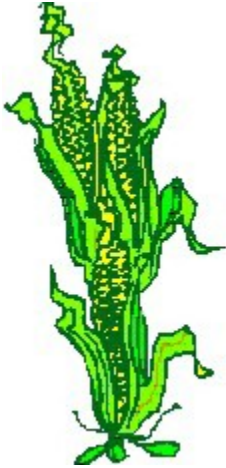


Courthouse Resource Center
1926 Hall Avenue
Marinette, WI 54143
Phone: 715-732-7510



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
715-732-7510
1-877-884-4408
cell 715-701-0966
[sreuss@marinettecounty.com](mailto: sreuss@marinettecounty.com)

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March, 2021 Agriculture Newsletter

I am excited to be offering a few live workshops in the next couple weeks. There are programming restrictions, yet, including length of event, numbers present, and following lots of protocols. BUT, we are holding three agriculture events and a fruit tree pruning workshop. As we approach planting season, I hope that you will find one, or more, of them useful to your operation and get registered. My cell phone is finally fully functional, so call or text me at 715-701-0966 with questions, research or demonstration ideas, or to set up an appointment to review a topic more in-depth.

Stay safe as thaw/freeze cycles change traction dramatically, sometimes in a very short amount of time.



Scott Reuss
Marinette and Oconto Counties' Agriculture Agent
UW-Madison, Division of Extension

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Calendar of Events (also see webinar events calendar on pg. 4)

2 nd & 4 th Weds.	12:30 pm	Badger Crop Connect (see pg. 2)
Wed., March 17	10:30 am	Lena TH, Crop Budgeting and Crop Inputs Workshop (pg. 8)
Thurs., March 18	5:30 pm	Gillett Fairgrounds, Oconto Co. Fair Beef Steer Weigh-In
Sat., March 20		Marinette Co. Fair Youth Livestock Performance (YLP) Contest Beef Steer Weigh-In
Sat., March 20	10:30 am	Harmony, Fruit Pruning Workshop (pg. 7)
Tues., March 30	12:30 pm	Lena TH, Dairy Price Risk Management Workshop (pg. 8)
Thurs., April 1	12:30 pm	Lena TH, Grain Marketing Workshop (pg. 8)
Sat., May 1	9 am	Gillett Fairgrounds, Oconto Co. Fair Goat & Sheep Weigh-In; Hog Tag Pickup
Sat., May 15		Marinette Co. Fair YLP Goat/Sheep/Hog Weigh-In

Badger Crop Connect



Returning for 2021

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday
@12:30 thru September

CCA CEUs
available

Upcoming Webinars:

- **March 10: Winter Wheat Management**
Shawn Conley, Extension Soybean and Small Grains Specialist & Carrie Laboski, Extension Soil Specialist
- **March 24: Early Season Weed Control**
Rodrigo Werle, Extension Weed Scientist & Mark Renz, Extension Weed Scientist
- **April 14: Field Conditions and Planter Set-up**
Francisco Arriaga, Extension Soil Specialist & Brian Luck, Extension Biological Systems Engineering Specialist



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Register for the spring 2021
sessions at:
<https://go.wisc.edu/bccspring2021>



As a beginner, military veteran, or disadvantaged farmer, you know there is a learning curve when it comes to adopting certain land management changes and conservation practices. The new Land Ethic Mentorship network provides such farmers with access to a reliable network of experienced conservation mentors to guide you in your

decision making. This network is a pilot program funded by a USDA-NRCS Conservation Collaboration Grant. The mentor network consists of Leopold Conservation Award-winning farmers and ranchers who have been recognized for extraordinary conservation achievement.

Mentees will have timely access to these conservation champions through a smart phone app or a more personalized one-on-one mentoring experience, as well as receive technical support and mentorship on navigating USDA conservation programs and practices. Learn more and sign up for this free mentorship opportunity at sandcountyfoundation.org/mentorship or contact Heidi Peterson at hpeterson@sandcountyfoundation.org

Researchers need your help & information

Yes, I get that the cynical, immediate reply to that statement is 'Duh, when don't they need our help?'. That aspect clearly stated, agricultural research forms the backbone of new technologies, new techniques, and cost-saving management practices. It helps get improper regulations changed, in some cases, and is done to make farming either more profitable, less environmentally costly, or safer for you and your family & employees. So, consider giving your feedback to these opportunities if it fits for you. NOTE: send me an e-mail to get either of these links sent to you, to make things simpler: sreuss@marinettecounty.com or scott.reuss@wisc.edu

Green Planting Into Cover Crop Survey

Have you or a farmer you advise here in Wisconsin "green" planted corn or soybeans into a standing cover crop before? If so, we would appreciate if you could share your experiences through a brief online survey being conducted by my colleague Dr. Chris Proctor (caproctor@unl.edu) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Link to the survey: https://ssp.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3XeaLgSdIxnXo1M

This survey was also conducted in 2020 and the preliminary findings can be found here:

<https://cropwatch.unl.edu/2021/planting-green-questionnaire-simple-analysis>

UW-Madison Weed Science Graduate Student Kolby Grint is conducting research in this topic here in Wisconsin and a video with his preliminary findings can be found in our [UW-Mad About Weeds](#) YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6UToPwuUS4&t=351s>

Thank you, Dr. Rodrigo Werle, UW-Madison Grain Crops Weed Management Specialist

Fresh Market Sweet Corn Growers' Bird Damage Survey

Researchers at the University of Rhode Island are currently distributing an online survey about fresh market sweet corn. If you grow fresh market sweet corn you are eligible to take this short 5 minute survey. Your participation and feedback are extremely valuable to the success of this research.

The survey will gather information on bird damage levels to sweet corn and prevention methods used to deter bird damage. To take this survey, please go to https://uri.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8qBBeU2HALwckYI. We thank you in advance for taking our survey. If you have further questions or interested in this study please see the contact information below.

For More Information contact: Dr. Rebecca Brown at brownreb@uri.edu *Department of Plant Science and Entomology*, or Natalie Meyer at natalie_meyer@uri.edu

Local Research Needs. I am looking for producer ideas regarding additional field crops research needs to assist you in solving issues/problems. Dairy and livestock management research problems are also welcome, whether to guide local research or get passed on to state-wide researchers. See e-mail addresses above....

Webinar Opportunities

All of these options are webinar delivered educational programs. All of the UW Sponsored events are free of charge, but registration is required by the day before the program.

3/15	Crop Fertility Decisions— When Less is More and When Less is Less	Kurt Steinke, Soil Fertility Specialist, and Jon LaPorte, Farm Business Management Educator, MSU
3/22	Grain Price Outlook and Novel Marketing Strategies	Matt Gammans, Agricultural Economist, MSU

These two MSU sponsored events have a \$5 registration fee and are held from 6 to 7 p.m.

Register online at

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/FCWS2021>

Mar 16	1pm	Badger Dairy Insight: Improving Dairy farm efficiency through genetics
Mar 17	7:30pm	Small Ruminant - Direct Marketing: Building Your Brand for the Future
Mar 19	11am	Farm Management Fridays: Your farm startup: Where to begin and who can help?
Mar 23	7pm	Beef & Small Ruminant: Direct Marketing Meat and Introduction to Meat Suite
Mar 30	1pm	Badger Dairy Insight: Robotic Farm Management; What's Different?

APRIL 2021

Date	Time	Event
Apr 9	11am	Farm Management Fridays: Healthy Minds, Healthy Farms
Apr 21	7:30pm	Small Ruminants: Designing Your Sheep and Goat Grazing System
Apr 23	11am	Farm Management Fridays: FARMing for Health

All of the above webinars are sponsored by UW-Madison, Division of Extension. Free to attend, but pre-register at <https://extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/farm-ready-research/> at least one day in advance of the program you want to attend. Once you register for the event, if you are unable to take part in the live event, you will be sent links to the taped discussion.

Alternative Berry Production Systems Webinar Series

Sponsored by UMN and UW-Madison Extension, free to attend, pre-registration required.

+ March 11: Day Neutral Strawberry Production Systems; Register at: z.umn.edu/3112021

+ April 8: Organic Pest Management Strategies for June-Bearing Strawberries; Register at z.umn.edu/482021

+ April 29: Organic Pest Management Strategies for Blueberries; Register at z.umn.edu/4292021

Focus on Forage webinar recordings Most of the Focus on Forage webinar series (just concluded on March 3) are available for viewing of appropriate resources and recordings of the actual events. They are posted here... <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/grain/focus-on-forage-webinar-series-2/>

2021 Central Wisconsin Processing Crops Meeting

Virtual Meeting – free but pre-registration required.

CCA CEUs will be available

March 17, 2021

Log in 8:50am

Meeting 9am – 11:15pm

REGISTER ONLINE AT <https://go.wisc.edu/g2r6a1>

Topics: Insecticide regulatory review and new product updates; Online Water Stewardship course; Dark Red Kidney Bean Irrigation; Implication of Consumer Sweet Corn Trends for WI; Cucurbit Down Mildew; Tracking and Managing Corn Earworm resistance to pyrethroids.

MANURE APPLICATOR TRAINING

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension is hosting four virtual Manure Applicator Training sessions - Level 1 / Manure 101.

Designed for employees of both for-hire manure applicators and farmers applying their own manure, this 3-hour training covers the basics of manure spill response, setbacks and regulations, neighbor relations and equipment/manure gas safety.

The same training will be offered three times:

- March 11th, 6 PM – 9 PM
- March 23rd, 9 AM – 12 PM
- March 29th, 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM

An internet-capable device and internet connection is required, and the cost is \$10/person. Contact Kevin Erb at 920-391-4652 or Kevin.Erb@wisc.edu for more information on this program or to have him send you the registration link.

Livestock Educational Programs The Wisconsin Youth Livestock Program (WYLP), in connection with the University of Wisconsin Madison Animal & Dairy Sciences Department, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and Division of Extension, are offering two more LIVE Virtual Zoom educational programs. These current topics are for youth and adults alike. Each session begins at 7 p.m. CST with a presentation followed by Q&A. You must register in order to receive the connecting information through email.

For more detailed information or to register for an event, please go to: <https://go.wisc.edu/r3x8lh> On this webpage you can also complete an educational verification form and turn it into your county fair and or livestock committee to verify your participation.

April 8 - Artificial Intelligence in Animal Sciences using sensors and cameras

May 13 - Meat Science Cookery

Wisconsin Cover Crop & Conservation Conversations Spring 2021

March 19

12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Session I: Highlights from Farmer-led Projects Across Wisconsin

- Results of CCROP's citizen science project on cover crop residue cover and persistence
- Innovative farmer-initiated cover crop and conservation practices across the state

March 26

12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Session II: Engaging Diverse Audiences in Cover Crops, Soil Health, and Conservation Education

- Opportunities for farmers and agencies to engage in CCROP citizen science projects
- Unique education and outreach strategies to promote cover crops, soil health, and conservation

April 2

12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Session III: Research Highlights on Cover Crops and Conservation from Across the State

- Overview of current Wisconsin research on cover crops and soil health

Webinars will follow a lightning talk format – several presenters giving short presentations – to keep the hour exciting, informative and engaging!

Webinars are free. Registration: <https://go.wisc.edu/zpuyc2>

Connection information for each webinar will be emailed to registrants the day before the event.

Brought to you by



Hands-on Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop & Pruning Overview

One activity that home fruit growers need to do every year is pruning. Annual pruning will help keep your trees, shrubs, and brambles productive and healthy. Pruning activities are generally performed in late winter and early spring, with optimum timing usually being between March 1 and April 15 in the Marinette County area.

The Oconto and Marinette County offices of UW-Madison, Division of Extension, are sponsoring an in-person workshop to help fruit growers in their pruning endeavors. The workshop is being held on Saturday, March 20, starting at 10:30 a.m. at the Harmony Demonstration Gardens. The Gardens are located at N3890 Cty. Hwy. E; Peshtigo, WI, one-half mile south of Hwy. 64 on Marinette Cty. Hwy. E.

Scott Reuss, Marinette and Oconto Counties' Agriculture Agent, will lead the discussion and demonstration. The event is free to attend, but pre-registration is required by e-mailing to scott.reuss@wisc.edu or calling 715-732-7510. Any questions about the program can also be addressed to Reuss via either method. Programming restrictions limit participation at this live, outdoor event to 19 attendees, with registration on a first contact, first registered basis.

Practice pruning opportunities will be provided, but participants will need to bring their own pruning tools along if they want to conduct practice pruning cuts, or work through decision-making on sample trees. Proper pruning helps keep plants structurally sound, helps manage fruit load and maintain annual bearing patterns, and plays a huge role in pest management. There are three primary goals of proper pruning:

1. Structure maintenance (height, width, branch angles, spacing of branches)
2. Creating optimum air flow and light penetration
3. Getting rid of broken, diseased, injured, and dying branches/canes

Structure maintenance needs to vary according to the natural size of the tree or shrub. Keep branches that have L-shaped branch unions as often as possible, as these have the strongest connection wood and are able to produce fruit more quickly and bear more fruit weight. Y-shaped union branches should be pruned off as often as possible, as they have very weak branch unions. U-shaped are usually decent strength, but a step down from L-shaped.

Height and width are dictated by the genetics of the rootstock and the fruiting cultivar, meaning that proper selection prior to planting is very important. If you are faced with a tree that is too large, you can step the entire tree back, but topping the tree is not recommended in home orchards. Topping creates huge hormonal imbalances in the tree or shrub and will cause problems for years. Maintaining a flat or trellised tree is possible in commercial orchards because of the high degree of management that they provide.

Creating air flow and light penetration means thinning of branches, some larger and some smaller. Start this process by looking for any branches that cross or hit each other, and take the weaker of the two out. Use that same approach to selecting smaller branches and twigs for thinning. You want to leave strong branches that are growing in their own zone so that they have full sun and good air flow.

Lastly, try not to go overboard. A good rule of thumb is to take off no more than 10-15% of the living weight of the tree in any one pruning year. In certain cases with older trees, you may need to break this rule in an attempt to reinvigorate them, but that is a special situation.

To learn more about pruning cuts and pruning procedures, either visit <https://fruit.wisc.edu/> and review the materials there or view the larger pruning article with photographs written by Reuss in this month's Northwoods Journal, found at https://www.marinettecounty.com/departments/land-information/environmental-education/forms_and_documents/

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Live, In-person workshops

The three live workshops on this page and the pruning workshop listed on the previous page are cooperatively sponsored by the Oconto and Marinette Counties' offices of UW-Madison, Division of Extension. All events are free to attend, but all have registration limits and contact time limits. To register for an event or to get more information about any of the events, contact Scott Reuss directly at either scott.reuss@wisc.edu or by calling either 715-732-7510 or 715-701-0966.

Crop Budgeting and Analyzing Returns from Crop Inputs

Wednesday, March 17, starting at 10:30 a.m.

Lena Town Hall (6087 Goatsville Road)

Registration limited to 9 participants – pre-register as above.

We enter the 2021 planting season with grain futures prices indicating we have a good likelihood of having profitable crop production. However, as everyone knows, we still have to pay attention to input costs and input decision-making. The workshop will focus on understanding crop budgeting on a per acre basis and utilizing a free spreadsheet which can help producers do their own budget projections. As part of the budgeting process, we can add in the expected costs and yield returns of various crop inputs and see if there is sufficient return on investment to justify that input. This process will form the second area of discussion and evaluation.

Some types of crop production inputs are absolutely necessary to the successful production of an economically viable crop. These inputs include high quality seed of good genetic background, proper nutrient management, good weed management, and a plan to monitor disease and insect pests and treat when warranted. Agricultural companies have many other types of inputs available. Some of them work very well and provide a likely return on investment, whereas others have lower likelihood of a positive return.

Dairy Price Risk Management

Tuesday, March 30, starting at 12:30 p.m.

Lena Town Hall (6087 Goatsville Road)

Registration limited to 9 participants – pre-register as above.

Dairy farms have access to various tools that help them manage the risk of the milk price market volatility which we have seen in recent years, with exaggerated swings in 2020. The discussion and analysis at this event will focus on the tools available and how they can be integrated together to be able to have a plan that meets your farm's needs. We will also look at sources of market information available to dairy producers as they make marketing decisions.

Grain Marketing: Creating a Plan for Profit

Thursday, April 1, starting at 12:30 p.m.

Lena Town Hall (6087 Goatsville Road)

Registration limited to 19 participants – register as above.

Grain Marketing strategies vary from year to year, as market conditions change. However, understanding your cost of production; how crop insurance and marketing strategies work together; and what the various pricing tools can do for you are important aspects of putting together a simple grain marketing plan. Having such a plan can assist a farm take out some of the emotions of marketing and be able to capture extra per bushel in most years. At the end of the workshop, attendees will develop a simple plan and follow it through a sample grain marketing year to see how the tools can actually work.