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Contact Us

Extension Clark County

517 Court Street, Room 104 Neillsville, WI 54456 715-743-5121

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Matthew Lippert
Dairy and Livestock Educator
matthew.lippert@wisc.edu

Heather Schlesser Dairy Educator Heather.schlesser@wisc.edu



How it works:

- Register online https://forms.gle/2WF4p2MnwP79fpRm6 or by calling Clark County Extension Office at 715-743-5122
- Receive a case of bags (5 bags). Each bag is 96" x 120" & holds approximately 200 pounds
- Fill bags with approved plastics
- Once the 5 bags are filled, call for free on farm pickup

Spaces are limited, so sign up today!

This newsletter is mailed to approximately 1,200 farmers and agriculture businesses in Central Wisconsin at a cost of .90 per newsletter. County budgets are tight and each department has been asked to reduce expenses. If you would like to view the Extension Views newsletter online versus receiving a paper copy please contact the UW-Extension Office at 715-743-5122 / Valerie.wood@co.clark.wi.us. You can view the newsletter on our webpage at: https://clark.extension.wisc.edu/extension-views/ Thank you for considering this option!



Milk Quality Study

Prototheca bovis is a new mastitis-causing pathogen, but little is known about its prevalence on Wisconsin Dairy Farms. UW-Extension is seeking farms to participate in a study to help identify the prevalence of Prototheca bovis in Wisconsin. UW-Extension educators will coordinate with farm personnel to determine the best time to stop in to collect quarter milk samples from 10 high-somatic cell-count animals. Quarter samples will be cultured for Prototheca bovis and submitted to Marathon County DHIA for somatic cell counts.

If farms prefer to collect their samples, this can also be arranged.

Why should I care about this study?

Prototheca Bovis is a slow-growing yeast-type algae that currently has no cure. Animals with this mastitis are usually subclinical and go unnoticed until bulk tank somatic cell counts increase. When cultured, Prototheca Bovis is out-competed on normal agar plates by other mastitis-causing pathogens, making it hard to detect.

In this study, we are using special agar that prevents the growth of other mastitis-causing pathogens.

Registration: https://go.wisc.edu/milk

For more information: Heather Schlesser
Dairy Agent

University of Wisconsin - Madison Division of

Extension

Phone: (715) 261 - 1230 x 3 Fax: (715) 261 - 4142



GUEST SPEAKERS

Dusty Schlinsog • Owner, Turn Pike Greenhouse

Turn Pike specializes in a wide array of quality plants, locally sourced products and produce located on W2760 Hwy H, Granton, WI

The Gardener's Workshop

Cooking with Fresh Herbs and Tips on handling Common Vegetable Garden Pests

Nick Ternes • Owner, Botanophilia LLC

Botanophilia LLC is a small mail-order nursery located in Antigo, Wisconsin whose goal is to share the passion of plants with the gardening public

Vertical Elements of the Garden

Plants and objects to provide vertical interest in the garden including tall annuals, perennials, shrubs, narrow trees, art and structures. Plants will be available for purchase.

Installing Drain Tile: Knowing the Regulations

Knowing Your Wetland Boundry

If you are outside of a mapped wetland or area with wetland indicators, and do not see wetland indicators on site, you can assume that the area is upland. Visit https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/sur facewater/swdv/ for the online wetland indicator map. If your project is within a mapped wetland or wetland indicator area, options are available determine the wetland boundary including:

- Contact your local NRCS department to determine if NRCS delineations are available for your area.
- 2. DNR's wetland identification service is a lower cost option to approximate a wetland boundary for smaller tiling projects. Visit https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wetlands/identification.html for more information.
- 3. Private wetland delineators may be able to provide you a general wetland boundary using a simplified screening method or can provide an exact wetland boundary through an official wetland delineation.



Knowing the rules helps plan projects to save cost, time, and headache

State Wetland Regulations:

Like the Army Corp of Engineers, state law regulates the discharge of fill in a wetland (s. 281.36, Wis. Stat.). This means that activities, like tile installation, that occur in upland areas do not require state permitting. DNR permitting may be needed if:

- Excavation, backfilling, grading, scraping or other earth moving techniques occurs in a wetland;
- Cross connections and other supporting structures that require backfilling or excavation is placed in a wetland;
- Soil, dredged material or fill is sidecast or temporarily stockpiled in a wetland area; or
- Stumps are uprooted in a wetland.

It is important to contact Army Corp of Engineers and NRCS when completing a tiling project to ensure that the project also complies with applicable federal regulations.

What is NOT Regulated:

Several agricultural activities are exempt from state permitting requiments. These include:

- 1. Repair or replacement of existing tile that is the same grade, depth, diameter, and type (solid, perforated tile);
- 2. Vegetation cutting that does not result in stockpiling woody vegetation in a wetland or uprooting trees; AND
- 3. Normal farming activities including plowing, tilling and harvesting.

Planning Your Drainage System:

With this information in mind, here are ways to design your tiling projects to comply with state laws and avoid the permitting process:

- 1. Install new tile using a vibratory plow or knifing in tile lines only;
- 2. Do not place connections, vents, inlets, lifts, or pumps in wetland areas; and
- 3. Make sure that the installation is done to minimally disturb the soil and does not require stump removal.

If these best management practices do not work for you, permitting may be required or an artificial or nonfederal wetland exemption request may be appropriate. To determine if a permit or permitting exemption is appropriate visit dnr.wi.gov, keyword "wetland disturbance". Please be aware that advanced notification is required to confirm eligibility for an artificial or nonfederal wetland exemption prior to initiating your project. Your project may also be regulated by other county, state or federal regulations so it is important to contact your local county conservation, NRCS, and Army Corp of Engineers to discuss your project. DNR staff are also happy to discuss your project. Visit dnr.wi.gov, keywords "waterway contacts" for your local water management specialist contact information.

Act Early Against Waterhemp

Melissa Ohlrich University of Wisconsin Extension Regional Crops and Soils Educator Clark & Marathon Counties

More farmers have waterhemp showing up in their fields each year. With its capacity to build up resistance quickly and produce an astonishing amount of seed, it is one of the last things a farmer wants to see make an appearance on their farm. The best way to tackle waterhemp is to act early. With spring right around the corner, think about early season management strategies before waterhemp starts competing with your crops.

To plan for the 2025 growing season, it will be important to take into consideration what you noticed in your fields during the 2024 growing season. Ponding and drowned out spots were a common occurrence given the weather that occurred last year. If these spots were taken over by waterhemp that went to seed, weed pressure can be particularly heavy in these areas. Extra weed management practices may be needed this year if you noticed signs of herbicide resistance in 2024. This will be the first thing to consider when creating an effective herbicide program for 2025.

Keep in mind the possibility of spreading waterhemp even further through planting and tillage practices this spring. Waterhemp seed can last in the soil for several years. When equipment is moving around your fields this spring, it might be taking waterhemp seed along with it. It will help in the long run to clean plant material and soil off equipment whenever feasible.

Another way to approach early waterhemp control is by thinking about the pre-emergence portion of your herbicide program. The most comprehensive pre-emergence applications include at least two effective residual herbicides from different sites of action. This step can have a huge impact on managing waterhemp for the rest of the season, but it cannot be relied on to do the job entirely on its own. Pre-emergence herbicides should be paired with effective post-emergence applications, which also work best when they contain multiple effective sites of action. Getting good control with your pre-emergence application will improve the effectiveness of your post-emergence application.

Acting early is also important for your post-emergence applications. Post-emergence chemical control of waterhemp is most effective before waterhemp reaches 3-4 inches in height. If you want to spray waterhemp when it is most vulnerable, it is necessary to scout early and often, as waterhemp can grow an inch or more in a single day. The taller the plant, the more likely it is to survive an herbicide application.

Controlling waterhemp is a tricky task. Keep a close eye on what is in your fields and create an effective herbicide program that works best for the needs of your farm. Do what you can to limit the production and spread of waterhemp seed. To improve control of waterhemp even further, consider what integrated management strategies could work for you. Be proactive in planning and in action! Waterhemp can take over a farm in a hurry and it requires monitoring and early implementation of a well-thought-out plan to rival its prolific qualities.



PAT

PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING

MUST pre-register and pre-order manual at: https://patstore.wisc.edu/secure/home

Training and testing sites: 9am - 3pm Clark County:

Wednesday, March 19th





More Info

+715-743-5122

Mail in order form available by calling Clark County Extension

clark.extension.wisc.edu/crops-and-soils/

CLARK COUNTY DAIRY PROMOTIONS ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 15, 2025

The Clark County Dairy Promotions Committee invites you to attend their annual Meetina

Where: IGYS Bar & Grill - Withee, WI

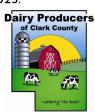
When: Doors open @ 11:00 AM / Meal and Program @ Noon Cost: \$5.00 per Person

SCC Awards for farms with a Somatic Cell Count under 125,000 will be awarded at the annual meeting.

Entries are due to Sara Fischer by March 1, 2025.

Please mail your Milk Plant Lab Sheets to: DAIRY FARMERS

Sara Fischer c/o: Henar Acres Dairy W3266 Bridge Road Owen, WI 54460





A Base Change for Bull Proofs is Coming... in April 2025 Written by MATTHEW P LIPPERT

INTRODUCTION

Once every five years base change will happen for bull proofs, this will happen in April 2025 A PTA for production traits is intended to tell the difference between the daughters of a bull and her herdmates. Fortunately, the genetic merit of our national dairy herd is getting better, so once every five years, we adjust the base to account for the improvement of the herdmates. The base change is set to compare the genetics with the average animal born in 2020, a step-up of five years from the previous base.

DATABASE FOR DAIRY CATTLE

The database for dairy cattle is foundational for the genetic advancement that has been accomplished over the last 70 years. DHI records, classification scores, herd health and fertility data, and genomic markers combined to represent many millions of data points to base genetic estimates on. There are now over ten million dairy animals in the genomic data base. Some believe that with continued selection, further progress becomes more difficult to obtain. We are not at that point in dairy cattle, genomic testing has increased the early accuracy of the estimates of an animal's genetic merit. Also, many traits more recently quantified, such as herd health and fertility estimates, have not been selected for in many generations at this time. The increase in computer power and the linking with herd health record software have made some traits available only fairly recently. Progress is faster than ever. Once single trait selection, milk production for example, came with losses in fertility and conformation traits, but selection indexes used today have resulted in more balanced progress across 49 evaluated traits. The traits within the indexes are weighted based on economic importance.

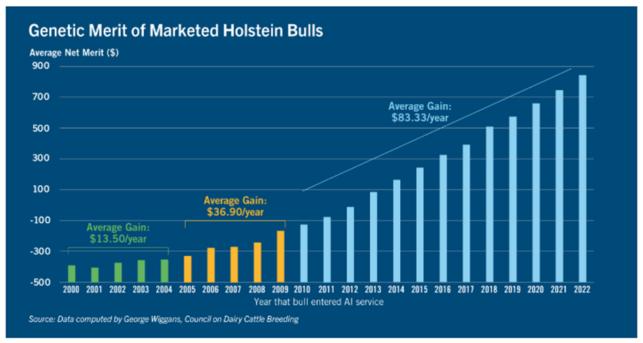
Changes in the economics driving dairy farms, for instance the price of butterfat and protein, change over time. The April indexes for Lifetime Net Merit (NM\$), Lifetime Cheese Merit (CM\$), Lifetime Fluid Merit (FM\$), and Lifetime Grazing Merit (GM\$) will be updated to account for the base change. In addition the formulas have been updated to account for changes in the economics impacting dairy farms. Pick the index that most closely reflects your farm. NM\$ is a catchall to reflect the entire industry, CM\$ reflects well our pricing in the upper Midwest, FM\$ fits well in the Southeast US where milk protein is less valued and GM\$ emphasizes fertility as in important criteria need for grass based dairies.

Trait Name	Units	Brown Swiss	Holstein	Jersey
Milk	Pounds	350	750	400
Fat	Pounds	10	45	20
Protein	Pounds	15	30	15
Somatic Cell Score	Log base 2 units	0	-0.1	0
Productive Life	Months	1	2.5	1.5
Livability	%	0.5	0.5	0.5
Mastitis	%	-0.2	0.75	-1
Daughter Pregnancy	%	-0.6	-0.2	-0.4
Cow Conception	%	-0.5	0.5	0
Heifer Conception	%	0.1	1	1.5
Early First Calving	Days	0.5	2	2
Residual Feed Intake	Pounds	-	-40	-
Final Score		0.2	0.6*	0.6

Source: Council for Dairy Cattle Breeding; USDA-ARS Animal Genomics and Improvement Laboratory

It is interesting to note that some important traits are negatively correlated with each other, for example production and fertility. Balancing these traits in a selection index has allowed genetic progress in nearly all traits. This is especially true in the Holstein breed, which is healthier and more fertile today as compared to 15 years ago when selection for the health and fertility traits had just begun. This was accomplished while still advancing genetic merit for production. These early estimates are approximate and will change slightly when the actual calculations are made in April.

GENOMICS IS ACCELERATING GENETIC PROGRESS



Genomic testing of over ten million dairy cattle to date has improved the accuracy of indexes such as NM\$, especially for younger animals that do not yet have their own production records. This has allowed for a shortening of generation interval and the introduction of accurately identified superior animals into the selection scheme much sooner in life. This increased progress, as shown in Figure 2, increases the importance of the five-year genetic base update to keep the scale of the estimates meaningful for producers.

ADJUST YOUR CRITERIA

In April 2025, the scale of the numbers for traits such as NM\$, milk, fat, and protein are estimated to decrease by about the amounts indicated in Figure 1. This will set the breed average of cows born in 2020 to zero. This does not mean our selection system was inaccurate, it means that it has been rescaled due to rapid genetic progress and improved accuracy, an indicator of the success of our national dairy cattle selection scheme. A base change is like getting a new prescription for glasses, things will look different and be a surprise until accounting for the change. Animals will look worse, but they should still rank similarly, they are just being compared to a new, higher standard. This results not only in more profitable and efficient cattle, but also rapidly improving sustainability of dairy production.

CUSTOM MANURE APPLICATOR TRAINING Thursday, March 13, 2025 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM Abbotsford City Hall Every employee of a custom manure hauling business is encouraged to attend this training. This year we will use interactive mapping and an application activity to address safety and application. For more information or to register please contact: Jerry Clark, Regional Agriculture Educator Chippewa, Dunn, & Eau Claire County 715-726-7950 / jerome.clark@wisc.edu

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(715)743-5121

CRYSTAL WALTERS

HDR EDUCATOR CLARK COUNTY

CRYSTAL.WALTERS@WISC.EDU

UW-MADISON DIVISION OF EXTENSION

HIDDEN CHALLENGES ON THE FARM

STEPHANIE PLASTER FARM MANAGEMENT OUTREACH SPECIALIST

UW-MADISON DIVISION OF EXTENSION

(262)277-6809 STEPHANIE.PLASTER@WISC.EDU

Two sessions are being offered (about 90 minutes each)

10:30-11:30 AM





CHILD CARE WHILE FARMING

Where does Child Care land on your Farm plan? Join this interactive 90 minute workshop to discover new options and solutions to child care needs for farming

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library (Alder Room)

Register (space will be limited):

715.743.5121 crystal.walters@wisc.edu

HEALTHCARE WHILE FARMING

Explore Health Care options while learning to budget your heath care needs into your Farm **Budget during this 90 minute interactive**

workshop

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.

JOIN US FOR 2025 UW-EXTENSION DAIRY PROGRAM "DAIRY FEEDING SCHOOL" WINTER WORKSHOPS

This workshop will address dairy feeding concerns in Wisconsin, including feed safety, management, transition cow health, and the economics of feeding. It will be offered in English and Spanish.

> **FEB 20** Darlington

MAR 5 **Green Bay MAR 19** Madison

Fond du Lac **MAR 26**

APR 2 **Abbotsford**

COST: \$15 INCLUDES LUNCH

REGISTER TODAY

10AM-3PM SCAN ME



https://go.wisc.edu/ext-feeder-school



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.



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

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

- Complete form found on reverse side and follow mailing instructions
- Visit one of the websites below and search by class type or class # found next to each class

NTC Classes https://bit.ly/nutrient-management-planning

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

Call us at 715.803.1965

Participants eligible to receive a stipend payment of up to \$700 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.

NMP SELF-PACED ONLINE OPTION

There is also a self-paced online option for learning. It will require internet good enough to watch videos and a printer.

Before doing this option, TALK TO YOUR LOCAL LAND CONSERVATION OFFICE to ensure they will accept this option as a sufficient training method. UW Extension offers the trainings, but Land Conservation is the authority when it deals with rules and compliance.

The self paced option can be found at: https://uwnmfe.tiiny.site/0001.html



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

Tuesdays, March 11 - 25, 2025 10:00 a.m 3:00 p.m.	\$260*
Wood County River Block, Wisconsin Rapids	Class #25793
Thursdays March 12, 27, 2020	Ancot
Thursdays, March 13 - 27, 2025 10:00 a.m 3:00 p.m.	\$260*

REFRESHER COURSES - 8 HOURS TOTAL

Tuesdays, March 11 & 18, 2025 10:00 a.m 3:00 p.m.	\$130*
Wood County River Block, Wisconsin Rapids	Class #25795
Thursdays, March 13 & 20, 2025 10:00 a.m 3:00 p.m.	\$130*
MId-State Stevens Point Campus	Class #25796

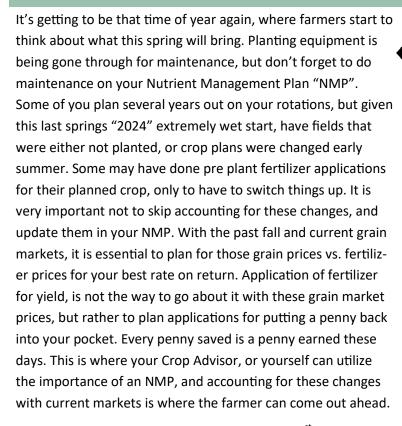
CONSERVATION CORNER

Fred Subke, CCA—Land Conservationist

Hunter Lemler, CCA—Engineering Technician

Jesse Susa - Conservation Agronomist

Tiffanee Tesmer - Program Assistant



Reminder: NMP's are due to the office by April 1st, of each year. If you cannot make that deadline, you or your Crop Advisor are required to contact our department of these delays, by or before April 1st, and give us an expected date of completion within a reasonable timeframe. We are always willing to work with farmers and Crop Advisors, as long as we are notified of the delay, but come May 15th whether we have been contacted by you or your Crop Advisor we are required to send out notices. These notices are considered a second reminder to submit your annual NMP.

Sincerely, Fred Subke Clark County Conservationist.

You or your Crop Advisor may contact us by phone or email: Clark County Land Conservation Dept.

Ph# 715-743-5102 / FAX# 715-743-5108



No-Till Drill is available again this year. The county rate is \$75 one time per season spring/fall fee, plus \$8 per acre, with a minimum charge of \$100.

Sportsman lake area: We are working with WI Wildlife Foundation and area clubs, to create a handicap access road and wheelchair accessible boardwalk that will be located to the south of boat launch road. This access will allow folks to approach the far south fishing pier, which has the best location for waterfowl viewing along with secluded fishing opportunities.

Pheasants forever project, I am personally working with Pheasants & Quail Forever, and Central WI Fur, Fins, & Feathers (F3), and other area clubs to create opportunities for the youth to have a chance to pursue pheasants, it is in the early stages, but our plan is for 1 or 2 youth days. We are also working to hopefully plant pheasants for hunting this coming fall of 2025 if I can get enough area groups interested in the purchasing of pheasants, which F3 has committed to a large part of the purchase already, to be turned loose for hunting opportunities around the lake. Clark County owns several hundred acres of woods and crop fields surrounding the lake. If you or anyone you know that is interested in being involved in this program they can reach me at. Fred.subke@co.clark.wi.us or by phone 715-743-5104 or 715-937-2944

Thank you, Fred Subke Clark County Conservationist

Jesse Susa Clark County Land conservation Agronomist

<u>Jesse.susa@co.clark.wi.us</u> / 715-743-5285

Gover Grop Gost Sharing The Clark County Land Conservation Department (LCD)

has cost sharing available to the tune of

Clark Co. Land Conservation Dept.

Great Plains 1006 NT 10 ft. no-till drill

RENTAL RATES

\$75 transport and setup fee + \$8 per acre (Minimum charge \$100)

Call today and we can talk about how no-tilling crops can benefit your bottom line, soil health and protect our precious waters of the county.

Tel: 715-743-5102

\$25 per acre for putting down a cover crop.

Must sign up before planting and need to have nutrient management plan for the fields first.

For more information contact LCD at 715-743-5102.

WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE:

UNUSED OR ABANDONED DRINKING WELLS

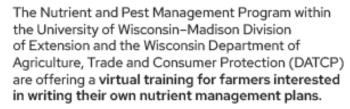
The Clark County Land Conservation Department is actively seeking abandoned drinking wells for closure. Unused or abandoned wells pose a risk to our groundwater from contamination from nitrates, bacteria and pesticides. These wells can also pose a safety risk to people and animals.

The Land Conservation Department will provide free engineering and cost sharing to properly close these menaces to our groundwater. Please contact the Clark County Land Conservation Department at 715-743-5102 for more information.

2025 VIRTUAL NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR FARMERS

Learn how to write your own nutrient management plan!

Jan. 10 or March 14 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Live via Zoom Free



This training provides both the basics of nutrient management and an introduction to SnapPlus. The same training will be offered on two dates, January 10 and March 14, 2025, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. online via Zoom.











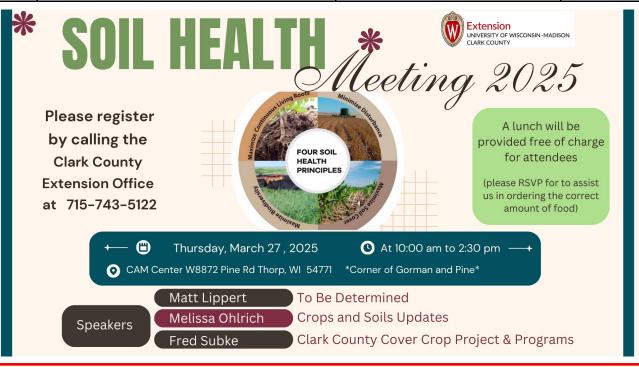
Scan QR code or visit go.wisc.edu/OnlineNMTraining to register.

Questions? Contact Dan Smith: dhsmith@wisc.edu or (608) 219-5170

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Make sure to listen to WCCN and WAXX for any cancellations

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
March 4, 2025	NMP "On the Road Show"	Green Grove Town Hall (3/4)	9:30 AM - 3:30 PM
March 13, 2025	Manure Applicator Training	Abbotsford City Hall	1:00—3:30 PM
March 19, 2025 April 11, 2025	Clark County PAT training & test	Thorp Fire Hall (3/19) Clark County Courthouse, Neillsville (4/11)	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
March 14, 2025	Virtual NMP Training for Farmers	Online	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
March 15, 2025	Clark County Dairy Promotions Annual Meeting	IGYS Bar & Grill, Withee	11:00 AM
March 27, 2025	Soil Health Meeting	CAM Center, Thorp	10:00 AM—2:30 PM
April 1, 2025	Nutrient Management Plans DUE	Clark County Land Conservation	N/A





Phone: 715-743-5121 Fax: 715-743-5129 https://clark.extension.wisc.edu/

Melissa Ohlrich Matthew Lippert Heather Schlesser Jeremy Solin Melissa Kono Crystal Walters Seth Harrmann vacant Valerie Wood

Courtney Becker

Regional Crops & Soils Educator Regional Dairy/Livestock Educator Regional Dairy Educator Area Extension Director **CNRED Educator** Family Relations Educator 4H Program Educator FoodWise Administrative Assistant

Program Assistant

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If you need an interpreter, materials in alternate formats or other accommodations to access this program, activity, or service, please contact the program coordinator at 715-743-5121 as soon as possible (10 days is reasonable) preceding the scheduled event so that proper arrangements can be made in a timely fashion.

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