



Land and Water Conservation

## Ag Education Newsletter #5

It was great seeing so many friendly faces at all the field days this month! As harvest starts winding down and the weather gets colder I know many folks are already thinking of next season. November is a great time to reflect on what went well (or terribly!) this year, and come back stronger in the year to follow. I hope you all have a chance to catch your breath in these next few months, before we all start planning for next year!

## Planning for Spring? Try Cost Share!



Land and Water Conservation

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](mailto: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) **rates tbd**

## Yard and Garden Care for Fall



Whenever leaves start to fall you're sure to see some neighbors out there right away, sweeping all the leaves away to bag up neatly and get hauled away. But is this really what's best for your home?

While we all want to feel as productive as that busy neighbor, when you remove leaves from your lawn you may be doing more harm than good!

The [USDA says](#), "Leaves create a natural mulch that helps to suppress weeds while fertilizing the soil as it breaks down. The leaves also serve as a habitat for wildlife including lizards, birds, turtles, frogs, and insects that overwinter in the fallen leaves". For those of you concerned about maintaining a healthy lawn, a leaf mulch layer can help discourage weed seed germination, and lead to an overall more healthy lawn.

A leaf layer will also encourage microorganism growth, which will lead to better breakdown of leaf and grass litter in the future. Via the [USDA](#), "The more leaves left on your garden, the more feed for these micro-organisms that make soil healthier and plants grow stronger. As the leaves decay, they add organic matter back into

the soil, which lessens the need for fertilizer".

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation says "One of the most valuable things you can do to support pollinators and other invertebrates is to provide them with the shelter they need to survive the winter" ([Xerces](#)). By doing less yard work, you're saving pollinators for your future flowers and vegetables.



If you're worried about the leaves breaking down (or are in your first year trying to leave them) you could mow them to encourage decomposition. If you're not ready to commit to leaving them where they fall, you can always gather the leaves up and [compost them for use in a garden or potted plants](#). Or, you could rake the leaves into your garden beds, around trees, or in other "designated areas" ([Xerces](#)).

This year I challenge you: **Leave the leaves!**

## October Photo Roundup



### **Man-Cal Watershed Soil Health Field Day**

Look at those beautiful clouds, and that big beautiful rainfall simulator! Big thanks to everyone from UW Madison, NRCS, and the Conservation Professional Training Program for putting on this great event.



**CCASA Test Plots**

19 different species, 19 different beautiful covers for our CCASA farmer's field!



### **A Very Cold Soil Pit**

Thanks again to all our guests and presenters for braving the weather and stopping out to take a look at the soil in Dallmann East River Dairy's field.

## **Conservation and Ag News**



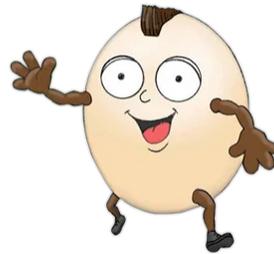
### [Getting Started on Your Farm Succession Plan](#)

*Via UW Extension:* Have you been thinking about planning for your farm's future, but you're not sure where to start? Do you have a family member or someone outside of the family interested in coming into the farm business, but you don't know

how to have that first conversation? Join UW-Madison Division of Extension Farm Succession Outreach Specialist, Joy Kirkpatrick, and Farm Law Outreach Specialist, Kelly Wilfert, on Wednesday, November 13, from noon – 1:00 pm for the [Getting Started on Your Farm Succession Plan](#) webinar.

### [Prepare for Hunting and Trapping Seasons Opening in November](#)

*Via Wisconsin DNR:* There are three important dates throughout November when seasons open. Hunters and trappers are encouraged to double-check the regulations and confirm that they have all the necessary licenses before heading into the field. Read more [here](#).



### [Preliminary results of 2024 Wisconsin Soybean Variety Performance Trials](#)

*Update from Shawn P. Conley, Soybean and Small Grains Specialist with the University of Wisconsin Madison.*

### [Help Wisconsin Plant 100M trees](#)

*Via WPR:* "In April this year, Gov. Tony Evers promised a [global climate initiative](#) that Wisconsin will plant 100 million trees in the state by 2030.

To Wisconsin's Chief State Forester Heather Berklund, this promise acknowledges tree planting as 'one of the best nature based solutions to our changing climate.'" To find out how you can help, [read more here](#).



### [Precision Dairy Technologies Survey](#)

Via *UW Madison* : “We are looking for people involved in farm decision-making (owners, part-owners, managers, or consultants) to participate in a short survey about precision dairy technologies. Participants who complete the survey will be entered to win one of twenty \$50.00 Visa gift cards. Take the survey [here](#).”

## USDA NASS Releases

- [WI Milk Price October 2024](#)
- [WI Prices October 2024](#)
- [WI Crop Progress, October 28, 2024](#)
- [WI Crop Production October 2024](#)
- [WI Dairy Products, October 2024](#)
- [WI Milk Production October 2024](#)
- [WI Chickens October 2024](#)

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

## Upcoming Dates

- **November 12th:** [Automatic Milking System User Group Event](#)
- **November 13th:** [Getting Started on your Farm Succession Plan](#)
- **December 3-6:** [Badger Crops and Soils Update Meetings](#)
- **December 17-18:** [Wisconsin Water and Soil Health Conference](#)

Ag Education Website

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

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