

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Feb. 4, 2026

Contact: Laura Hensley  
Chief Marketing Officer  
(517) 652-4524 | lhensley@voiceofmilk.com



## **Calumet County Ag Stewardship Alliance annual meeting showcases research outcomes and innovative farming technologies**

CHILTON, Wis. — The Calumet County Ag Stewardship Alliance held its annual meeting on Jan. 26, bringing together over 30 farmers, supporters and community members to discuss the group's ongoing conservation efforts and celebrate progress made over the past year. Attendees heard from several guest speakers who focused on sustainability research updates and innovative farming technologies.



Discovery Farms, a farmer-led research and outreach program within UW-Madison Extension, has been conducting studies with farms in Calumet County, measuring nitrate leachate using lysimeters. Lindsey Hartfiel, UW-Extension Research Project Manager, shared results and explained how monitoring of soil and nutrient loss from fields will continue to improve the understanding of the timing and magnitude of nitrate leachate in the area.

Dean Heimermann, owner of Countryside Aviation, discussed the benefits of aerial seeding cover crops. It helps reduce soil compaction and lessen crop loss or damage throughout crop fields.

“For cover crops, timing is huge,” Heimermann said. “Timing, moisture, sunlight and heat are very important factors to take into account.”

Cade Christensen and Al Hoepfner of CAL Drone Applications shared the benefits of using a drone for cover crop seeding, fertilizer or fungicide applications. They explained that the technology is versatile in avoiding hazards, such as powerlines or wind turbines, but not as time-efficient as an aircraft.

Farmers for Sustainable Food strategic account manager Marti Viste shared results from CCASA’s 2025 Member Conservation Practice Survey.

The survey involved 23 farms and showed an increase in conservation practices compared to 2024 and 2023.

CCASA president John Schwarz of Schwarz Farms expressed his appreciation to attendees and partners for their continued support of the group.

“Our annual meeting is always a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow farmers and supporters,” Schwarz said. “We value your ongoing support and input to expand our group and its impact.”

During the business portion of the meeting, members re-elected four CCASA board members: Bob Danes, Paul Meyers, Kurt Schneider (vice president) and Ken Rach. Other board members include: John Schwarz, president; John VandenBoom, treasurer; Lauren Danes, secretary; Jim Casper and David Geiser.

Visit [calumetcounty.org](http://calumetcounty.org) to learn more about CCASA and their efforts to improve local water quality and soil health.

**Photos:**

[CCASA board photo](#)

**Logo:**

[CCASA Logo](#)

**About Calumet County Ag Stewardship Alliance**

Calumet County Ag Stewardship Alliance is a nonprofit group of innovative farmers, committed community members and other professional partners dedicated to championing sustainable farming practices that protect water quality and build healthy soil. [www.calumetcounty.org/CCASA](http://www.calumetcounty.org/CCASA)

###