



Land and Water Conservation

Ag Education Newsletter #6

As we all wind down from harvest season it's a great opportunity to rest and reflect. As you're doing your winter vehicle maintenance, shop cleanout, or continuing dairy operations, take some time to remember not just what went poorly, but what went right. This was a tough year overall, both too wet and too dry, and I'm really proud of all the work that everyone put in to finish harvest strong.

Keep an eye on events coming up this winter. We've got some great meetings and get-togethers in our county and neighboring counties.

Happy Holidays!

Winter Farmer Meetings

Shop Talk:

A farmer-to-farmer event series



- ✓ **By farmers, for farmers**
- ✓ **Topics you care about**
- ✓ **Free pizza and refreshments**

January Topic:

The Good, the Bad and the Rainy: 2024 in Review

Suggested talking points: Replant decisions, timing, cover crops/no till effects on drainage, what went well, how to tackle a year like this in the future

January 22nd, 5pm

**📍 Ledgeview Customs Shop, 2400 Plymouth Street,
New Holstein WI, 53061**

Call or text 920-666-5539 to RSVP

Partner Feature: Between the Lakes Demo Farm Network

If you're anything like me you need to see something done before you believe it. That's why we're so lucky to have an organization like the Between the Lakes Demo Farm Network! Their member farms are showing off new creative conservation techniques, and constantly raising the bar for what it means to farm smarter. Let's take a look at some of their video updates and content from the last few months.



Zak Kenneke, with Libertyland Farms, has been doing a great job of stacking practices to see how different conservation methods work on his farm. In this video he talks about applying manure over a barley and winter wheat cover crop mix using a ZML minimal disturbance toolbar. This "allows them to get the manure applied when it's available, while still maintaining the cover crop" ([BTL Facebook Page](#)). [Watch the video](#) to hear more!



Fond Du Lac farmer Dale Theel has long been leading the charge on cover crop implementation. In this video Dale talks a little bit about his mix, as well as the value

he sees in trying things on his own farm. Dale has a lot of terrific knowledge and [this video](#) is a great chance to listen to his thoughts.



If you follow BTL events, you'll know that we had the opportunity to visit Libertyland Farms earlier this year and take a look at the results of their interseeding. They've done some really interesting work with cover crops over there; if you combine your corn and are looking for ways to get cover crops in the ground before it's too late in the season, [check this video out](#).

Keep up with the BTL Demo Farms

If you like what you see in these videos, consider following BTL on [Facebook here](#), or check out their [website here](#). They have field days, pop-up field meetings and plenty of prior videos and information posted online. I'd highly recommend it!

Conservation and Ag News



[WI Land and Water Poster Contest](#)

Learn and become more aware about conservation of our habitats through artistic design. Poser contest is open to all students K-12. For more information, resources and entry forms, [click here](#).

If your student wishes to participate in the local contest, please [email Dani Santry](#) as soon as possible.

Posters are due December 20, 2024.

[Ag Law Update](#)

Kelly T. Wilfert, Farm Law Outreach Specialist with UW-Madison Division of Extension, provides updates on federal legislation, federal regulation, and federal case law, INCLUDING a proposed update to the Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO), for which votes must be received by December 31st. Watch the [full recording here](#).



[Application Period for Crop Insurance Premium Rebates for Planting Cover Crops Open Now](#)

Via *WI DATCP*: There is \$800,000, or 160,000 acres of coverage, to be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Recipients will receive a \$5 per acre rebate on their summer 2025 crop insurance premium for acres planted with cover crops in 2024, then planted to an insurable crop the following year. Producers who received state or federal cost-sharing to plant cover crops in 2024 are not eligible for this year's program.

[DNR Seeking Public Comment On The Draft Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan](#)

Via DNR: The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking public input on the [draft Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan](#) (SCORP).



[Register to Receive Landscape Pesticide Advance Notices](#)

Via WI DATCP: The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) invites homeowners and renters to sign up for 2025 growing season notices in the landscape pesticide registry through February 1, 2025.

Registrants receive advance notice from commercial lawn care companies that apply pesticides to lawns, trees, and shrubs on nearby property. Read more and [register here](#).

[Manure Tracking App Making Life Easier](#)

A new app from UW Madison "allows you to count and record manure applications on a field by field basis". Listen to the interview from extension specialist Chris Clark [here](#). Download the app [here](#).





[Call for Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program Grant Proposals](#)

The Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP) provides funding to agricultural producers to perform on-farm research pertaining to commercial nitrogen application. Reducing nitrogen (N) application rates while maintaining yield is one of the first things producers can do to address optimization. The project designs must follow standard research approaches, such as randomization and replication. Each study in each field is a standalone study that uses accepted statistical approaches to address the study question. Read more [here](#).

[2025 Pesticide Applicator Trainings and Testing](#)

Private and commercial pesticide applicators with expiring licenses or who have not been previously certified will need to undergo recertification. You may take the PAT test "self study", by buying the manual and reading it on your own, or you could choose to attend a training. Trainings and information on recertification are available [here](#). To take the Pesticide Applicator Test, contact Autumn at autumn.gomeztagle@calumetcounty.org.



USDA NASS Releases

- [WI Crop Progress 11/25/24](#)
- [WI Dairy Products 12/24](#)
- [WI Chickens 11/24](#)

- [WI Milk Production 11/24](#)
- [WI Ag Labor 11/24](#)
- [WI Crop Production 11/24](#)

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

Upcoming Dates

- **December 3-6:** [Badger Crops and Soils Update Meetings](#)
- **December 4:** [Wisconsin Ag Law Update Webinar](#)
- **December 10:** [Fond Du Lac Dairy Forage Day](#)
- **December 10:** [Manitowoc County Winter Forage Feeding Meeting](#)
- **December 17-18:** [Wisconsin Water and Soil Health Conference](#)
- **January 6-10:** [Crop Scouting Training with Fox Valley Tech](#)
- **January 10:** [Virtual Nutrient Management Training for Farmers](#)
- **January 22:** [Shop Talk](#)

Ag Education Website

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

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