



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## Agriculture: Crops & Soils Program Update



Extension Crops & Soils Educator Liz Gartman connects with crop growers, dairy producers, conservationists, and agricultural professionals to better manage the balance between crop production, nutrient management, and soil health.

### Ongoing Regional Needs Assessment

- Discussions with ag producers including row crop grain producers, forage growers, dairy farmers & graziers
- Connect with agribusiness professionals including agency staff, agronomists, consultants, grazing planners, and ag lenders
- Partner with agriculture groups in 4 counties – particularly Land & Water Departments and Producer-Led Watershed Groups
- In depth reviews of current agriculture statistics

### Additional Projects

- PEAQ Alfalfa Quality Management Project
  - Field study measuring ideal alfalfa plant maturity harvest to inform harvest decisions
  - 5 sites in Sheboygan & Fond du Lac Co.
  - Obtained grant funding to expand project across the state
- Extension Crop Scout School
  - Provide just-in-time crop scouting skills to farms, co-ops, crop consultants
  - Blend of online/field days

### Washington County:

- Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP)
  - Dornacker Prairie Acres – focus on Manure & Nitrogen Use – Year 2
  - Ramthun's Hickory View Farm – focus on Legume Cover Crop & Nitrogen Use
  - Partner with Land & Water Dept.
  - Shared project info at Wash. Co. Nutrient Management Meeting
- Managed Grazing Needs Assessment
  - Discussions with current & potential graziers, agency & county staff
  - Plan upcoming grazing outreach

### Completed Projects

- Badger Crop Update Meeting Planning Team
- Focus on Forage Webinar Team
  - 4 Webinars focused on alfalfa, corn silage and forage cover crops
  - 111 average attendance per session
- Article on Silage Storage Maintenance
- Wisconsin Water & Soil Health Conference Session Moderator – focus on forage cover crops

- WAYP – WI Alfalfa Yield & Persistency Project
  - Field study measuring alfalfa quality and yield across all harvests for the year
  - 1 site in Fond du Lac Co. + 1 potential site in Sheboygan Co.
- Badger Crop Connect Webinar Team
  - Provide timely crop management resources
  - Bi-Monthly Webinar
- DATCP Pest Trapping Network
- Regional Ag E-Newsletter