

# EXTENSION VIEWS

A Product of Extension Clark County

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**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
CLARK COUNTY

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## Clark County Clean Sweep 21 August 2026



Learn more about Clean Sweep and stay up to date on information as we plan and organize the event at:

<https://clark.extension.wisc.edu/clean-sweep/>  
or by calling 715-743-5122

**Owen - Clark County Highway Department Shop**  
**9-11 am**

**Neillsville - Clark County Fairgrounds**  
**1-3 pm**

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!

# Nutrient Management Planning



WORKFORCE TRAINING +  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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, Taylor and Wood counties.*

## Medford NTC Campus

Fridays, January 9, 16, & 23  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

## Wausau NTC Campus

Wednesdays, January 14, 21, & 28  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

## Spencer NTC Campus

Thursdays, January 15, 22, & 29  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

## Spencer NTC Campus (2nd session)

Thursdays, February 12, 19, & 26  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM



## WI Rapids, River Block Building

Tuesdays, March 10, 17, & 24  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

## Stevens Point Mid-State Campus

Thursdays, March 12, 19, & 26  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

## 3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

- 1 Complete a paper registration form and follow mailing instructions.
- 2 Visit one of the websites below and search by class # or title  
  
NTC Classes  
[www.ntc.edu/academics-training/courses/search](http://www.ntc.edu/academics-training/courses/search)  
Mid-State Classes  
<http://courses.mstc.edu/>
- 3 Call us at 715.803.1965

***\*Participants will receive up to \$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.***



# PAT

# 2026

## PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING

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

***Training begins at 8:30am***

***Testing begins after 12:00pm to 3:30pm***

Training and Testing locations and dates in NW Wisconsin

Clark County:



***Wednesday, February 4th***

*Abbotsford CityHall*



***Tuesday, April 14th***

*Clark County Courthouse, Neillsville*

Marathon County:



***Thursday, February 26th***

*Lake View Conference Center, Wausau*

Chippewa & Eau Claire County:



***Thursday, January 22nd***

*Dunn County Gov't Center, Menomonie*



***Thursday, February 26th***

*Eau Claire County Extension Office, Altoona*



***Tuesday, March 17th***

*Chippewa Valley Dairy Supply, Stanley*

Taylor County:



***Wednesday, February 4th***

*Education Center, Medford*

***More Info***



**+715-743-5122**



**[clark.extension.wisc.edu/crops-and-soils/](https://clark.extension.wisc.edu/crops-and-soils/)**

Mail in order form available by  
calling Clark County Extension

# Costs of raising dairy replacements in Wisconsin

In 1999 the first heifer-raising cost survey was conducted by what is today UW-Madison Division of Extension. This information was found to be extremely valuable by the industry and widely publicized and used for benchmarking, as the cost of replacements is the second largest cost center on the dairy after feeding the milking herd. Since that time other surveys have been conducted to account for the dynamics of the industry. Changes since the original survey include specialized and efficient calf ranches, more custom heifer raisers within the state and out-of-state, robotic feeding programs, intentional use of grazing to lower rearing costs and most recently a great increase in the value of replacement females. Tracking these costs and benchmarking against peers supports better management decisions.

**It is time to collect this information again and we need your help. Our data is only as good as the number and quality of participant responses.**

This is a detailed survey, Matt Lippert and Heather Schlessner are available to assist with completing the survey.

Important questions include:

- Can I source quality replacements at an affordable price?
  - Should I retain ownership but gain efficiency and savings by utilizing a custom raiser from birth to calving, or some portion of the replacement cycle?
  - If I raise my own replacements, what is the true cost for my operation?
- \* You will be asked to provide average values for the **last completed month** related to calf and heifer raising. This includes records on **feed** (milk, starter, forages, supplements), **bedding**, **veterinary** and **breeding** services, **labor**, **housing** and **equipment**, **utilities** (fuel/electricity), and **custom raising charges**. You will also be asked for **basic herd numbers** (average animals on feed, weaning age, age at first calving) to calculate costs per animal.
- \* **Example of calculation:**  $\$/\text{animal-day} = (\text{Total \$ last month}) \div (\text{Avg. head on feed} \times \text{days in month})$
- \* Use dollars per animal per day ( **$\$/\text{animal-day}$** ) as the main unit for cost items. **Typical value ranges** are provided as a guide.

## We want to hear from you!

**Do you know your actual costs of raising your heifers from birth to bulk tank?**



We are launching a new survey to gather the costs of raising Dairy Replacements in Wisconsin. Please sign up to have the survey sent to you:

<http://go.wisc.edu/WDE25>



**Thank you for contributing to the 2025/2026 survey.** All information will be kept confidential, and only aggregated summaries will be reported. The data will not be linked to the email address or any other identifiers.

Past reports are available at: <https://eauclaire.extension.wisc.edu/uwex-icpa-project/>

The link to complete the survey is here:

[https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5oufqozAUb5TBA2](https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5oufqozAUb5TBA2)

Upcoming events will be posted on our website

<https://clarkextension.wisc.edu/>

and Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/ExtensionClarkCounty>

Watch for news releases in local papers and on the radio promoting events



# Save a Calf, Save a Cow – Dairy Workshop

includes Spanish interpretation

Transition cow and newborn calf management  
and practice with the calving model

Feb. 11, 2026: 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Education Center, 624 East College St.

Medford, WI 54451

**Cost: \$20/person** includes materials and snacks.

Register online with credit card at <https://go.wisc.edu/calving>  
or call 715-748-1413 for help with registration or to pay by check.  
Space is limited to the first 15 paid registrants. Payment must be  
received by Feb 4, 2025.



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Agriculture Institute  
DIVISION OF EXTENSION  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



**BADGER  
CROPS  
AND  
SOILS  
UPDATE  
MEETINGS**

EAU CLAIRE  
DEC. 2  
MONROE  
DEC. 3  
APPLETON/VIRTUAL  
DEC. 4

Did your address change? No longer wish to receive your copy of Extension Views? Want to view the newsletter online instead or have it sent to your email?

Please contact the Extension office at  
715-743-5122 or  
email [valerie.wood@co.clark.wi.us](mailto:valerie.wood@co.clark.wi.us)  
to update your preference.

Thank you!



# HIDDEN CHALLENGES ON THE FARM

**CRYSTAL WALTERS**  
CRYSTAL.WALTERS@WISC.EDU

**STEPHANIE PLASTER**  
STEPHANIE.PLASTER@WISC.EDU

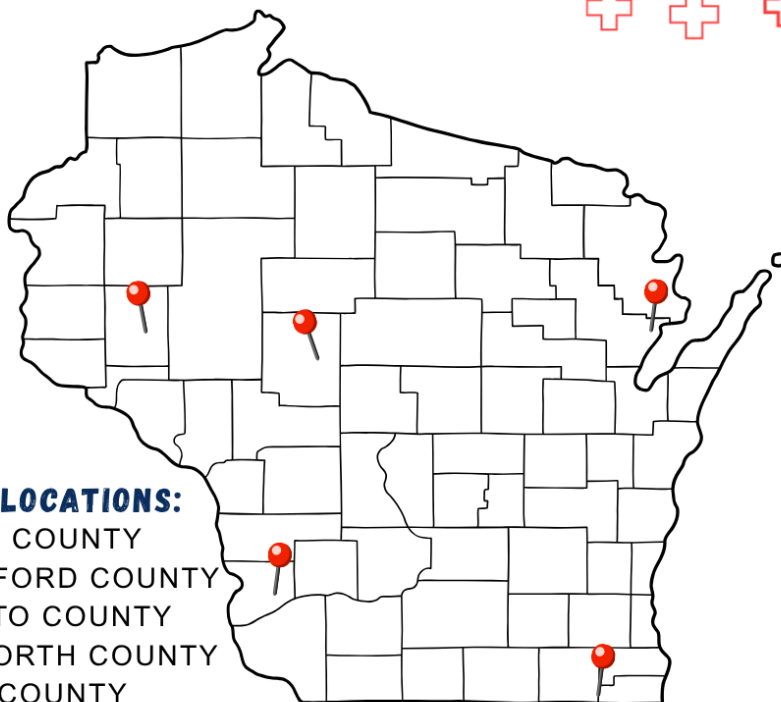
**Two sessions are being offered  
(about 90 minutes each)**

## HEALTHCARE WHILE FARMING

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

## CHILD CARE WHILE FARMING

Where does child Care land  
on your farm? Join this  
interactive 90 minute  
workshop to discover new  
options and solutions to  
childcare needs for farming



### CLASS LOCATIONS:

- CLARK COUNTY
- CRAWFORD COUNTY
- OCONTO COUNTY
- WALWORTH COUNTY
- DUNN COUNTY



**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025**

**HEALTHCARE: 9:30– 11:00 AM**

**CHILDCARE: 11:30–1:00 PM**

Register

**NOW**

**REGISTER NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 10TH BY  
FILLING OUT THE GOOGLE FORM LOCATED AT:**

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO REGISTER  
ON THE GOOGLE FORM PLEASE  
CALL CLARK COUNTY EXTENSION AT  
715-743-5121

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/SY5VTU1KGF3VENIV6](https://forms.gle/SY5VTU1KGF3VENIV6)



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# CONSERVATION CORNER

Fred Subke, CCA—Conservationist

Hunter Lemler, CCA—Engineering Technician

Jesse Susa - Conservation Agronomist

Tiffanee Tesmer - Administrative Assistant

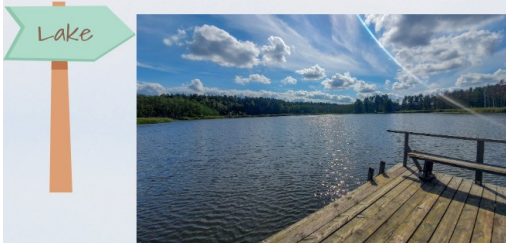
715-743-5102



## Sportsman's Lake and Conservation Area

Pheasants are being released to hunt every week of the season except during the weeks of gun/muzzle loader deer season. The week of October 13<sup>th</sup> we released 75 birds, and we plan to release between 30-40 each week until the end of the season which is Jan. 4, 2026. **Hunters can only harvest male roosters and follow all WI DNR rules.** The pheasant stocking is being done in collaboration with Central Wi Fur, Fins, & Feathers (CWF3).

Improvements to Sportsman's Lake: 1) There are numerous walking trails now mowed in certain areas around the lake, with plans to connect the trails this coming winter. 2) We are building a wooden handicap accessible boardwalk that will allow wheelchair access to the long pier back in the woods. The road is already completed. Construction on boardwalk was started Saturday Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> by volunteers. The handicap access is being done in collaboration with WI Wildlife Federation District 4.



With the government shut down, we are assisting in construction projects that were NRCS funded to keep construction moving forward. As of now no new funding through NRCS is available. Please contact Hunter Lemler in our office if interested in closing or building a new pit.

## Cover Crop Cost Sharing

Clark County Land Conservation Department has cost sharing available at \$25 per acre.

You must be signed up and have a Nutrient Management Plan BEFORE planting the cover crop.

2,109.70 acres of cover crops have been cost-shared in 2025. Contact Land Conservation to discuss opportunities for you to reduce soil erosion, add organic matter to your fields, retain nutrients, apply less fertilizer and get the best bang for your buck with high input costs.



Cover crops  
radishes and turnips



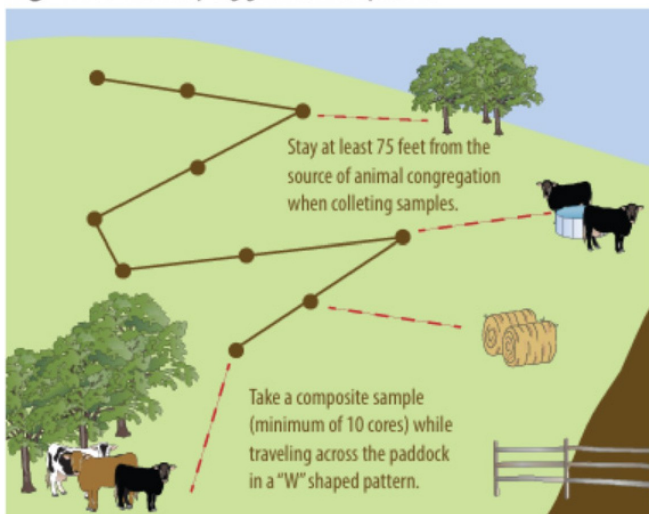
cover crop plot

# FALL PASTURE FERTILITY

## Soil testing quick tips

1. Collect soil samples so that soil test results accurately represent the soil fertility of the pasture. **Generally, one composite sample should be taken per five acres of field or paddock (management unit).**
2. A composite sample is made up of a minimum of 10 soil cores taken to a depth of 6 inches with a soil probe. The ten cores should be collected in a "W" shaped pattern across the management unit (figure 2).
3. Samples should be collected 75 feet away from congregation areas (hot spots).
4. Hot spots may be combined into a management unit and sampled separately.
5. Soil cores for a composite sample should be collected in a bucket, thoroughly mixed, and then placed in a labeled bag for delivery to the laboratory.
6. Fill out the soil information sheet. A completely and carefully filled out information sheet will provide the most accurate nutrient recommendations.

**Figure 2.** Soil sampling guidelines for pasture.



Roughly 80% of nutrients are returned to the soil in managed grazing systems. The return of nutrients to the system makes nutrient management in pastures a complex topic that involves monitoring a constant flow of inputs and outputs.

### Where to start:

- Take a soil sample every 3-4 years.

### pH

A grass/legume pasture should have a pH around 6.3.

### Nitrogen

N levels in the soil fluctuate rapidly and are not included on a standard soil test. There can be times when a low N application at spring green-up or before late-summer stockpiling can be economical. However, since grass/legume pastures have the ability to fix N, fertilizer applications are generally not recommended for established pastures. The best strategy to manage N in your pastures is to promote the health of your legumes.

### Potassium

K is important for maintaining legume persistence, and the first sign of K deficiency in pastures can often be the disappearance of legumes. Grass/legume pastures need roughly 180 lbs K/acre each growing season. A well managed pasture that is only grazed will still fall about 40-60 lbs K/acre short for the season. If forage is harvested from the pasture, even more K is removed. A forage yield of 3 tons/acre can remove roughly 150 lbs/K acre.



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## Cost-effective steps for managing soil fertility:

1. Soil test- every 3-4 years.
2. Nitrogen- manage for legumes.
3. Phosphorus- only fertilize if the soil test indicates below optimum.
4. Potassium- fertilize at removal rate: frequently if making hay, occasionally if grazing only.
5. Legumes- allow to flower once per season, frost seed occasionally, maintains potassium.
6. Consider cost-effective nutrient sources such as applied manure or keeping livestock on pasture for some or all of the winter months.
7. Forage test- occasionally, a hay analysis can be used to estimate nutrient removal rate.

"Potassium feeds legumes, legumes provide nitrogen, nitrogen feeds grass."

### Contact information:

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Grazing Outreach Specialist  
jason.cavadini@wisc.edu

Information and materials for this publication are adapted from UW-Extension publication A4043: "Soil Fertility Guidelines for Pastures in Wisconsin," as well as the UW-Extension publication titled "Soil fertility in grazing systems: Manage potassium to

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## ACCOUNTING FARM RECORD BOOKS

Available for purchase at the  
Taylor County Extension Office  
925 Donald Street, Room 103  
Medford, WI 54451

**Cost: \$6.00**


Cash and check  
purchases accepted

For More Information  
**715-748-1413**



## Why Your Input Matters!

- **Make your voice count in WI Ag Research**
- **Influence future decisions**
- **Accurate data starts with real farmers-like you!**
- **Need help? Your ag educator is ready to assist you**
- **Your privacy is protected, survey is anonymous**
- **Compare your results to your contemporaries**



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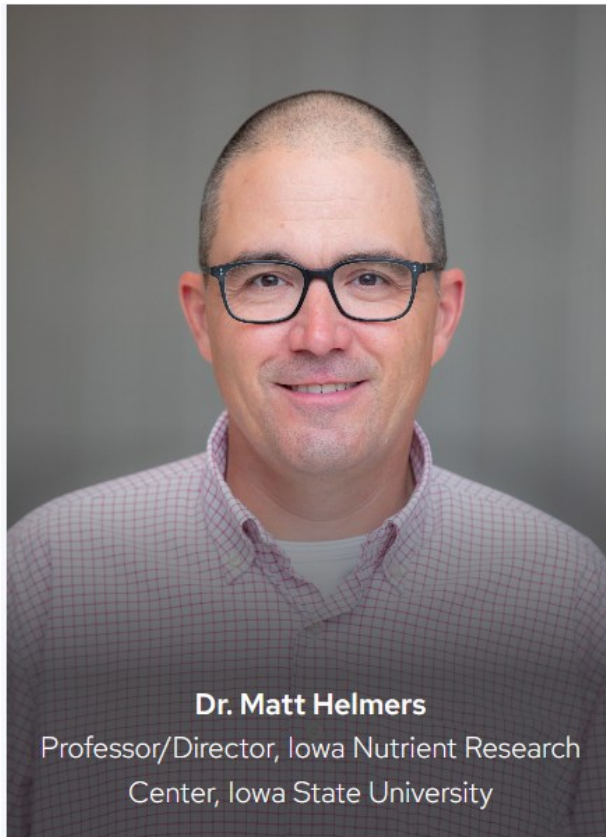


## Wisconsin Water and Soil Health Conference December 16-17, 2025

Kalahari Resort & Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells, WI

Join us at the 2025 WWASH Conference to explore the intersection of on-farm research, soil health, and water quality. Engage with other farmers, dynamic keynote speakers, participate in interactive breakout sessions, and contribute to thought-provoking roundtable discussions, all designed to deepen your expertise and provide actionable insights for your farm or the producers you support.

### 2025 Keynote Speakers



**Dr. Matt Helmers**

Professor/Director, Iowa Nutrient Research  
Center, Iowa State University



**Dr. Anna Cates**

Associate Extension Professor/State Soil  
Health Specialist, University of Minnesota



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#### Sponsorship

Interested in [sponsoring](#) the WWASH Conference?

Contact Josh Kamps for details: [joshua.kamps@wisc.edu](mailto:joshua.kamps@wisc.edu)

Contact us

[agwater@extension.wisc.edu](mailto:agwater@extension.wisc.edu)





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**WISCONSIN  
BEEF QUALITY  
ASSURANCE  
CERTIFICATION  
IN-PERSON TRAINING**

BQA Certification is  
valid for three years.  
This training enables the  
participant to obtain an  
initial certification or re-  
certify an expired  
certification.



**Feb. 16, 2026 | Eau Claire County Extension Office, 227 1st  
Street West, Altoona, WI**

**Check-in at 6:00 pm, class begins at 6:30 pm**

Pre-registration is encouraged and will make check-in faster. Register online  
at <https://tinyurl.com/2hr5karf> or call Wisconsin Beef Council at 1-800-728-2333.

The voluntary Beef Quality Assurance Program assists in raising, feeding and harvesting high-quality beef. By participating in BQA and adopting BQA production practices, you are helping to answer the call from consumers for safe beef raised in a humane manner. Buyers representing some large packers and processors (including Tyson) will only purchase from farms selling beef breed type finished cattle that are BQA or FARM Certified. Your current BQA Certification maintains interest from buyers of beef breed type finished cattle.



**SCAN ME**

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# Upcoming Meetings/Events

**Make sure to listen to WCCN and WAXX for any cancellations**

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
Nov 14th	<i>Hidden Challenges on the Farm</i>	Clark County Courthouse Auditorium Neillsville	9:30—11:00 am 11:30 am—1:00 pm
December 2,3, or 4	<i>Badger Crops and Soils Update Meetings</i>	Eau Claire, Monroe, or Appleton/Virtual	?
Dec. 16 & 17, 2025	<i>WWASH Conference</i>	Kalahari Resort & Convention Center Wisconsin Dells	9:00 am (day 1) 7:30 am (day 2)
Dec 19, 2025 to April 14, 2026	<i>PAT Training (Private Applicator)</i>	See page 3 or visit patstore.wisc.edu	8:30 start each day
Feb. 11, 2026	<i>Save a Calf—Save a Cow Dairy Workshop</i>	Education Center, Medford	9:30 am—12:30 pm
Feb. 16, 2026	<i>Beef Quality Assurance Certification</i>	Eau Claire Extension Office, Altoona	6:00 pm



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