



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
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May, 2025 Ag Newsletter

Very simple newsletter this edition. Stay safe during planting season and let us know if you have information needs which we can meet.

First-crop Forage Quality & Pest Monitoring, the ‘Scissors Clip’ Project for 2025

If you have ‘typical’ alfalfa fields for your neighborhood/region, please consider contacting Scott Reuss, 715-701-0966 (call/text) or email scott.reuss@wisc.edu with the field locations so that he can walk them as part of this quality and pest monitoring effort.

We expect first crop to normally yield about 40-45% of overall tonnage, so it is very important to harvest at appropriate forage quality for your operation. There are also various insects and diseases that can change your harvest plans. Extension is assisting in the process of producer decision-making again this year by conducting region-wide forage quality and pest monitoring. Regional Crops/Soils Educator Scott Reuss will be walking alfalfa fields located throughout the four-county region starting May 14/15 window and at least once a week through the first week of June. Conditions may mean abbreviated circuits on the early or later dates, due to being either significantly early or getting past prime harvest. Watch for electronic (Email and text messages from Scott Reuss) communication about results, any schedule changes, etc...

You can look at all state-wide alfalfa quality monitoring data at the web site: <https://go.wisc.edu/AlfalfaHarvestAlert> and all of our local data will be on there, as well.

Resources to consider using: Free and simple to access!

The Badger Crop Connect is a free crops management webinar conducted the 2nd and 4th 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. May 22nd edition is the ‘Spring Weeds Special’.

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 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/

May is Mental Health Month

which seems appropriate for farms, as May is often one of the more stressful months of the farming year, as everyone tries to do too much in not enough time. Physical and mental health work together. Ignoring one of them will lead to issues on both sides of this ledger, so please do your best to keep both your body and your mind in top working condition as we work through planting, spraying, spreading, and forage harvesting this year. Here are a couple opportunities to help yourself and possibly others:

Karen Endres, Farmer Wellness Program Coordinator in the Wisconsin Farm Center, has put together a special series of four mini-episodes of the Rural Realities podcast. Each Friday in May, a new episode will be posted, with about a 10-minute discussion. The first one is on self-care and is available at:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1160120/episodes/17085731-self-care-for-farmers-keep-it-simple>

Other episodes will contain truly useful, concrete tips on the topics of hydration and nutrition, resilience, and cultivating gratitude. Access them through the DATCP website at <https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/AqDevelopment/FarmCenterOverview.aspx> (scroll down to the bottom of the page) or wherever you get your podcasts.

Mental Health First Aid

Training for agricultural professionals and service providers

Just as CPR teaches you how to help someone having a heart attack, Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to help someone experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge. This skills-based course helps you identify, understand, and respond in crisis and non-crisis situations.

COST:

No charge (estimated value \$100)

QUESTIONS:

joy.kirkpatrick@wisc.edu or 608-263-3485

Instructors: Joy Kirkpatrick & Danielle Sander, UW-Madison Extension educators

Training requires participants to use webcam and microphone during the virtual live training days.

UPCOMING TRAININGS:

Tues/Thurs, June 17 & 19, 2025

9:00 am – noon (must attend both days).

Participants must complete a 2-hour online self-paced course prior to the 6-hour instructor-led training via Zoom.

REGISTER AT:

<https://go.wisc.edu/1dlwnc>



This training is funded by the North Central Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Center: Engaging Programs to Support Producer Well-being (NCFRSAC) is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under award numbers 2020-70028-32728 and 2024-70028-43552.

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Preliminary Wisconsin Custom Rates for the 2025 Planting Season April 18, 2025

Paul D. Mitchell and Guang Tian, Agricultural and Applied Economics, Silva Gaku, Extension Farm Management, and Brian Luck, Biological Systems Engineering, UW-Madison

The 2025 Wisconsin planting season has begun and we are pleased to share preliminary results from the 2025 Wisconsin Custom Rate Survey. This initial release includes rates for tillage and field preparation, crop planting operations, and application of fertilizers and chemicals. We will publish full results for all field operations and update these preliminary rates in a few weeks.

The average rates provided reflect expected prices for the 2025 crop season. The survey asked respondents to report custom rates for 2024. These rates have been adjusted upward for inflation to 2025 rates by using the percentage increases for comparable operations between the 2024 and 2025 Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey. Please note that these custom rates are intended to serve as a general guide—actual rates will vary depending on local market conditions. The range of reported rates and the number of observations are included so users can assess the variability and uncertainty in these averages.

We extend our sincere thanks to all the survey participants who made this effort possible. As this is the first year of the survey, we are committed to refining and improving it moving forward. Our goal is to continue supporting Wisconsin farmers and custom operators with reliable and timely information. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

Section 1 Custom Land Tillage Services

	\$/acre	Range		Responses
Chisel Plowing	23.09	12.71	31.78	15
Disk/Ripper	24.53	16.58	31.09	9
Disking with Harrow or Cultipacker	23.25	16.58	31.09	7
Field Cultivating	18.35	10.25	30.76	19
Vertical Tillage	21.90	14.51	31.09	19
Finishing Disk	21.21	10.36	30.16	11
Offset Disk	31.89	15.77	28.39	6
Row Cultivating	20.45	15.15	40.39	7
Row Cultivating with Fertilizer	24.49	15.55	51.82	6
Subsoiling (16-20 in. deep)	27.66	18.66	36.28	9
Strip Tillage	30.99	18.66	51.82	10

Section 2 Custom Drilling Services

	Conventional (\$/acre)	Range		Responses	No Till (\$/acre)	Range		Responses
Alfalfa	18.40	9.97	27.91	14	22.08	13.95	29.90	13
Soybean	20.15	13.62	27.24	15	23.31	15.72	31.43	18
Small grains	19.41	9.46	30.26	14	21.47	9.46	30.26	21

Section 3 Custom Seeding and Planting Services

	Conventional (\$/acre)	Range		Responses	No Till (\$/acre)	Range		Responses
Aerial Seeding	17.47	14.27	20.92	8	16.93	14.27	19.02	5
Air Seeding with Fertilizer								
Corn	23.49	17.12	30.43	10	24.61	20.92	30.43	8
Small grains	22.83	13.31	38.04	5	26.39	19.02	42.80	4
Soybean	24.38	13.31	38.04	8	25.55	19.02	42.80	7
Air Seeding without Fertilizer								
Corn	24.25	19.02	28.53	4	23.30	17.12	28.53	6
Small grains	19.70	12.36	23.78	7	23.54	19.02	28.53	4
Soybean	21.28	13.31	23.78	8	23.24	17.12	28.53	9
Broadcast Seeding	13.60	6.68	19.09	6	13.94	6.68	19.09	5
Planting								
Alfalfa, Clover, etc.	23.59	16.16	30.16	10	23.84	19.39	32.32	8
Corn								
with fertilizer	26.88	19.39	37.70	28	26.82	18.31	35.55	25
without fertilizer	23.97	15.08	30.16	12	24.28	15.08	30.16	12
Forages	22.44	16.16	26.93	6	25.05	21.54	32.32	6
Small grains	24.01	16.16	26.93	7	25.37	16.16	32.32	10

Section 4 Custom Application of Fertilizers and Chemicals

	Rate (\$/acre)	Range		Responses
Fertilizer				
Bulk Dry Broadcast	8.79	5.79	17.12	36
Liquid Broadcast	10.54	5.35	12.49	11
Liquid Side-Dressing with Drop Nozzles	14.69	8.76	19.16	19
Lime Application (\$/acre)	18.91	13.24	34.21	7
Lime Application (\$/ton)	22.33	5.47	71.15	11
Fungicide				
Ground Application	12.86	8.76	21.89	38
Herbicide				
Boom Sprayer	12.16	7.39	43.78	41
Broadcast or Banded (only) Liquid	10.41	7.39	12.59	8

Questions or Comments, Contact Paul Mitchell, (608) 265-6514, pdmitchell@wisc.edu