



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 four 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
 - Three in person & one virtual site
- 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
- WI Alfalfa Yield & Persistence Project
 - Two fields, collected four samples from each
 - Currently analyzing data

Current Projects

- Focus on Forage Webinar Series
 - 2026 Season Planning
 - Four webinar series – grazing, alfalfa, cover crops & economics
- Fond du Lac Forage Council
 - Plan Dairy Forage Day – 1/14/26
 - Program focus on corn silage digestibility & BMR replacement
- Corn Silage Harvest Management Project
 - Year 2 – Expanded Data Collection
 - Launched tool for users to make harvest decisions based on local dry down results
- Beef Cow Nutrition Management Fact Sheet Series
 - Focus on managing grazing & forage to meet cow needs
- Scout School Planning – 2026
 - Updating Scouting Manual
 - Adding pest focused field days
 - Provide key training for local consultants/interns

- 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
- Badger Crop Connect Webinar Team
 - Provide timely crop management resources
 - Final evaluation in process
- DATCP Pest Trapping Network
- Forage & Grazing Workgroup Facilitator