



NEWSLETTER

Driftless Ag Update

Ag news for La Crosse, Vernon, and Crawford Counties from UW-Madison Extension



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Please contact your local extension office for the print version of any article included in this newsletter.

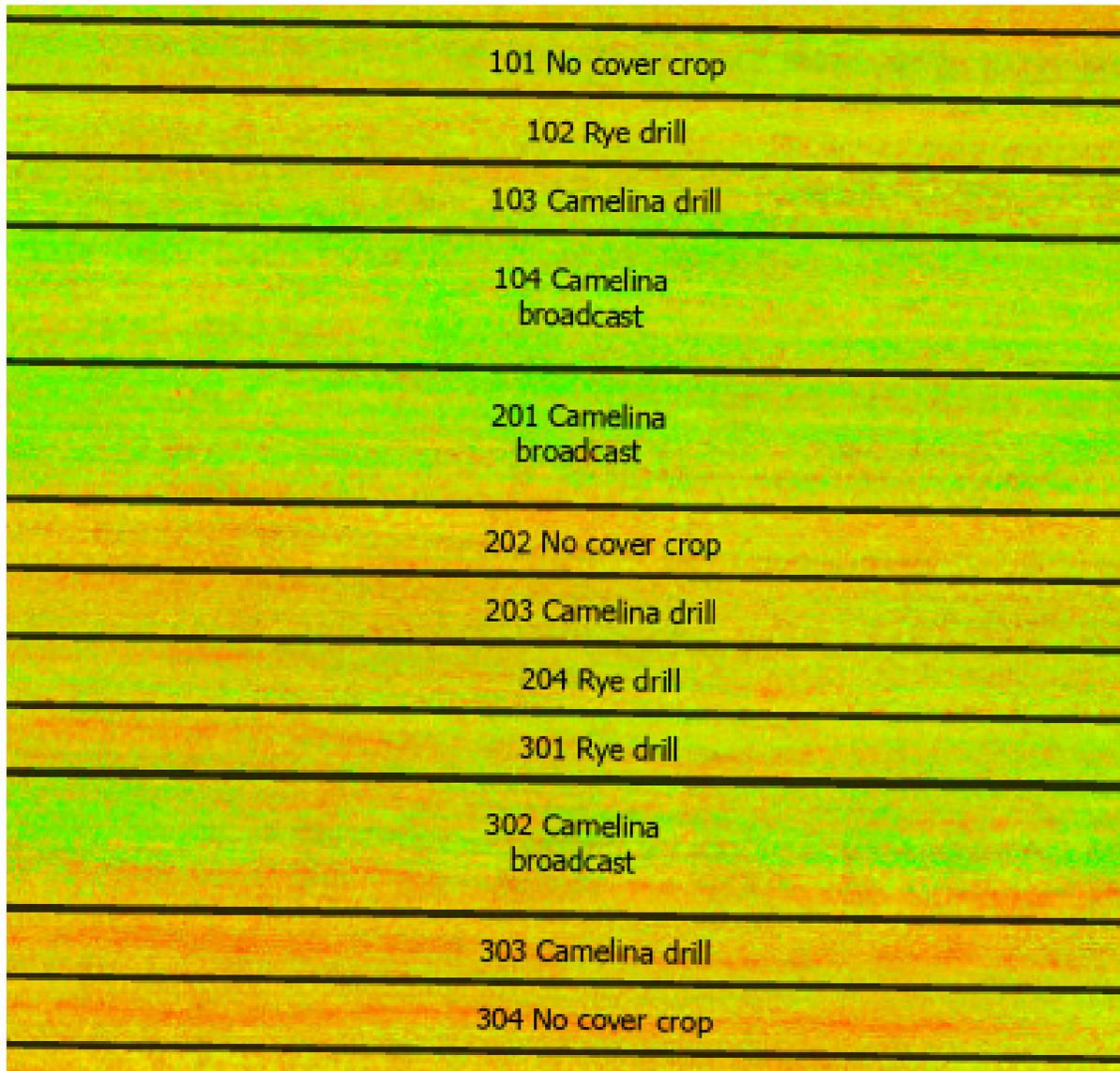


Here's your January Driftless Ag Update!

Hello and congratulations on receiving our January Driftless Ag Update! This newsletter is co-written by your local UW-Madison Extension Ag Educators, Beth McIlquham (livestock) and Sam Bibby (crops).

Notes from your Regional Crops Educator- Sam Bibby

- Pesticide applicator trainings are starting this month. If you are a private applicator check your certification expiration. I am hosting three in-person trainings this winter, one in each of my three counties. After the four-hour training you may take the exam. Remember to order your training manual ahead of time.
- Winter diesel tips: Summer blend diesel will typically gel around 15°F. Fueling issues above 20°F are likely water/icing in lines/filters. Anti-gel and water removal products work quite well. If you blend #1 fuel with #2 remember you can overdo it. #1 fuel does not lubricate the engine as well. If you must run a high ratio of #1 fuel, consider a lubricating additive.
- Below is another update from our camelina study. This is an NDVI calculation from one of our study locations. It is easy to see the drone seeded/broadcast camelina treatments are greener indicating more fall growth than much of the drilled rye or camelina. Stay tuned as we will have our year one results out this winter.



Notes from your Regional Livestock Educator- Beth McIlquham

-Beef Quality Assurance (BQA): Certification expires every three years. If you were certified in 2021 or 2022, it may be time to think about getting re-certified. Online and in-person trainings are provided. Note that in-person trainings require registration. Richland Center will have an in-person training on February 10. If you are unsure of your certification status, please visit www.bqa.org/contact-us or call (303) 850-3473.

-Producing Quality Beef Workshop: In February, there will be three more Producing Quality Beef Workshops that discuss management strategies that influence high-quality beef animal production. The closest location to the majority of the Driftless Ag Update audience will be in Bloomington on February 12.

-Disease Digest: By now, most people have heard of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1. It has been found in poultry flocks in Burnett, Barron, and Kenosha counties in the last month. For animal owners of all kinds, evaluate your biosecurity protocols to see if they are working for you. Any other questions, feel free to reach out. My contact information can be found at the bottom of the newsletter.

The banner features a dark green background with a white silhouette of a cow and a calf on a hill, and a map of the Driftless Region. Below this is a photograph of several cows grazing in a field at sunset. The text 'Driftless Region Beef Conference' is prominently displayed in a large, bold, white font. To the right, a white box contains the text: 'PROVIDING RESEARCH-BASED INFORMATION TO BEEF PRODUCERS IN THE DRIFTLESS REGION OF ILLINOIS, IOWA, AND WISCONSIN.'

**Driftless Region
Beef Conference**

PROVIDING RESEARCH-BASED INFORMATION TO BEEF PRODUCERS IN THE DRIFTLESS REGION OF ILLINOIS, IOWA, AND WISCONSIN.

Extension specialists in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin are again cooperating to present the 13th annual Driftless Region Beef Conference at the Grand River Convention Center in Dubuque, Iowa on January 23 and 24, 2025. This conference brings together beef producers for an educational program that focuses on the needs of this production region. Select from different workshop topics to develop a customized program. Visit with the many conference sponsors in the display area and learn about products and services they offer. Visit with fellow beef producers from the region. **Registration:** <https://www.regcytes.extension.iastate.edu/beef/register/>

2025 Small Ruminant Webinar Series

Join us for the 2025 Small Ruminant Webinar Series! This series will help small ruminant farmers learn new things and get useful tips. The webinars will happen on the fourth Thursday of each month from January to April. Experts will share practical advice, research updates, and the latest trends.



Webinar Schedule:

January 23, 2025

Dr. Garland Dahlke, Iowa State University
Feeding through 2024 forages

February 27, 2025

Dr. Kelsey Bentley, Kansas State University
Harnessing the Post-weaning Fecal Egg Count Estimated Breeding Value to Enhance Sheep Health

March 27, 2025

A panel of entrepreneurs will talk about their experiences with sheep products and services

April 24, 2025

Dr. Cody Gifford, University of Wyoming
Lamb Carcass Quality

Details:

Time: 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (CST).

Location: Online (You will get the link after you sign up)

This series is designed to help small ruminant farmers with practical advice, research updates, and the latest trends.

Registration

Registration is required for each webinar. Please visit <https://go.wisc.edu/srw25> to sign up and receive the webinar link.

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

The Nutrient and Pest Management Program within the University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) are offering a virtual training for farmers interested in writing their own nutrient management plans. 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

SCHEDULE

10:00 – 10:15	Why Nutrient Management?
10:15 – 10:30	Soil Sampling
10:30 – 10:45	Soil Test Interpretation
10:45 – 11:00	Soil pH and Liming
11:00 – 11:15	Break
11:15 – 11:35	Manure and Legume Crediting
11:35 – 12:05	Nitrogen Management
12:05 – 12:40	Lunch Break
12:40 – 1:10	Phosphorus Management
1:10 – 1:25	Soil Test P and Water Quality Implications
1:25 – 1:40	Potassium Management
1:40 – 2:00	Manure Application Precautions
2:00 – 2:10	Break
2:10 – 2:25	Soil Conservation
2:25 – 3:00	SnapPlus Introduction

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Free Online School for Beginning Beef Production

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension is launching the School for Beginning Beef Production, an online series for new beef cattle producers or those adding beef to their farms.

The series includes six free sessions in January 2025, held from 7–8:30 pm on January 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, and 30 via Zoom.

Participants will learn from UW-Madison Extension specialists and educators on topics such as business options, marketing, cow-calf nutrition, veterinary skills, herd reproduction, and more.

Session Topics

- **January 14, 2025:** Business of beef: what are your options?
- **January 16, 2025:** Marketing: begin with the end in mind
- **January 21, 2025:** Beef nutrition: basic nutrition and pasture management for the cow calf operation
- **January 23, 2025:** Veterinary skills for cow/calf and receiving cattle, biosecurity; recordkeeping
- **January 28, 2025:** Herd reproduction to build your future
- **January 30, 2025:** Intro to Stocker, Backgrounder and Finishing Enterprises

Cost

The School for Beginning Beef Production is completely free for everyone who registers.

Registration Information

Registration is required by January 7, 2025, at go.wisc.edu/786mcy.

For assistance, call 715-748-3327 ext. 1.

2025 Wisconsin Agribusiness Classic

The Wisconsin Agribusiness Classic is Wisconsin's premier agribusiness industry event drawing interest and participation from all confluences of the industry from throughout the Midwestern states.

The program is held each January and boasts an attendance of nearly 1,000 attendees. The conference and tradeshow is a collaborative effort between the Wisconsin Agri-Business Association and the University of Wisconsin.



SMALL GRAINS WORKSHOP

January 21st, 2025

TOPICS COVERED

- General Agronomy
- Nitrogen Rate and Timing Research
- Small Grains for Forage
- Growing Your Own Cover Crop Seed
- Herbicide and Weed Management Considerations

2 SESSIONS OFFERED

Morning Session:

8:30am - 11:30am

Gay Mills Community Center
16381 WI-131, Gay Mills, WI 54631

Afternoon Session:

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Hamilton Town Hall
N5105 Leonard St N, West Salem, WI 54669

PLEASE CONTACT SAM BIBBY TO RSVP

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WISCONSIN
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