



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 July Driftless Ag Update!

Hello and congratulations on receiving our July 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

Notes from your Regional Crops Educator- Sam Bibby

-Well, I am going it alone this month without Beth to add her livestock perspective. I will do my best to continue adding livestock related news/articles to the newsletter in the absence of a livestock educator. We will be re-hiring for Beth's position so if you know anyone interested encourage them to apply.

-The Wisconsin Water and Soil Health Conference returns to the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells this December 15–16. Haven't been to WWASH yet? This is the year. 90 full scholarships are available, covering two-day registration, one night's hotel stay, and dinner! Preference is given to first-time farmer attendees, but all are encouraged to apply; no rigid prerequisites, just a desire to learn, network, and grow. [Apply here.](#)

Upcoming Events

Badger Crop Connect

Twice-monthly in-season webinars for Wisconsin farmers, agronomists, and crop consultants



go.wisc.edu/BadgerCropConnect

Badger Crop Connect 2026

The Badger Crop Connect webinar series returns Thurs., April 9 at 12:30 p.m. and continues every second and fourth Thursday of the month through October. Tune in for research updates and timely topics for the Wisconsin farmer or agronomist. CCA CEUs available.

Register:

<https://cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu/programs/badger-crop-connect/>

Great River Graziers Pasture Walks

Join the Great River Graziers for some great pasture walks all summer. These pasture walks are great opportunities to network and learn what is/isn't working on neighboring farms.

See next page for details



MANURE COMPOST MANAGEMENT



Aug 5 | 11:15 am–3:00pm
Lancaster Agricultural Research Station

WISCONSIN EXTENSION WEED MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

*From Basics to Breakthroughs:
Managing Weeds in a Resistance Era*

*Explore the latest research-based
strategies for herbicide-resistant
weed management.*



Scan to Learn More



\$ \$30 includes lunch, snacks, weed management grab bag, and more

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

September 2

Arlington Ag Research Station



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

go.wisc.edu/WeedManagementWorkshop



GREAT RIVER GRAZIERS

2026 Pasturewalks

All are welcome!

Facilitated by Vance Haugen (507) 459-0495

grg@crawfordstewardship.org

www.crawfordstewardship.org/grg

****check Facebook for schedule updates****

Tuesday May 12 10:30 am	Joe Childs Sparkling Ln. Gays Mills, WI	Location is just outside Mt. Zion. Topic: watering cattle without a well or access to ponds. Joe's operation is a great example of "custom grazing" - where the grazer doesn't own the cattle or the land, but manages both for a head/day fee.
Tuesday May 26 10:30 am	Matthew Canter E7630 Rognstad Ridge Cashton, WI	Fertility with sawdust and manure compost. Timing of pasture moves to make the most of added fertility. The Canter family produces 100% grassfed organic milk.
Tuesday June 9 10:30 am	Andy Mullikin 53280 County Rd. N Wauzeka, WI	Transitioning to organic in the grassfed milk world.
Tuesday June 23 10:30 am	Ryan Studnicka 1435 Blue River Rd. Muscoda, WI	How to extend the grazing season. Stockpiling and limiting the amount of days spent feeding hay. **Note: This event also aims to bring together graziers in the Grant/Iowa County area to form a new pasturewalk group!
Tuesday July 21 10:30 am	Aaron Miller E8477 Octagon Ave. Cashton, WI	Managing the late spring flush and multi-species grazing.
Tuesday August 11 10:30 am	Silas Dudgeon 19663 Stove Rd. Eastman, WI	NRCS EQIP funding for fencing and water line. Discussion how to use NRCS funds to get virtual collars.
*Saturday August 29 10:30 am	Don Boland 18732 Hwy 27 Gays Mills, WI	One year review of switching to a once-a-day milking system.
Tuesday Sept. 15 10:30 am	Kelsey Vance E4998 Irish Ridge Rd. Viroqua, WI	Renovating pasture. Grazing under apple trees and multi-species grazing. We will also review what the fallowed corn field looks like after grazing for an entire season.
Tuesday Sept. 29 10:30 am	Jason Klinge 19769 Hwy 13 Farmersburg, IA	Matching stocking rates with forage growth throught the growing season. Managing Canadian Thistle by adjusting rest period.
Tuesday October 13 10:30 am	Christopher Baird 12241 Hwy 27 Ferryville, WI	Tillage considerations when establishing pasture in heavily outwintered areas. Reviewing nutrient management plan and soil samples. Increasing fertility over time with minimal commerical fertilizer





Winter Wheat Variety Trial Results are Available

Authored by: Adam Roth, Mark Kendall, Brian Mueller,
Damon Smith, and Shawn P. Conley

Introduction

Wisconsin winter wheat acreage declined in 2025–2026, with 245,000 acres planted—an 18% decrease from the previous year. Of these, 210,000 acres are forecasted to be harvested, down 17% from 2025. The 2026 yield forecast is 76 bu/a, matching 2025 and landing just below the five-year average of 77 bu/a. Planting generally occurred on schedule as corn and soybean harvest progressed at a typical pace. Mild winter conditions and adequate snow cover supported strong winter survival. Wheat broke dormancy in early April, and crop development ran slightly ahead of normal due to above average precipitation and growing degree accumulation. Overall, winter wheat yield and test weight trends were average in 2026. Foliar fungicides and insecticides were applied to the Waterloo (Miravis Ace and Mustang Maxx) and Random Lake (Miravis Ace and Province II) locations at Feekes 10.5.1. Random Lake was excluded from multi-site analysis due to variable data resulting from drought stress and thin stands. Wheat yields at the Arlington, Fond du Lac, Random Lake, and Waterloo locations averaged 106, 119, 84, 103 bu/a, respectively.

Diseases

Foliar and head disease issues were very low in 2026. We observed little to no Fusarium head blight (FHB or Scab; caused by *Fusarium graminearum*) across all locations. Stripe rust (caused by *Puccinia striiformis*) and leaf rust (caused by *Puccinia triticina*) were mostly a novelty at all locations. Unlike 2025, no *Cephalosporium* stripe (caused by *Cephalosporium gramineum*) was observed at any location. Statewide, stripe rust, and occasional reports of tan spot (caused by *Pyrenophora tritici-repentis*) were made but did not impact yield except on the occasional highly susceptible variety. Occasionally barley yellow dwarf (BYD) could be observed at low incidence.

Performance trial data in both PDF (coming soon) and Excel formats for 2026 and earlier can be found here:

<https://badgercropnetwork.com/research/small-grains/wheat-variety-trial-results/>



DATCP issues movement order related to New World Screwworm

What is New World Screwworm?

New World screwworm (NWS) has been on the minds of livestock producers as it made its way north across the southern U.S. border. NWS is a parasitic fly whose larvae feed on the tissue and flesh of warm-blooded animals. The female flies deposit their eggs into open wounds and body parts such as eyes, nose, ears, and mouths. Within 12-24 hours the eggs hatch and the larvae eat the live tissue of the animal causing pain. Wounds become infected, resulting in additional discomfort, secondary health risks, and foul smells. Once larvae have fed on the host animal and are ready to molt into adults, they will drop to the ground and molt in the soil. Adult NWS flies are similar in size to house flies but are metallic blue-green with orange eyes and three dark stripes on their backs. The NWS is primarily spread via animal movement as larvae in infested animals. Adult flies do not travel very far. NWS is not a food safety concern.

How to inspect for New World Screwworm

Producers are encouraged to inspect their animals routinely for open wounds and closely look at body parts with openings. A few symptoms producers should look for in animals:

- Maggots inside open wounds, or inside the eyes, nose, ears, and mouths
- Wounds that take longer than expected to heal
- Foul-smelling odor coming from the wound site
- Excessive irritation around the wound including head shaking
- Reduced appetite

How to Prevent New World Screwworm

The greatest risk for Wisconsin producers is NWS larvae coming into the state in/on

an infested animal and not being detected early.

Following a good biosecurity protocol for your farm will go a long way in keeping screwworms away. Inspect and quarantine new animals or animals returning to the farm. Remove sharp objects from animal handling and housing areas and inspect open wounds frequently. If you suspect animal disease or parasite infestations, contact your veterinarian

Additional New World Screwworm Resources

[Unified Government Response To Protect the United States](#) – Screwworm.gov

[Animal Health Waivers & Special Orders](#) – State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)

[Strengthening biosecurity practices on dairy farms](#) – UW-Madison Extension Dairy Program

[Watch: Basic Biosecurity Practices For Livestock Operations](#) – UW-Madison Extension Livestock Program

[Holding the Line with Daily and Enhanced Biosecurity](#) – UW-Madison Extension Livestock Program

[New World screwworm \(NWS\) in livestock and equids: Evaluation and response](#) – American Veterinary Medical Association

[Biosecurity Resources](#) – Beef Quality Assurance

[Eyes On Your Animals: Spot New World Screwworm \(8.5×11 poster\)](#) – Beef Quality Assurance

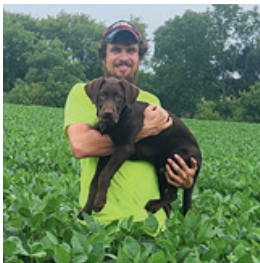
[Protect Animal Health: Clean It Before It Travels \(8.5×11 poster\)](#) – Beef Quality Assurance

[New World Screwworm Field Guide for Beef Cattle Producers](#) – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

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