



**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](mailto:scott.reuss@wisc.edu)

Stephanie Bowers—Dairy in  
Oconto & Shawano Counties  
920-470-0531  
[stephanie.bowers@wisc.edu](mailto:stephanie.bowers@wisc.edu)

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## February/March, 2024 Ag Newsletter

I can't say it any more bluntly: I do not like the weather patterns we have had in the last 4 weeks. Rain and mud are not supposed to be on our radar in January and February. At this point, about all we can do is wait to see what March and early April bring, as far as overwintering success of perennial forages and winter annuals, so be ready to scout. Hope to see you at one of the upcoming events, or hear from you as you get ready to plant.

Stay safe, Scott Reuss, Crops & Soils Educator

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### Calendar of Events

Fri., Feb. 23	10 a.m.	Shawano	Crop Insurance & ARC/PLC Decisions (pg. 5)
Tues., Feb. 27	9 a.m.	Shawano	Pesticide Applicator Training (pg. 5)
Wed., Feb. 28	10-3	Lena	Demo Network Meeting & SCFC Auction (pg. 6)
Wed., Mar. 6	10 a.m.	Wausau	Grain Marketing Tools & Techniques
	12:30 p.m.	Antigo	Forage Management Workshop (pg. 5)
Fri., Mar. 8	9 a.m.	Lena	Pesticide Applicator Training (pg. 5)
Wed., Mar. 13	12:30 p.m.	Appleton	Grain Mktg Tools & Techniques
	5 p.m.	Gillett Library	Vegetable Gardening 101
Mon., Mar. 18	1 p.m.	Green Vallley	Manure Applicator Trng. (pg. 2)
Tues., Mar. 19	8:30 a.m.	Lena	Grain Marketing Coffee Chat (pg. 5)
	10 a.m.	Lena TH	Pest Management Prep (pg. 5)
Wed., Mar. 20	1 p.m.	Birnamwood	Manure Applicator Trng. (pg. 2)
March 21 & 22	10—3	Antigo	Lanlade County Nutrient Management Plan and SNAP+ Training. Focused on Lanlade County farms and landowners, but may be room for others, contact Scott R. if interested.
Wed., April 3	12:30 p.m.	Appleton	Developing a Grain Marketing Plan that works for you

NOTE: Other webinars are being offered over the course of these months, including small ruminants (see Jan. newsletter), organic fruit crop management, and the continuing dairy management series.



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**MEETING TOPICS TO INCLUDE:**

- Spill prevention and response
- Pressure safety
- Road safety, flagging, and transfer
- Understanding karst/shallow bedrock concerns
- Reading a nutrient management plan

Great training opportunity provided locally for both for-hire manure applicator businesses and farms which apply their own manure. All manure applicators are strongly encouraged to attend! If you have any difficulty with the registration site, contact Kevin Erb at 920-391-4652 or Scott Reuss at 715-701-0966. \$10 per person advance regis. fee (3 days ahead of meeting) or \$15 at the door. One person can register/pay for multiple attendees.

**Meeting Location**

**Meeting Date & Time of Start**

Birnamwood (Matsche Farms host)	Wed., March 20: 1 p.m.
Cecil (Bulger Farms host)	Mon., March 18: 1 p.m.
Chilton	Tues., March 5: 1 p.m. & 6 p.m.
Luxemburg	Thursdays, March 7 & 15: 12:30 p.m.
Manitowoc	Monday, March 4: 6 p.m.
Online, via Zoom	Monday, March 25: 1 p.m.

**Registration Required, at <https://go.wisc.edu/2024manure101>**



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## USDA Cattle Risk Management Tools Overview & Update

What cattle producers need to know for purchasing livestock risk protection including the changes to the LRP program.

**March 5, 2024, from 7 – 8 pm CST, online ZOOM**

Registration required by noon on March 5 at  
**<https://go.wisc.edu/0p3120>**

Presenters:

- Paul Mitchell, Professor of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UW-Madison, Director of Renk Agribusiness Institute
- Brenda Boetel, Professor of Agricultural Economics, UW-River Falls, UW-Extension Commodities Marketing Specialist
- Pamela Stahlke, Director, USDA Risk Management Agency St. Paul Regional Office
- Bill Halfman, UW-Extension State Beef Outreach Specialist



**USDA Risk Management Agency**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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# Livestock Handling Technique Gaming/Training

<https://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/fapm/svm-dairy-apps/mooving-cows/>



Mooving Cows is a new interactive video game that teaches proper livestock handling techniques. Download the game now free in the app store! This game is perfect for farmers and farm employees:

Raising heifers via grazing provides economic and ecological benefits, along with improved performance as they enter the milking herd. A panel of farmers and nutritionists will discuss the advantages and logistics of this system. We will also provide info and resources available to those interested in the possibilities of grazing dairy heifers.

**Perks: Free event, free knowledge and free lunch!**



## GRAZING HEIFERS FOR ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL RETURNS

Managed grazing systems for dairy heifers can provide numerous benefits to your farm and watershed.

Bring your questions and experiences! Bring your neighbors, your nutritionists... and for nutritionists, bring your farmer clients! We expect a lively conversation and would appreciate having you in it. And we'll feed you lunch!

- **Tuesday, February 27**
- **10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**
- **Farm WI**
- **Discovery Center Newton, WI**

**Register Now!**

<https://go.wisc.edu/4olixk>

For More Information - email [liz.gartman@wisc.edu](mailto:liz.gartman@wisc.edu)



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grassLAND 2.0

# Focus on Forage

*Optimizing forage production in Wisconsin*

The 2024 Focus on Forage webinar series is being conducted over the next month. Each of the four sessions in the series highlight research-based information and on-farm strategies to optimize forage yield, quality, and profitability in Wisconsin.

**February 22, 2024:** Focus on Forage Insurance

**February 28, 2024:** Focus on Alfalfa

**March 6, 2024:** Focus on Annual Forages

**March 20, 2024:** Focus on Pastures

**All webinars live**

**from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.**

These webinars will be of interest to farms (field crop and dairy), crop advisors, animal science professionals and anyone else interested in forage management and research. Certified Crop Advisor CEUs and ARPAS credits are available for each webinar. The sessions will provide actionable information for the farmer or consultant looking to improve their production, better understand risks, and to make informed management decisions.

**February 22 | Focus on Forage Insurance:** Join Pamela Stahlke from USDA RMA and Dr. Paul Mitchell of UW–Madison to learn about federal crop insurance tools available to manage production risk for Wisconsin forage growers and the benefits and usage of federal crop and forage insurance. With forage acres in WI insured at only a 20% rate, as compared to 90% of grain crop acres, there is room to improve the risk management of forages by utilizing appropriate federal crop insurance policies.

**February 28 | Focus on Alfalfa:** Scott Newell, UW–Madison; Dr. Kim Cassida, Michigan State University; Dr. Mark Renz, UW–Madison; and Dr. Emily Bick, UW–Madison will lead an alfalfa-focused webinar. Topics covered include alfalfa management following the 2023 drought, autotoxicity concerns and current research, herbicide carryover issues, and potato leafhopper management.

**March 6 | Focus on Annual Forages:** Dr. Marta Kohmann, Dr. Luiz Ferrareto, John Jones, and Chris Bandura of UW–Madison will discuss annual forage topics including how annual forages fit on Wisconsin farms and in the dairy ration, a presentation on the nitrogen demand of winter cereal forages, and nitrogen carryover and rate planning following 2023 drought.

**March 20 | Focus on Pastures:** Jason Cavadini, Steve Okonek, Dr. Marta Kohmann and Stefania Cartoni-Casamitjana of UW–Madison will discuss strategies for improving production potential of pastures, managing the “summer slump” of hot and dry weather typical for July and August, pasture species mixtures for climate resilience, and renovating forests for silvopasture.

To read more about each webinar and register, visit [go.wisc.edu/FoF2024](https://go.wisc.edu/FoF2024).

If you are unable to join the webinars live, they will be recorded and be available for viewing at the web page shown above. There will also be resource links specific to each topic. You can also contact Scott Reuss directly with local questions about the issues or topics involved with these webinars. Please note the joint event in Antigo in conjunction with the March 6 Annual Forages’ topic (see next page).

# Local Programs

## **Crop Insurance and ARC/PLC Decision Making Courthouse @ 10 a.m.**

**Fri., Feb. 23 Lower Level Shawano**

Discussion focuses on the numbers behind making the right ARC vs. PLC decision for your farm and selecting the right crop insurance product and coverage level for you. We talk through how these two programs can work together to help you manage risk, how crop insurance works and what the various options are within it, and how you can get the most value for your crop insurance premium investment. Free to attend.

## **Private Pesticide Applicator Training/Testing**

Please note that the Lena date was changed due to a state scheduling snafu, is now March 8.

There are two training and testing days available yet in the region if you or anyone else on the farm needs to get newly or re-certified via the PAT process. Refer to the full page details in previous newsletters, or contact Scott Reuss if you have questions. The two local sessions are: Shawano Courthouse, Tuesday, February 27 @ 9 a.m. and at the Lena Town Hall, Friday, March 8 @ 9 a.m.

**Step #1. You must order the PAT category 100/101 book from the PAT store website.**

<https://patstore.wisc.edu/secure/home> Start by clicking on the Private Applicator button, then click on 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 on '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. Read through the options in Step #2 below. 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 to either Oconto or Shawano and then click add to cart (\$10).

## **Forage Management – Optimizing Forage Production (non-alfalfa forages)**

Langlade Cty. Extension Office (1225 Langlade Rd., Antigo); Wed., March 6

This is a two-part workshop. Starting at 12:30 p.m., we will take part as a group in the Focus on Forage webinar detailed on the previous page that features annual forage crops. At 1:30 p.m., we will hone in on local best management practices for annual forage crops, perennial grasses, and clovers. We will be focusing on producing these forages for mechanical harvest, not in a grazing setting, although a fair amount of the information will also apply to harvest via animals. Discussion will include species and variety selection; planting logistics; nutrient management; and optimum harvesting practices. Free program.

## **Grain Marketing Tools & Techniques (see previous newsletters for full details)**

AgCountry FCS office in Wausau, Wedn., March 6 from 10 a.m. to Noon

Outagamie County Extension office in Appleton, Wed., March 13 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

## **Grain Marketing Coffee Chat Tues., March 19, Lena Town Hall @ 8:30 a.m.**

Informal, group discussion about grain marketing opportunities in the current market situation and approaches to grain marketing based on current situation.

## **Prepping for 2024 Pest Management Tues., March 19 Lena Town Hall @ 10 a.m.**

As everyone gets ready for planting season, are you really ready for all the various pest management practices that go with it? We've been thrown a few curve balls in recent years, not the least of which is the probable pending loss of over the top dicamba products. Discussion will focus on our region's most important current pests, as well as ones we may need to be scouting for in 2024.

What are they? WEEDS! – as always. White mold Western Bean Cutworm  
Corn Rootworm Other insects and diseases of possible importance.....

# MANAGING ON FARM CONSERVATION IN NORTHERN WI

February 28th 10 am- 3 pm  
The Blue Spruce in Lena  
8096 Co Rd A, Lena, WI 54139

## TOPICS

### Tackling The Hurdles of Conservation and Finding The Middle Ground

David Trimner - Miltrim Farms, Inc.

### Why Every Heifer In Wisconsin Should Be Grazed

Adam Abel - NRCS

### UAV Uses In Agriculture

Brooke Stewart - Agridrone

### Looking Back At 2023 (And Forward to 2024)

Farmer Panel

### LOCAL RESEARCH RESULTS

Scott Reuss - UW Division of Extension

At 3:00 pm, we will have a fund-raising auction of ag products for the Shawano County Area Forage Council. Support alfalfa and corn silage programs.

## REGISTRATION REQUESTED.

### By Phone:

Call Rachel at Oconto LWCD 920-834-7155

### By Email:

rachel.wilcox@co.oconto.wi.us



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

**PAY AT THE DOOR,  
CASH OR CHECK  
ONLY. CHECKS CAN  
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OCONTO LWCD**

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