



**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.

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Oconto & Shawano Counties  
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## June, 2025 Ag Newsletter

Hodkiewicz's hosted a high quality, slightly moistened Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm last Sunday. Zeitler's (Marinette County Breakfast on the Farm) and Olson's (Shawano County Brunch on the Farm) get their turns on Sunday, June 22. There are always places for volunteers at these events to help your fellow farmers and ag professionals help attendees learn some about agricultural practices and have a great family day on the farm. Consider coming and helping, if you aren't already one of the hundreds of volunteers that make these events work so smoothly.

The night after these events is an opportunity all of us should consider attending. The Jolene Brown presentation being hosted (and coordinated) by Zeitler Enterprises on Monday the 23rd may be just the thing to get your family to start thinking more seriously about farm transfer for your operation. You owe it to yourself to attend, and there is a follow-up event getting planned to help understand WI legal aspects of transfer processes. See page 6 for information and try to RSVP if you are able, but get there whether you were able to rsvp or not.

Tractor & Machinery Safety Certification is going to occur in the region yet, as well. At the minimum, we expect to offer the course in the Birnamwood area and hope to have a course in Coleman area, as well. If you have 12-15 year olds that need certification, get in touch with me and I will send you registration information as soon as it is available.

Stay safe & have a great pest management and forage harvest season!

Scott Reuss

### **Resources to consider using: Free and simple to access!**

The Badger Crop Connect is a free crops management webinar conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday's of April through October, starting at 12:30 p.m. and the recorded versions posted for viewing. Search for Badger Crop Connect or Go to <https://cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu/programs/badger-crop-connect/> to register for the webinars or to sign up for event and news notices.

Field Notes replaces what you may remember as the WI Pest Bulletin. It has news about pest levels, new pests, pesticide regulation changes, and many other similar topics. Go to [https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/FieldNotesNewsletter.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/FieldNotesNewsletter.aspx) or simply type WI Field Notes into a search engine. At the bottom of any newsletter edition, there is a spot to sign up to receive e-notice of new editions.

The WI Ag Climate Outlook reports recent weather and upcoming predictions, including soil moisture and similar data. It may help you make decisions about cropping, animal movement, or risk management decision-making. Sign up for this free notice at: [go.wisc.edu/ExtWIClimateOutlook/](https://go.wisc.edu/ExtWIClimateOutlook/)

# Dairy Heifer Grazing Pasture Walk

Wednesday, July 9, 2025  
5-7pm

Leder Farm  
N8714 County Road T  
Bear Creek, WI 54922

Refreshments served!

RSVPs appreciated, but not required. Use QR code for [goldensandsrca.org/events](https://goldensandsrca.org/events), email [grazing@goldensandsrca.org](mailto:grazing@goldensandsrca.org), or call (715) 343-6215

Join us at the Leder farm to see their custom dairy heifer grazing operation. Leders, seasoned sheep graziers, started this year custom grazing heifers for nearby Wepner Farms. Learn about their setup, heifer grazing, and the virtual fence collars that they are testing out, as well as the PaddockTrac, pasture management system.

Photo by Finn Ryan



**Golden Sands**  
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*Conservation That Works!*



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**Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

# Help Protect your Herd: Join the Milk Quality Study

Could your herd have an undetected threat?

*Prototheca bovis* is a newly recognized mastitis-causing pathogen with no known cure – and it could be silently impacting your herd's milk quality. Because this slow-growing algae is often outcompeted in standard cultures, it remains undetected until bulk tank somatic cell counts rise.

UW-Madison, Division of Extension, needs your help to uncover how widespread *Prototheca bovis* is on Wisconsin dairy farms. We are seeking farms across the state to take part and have their herds sampled for the presence of this problematic pathogen.

By participating in this study, you will:

- ++Get a free *Prototheca bovis* screening using specialized agar designed to detect this hidden pathogen.
- ++Better understand your herd's health by testing 10 high somatic cell-count cows.
- ++ Take proactive steps to safeguard your milk quality and prevent costly surprises.

How to Participate:

Sign up at <https://go.wisc.edu/milk> We'll coordinate with you to collect quarter milk samples. OR, if preferred, you can collect them yourself. All samples will be cultured, and Marathon County DHIA will analyze somatic cell counts.

Don't wait until it's too late – help us uncover *Prototheca bovis*' true impact and protect your herd.



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## Forage and Cover Crops Field Day

**July 15, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. @ Arlington Agricultural Research Station.**

Attendees will gain insights into topics such as:

- Alfalfa and cereal rye interactions
- Nitrogen credits from manure and legumes
- Weed and insect management
- Cover crop feeding strategies
- Soil health and nutrient cycling
- Corn silage and Kernza management research

Experts including agronomists, plant breeders, animal scientists, and soil specialists will lead discussions and field demonstrations. The event is designed for anyone involved in forage and cover crop systems—from seasoned professionals to students.

**Registration details available soon.** Contact Scott Reuss if you are interested in attending and he will send you registration information when available.

# Alfalfa Quality Monitoring Project Synopsis

One of the rites of May for me as a Crops Educator is getting into a number of area alfalfa fields to monitor alfalfa quality and scout for the insects and diseases that impact alfalfa. While doing so this year, I had the opportunity to compare the PEAQ stick method of measuring alfalfa quality to lab testing of forage quality, thanks to a grant from Midwest Forage Association to a group of Extension Educators. (NOTE: Liz Gartman coordinated the project in her Crops/Soils Educator role for Sheboygan, Fond du Lac, Washington, and Ozaukee Counties.) For those who don't know, PEAQ stands for Predictive Equations for Alfalfa Quality and is a Univ of WI developed method to estimate first crop quality for pure alfalfa stands. It is simple, cheap, and easy to do. However, it isn't always all that accurate. In years where fiber deposition isn't normal, PEAQ and lab results don't match all that well.

2025 was one of those years, as you see from the table for our area's results. The cooler conditions this May resulted in less fiber content, allowing forage quality parameters to remain high, even while we had good height. I have always noted a sizable discrepancy between PEAQ and lab results early in the growing season, but they usually get fairly close as we get very near to cutting time. This year, we still were seeing as much as 90 points difference between PEAQ and Lab RFQ as late as May 30<sup>th</sup>, with the average difference of the four sites samples May 30 being 54 points higher lab RFQ (ave. of 219) than PEAQ RFV (ave. of 165). To put that difference in context, we normally assume about a 5 point drop per day, so that could mean a 10 day difference in growth between when you may have cut according to one system vs. the other. That equates to a lot of lost yield, as we never fully regain that amount.

2025 Alfalfa Quality Monitoring Project Summary of Tested Sites				
Site	Date	PEAQ	Lab RFV	Lab RFQ
Crivitz	5/14/2025	237	280	311
	5/21/2025	211	242	271
	5/26/2025	200	203	212
	5/30/2025	165	193	200
Lena	5/14/2025	224	286	322
	5/21/2025	211	253	285
	5/26/2025	175	226	237
Antigo	5/14/2025	230	285	313
	5/21/2025	211	283	310
	5/26/2025	185	260	285
	5/30/2025	165	231	255
Tigerton	5/14/2025	211	298	326
	5/21/2025	200	234	256
	5/26/2025	195	249	254
	5/30/2025	168	197	192
Cecil	5/14/2025	224	289	311
	5/21/2025	195	276	303
	5/26/2025	176	213	239
	5/30/2025	160	215	226

This effort and all of the other crop and crop pest monitoring efforts performed by Extension are able to be done because of the willingness of farms to share their fields and information. If you want to be involved in these efforts in the future, such as next year's alfalfa monitoring, or this year's Western Bean Cutworm monitoring, get in touch with me at [scott.reuss@wisc.edu](mailto:scott.reuss@wisc.edu) or text/call to 715-701-0966.





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**& Water**

Join Us For

# ANTIGO SILT LOAM & WATER'S

## COMMUNITY-WIDE FIELD DAY

Wisconsin's newest Producer-Led Watershed  
Protection Group is hosting a field day open  
to everyone! Included will be:



AN INTRODUCTION TO PRODUCER-LED WATERSHED PROTECTION GROUPS

UNDERSTANDING SOIL AND PHOSPHORUS LOSSES IN SEED POTATO ROTATIONS

POSTER PRESENTATION OF SMALL-SCALE STRIP COVER CROPPING FOR  
PROTECTION OF PERENNIAL GULLIES

FIELD TOUR DEMONSTRATING SIX RYE AND TRITICALE COVER CROP  
ESTABLISHMENT METHODS POST-POTATO HARVEST, TWO TERMINATION  
METHODS, AND ALFALFA GREEN PLANTING



	<b>FRIDAY JUNE 27, 2025</b> 10:30AM
	<b>SPYCHALLA FARMS:</b> N4244 STATE HWY 52 ANTIGO, WI 715-216-7449



Wisconsin  
Department of  
Agriculture, Trade,  
& Consumer Protection



DISCOVERY  
FARMS  
WISCONSIN



## JOIN US FOR A WORKSHOP WITH TOP-RATED SPEAKER JOLENE BROWN

Monday, June 23, 2025

Zeitler Enterprises

W8368 E 16th Road

Coleman, WI 54112

Social Hour and Food starting at 4:30pm

Presentation to begin at 6:30pm sharp

*No kids, please.*



## Stop the Fighting on the Way to the Funeral Home!

Presented by Menn Law and Zeitler Enterprises.

It happens far too often in family business. Promises are spoken and broken, facts are assumed, habits are hardened...and before we know it, we've got family fighting on the way to the funeral home. It's time we honor the family and do the business right! This value-packed, fun-filled workshop highlights the important work for successful transition. Tested tools are provided to help increase productivity, profitability, and peace of mind. From conversations to contracts, from assumptions to clarification, from complaints to celebrations, we will open eyes and save fighting on the way to the funeral home.

Jolene Brown is a walking-talking spokesperson and champion for the people of agriculture. She's a farmer in Eastern Iowa, contributor to Successful Farming magazine's popular family business column, author of two great books and an inductee into the prestigious CPAE Speaker Hall of Fame. Her worldwide audiences appreciate her fun-filled spirit and valuable information. She's on a mission to share leading-edge best practices, appreciation, laughter and celebration to increase productivity, profitability and peace of mind.

Please RSVP either on the [google docs form linked below](#), or by [texting Tricia Zeitler at 920-591-0196](#)



[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdrtjKHz2HqZH\\_lewzoZmcGtoArX8HzLrOFFXpRipTvc-Zj4g/viewform?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAR6kUHWCBvGHoucc1VVPY-BojeqgEcYaYeZyPHdaC7xDQ3OiDDPDoCA09p7lvQ\\_aem\\_BR2P-AdBldSsNyuSWJcbYg](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdrtjKHz2HqZH_lewzoZmcGtoArX8HzLrOFFXpRipTvc-Zj4g/viewform?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAR6kUHWCBvGHoucc1VVPY-BojeqgEcYaYeZyPHdaC7xDQ3OiDDPDoCA09p7lvQ_aem_BR2P-AdBldSsNyuSWJcbYg)