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## Agriculture: Crops & Soils Programming 2024



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.

### 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
- Contact with agriculture groups in 4 counties – particularly Land & Water Departments and Producer-Led Watershed Groups
- In depth review of the Census of Agriculture

### Completed Projects

- Regional Ag Day Program
  - Program quality rated 92.3% Good to Excellent
  - Focus on feeding cover crops, low disturbance manure management, resources for disabled farmers
  - “Excellent program, speakers were all very good, great location”
- PEAQ Alfalfa Quality Management Project
  - Field study measuring ideal alfalfa plant maturity harvest
  - Results shared with 4 county region to inform timely harvest to optimize forage quality

### Current Projects

- Badger Crop Connect Webinar Team
  - Executed 13 webinars throughout the growing season
  - Addressed timely growing season management considerations
  - Average of 94 attendees per webinar for 68,837 participant minutes of learning
- Corn Silage Harvest Data Collection
  - Identified key data metrics to collect
  - Created tools to gather data at dry down events across the state
  - On a team to design a widget to enable producers to work with the data
- Fond du Lac Forage Council
  - Partnered on Alfalfa Quality & Corn Silage Dry Down projects
  - Collaborated to execute Forage Twilight Meeting (June 2024) & Dairy Forage Day (December 2024)

### Ongoing Efforts:

- Regional Ag E-Newsletter
  - Reaches over 900 e-mail addresses
  - Share timely topics, upcoming events & surveys
  - “Your newsletters are great; I feel connected to upcoming local events”
- Focus on Forage Webinar Series
  - Four webinars in the series – average of 82 participants per event
  - “Awesome presentations today from a group of 4 topic experts. Thank you very much.”
- Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program Project
  - 2 Year Field trial studying nitrogen rates on farm