel free to bring along your own lunch. Scott Reuss moderates these trainings and will complete the training even if there are technical difficulties.

++ February 21 @ Pound Town Hall, W8484 Cty. Hwy. B, Coleman (If you have a book, we can get you into the training.)

++ March 6 @ Shawano County Courthouse, Meeting Rooms A/B Lower Level, 311 N. Main St., Shawano.

++ March 25 @ Lena Town Hall, 6087 Goatsville Road, Lena.

If you do not have a computer or a credit card, request a paper order form from either the Shawano, Marinette, or Langlade Extension offices, but do so at least a couple weeks ahead of when you want to attend training/testing.

Other testing/training options:

A. Self-study the materials and schedule a time to take the test at the Shawano (715-526-6136), Marinette(Contact Reuss as above), or Langlade Extension (715-627-6238) offices (or the Green Bay DATCP center). With this option, you need to get 70% correct to pass, instead of 50% as needed when you go through a training.

B. Utilize on-line training. Register for this through the PAT website, under Private Applicators tab, then training sessions button. No fee. You have 120 days from registration to start the training, BUT you only have 14 days from when you start doing the training until completion. You then must schedule a test date, as in step A.

Shawano County Winter Farmer Workshop

Sponsored by Shawano County Land & Water Conservation, but open to all farms in the region. Contact Bill at below if interested in attending.

HEALTHY SOILS, HEALTHY FARMS BETTER PROFITS FROM THE GROUND UP		✓ Shawano Co. Courthouse Meeting Rooms A & B 311 North Main Street	FREE INCLUDES PROVIDED LUNCH	RSVP BY FEB. 14
✓ Chris Bandura UW-Extension	✓ Jamie Patton NRCS	✓ Dani Heisler DATCP	✓ Friday, February 21 10 AM - 2 PM	☎ 715-526-4797 📧 Bill.Koepke@shawano-countywi.gov

Crop Insurance and ARC/PLC Decision-Making Workshops

Two sessions available, both featuring similar discussion and resources.

Thursday, February 27

12:30 pm

Birnamwood/Matsche Comm. Center

362 Railroad St., Birnamwood

Tuesday, March 4

10 a.m.

Lena Town Hall

6087 Goatsville Road, Lena

(Cost of production analysis

discussion afterward)

How do Crop Insurance and ARC/PLC interact?

What Coverage Levels should I choose?

What are ECO and SCO and how do they work, are they good opportunities?

Should I choose ARC-County; ARC-Individual; or PLC for the 2025 cropping year?

How do I maximize crop insurance options for my farm?

Free to attend, no registration required. Many resources available that will assist with your land rent processes in the future. If have questions about the event, or cannot attend but want the resources, contact Crops/Soils Educator Scott Reuss at 715-732-7510, text to 715-701-0966, or email scott.reuss@wisc.edu



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

An EEO/AA Employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. If you will need accommodation or assistance as you attend this event, please contact the Marinette office, at 715-732-7514, as soon as possible prior to the event.

Manure Applicator Training

The Manure Applicator Training workshops are designed specifically to meet the training needs of commercial manure haulers. Farms that do their own manure hauling would be well served to have their personnel attend, as well, particularly those in charge of manure management decision-making. The training process for this year involves analysis of many different aspects of how manure application decisions are made and the issues surrounding those decisions.

Specifically, we look at manure pit siting; transfer pump and hose siting/layout; Manure application setbacks – understanding them and how they impact your decision-making; Travel route planning and highway safety; and other aspects. We also feature personal and equipment safety discussions throughout the training, with the goal of keeping personnel safe and to meet insurance training requirements.

There are a number of trainings taking place in the region in late Feb. and March. Please note that there is a session offered at Pagel’s Ponderosa in Spanish for any workers that would be better served to attend that session. Registration fee is \$10 per person, or \$15 at the door. Full address details are on the website.

Register for any of these events by going to <https://go.wisc.edu/2025manure101>

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Timing</u>
Chilton – Courthouse basement	Thurs., Feb. 27	6 – 9 PM
Luxemburg – Kew. Cty. Fairgrounds	Mon., March 3	12:30 – 3:30 PM
Chilton – Courthouse basement	Tues., March 4	12:30-3:30 PM
Abbotsford City Hall	Thurs., March 13	1-4 PM
Cecil – Bulger Farms, Nauman Rd	Mon., March 17	12:30 – 3:30 PM
Luxemburg – Pagel’s Ponderosa Kew Cty C	Tues., March 18	8-11 AM (Offered in Spanish)
Luxemburg – Kew. Cty. Fairgrounds	Tues., March 18	12:30-3:30 PM
Birnamwood – Matsche Farms, River Rd	Wed., March 19	1-4 PM

GREEN BAY WEST SHORE WINTER MEETING

February 26th, 2025, 10a.m-3p.m.
The Blue Spruce in Lena
8096 Co Rd A, Lena, WI 54139

AGENDA

Evolution Not Revolution - From Brown To Green In 50 Years

Andy Bensend - AB Farms

Weed Control And Cover Crops

Dan Smith - UW Division Of Extension

Rain 360 Update

Shawn Wagner - Wagner Farms Inc

Grazing Cover Crops

Matt Bjelland - Brown Star Farms

Low Disturbance Manure Injection Panel

Local Research Updates

Scott Reuss - UW Division of Extension

REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 12TH

Online:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/green-bay-west-shore-winter-meeting-tickets-1207626185429?aff=oddtcreator>

By Phone:

Call Leta at Marinette LWCD 715-732-7780

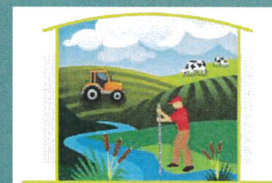
By Email:

aleta.dirienzo@marinettecountywi.gov



**\$5 REGISTRATION
(LUNCH PROVIDED)**

**PAY AT THE DOOR,
CASH OR CHECK
ONLY. CHECKS CAN
BE MADE OUT TO:
OCONTO LWCD**



GREEN BAY WEST SHORE
Demonstration Farms Network



Extension
University of Wisconsin-Madison

“Valuing the Margins” Project: Row Crop Variability and Value

It's common knowledge that within profitable row-crop fields there are bad spots that don't do well, often failing to turn a profit on the farm's investment. This project hopes to better understand these marginal areas and their impacts on farms and the rest of society. We have received a SARE grant to compensate farms \$500 for their participation.

This project has three parts. First, make profitability maps of row crop fields using yield monitor data and expense records. Each farmer partner will receive copies of the maps of their own fields and a summary of overall findings.

Second, estimate the impact if row crop fields were converted to perennial grasslands. We will estimate the dollar value of natural resources like clean water, clean air, and more stable weather, and compare how much of these benefits are provided by row crops versus grasslands.

Lastly, interview farmers about what they think of the profitability maps, how they decide to manage less profitable areas of fields, and what supports or discourages possible changes in management. This interview would last about an hour and would help us to understand how to best support farmers to maximize the benefits of agriculture.

To qualify for this project, farmers must manage row crops in Wisconsin or Iowa; Harvest using a yield monitor that tracks yield with GPS; Have 2 or more years of calibrated yield monitor data; and Have sufficient Farm Expense records.

If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact Clare Dietz, via email at cdietz2@wisc.edu or text/call 563-599-7631. If she don't answer the phone, please leave a message and she will call you back!

Women in agriculture are

VITAL

Valuably Informed Thriving Agriculture Leader

A day to learn, network, and grow for dairy farm & industry women

Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center, Manitowoc, WI

March 7, 2025

Topics include:

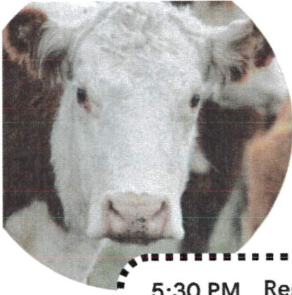
- Colostrum management
- Self-care & stress management
- Employee retention
- Calves fit for transport
- Farm estate planning
- Implementing farm automation
- Farmer panel - reaching consumers with a positive message

For a full agenda and to register, visit

<https://go.wisc.edu/VITAL2025>



An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.



BEEF SCHOOL

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Cecil Village Hall & Community Center
Scenic downtown Cecil, WI

- 5:30 PM Registration & Meal
Catering by Primal Eats
- 6:15 PM Beef Genetics - Understanding EPD's and Bull Selection Criteria
- 6:45 PM Virtual Fencing: Current Realities of a New Technology
- 7:10 PM Hands-On Handling Facilities: Understanding Movement Patterns From Your Animals' Perspectives
- 7:45PM Forages for Your Herd - Options and Practices to Get the Best Animal Performance from Your Forage Acres
- 8:15PM Heading Homeward

Registration \$25

It's a great time to have beef animals on the farm, as their value is higher than ever. But, are you really getting the most out of your beef management time and capital?

Join Extension Beef Outreach Specialist Bill Halfman, and Regional Educators Stephanie Bowers and Scott Reuss for the impactful discussions in this workshop. AND have a great meal catered by Primal Eats!

Register by calling Shawano Cty Extension Office at 715-526-6136 or emailing to tami.goers@wisc.edu

Great opportunity for everyone that has, or plans to have, beef as part of their operation. I can guarantee that everyone will gain information that will improve your cattle's lives, your lives and profit margins, and hopefully the capacity of your operation to produce more, better quality beef. We are still working on financial sponsorship that may assist with the cost of attending this event, especially families and youth beef exhibitors. The event qualifies for educational credits for Shawano and Oconto County Fair youth exhibitors.

Cecil Community Center is located at 111 E Hofman St., Cecil. If you have any questions about the event, contact Scott Reuss at 715-701-0966 or scott.reuss@wisc.edu Pay at door or send check to Shawano Extension; 311 N. Main St., Shawano, WI 54166.

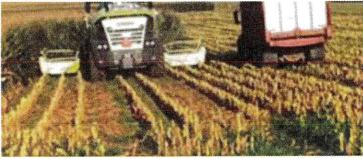
Winter Annual Forages Research Update

As promised, one research project will be featured in each edition of the newsletter. The following are the bigger take-home points from two study sites focusing on Nitrogen rate impacts on triticale/rye yield and quality. Contact me if you want more details, as there is a lot of other information available. Data averaged over 4 rep.'s.

Applied Nitrogen (lbs/acre)	DM forage yield tons/acre	Gain due to adding nitrogen	Milk/acre	Economic return to nitrogen/manure
0	1.89	0	7275	\$0
40	2.78	0.89 t/ac	10730	+\$144
80	3.11	1.22 t/ac	12005	+\$186
120	3.24	1.35 t/ac	12485	+\$188
160	3.31	1.42 t/ac	12775	+\$178
Fall 40	2.67	0.78 t/ac	10295	+\$122
Fall 40 & Spr 40	3.08	1.19 t/ac	11885	+\$170
Fall 40 & Spr 80	3.08	1.19 t/ac	11890	+\$146
Brown Star (4500 gal manure, Fall 40 & Spring 100)	3.42	1.53 t/ac	13210	+\$112
Brown Star, man. tanker wh tracks	2.12	0.23 t/ac	8190	--\$148

Economic return based on \$0.60 per lb N and \$10 / ac application cost; Forage value of \$200/ton; Manure application of 4500 gallons/acre at \$20/1000 gals application cost. Thank you to Brown Star Farms for hosting. Triticale harvested May 15.

A similar study took place at the Antigo Research Station, but represented a low yield site, due primarily to very late planting (Oct. 31). There was very little response to N rate from either rye or triticale, with rye harvested June 4 at early head averaging 2.8 tons DM/ac. Triticale harvested June 6 at boot averaged 1.2 tons DM/ac. Quality tests on the Brown Star triticale showed 13.6%CP; 3857 milk/ton; 225 RFQ; and 2.67% K averaged over all N rates.



An EEO/AA Employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. If you will need accommodation or assistance as you attend this event, please contact the Shawano office, at 715-526-6136, as soon as possible prior to the event.

2025 Forage Management Workshop: Achieving Optimum Corn Silage Yield and Quality

Sponsored by Shawano County Forage Council; UW-Madison, Division of Extension; and NOPP

**The Hog Barn @ Doc's Harley Davidson; W2709 Hwy. 29
Wednesday, March 26, 2025**

- 9:30 A.M.** **Registration** NOTE: agenda order/timing may change
- 10:00 A.M.** **Managing Corn Diseases and Mycotoxins in Corn Silage**
Damon Smith, Field Crops Plant Pathologist, UW-Madison Division of Extension
- 10:45 A.M.** **Midwest Forage Association 2024 Program Update**
Chelsea Russell, Local Council Director, Midwest Forage Association
- 11:00 A.M.** **Weed Management Decision-Making for 2025 Corn**
Dan Smith, UW-Madison Nutrient & Pest Management Program
- 11:45 A.M.** **Lunch and Discussion**
- 12:30 P.M.** **What's New with Corn Silage - MILK 2024 Updates & Strategies to Reduce Losses**
E. Cole Diepersloot, Ruminant Nutrition Program, UW-Madison
- 1:15 P.M.** **Scrutinizing Short Stature Corn for Silage**
Harkirat Kaur, Corn Agronomist, UW-Madison, Division of Extension
- 1:45 P.M.** **Optimal Nutrient Management for Corn Silage, NOPP research results**
Scott Reuss, Regional Crops/Soils Educator, UW-Madison, Div. of Extension
- 2:15 P.M.** **Auction Fundraiser**



Corn Silage Management Registration Form

Fill out one form per farm, please list individual attendee names at bottom if multiple attendees.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Business/Organization _____ E-mail _____

\$20 Per Person Registration Fee (MFA membership forms at event) TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$_____

CHECK PAYABLE TO: SHAWANO COUNTY FORAGE COUNCIL
PLEASE RETURN BY: WEDNESDAY, March 19, 2025 **TO:** Extension Shawano County, Attn: Forage

Council, 311 N. Main St., Shawano, WI 54166



Sponsored by Shawano County Forage Council, UW-Madison, Division of Extension; and the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program project "Evaluating MRTN N rates after dairy manure".

Nutrient Management: Achieving Maximum Returns to your Nutrient \$

Are you truly confident that your farm's nutrient management plan and practices enable you to capture the highest return? These two days of workshops are designed to help farms fully understand what is in their nutrient management plans, and be able to write your own NM plan, if you are so inclined.

Workshops are free (including lunch & refreshments) to all Marinette & Oconto County Farms and you can even get paid to be part of these days!

Lena Town Hall; 6087 Goatsville Rd; Lena, WI

Day 1: Friday, February 28, 2025 9 AM to 3 PM

First day discussion and work focuses on taking good soil tests, understanding nutrient cycling in the soil, and making decisions that achieve optimum returns to your fertilizer and manure management. We'll discuss each of the main nutrients we need to manage: Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, and Sulfur. We'll also walk through proper manure management practices, including where/when/how to spread in tricky situations.

Day 2: Friday, March 7, 2025 9 AM to 3 PM

The second day features the SNAP+ software program and how your farm can work within it to devise a nutrient and crop management plan that meets all legal criteria while achieving all your economic goals, as well.

Presenters/SNAP+ assistance provided by Dan Marzu and Chris Clark with the UW Nutrient and Pest Management Program; Scott Reuss, Regional Extension Crops & Soils Educator; and Marinette & Oconto County Land & Water Conservation Staff.

Marinette and Oconto Counties received a DATCP grant (NMFE) that allows them to pay producers or landowners to attend a Nutrient Management Planning class and to complete a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP).

Participants are eligible for one \$700 stipend per farm.

Additional possible reimbursements include:

\$750 per farm for soil tests - tests from a certified lab are needed every 4 years for NMPs.

\$100 per farm for manure analysis, if needed.

To qualify for financial incentives in 2025, landowners/producers must:

- 1) Attend the Day 1 class (or attend virtual training options, if you cannot attend the planned training date)
- 2) Attend a second day of training (usually a couple of hours) to work on your NMP.
- 3) Have soil lab results less than 4 years old or complete soil sampling in 2025.
- 4) Complete an NMP in SNAP+. Some training attendees will complete the NMP during the training.
- 5) Provide required documentation to your county Land and Water Conservation office.

Please, be sure to bring all the materials listed below to the training, if you have this information:

- Numbered field maps with acreages
- Soil tests results if available from within the past 3 years and maps of sampling locations.
- Livestock inventory (*Number of each species / different size classifications / estimate of manure*)
- Manure (*Storage capacity & Application rates per acre*)
- Updated crop rotation plan