



Land and Water Conservation

Ag Education Newsletter

Welcome to the Ag Education Newsletter! This newsletter is produced and distributed by the Calumet County Agricultural Educator / Soil Health Specialist. My name is Autumn Gomez-Tagle, and I'll be working to put together some educational field days and workshops, as well as connecting farmers and producers with cost-share opportunities for switching to conservation soil management. I'm also available to answer questions or help assist with challenges as they come up.

Editions of the newsletter will be distributed monthly, and will include:

1. **Upcoming Events**

An up-to-date list of events held by local agriculture and gardening groups.

2. **County, State, and National news**

Updates to the agriculture industry, regulations, research, and general conservation information and updates.

3. **Educational spotlights**

Write-ups and resources on relevant topics in dairy, cropping, land and water resources, gardening, and general conservation.

What's New?

July is 'Corn Month'!

July is a good time for those of us not engaged in agriculture to think about all the delicious ways to eat corn (creamed, grilled, in bread... the list goes on). For those of us who planted corn though, this July could be fraught. If your stand has suffered from the increased rain you may be thinking about replanting (or wondering what your yield will look like). Joe Lauer from the University of Wisconsin Extension has some guidance on July planted corn, which you can read about [here](#).





What to do about the wet?

Unusually high precipitation has meant challenges for crop farmers and home gardeners alike. DATCP and the DNR have released a joint message regarding nutrient management with the current weather. Read it [here](#). Curious about what happens to your crops in excessive rain conditions? Learn more from UW Extension [here](#).

Home gardeners can consider [planting a rain garden](#) as a way to mitigate some of the stress the excess runoff and pollution can put on our waterways.

Creative Planting in July

After the heavy rains in June, many folks have seen their stands suffer or fail completely. In a conversation I was having with a member of the Calumet County Forage Council, it was requested of me that I put together some information on creative and alternative crops that one could plant this late in the season.

If you don't want to replant your original crop and still need forage, there are definitely options for getting creative! University of Wisconsin Extension has an article detailing steps to late-season forage planting decisions, which I'd encourage interested parties to check out. It's a good read, with lots of useful links, if you need to rethink your plans for the later season. Read it [here](#).

[UW Extension's general page for alternative forage planting](#) also includes a handy

chart of forage options one might consider, including expected yields and RFV for different planting dates.

I reached out to Jodie Weyland with the Between the Lakes Demo Farm Network to ask her what some of her recommendations would be for someone looking to get adventurous with July forage planting. A few that I found interesting:

- Millet; planted mid June to mid July in our area, millet has been cultivated as a grain crop, but has significant use as forage as well. Pearl Millet should grow well in our area, and produce safe forage. However, for lactating dairy cows, it is advisable to monitor butterfat levels which may be affected by feeding pearl millet.



- Sorghum-Sudangrass has become more popular as a species to interseed in grazing pastures, but it also has potential as silage. Steps should be taken to harvest appropriately to limit [prussic acid content](#).



- Teff makes a highly palatable hay that, due to its roots in Ethiopia, prefers the hotter weather of a later planting date. Teff hasn't been widely tested in the midwest yet, so if you give this one a try let me know how it turns out!



If you're not in pressing need of feed, July and early August may be a good time to

experiment with **cover crops**! While some cover crops can be harvested for forage to help make up a feed gap, others can be left on the field to provide cover, nutrients, and improve soil biology. These soil health improvements can pay off in improved future yields. Read about some mid to late summer cover crops [here](#).

Thanks so much to Bob Van Daalwyk, president of the Calumet County Forage Council for reaching out to me with this request, and thanks to Jodie Weyland for taking the time to chat with me about options in our area. If you'd like to contact the forage council, call or text Bob Van Daalwyk at (920) 242-1260. To read more about Jodie's work with the Between the Lakes Demo Farm Network, visit their website [here](#).

See you next month!

~ Autumn

Conservation and Ag News

[New Testing Requirements for Cattle in Dairy Events](#)

In a press release, DATCP revealed new guidelines for the movement of dairy cattle in an effort to prevent the spread of H5N1. DATCP is now "requiring Influenza A testing prior to movement of lactating dairy cattle to fairs or exhibitions effective beginning June 19, 2024". The University of Wisconsin Extension has put together a [collection of resources and fact-sheets](#) related to dairy regulations amidst the spread of H5N1 in the continental US.

[Wisconsin Women in Conservation Week: July 7-13](#)

Tony Evers declared the week of July 7-13 to be "Wisconsin Women in Conservation Week". Read his full proclamation [here](#). There are meetup events occurring across the state, put on by the organization *Wisconsin Women in Conservation*. Find an event near you [here](#).

[Calumet County Comprehensive Plan](#)

Calumet County is establishing its long-range vision for the next 20 years through the development of the comprehensive plan, and they want to hear from you! If you have thoughts about housing, land-use, or Agricultural, Natural and Cultural

Resources, please take the time to fill out the survey [here](#).

[FREE Import/Export Educational Session from FVTC](#)

Courtesy of Calumet County Economic Development and Fox Valley Technical College Chilton, there is a free session available to anyone. Presented by Ngosong Fonkem, the session is titled "Importing and Exporting Opportunities for Businesses of Any Size". Learn more or sign up [here](#).

Cost Share and Technical Assistance!



Calumet County Land and Water Conservation is able to provide cost-share and technical assistance to first time (or returning) adopters of No-Till and Cover Crops, as well as Low-Disturbance Manure Application. The funding is available through partnership with Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance, as part of the Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities program via the USDA. Contact Autumn Gomez-Tagle at autumn.gomeztagle@calumetcounty.org for more information, or read more [here](#).

Cost Share & Incentive Rates

The annual payment will be divided equally and paid during the semi-annual (summer and winter) planning meetings following the implementation of practice.

- Cover Crop and No-Till System **\$78/acre x 2 years**
- 2-Year Practice Implementation Incentive **+\$40/acre one time incentive payment**
- Accurate Whole Farm SnapPlus **\$5/acre** (max of \$1500)
- Farm Progress Report Meetings **+\$625 one time incentive payment**

- Low Disturbance Manure Application (Optional) **\$28.11**

Credit to Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance

USDA NASS Releases

- [WI Crop Progress, July 1 2024](#)
- [WI Milk Price, June 24 2024](#)
- [WI Prices \(all\), June 24 2024](#)
- [WI Acreage, June 24 2024](#)
- [WI Grain Stocks, June 24 2024](#)

If you would like to receive these reports directly to your inbox when they are released, you can sign up [here](#).

Upcoming Dates

- **August 7:** Electronics Recycling. [Learn more here](#).
- **August 10:** [Antique Tractor and Farm Machinery Show](#).
- **August 16:** Hazardous Waste dropoff. [Sign up here](#).
- **August 21:** Between the Lakes Demo Farm Field Day (*details tba*)
- **August 30th through September 2:** [Calumet County Fair](#).
- **September 3:** CCASA Field Day (*details tba*)

Ag Education Website

Calumet County Land and Water Conservation, 206 Court Street, Chilton, WI 53014

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