



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MARINETTE AND OCONTO COUNTIES

Resource Center
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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.

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July, 2025 Ag Newsletter

This newsletter needs to start with an apology. Youth Tractor & Machinery Safety Certification is not going to be able to be offered by Extension and Farm Bureau as we were planning. We spent a lot of time working toward the course being offered. Administrative impediments and obscene insurance costs have combined to make the course infeasible for 2025 and I and the others who worked on this effort are truly sorry for the problems this has caused and may cause for area farm families. We are going to work diligently to overcome these obstacles and offer the course in the future.

I urge any farms that are at the front end, middle, or nearing actual completion of generational or other type of transfer timing to attend the Marinette County Holstein Association Twilight Meeting being held Friday, August 1. As a following act to the Jolene Brown presentation hosted by Zeitler's on June 23, WI Farm Law Outreach Specialist Kelly Wilfert will be sharing WI-specific information regarding legal risks in Farm Succession and will be able to answer questions, as well. See information on page 6.

Watch for the next newsletter just ahead of silage season, which will include a beef management pasture walk and other events. Hope to see you at various events.

Scott Reuss

Resources to consider using: Free and simple to access!

The White Mold ROI Calculator is a newly available online tool that lets you calculate cost, likely benefit, and breakeven return when considering white mold treatments. Data is based on industry averages and years of research data, so is good, but not perfect in every situation. Found free at: <https://badgercropnetwork.com/new-white-mold-roi-calculator/>

Calendar of Events:

July 24-27 Langlade County Fair

July 31 @ 10:30 a.m. Field Crop Pest Scouting Clinic, see page 6

Aug. 1 @ 5:30 p.m. Holstein Association Twilight Mtg, see page 6

August 5-7, Farm Technology Days at Clinton Farms, Bear Creek

Aug. 5 @ 5:30 p.m. at the Antigo Community Garden, 2034 West 5th Ave. Vegetable Pests Management Workshop—ID & Management

Aug. 7 @ 3:30 p.m. near Brooklyn, WI WiscWeeds Waterhemp management plots tour and field day. Search for event or contact Scott for details.

Aug. 12 @ 5:30 p.m. Native Plantings Workshop, see pg. 3

Aug. 13 @ 6:30 p.m. Out. Cty. Forage Council Summer Twilight Mtg. pg. 2

Aug. 21 @ 10 a.m. near Oshkosh, Waterhemp, combine cleaning and soil health field day sponsored by Muddy Bottoms Producer Group.

Aug. 21-24 Marinette & Oconto County Fairs

Aug. 28 @ 11 a.m. on Drees Rd., Corn Hybrid & Product Plots Field Day featuring vendors and Cover Crops & Winter Annual Forages

Aug. 27—Sept. 1 Shawano County Fair

2025 Midwest Forage Association/Outagamie Forage Council Regional Summer Twilight Meeting

Wednesday, August 13 6:30 p.m. Meal, 7:00 p.m. Speakers

Hosted by: J-Springs Dairy, N4182 County Rd. EE, Appleton, WI 54913

Certified Crop Advisor (CCA), Continuing Education Units (CEU) Available



Slugs Present in Soybean Field



Marketing Agricultural Commodities



(L to R) Amber Springstroh, Judy Springstroh,
Sam Ziegler, Gracie Ziegler, Jay Ziegler,
Tami Ziegler

**6:30 p.m. Catered Meal by Kelsey's Country Kitchen and Refreshments Sponsored by:
Allied Cooperative, Beck's Hybrids, Dairyland Seed Company, Mustang Seeds, Nutrition Service, and
Werner Crop Insurance Agency**

**7:00 p.m. Replacing BMR Corn Silage – What May Be Some Alternatives for the Future?
Dr. Harkirat Kaur, Corn Agronomist, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

**7:45 p.m. Slug-ging it Out – A Look at Slugs and other Field Pests
Matt Brugger, Agronomist, Tilth Agronomy Group Inc.**

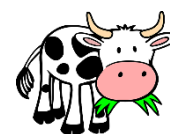
**8:15 p.m. Agricultural Commodity Markets – What You Should Know Before Harvest Season
Joe Nelson, Market Consultant, AgShield Market Smart**

9:00 p.m. Refreshments & Networking Opportunities to Interact w/Sponsors & Attendees

This event is open and free to the public. **RSVP no later than Monday, August 11, 2025, to ensure your meal.**

Contact Ina Montgomery, Extension Outagamie, at (920)-832-4763, email at ina.montgomery@outagamie.org,
or use the following link to register for this event at: <https://bit.ly/2025TwilightMeeting> or mail reservation
to:

**Extension Outagamie: OFC Twilight Meeting
3365 W. Brewster St.
Appleton, WI 54914**



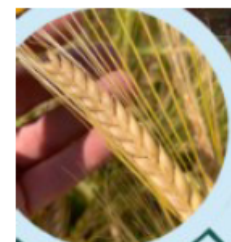
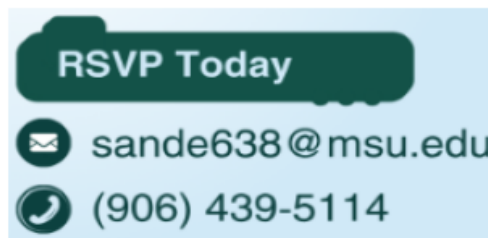
Area & Regional Events

Join Us!

Twilight Meeting & Pasture Walk

The MSU Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center in Chatham will be offering a Twilight meeting and Pasture Walk on August 20th beginning at 5:00 pm ET. The evening will begin with a meal of Wagyu Sloppy Joes and other items. After the meal, we will proceed to the pasture and discuss the current beef cattle research project comparing feedlot cattle, grass-fed cattle, and grass-fed cattle supplemented with either the feedlot diet or Dried Distillers Grains. This project is evaluating not only cattle performance, but also the differences in various meat profiles. Following the pasture walk we will take a look at new and exciting Barley and Oat varieties from South Dakota and Canada. In addition, you will have the opportunity to look at new Hemp and Corn varieties which may be suitable to the UP.



Please join us for an informative evening and a chance to visit with your comrades!



Investing in Our Future by

Planting Native Plants!

Wild Ones Northwoods Gateway Chapter
invites you to a FREE presentation!

 **August 12th at 5:30 p.m. at the Library!** 
617 Clermont St. Antigo, WI

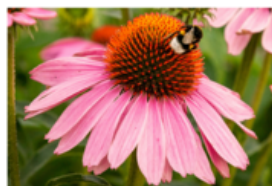


Scott Reuss is a
Crops, Soils, and
Horticulture Expert
and Educator for
UW Extension

***Our speakers will
discuss land
restoration from small
plots to large areas***



Peggy Winter is a
Soil Conservationist
with the Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service



Native Plants as a Benefit in Agricultural Settings

Part of the discussion at the August 12 event in Antigo will be how agricultural practices can be positively impacted by utilizing native plants in certain areas. Certainly, these plantings only make sense in certain situations, but they actually have promise in assisting certain types of crop operations and in making unproductive spots create a more positive return. Peggy will walk through cost-share and resources available. Discussion will also feature benefits, situations of opportunity and other points regarding this possibility.

Bring your questions and your curiosity about how native-planted areas can benefit your farm.

Mycotoxins and Silage (Damon Smith, Harkirat KAUR, Luiz Ferraretto, John Goeser & Liz Gartman)

Introduction Preventing mycotoxin contamination in corn silage requires a multi-pronged approach, including field management, proper harvesting & ensiling, and strategic feeding practices. Regular testing and proactive adjustments can help safeguard animal health and performance. By following these guidelines, farmers can minimize the risks posed by mycotoxins and ensure a healthier, more productive livestock feed supply.

What are mycotoxins and where do they come from? Mycotoxins are toxic compounds that fungal organisms can produce in response to stress and/or competition by other fungi. Many different fungi produce mycotoxins with thousands of these toxic compounds known. When mycotoxins are consumed by animals they can cause mycotoxicosis, with symptoms varying widely depending on the toxin(s) involved and the animal species affected.

Gibberella ear rot is caused by *Fusarium graminearum*, which can also cause **Gibberella crown and stalk rot** in corn. We have observed both diseases on silage corn in Wisconsin, as our growing season climate is conducive to disease. The pathogen causes direct plant tissue damage and can also produce various mycotoxins, most notably deoxynivalenol (DON or Vomitoxin). We have found that DON can accumulate in both stalk and ear portions of the plant and that the two types of DON accumulation are not well coordinated. The fungus can infect plant parts at different times during the season and the subsequent accumulation of DON can happen differentially in the stalks vs. the ears. This is partially why you can scout a field for ear rot and not see a lot of infection, but still have high DON levels at chopping time.

How can deoxynivalenol be managed in the field? Many factors influence the presence or absence of DON in the field. The fungi that can create DON can survive in Wisconsin on corn residue. While managing in-field residue is a possible way to reduce inoculum levels, there is still high potential that the fungi can blow in on weather systems. There is a lot of corn in the Midwest, and the fungus is ubiquitous, thus we would not want farmers to choose tillage over soil conservation. Hybrid type and plant resistance is a key mitigation opportunity. We do tend to see brown mid-rib (BMR) hybrids having higher levels of DON accumulation when compared to conventional or multi-purpose hybrids. Moving away from BMR hybrids in problem fields may help reduce the risk of DON accumulation. Managing plant populations to reduce in-field humidity levels and reducing inter-plant competition for nutrients is important to improve plant health and reduce the risk for mycotoxin accumulation.

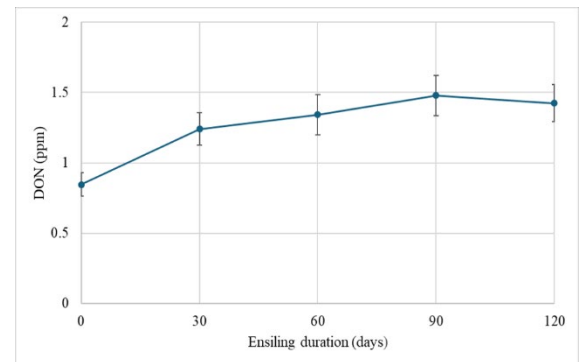
Foliar fungicides applied in-season can be part of a DON management plan. However, fungicide applications have not consistently reduced DON concentrations. Many factors likely influence success, including that the window of opportunity to effectively apply fungicides is narrow; beginning at white silk appearance and only extending 5-7 days. In addition, if the fungal infection in corn ears is due to husk and silk damage caused by ear feeding insects, fungicide applications may not be beneficial. In those cases the use of Bt protection traits in silage hybrids or the use of certain pyrethroid based insecticides may help. One benefit of fungicides in some years is that they can also control foliar diseases. Foliar diseases like tar spot lead to a reduction in overall silage quality, but they can also force the plant to scavenge carbohydrates in the stalk which can result in standability issues and lodging. These diseases can also accelerate crop dry down, narrowing the harvest interval and making harvesting at optimal moisture difficult. If silage is harvested at sub-optimal moisture, silage packing, density and fermentation are challenged. Subsequently, spoilage by mold, yeast and other aerobic organisms is more likely, often leading to an increase in mycotoxins and “mold” issues. Yeasts can disrupt rumen metabolism and worsen feeding issues.

Scott's Note: Western Bean Cutworm damage can be very significant in our region and can allow mycotoxin accumulation in any corn product.

Focus your attention on making good silage at chopping time. Harvesting at the optimum moisture content for your storage system is of high priority, as is proper packing and minimization of oxygen exposure to the silage. Scout your fields for ear, stalk, and foliar diseases. Foliar diseases, particularly tar spot, usually lead to faster dry down rates than normal corn silage. Thus, you may need to harvest a few days earlier, which may also limit continued

mycotoxin accumulation and dry-matter yield losses. If a corn crop becomes too dry to make good silage, you might consider harvesting it for snaplage or high-moisture grain to try to circumvent bigger issues that could arise at feed out associated with making suboptimal silage. If silage stability and heating has been a past issue consider using a *Lactobacillus buchneri*-based silage inoculant. Finally, test for DON as part of your regular silage analysis program. Frequent testing of new crop can give way to less frequent testing later on, depending on the initial levels. Also test for other anti-nutritional factors such as spoilage mold, yeast and bacteria as these feed hygiene factors will act synergistically, and negatively affect herd health and performance. Understand what you are dealing with in terms of DON and other feed contaminant concentrations so you can make informed decisions with your rations.

How does DON increase in stored corn silage? We have also been following the fate of DON in silage harvested and chopped from a brown midrib (BMR) hybrid and a dual-purpose hybrid that were grown in the field and treated with fungicides at white silk (R1). We chopped the plants in each plot and then used mini-silos to conduct a time-course experiment tracking DON levels. In all cases we saw DON levels generally increasing in the first 30 days after chopping. They then leveled off and became stable at 60, 90, and 120 days after chopping. This increase is not well recognized by the industry, but is very important. Some of this increase may be due to oxygen still in the system during the first 30 days. DON-producing fungi are aerobic and continue to consume the minute levels of oxygen still in the system and still produce DON. However, this likely only explains some of the DON levels we detected. Proper packing and sealing of silos with oxygen-barrier plastic films can reduce oxygen penetration, fungi infestation, and spoilage.



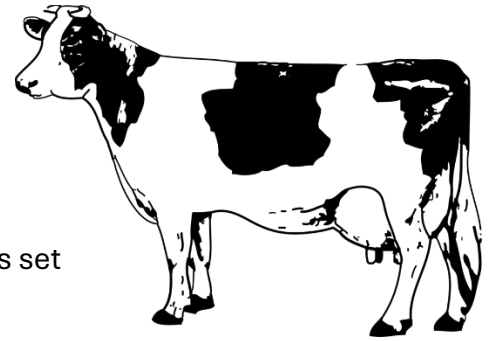
There are also “masked” or conjugated forms of DON that are not detectable in routine DON analyses. One such conjugate is DON-3-glucoside (D3G). D3G can be produced by fungi or during a plant’s attempt to protect itself from the toxicity of DON. Either way, D3G is not detectable in routine DON tests but is important to consider and can only be measured with a specific D3G test. We investigated our samples further and found that the level of D3G at harvest explained most of the DON increase found in samples after 30 days of ensiling. This relationship only partially explains why DON increases in silage during the first 30 days of storage. The full explanation is likely due to both metabolization of D3G and continued fungal respiration. If you measure DON at harvest, consider this a baseline and results may increase over time. Continue to test, and make sure you test not only for DON, but also for other feed hygiene contaminants and possibly DON conjugates.

How can deoxynivalenol and other mycotoxins be managed at feedout? Mycotoxins present in silage will not go away. Use testing information to make decisions about if the contaminated silage might be blended with other feeds to minimize the TMR mycotoxin load. Guidelines for mycotoxin limits in TMR’s are available. Although mycotoxins can never be completely broken down, a variety of feed supplements are available to partially mitigate mycotoxin impact on herd health, digestion and performance. These include mycotoxin binders, yeast-based and probiotic supplements to aid rumen health and digestion, immune system boosting supplements, and other helpful feed technologies. There is no single solution to manage mycotoxin contamination, a multi-faceted nutrition program will be needed to manage contaminated silage.

Avoid additional spoilage issues at feed out by minimizing the silage exposure to oxygen to the extent possible. Deface or remove silage at feed mixing, keeping an even silo face. Do not perform this procedure more than one or two hours prior to feeding, if possible. If spoilage yeast are growing rampantly and silage is heating, consider mixing a preservative with the silage to stabilize the silage prior to mixing in with other feeds in the ration. When feeding out of bunkers or piles, avoid cutting back more than 2 or 3 days worth of plastic and line the plastic with multiple tire layers or gravel bags to prevent air and oxygen penetrating underneath the plastic. If feeding out of bags, monitor for bird or rodent damage in the bags and fix holes in the plastic promptly with tape.

Marinette County Holstein Association Annual Twilight Meeting

Friday, August 1 @ Zeitler Enterprises



The annual Marinette County Holstein Association Twilight meeting is set and the Association is inviting all area farm families to attend.

We are excited to announce Kelly Wilfert, UW-Madison/Extension Farm Law Outreach Specialist, as our speaker! The title of the presentation is, "Evaluating Legal Risks in Farm Succession." Her topic is guaranteed to offer all families present some ideas and tips/techniques and will focus on WI law.

The farm will be open to the public and ready for judging at 5:00 pm. The lunch line will be open at about 5:30. Speaker, dairy judging results, and door prizes will begin at 7.

Zeitler Enterprises is located at W8368 E 16th Rd Coleman, WI 54112.

Association members are asked to bring bars, non-members are welcome to do so, as well.

Field Crop Pest Scouting Clinic

Thursday, July 31 @ 10:30 a.m.

Intersection of Larmay Lane and Hogsback Road

(2.5 miles south of Mar. Cty. Hwy. M or ½ mile N of Cty. Hwy. WW - Just N of 9073 Hogsback Road, Lena)

Experience in-field pest scouting in both corn and soybeans. Weeds, Diseases, and Insects that can impact your crops will be identified and discussed regarding treatment thresholds where applicable. Bring samples of pests you are finding in your own fields for identification.

Corn Hybrids & Products Plot Day, including Cover Crops & Winter Annual Forage Crop Management

Thursday, August 28, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tents and meal Provided by Charapata Seed Sales

View the corn trials managed by Charapata Seed Sales and hosted by Josh Jessel at the trial site on Drees Road, ½ mile south of Cty. Hwy. M, just 2/3 mile west of Hwy. 41. Rain or Shine event with many ag vendors present to discuss products.

Informal discussion and display materials available all day regarding cover crop and winter annual forage selection and management, provided by Scott Reuss, UW-Madison, Div. of Extension.