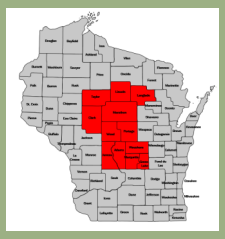
Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Extension Central News



Winter Edition 2024

IN THIS ISSUE:

EXTENSION CENTRAL NEWS

A cooperative effort of multiple Central Wisconsin Counties and Wisconsin Extension.

Our Mission

To be the primary source of research based agricultural information and education for the agricultural community in Central Wisconsin.

A virtual workshop series on farm succession

Are you thinking about farm succession and want some guidance and education before you go to an attorney? Do you need some help starting the conversations around farm succession with your family and/or farming partners?

Join our UW-Madison Division of Extension Farm Management Specialists, Joy Kirkpatrick, Steph Plaster, Kevin Bernhardt, Kelly Wilfert, and Outreach Specialist, Kaitlyn Davis as they lead discussions and activities during the ***Cultivating Your Farm's Future*** *workshop series. This program will provide tools and resources for farmers who want to start their succession plans.*

The program will explore the three step process of planning your business succession:

- Where are you now?
- Where do you want to be?
- How do you get there?

This workshop series will prepare you to shape and communicate your ideas about the future of the farm and business as well as save time by having these crucial conversations *before visiting with professionals.*

Register for Cultivating Your Farm's Future - a virtual workshop series that starts on January 31, 2024. Learn more about the series and register at this link: https://farms.extension.wisc.edu/cultivating-your-farms-future-farm-succession-workshops-start-jan-31-2024/

Value of Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) Bio-Solids and Gypsum Board Waste

Richard Halopka, CCA
Senior Outreach Specialist
UW-Extension Clark County Crops & Soils

The past few years I have received questions on the use of bio-solids from cleaning flues at coal powered electric plants and gypsum board from the building industry.

OK, first are the products of any use in agriculture? Yes, they are a bio-solid and I would agree that it might be better to apply on crop fields rather than dispose of in a landfill.

Second, are the supplier claims accurate? Maybe, I not sure what the promise or claim the company has provided.

A former colleague, Dick Wolkowski had done a number of trails using both products and at the end of the day, applying on cropland is a better alternative rather than placing the products in a landfill.

Here is a list of what I know about the two bio-solids:

1. Land application is a good alternative of this bio-sold product.
2. Both products are a good source of calcium and sulfur
3. Neither product will correct low pH fields.
4. Application rates are higher than normal recommended rates for sulfur in crop production.
5. Sulfur may leach through the soil profile.
6. Both products can be sticky and difficult to apply unless very dry.
7. Minimum application rate may be 1000 to 2000 pounds/acre.
8. Application is difficult with equipment designed to spread lime and fertilizer.
9. Review the cost of the bio-solid product and application cost to determine if you want to use either of the bio-solids as nutrients in crop production fields.
10. High applications will reduce sodic soil conditions. Soils in Wisconsin are not sodic. We receive 30-40 inches of rain per year, which will prevent soils from becoming sodic (salt containing). Research is available from Wisconsin soils.

Therefore, here are my take home message if you are considering using FGD or gypsum board bio-solids.

1. Don't over apply. Some may encourage applications exceeding a ton per acre. Remember excessive applications of a good thing can cause negative effects.
2. The best method to apply may be using a vertical spreader and application rates may not be uniform across a field. It is not like applying lime or fertilizer with accurate application equipment.
3. Both products are a good source of calcium and sulfur, but the rate of application will exceed the majority of crop requirement.
4. Push a pencil, what does the product cost compared to fertilizer products normally used in crop production. Is it economical to apply? I've seen where "free" products may be the most expensive.
5. If you are confused and want more information, ask an Extension educator or Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) agronomist.

Good luck planning for the 2024 crop season.

If you have questions on soil fertility please contact your county's Extension educator or richard.halopka@wisc.edu .

Richard Halopka, CCA, office phone 715-743-5121.

USDA, NRCS, UW, and Extension Launch New Climate Outlook Updates

By Natasha Paris

Wisconsin experienced an historic drought in 2023 which is lasting into 2024 due to the El Niño weather pattern. Throughout the growing season farmers and agriculture professionals relied heavily on resources from the USDA Drought Monitor, the National Weather Service, and the State Climatology Office to help them make decisions and understand conditions as they were happening. While there is an abundance of information available, it is spread out across several websites and agencies, making it sometimes difficult and overwhelming to stay on top of everything. In conversations between Steve Vavrus, Wisconsin State Climatologist, Extension staff, NRCS, and the USDA Midwest Climate Hub, it became apparent that a resource with up-to-date information as well as guidance aimed specifically at agriculture would be valuable.

Thus, the Wisconsin Ag Climate Weekly Outlook was born. Dennis Todey, Director of the USDA Midwest Climate Hub, had already been producing something similar for Iowa for a few years, and with the addition of Josh Bendorf and Bridgette Mason to the team they had capacity to help Wisconsin as well. Each week of the growing season and periodically during winter the Climate Hub team will be compiling a set of relevant maps and weather information pieces with input from Steve Vavrus, State Climatologist of Wisconsin based out of the Nelson Institute at UW-Madison, Kristin Foehringer, NRCS State Working Lands Climate Smart Specialist, and Natasha Paris, Regional Crops Educator for Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara, and Adams Counties.

The goal is to provide not only the weather maps and tools that are relevant to agriculture, but also provide some context and commentary from the contributors about what various factors mean for agriculture and things to consider throughout the season. The Ag Climate Weekly Outlook will be uploaded to the UW-Madison Extension Crops and Soils website on Wednesdays. Past reports will also be archived there so readers can look back for reference and comparison.

We encourage you to bookmark this page: https://cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu/wisconsin-climate-outlook/ so you can access the latest report quickly and easily. If you have questions or suggestions for how to improve this resource, please reach out. When you find yourself at a crossroads as to how to use this information to benefit your farm or business, reach out to your Extension Crops Educator.

Choose Seeds for Success in 2024

By Natasha Paris

While the persistent dry weather that characterized the 2023 season worked to our advantage and produced low disease pressure and high crop yields, we never know what next year has in store. One of the best ways to invest in your crop is by doing your research and making careful seed choices. With all the companies available and the numerous traits, the options can be dizzying. Luckily, there are UW resources that can help you with this process.

Each year, the UW-Madison and Extension staff and faculty spend hundreds of hours evaluating varieties of corn, soybeans, and wheat. Care is taken to select and trial varieties that represent what is available on the market each season. This provides you with unbiased information that can be of real value on your farm. You may be aware of local test plots that showcase varieties, but those sites often don't compare the wide variety of brands and trait packages that can be achieved in a university trial. In addition, a large part of scientific testing is replication, or doing things multiple times to eliminate outliers and identify larger trends. University researchers run test plots all over the state and tests varieties against different soils and growing conditions. This allows them to pinpoint which varieties rise to the top or shine in a specific set of circumstances.

This was the 51st year of the corn variety trial at UW, and it included varieties from 29 seed companies planted at 14 sites and featured both grain and silage varieties. The importance of the different sites is not only soil type, but also growing degree units and rainfall, all of which are documented throughout the season. In the report the variety, trait package, relative day maturity, and yield at each site is included. If that same variety was present in last year's trial, that data is also included to allow for comparison. Finally, the corn trial report includes a performance index which indicates how a variety compares to the average across the trials when you combine yield, moisture, and standability. Looking for performance indices over 100 is important when evaluating corn varieties here.

In the soybean and wheat trials, there were ten sites for soybean and four for winter wheat. Both Glyphosate-tolerant and conventional soybeans were tested from 28 sources, ranging in maturity groups from 0.3 to 2.9. In a piece of good news from this year's trial, both the Enlist E3 and the XtendFlex herbicide traits provided good protection across all regions of the state. While the disease pressure this year was low, the soybeans and wheat trials are rated for disease resistance in a normal year. The report also includes information about which types of phytophthora resistance a variety has in addition to other traits. The key to identifying the top varieties in the report that best match your growing conditions is to look for those those bearing an asterisk, as they rank in the top tier of varieties tested this year.

If varieties you are considering were not part of the UW trials, there are still ways to look for something that will match your operation. It's always important to see how varieties performed at multiple sites or over multiple years and look for options that have shown some resistance to tar spot or white mold in years when disease pressure was high.

UW trials have shown that variety can account for up to a 70 bushel per acre difference in corn and 25 bushels per acre in soybeans, so it's not a choice to take lightly. To view the reports discussed here, scan the QR codes below or contact your Regional Extension Educator for more information.

March 18 Goat Field Day

Mark your Calendar!

Where: Lynn Town Hall W1877 Highway 10, Granton WI 54436

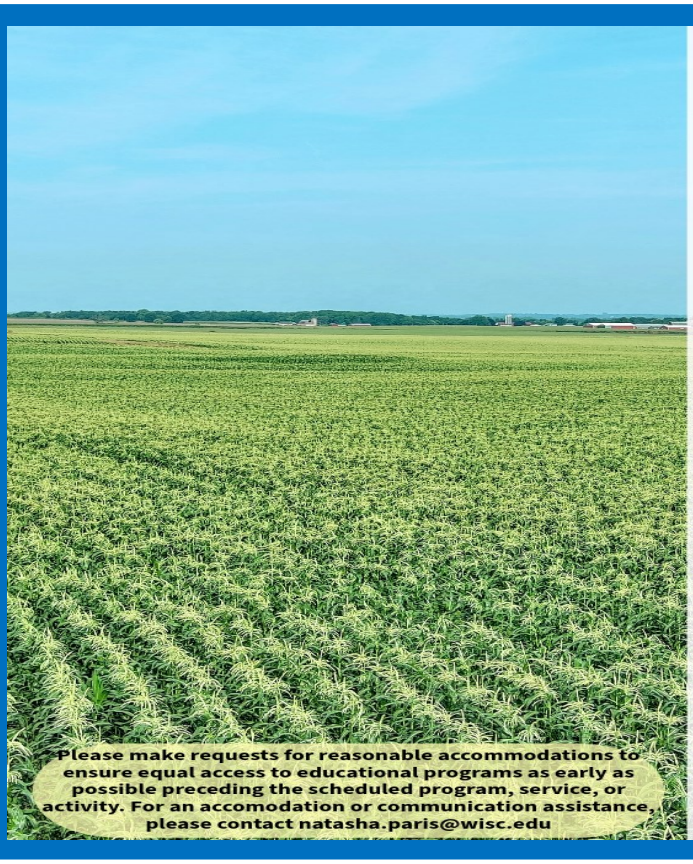
When: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Why: Clark County has a growing goat industry, both dairy and meat. Demand and interest in goat products are strong. Come learn about basics in goat production including nutrition, vaccination and health, housing, ventilation and markets.

Morning program will be inside, after a provided lunch, board a bus to visit 3 local goat producers, 2 dairy and 1 meat, farms are within a mile of the town hall.

RSVP: Register by March 12 with the Clark County Extension Office at 715-743-5122

Cost: This program is sponsored to defray expenses. $5 meeting charge for adults, children welcome.



Please make requests for reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to educational programs as early as possible preceding the scheduled program, service, or activity. For an accomodation or communication assistance, please contact natasha.paris@wisc.edu

Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

PROCESSING CROPS MEETINGS

Mark your calendar for one or both of these meetings specifically for commercial vegetable growers!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH - GREEN LAKE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6TH - HANCOCK

9am-12:30pm $25 Lunch Included

Register at: go.wisc.edu/142ctw

Hybrid Artificial Insemination Course

April 15th, and 17th, 7 - 9 pm Virtual
May 9th, 4 - 6:30 pm In-Person
May 10th, 9 am-Noon In-Person

https://go.wisc.edu/ai

Cost to attend: $95

AGENDA FOR THIS CLASS

Reproductive Anatomy and AI Technique

Physiology and Estrous Synchronization Protocols

Bull Selection

Pregnancy Detection

Work with Reproductive Track and Artificial Insemination Tank

Hands-on work with cattle

OUR PRESENTERS

Heather Schlesser
heather.schlesser@wisc.edu

Sandy Stuttgen
sandra.stuttgen@wisc.edu

Repro Roadshow

Registration deadline: Feb 12

Events held: week of Feb 19

Dr. Paul M. Fricke

JP Martins, DVM, PhD

To learn more and to register:
https://go.wisc.edu/repro

PARNELL®
living SCIENCE

Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Department of
Animal & Dairy Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

School of
Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

To help Wisconsin Dairy Farmers get the most current and up-to-date research information, the UW-Extension Dairy program has developed the "Reproduction Roadshow." This roadshow is an update on UW-Madison dairy reproduction research, covering heifer reproduction, sexed semen, the high fertility cycle, and more. The roadshow features Dr. Paul Fricke, Professor and Extension Specialist in Dairy Cattle Reproduction, and Dr. JP Martins, DVM, Ph.D. from the Department of Medical Sciences – School of Veterinary Medicine UW-Madison. Location dates include **Feb 19-Darlington, Feb 20-River Falls and Barron, Feb 21-Edgar, Feb 22-Manitowoc, and Feb 23-Waunakee**. We want to thank Parnell for their sponsorship which allows this meeting cost to be free. To learn more and register please visit: https://go.wisc.edu/repro

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING

This course is designed to develop a nutrient management plan that will meet the NRCS 590 Standard requirements. Participants will enter soil test information into the software program, SNAP-Plus, and will develop a plan using the data. Subjects include conservation plans, field mapping, soil test analysis, manure management and crop selection and requirements.

SOIL TESTING PAYMENTS Participants will receive reimbursement for up to $750 of eligible soil testing costs. (Please contact your County's Conservation Department with any questions regarding this reimbursement.)

COURSE ENROLLMENT INFORMATION
Please register for the Full Course if you are new to Nutrient Management Planning. If you have already taken the Full Course in the past, please register for the Refresher Course.

Additional family members and/or farm employees may attend with a registered attendee at no additional charge.

WI LAND + WATER

These courses are in partnership with the county conservation departments from Marathon, Clark, Lincoln, Taylor and Wood counties.

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1. Complete form found on reverse side and follow mailing instructions
2. Visit one of the websites below and search by class # found next to each class

   NTC Classes
   www.ntc.edu/academics-training/courses/search

   Mid-State Classes
   https://courses.mstc.edu/

3. Call us at **715.803.1965**

**Participants will receive up to a $260 reimbursement upon completion of a nutrient management plan. Reimbursements are provided by a DATCP Nutrient Management Farmer Education Grant and administered by the county conservation departments.*

Northcentral Technical College | WORKFORCE TRAINING + PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FULL COURSE - 12 HOURS TOTAL (THREE 4-HOUR SECTIONS)

Fridays, January 5 - 19, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	$260*	
NTC Medford Campus	Class #63433	
Wednesdays, January 17 - 31, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	$260*	
NTC Wausau Campus	Class #63434	
Thursdays, January 18 - February 1, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	$260*	
NTC Spencer Campus	Class #63435	
Thursdays, February 15 - 29, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	$260*	
NTC Spencer Campus	Class #63436	

REFRESHER COURSES - 8 HOURS TOTAL

Fridays, January 5 & 12, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	$130*	
NTC Medford Campus	Class #63438	
Wednesdays, January 17 & 24, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	$130*	
NTC Wausau Campus	Class #63439	
Thursdays, January 18 & 25, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	$130*	
NTC Spencer Campus	Class #63440	
Thursdays, February 15 & 22, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	$130*	
NTC Spencer Campus	Class #63441	

MID-STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE
WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FULL COURSE - 12 HOURS TOTAL (THREE 4-HOUR SECTIONS)

Tuesdays, March 12 - 26, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	$260*	
Wood County River Block, Wisconsin Rapids	Class #25902	
Thursdays, March 14 - 28, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	$260*	
Mid-State Stevens Point Campus	Class #25901	

REFRESHER COURSES - 8 HOURS TOTAL

Tuesdays, March 12 & 19, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	$130*	
Wood County River Block, Wisconsin Rapids	Class #26755	
Thursdays, March 14 & 21, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	$130*	
Mid-State Stevens Point Campus	Class #26756	

Nutrient Management Planning Registration Form

Registration Form

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Initial _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Birthdate _____/_____/_____ Email Address_____

I'm interested in the following class (insert class number): _____ Mode (Circle one): In-person Zoom Both

Credit Card: _____MasterCard _____VISA Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____ Signature: _____

The following information is not required, but will help us identify your records should you need an official transcript of attendance. It is kept confidential. Aggregate data on race/ethnicity and high school attendance is used for state and federal funding purposes. Though your response is optional, it is very much appreciated.

Social Security Number _____ or Student ID Number _____

Race/Ethnicity:_____ American Indian_____ Asian_____ Black, not Hispanic_____Hispanic_____ White,not Hispanic_____Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander

Mail both Mid-State & NTC registration forms with payment to:
Northcentral Technical College
Attn: Workforce Training + Professional Development
1000 W. Campus Drive
Wausau, WI 54401

Farm Pulse: Crop Insurance and Grain Marketing

An online course with in-person meetings from January to March 2024 for farmers interested in learning the importance of risk management, crop insurance, and grain marketing

What will I learn in this course?

- Recall the economic fundamentals of agricultural production.
- Recognize risk comfort level and describe the risk tolerance level of your farm business.
- Types of insurance products available, and which are most relevant for your farm business.
- Components of a written marketing plan.
- Identify marketing tools available and when each tool might be used.
- Calculate your cost of production.
- Create written risk management, grain marketing, and crop insurance plans.
- Complete a review of previous or current crop insurance products.
- Illustrate your farm's plan to execute an aspect of the written grain marketing and crop insurance plan.

The course is arranged in eight modules that participants work through at their own pace. The in-person sessions noted below are meant to add depth to some of the topics and give participants (and others) the opportunity to get practice working through some of the concepts.

- Module One: Overview and intro. to the case farm
- Module Two: Risk Management
- Module Three: Risk Capacity & Price Determination
- Module Four: Crop Insurance
- Module Five: Grain Marketing Plan
- Module Six: Grain Marketing Tool Introduction
- Module Seven: Grain Marketing Tools
- Module Eight: Next Steps

Course Information and registration is found at: https://go.wisc.edu/4t6b7n
Course fee is $119. Farm Credit Services patrons can request reimbursement after course completion.

There are two sites of in-person sessions in support of this course in NE/NC WI. Crops/Soils Educator Scott Reuss will be facilitating the discussion at these sites. Course participant farms attend them free. Anyone interested in attending one of these discussions without being involved in the full course is welcome, but will be charged a $10 per session fee – payable at the door. Questions? E-mail to scott.reuss@wisc.edu or call/text to 715-701-0966.

Main Session Topics (will be additional topics and attendee Q & A at each session)	**Wausau Site: AgCountry Farm Credit Services; 611 S 32nd Ave.**	**Appleton site: Outagamie Cty. Extension Office: 3365 W. Brewster St.**
Crop Enterprise Budgeting; Calculating cost of production	Wednesday, January 24 10 a.m. to Noon	Tuesday, January 30 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Crop Insurance for 2024; Interactions with marketing	Tuesday, February 13 10 a.m. to Noon	Tuesday, February 20 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Grain Marketing Tools; Intro to 'Marketing in New Era' simulation	Wednesday, March 6 10 a.m. to Noon	Wednesday, March 13 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Grain Marketing Plans-putting it all together; Using MINE	Wednesday, March 27 10 a.m. to Noon	Wednesday, April 3 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Surveys

We would like to hear what is being fed to lactating cows and current feeding practices. Go to this link to take the short survey ~

https://bit.ly/24TMR

Feeding is more complicated and possibly more expensive in robotic herds. Tell us about robotic milked herds by using the link below ~

https://bit.ly/24Robotic

Robotic Open House

Where: Dukestead Acres W1217 Willow Road Abbotsford WI 54405

When: April 9th, 2024 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Interest in Robotic milking and dairy automation continues to be strong. The Dukelow's have 7 DeLaval robotic milkers retrofitted into their existing freestall barn. This was accomplished by adding the robots in an addition at the end of the barn in 2022. Other interesting practices include automatic bedding with manure solids, an animal health and location tracking system, and robotic feed pushing. The solids are spread by a robotic shuttle over the stalls so that cows are not disturbed by traffic in the robotic barn. The barn also has alley scrapers.

Production is improved from before the robots by about 10 pounds, while they removed labor units from their operation.

Join us for a barn tour and discussion about dairy automation.

Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

Contacts

· · · ADAMS COUNTY · · ·
Natasha Paris—608-228-8325
natasha.paris@wisc.edu
Adam Hartfiel– 920-422-2084
adam.hartfiel@wisc.edu

· · · CLARK COUNTY · · ·
Richard Halopka—715-743-5121
richard.halopka@wisc.edu

· · · CLARK & WOOD COUNTIES · · ·
Matt Lippert—715-421-8440
matthew.lippert@wisc.edu

· · · GREEN LAKE COUNTY · · ·
Natasha Paris—608-228-8325
natasha.paris@wisc.edu
Adam Hartfiel– 920-422-2084
adam.hartfiel@wisc.edu

· · · JUNEAU & SAUK COUNTIES · · ·
Sam Bibby—608-847-9329
sbibby@wisc.edu

· · · LINCOLN & LANGLADE COUNTIES · · ·
Scott Reuss—715-701-0966
scott.reuss@wisc.edu

· · · MARATHON COUNTY · · ·
Heather Schlesser—715-261-1239
heather.schesser@wisc.edu

· · · MARQUETTE COUNTY · · ·
Natasha Paris—608-228-8325
natasha.paris@wisc.edu

· · · PORTAGE COUNTY · · ·
Ken Schroeder—715-346-1316
ken.schroeder@wisc.edu

· · · TAYLOR COUNTY · · ·
Sandy Stuttgen—715-748-3327
sandra.stuttgen@wisc.edu

· · · WAUSHARA COUNTY · · ·
Natasha Paris—608-228-8325
natasha.paris@wisc.edu
Adam Hartfiel– 920-422-2084
adam.hartfiel@wisc.edu

Please contact your local Extension Office for the following:

⇒ To receive this as an eNewsletter emailed to you

⇒ Any changes to your email address or physical address (if mailing)

⇒ To unsubscribe to this newsletter completely