



# 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

## Current Projects

- 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
- Beef Cow Nutrition Management Fact Sheet Series
  - Focus on managing grazing & forage to meet cow needs
- Corn Silage Harvest Management Project
  - Creating a tool for users to make harvest decisions based on local dry down results
- Forage Analysis Report Fact Sheets
  - Collaboration with Dairy Educators
  - Create guidance for dairy producers to better understand and compare forage results
- Badger Crop Connect Webinar Team
  - Provide timely crop management resources
  - Bi-Monthly Webinar

## 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
- DATCP Pest Trapping Network
- WAYP – WI Alfalfa Yield & Persistency Project
  - Field study measuring alfalfa quality and yield across all harvests for the year
  - 2 sites in Fond du Lac Co. + 1 potential site in Sheboygan Co.
- 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