



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
- Contact with agriculture groups in 4 counties – particularly Land & Water Departments and Producer-Led Watershed Groups
- In depth review of the 2022 Census of Agriculture

Ongoing Projects

- Corn Silage Harvest Data Collection
 - Created tools to gather data at dry down events across the state
 - Updating online access to data
- 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.

Current Projects

- Focus on Forage Webinar Series
 - 4 webinar series
 - Management updates for alfalfa, corn silage, forage cover crops
- Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP) site – Dornacker Prairie Acres – focus on Manure & Nitrogen Use
 - Planning 2 Potential 2025–26 NOPP Sites – focus on Legume Cover Crop & Nitrogen Use
- Extension Crop Scout School
 - Provide just-in-time crop scouting skills
 - Blend of online/field days
- Managed Grazing Needs Assessment
 - Discussions with current & potential graziers, agency & county staff
 - Plan upcoming grazing outreach

Completed Projects

- Badger Crop Update Meeting Planning Team
- Badger Crop Connect Webinar Team
- Sheboygan County Soil Health Workshop
- Clean Farm Families – Soil Health Poker Run Stop Moderator
- Wisconsin Water & Soil Health Conference Session Moderator

- 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.
- 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”