



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

- Badger Crop Update Meeting Planning
 - Share 2025 growing season debrief & planning for 2026
 - 3 in person & 1 virtual site
- Focus on Forage Webinar Series
 - 2026 Season Planning
 - 4 webinar series – grazing, alfalfa, cover crops & economics
- Fond du Lac Forage Council
 - Plan Dairy Forage Day – 1/14/26
 - Dairy & Crop Focus

Current Projects

- Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP)
 - Ramthun's Hickory View Farm – Legume Cover Crop & Nitrogen Use
 - Partner w/Wash Co. Land & Water
 - Dornacker Prairie Acres – wrapped up
- Corn Silage Harvest Management Project
 - Year 2 – Expanded Data Collection
 - Launched tool for users to make harvest decisions based on local dry down results
- WI Alfalfa Yield & Persistence Project
 - 2 fields, collected four samples from each
 - Currently analyzing data
- Beef Cow Nutrition Management Fact Sheet Series
 - Focus on managing grazing & forage to meet cow needs
- Badger Crop Connect Webinar Team
 - Provide timely crop management resources
 - Final evaluation in process

- Scout School Planning – 2026
 - Updating Scouting Manual
 - Adding pest focused field days
- Articles in Popular Press
 - WI Cover Crop Data Project – MFA Clippings E-News
 - Corn Silage Tool Summary – MFA Forage Focus Magazine
- PEAQ Alfalfa Quality Management Project
 - Finalizing report
- DATCP Pest Trapping Network
- Forage & Grazing Workgroup Facilitator