



# Agriculture Dairy Programming: Apr 25 to Oct-25



**Extension Dairy Educator Manuel Peña**

**Contributes to the structure and processes of dairy producers, conservation and financial groups and other dairy professionals, enhancing their ability to function effectively.**

Supports informed decision making by providing research-based information

to achieve their objectives.

## Continuous Needs Assessment in Sheboygan County

Discussions with dairy farmers, managers, workforce, and interns at different farms or events to build a holistic view of the current state of the county, while identifying common challenges, strengths, and opportunities for improvement within the local dairy industry.

### Areas of Need Determined by Assessments:

- Safety/good practices
- Communication/language
- Calving and Nutrition Management
- Public Perception

New connections and cultivation of existing relationships over the summer have primarily taken place at agricultural events rather than through farm visits, due to the fieldwork typical of the spring and summer months. It has been time to create educational materials.

- Basics of Nutrition Article Series
  - o Dry Matter Explained
  - o Fiber Explained
  - o Protein Explained\*
  - o Body Condition Score Explained\*
- Articles – Collaborations
  - o Best Practices for Roasting Soybeans
  - o Beyond BMR: Securing the Future of High-Quality Corn Silage
  - o Dairy Feed Inventory Management
  - o Feeding for Milk Protein
  - o Navigating Low Colostrum Yields
  - o Troubleshoot Milk Fat Depression
- Presentations and others

- o Best practices for roasting soybeans
- o The nutrition of the transition cow - Calving Management Workshop Bilingual presentation.
- o What is fiber and how it affects milk production. El Break Info Lechero Webinar in Spanish

## Regional impacts in Sheboygan County

- Bovi-News. Bilingual statewide newsletter, focused on educating the dairy farm workers.
  - o Partnered on design, topics and content
  - o Translation of information available on the UW Extension website.
  - o Addressing current local issues and events
- 2025 Wisconsin State Fair – Milking Demonstration.
  - o Bilingual educators were invited to participate of the first milking demonstration in Spanish at the WI State Fair.
- 2025 National Dairy Council of 4-H.
  - o I was invited to talk about maternity and calving management but also supported a hands-on station about nutrition and health/welfare practices.
- 2025 Corn Silage Harvest Moisture Monitoring
  - o The dairy and the crops educators partnered with the Fond du Lac Forage council to provide support to the dairies of this area of the state.
- 2025 Clean Farm Families Poker Run Stop
  - o UW Madison Extension Division had a booth at this event where we educated people on corn health and management.
- Wisconsin Bilingual Dairy Podcast Project
  - o A document with the idea and the plan of execution of this project was elaborated as well as the first episode (pilot) of it.
- “ProHand” Bilingual Dairy Project
  - o Research project with the USDA about proper animal handling. We are preparing the materials for coming surveys and the courses that will happen on farms.