





Spring 2024

Aerica Bjurstrom, Regional Dairy Educator
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 Brown, Door and
Kewaunee Counties
**PESTICIDE
APPLICATOR
TRAINING**


**SELF-STUDY (EXAM ONLY)
KEWAUNEE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

625 3rd St., Luxemburg, WI 54217

April 8, 10:00 am

**If you have not signed up for a test-out date please call
our office at 920-388-7141.**


**Manuals must be purchased online at
patstore.wisc.edu/secure/items/private**


 Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**Thinking about
farm succession?**

Join our farm succession workshop
 Tuesday, April 2, 1-4 p.m.
 Brown County Library - Weyers-Hilliard Branch
 2680 Riverview Dr., Green Bay

Learn more and register at:
go.wisc.edu/ExtFarmSuccession




If you've been thinking about farm succession and want to learn more about the steps and the basic vocabulary of succession and estate planning, UW-Madison Division of Extension has a 3-hour farm succession planning program to help you learn more. Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 1:00 – 4:00 pm in Green Bay, at the Weyers-Hilliard Branch of the Brown County Library, 2680 Riverview Dr., Green Bay, WI.

These workshops are free; however, we would appreciate registrations. We will accommodate walk-ins on the day of the workshops where possible. To register online use this form:
<https://bit.ly/SuccessionSpring2024>

VALUABLY INFORMED THRIVING AGRICULTURAL LEADER

YOU ARE *VITAL* TO YOUR FARM.

EMPOWERING FARM WOMEN TO LEARN, NETWORK, AND GROW!

APRIL 4, 2024

AGENDA AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION
[HTTPS://GO.WISC.EDU/VITAL24AGENDA](https://go.wisc.edu/vital24agenda)



Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center

7001 Gass Lake Rd., Manitowoc

9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.



VITAL-Valuably Informed Thriving Agriculture Leader

Women in Agriculture Program


Thursday, April 4, 2024 | Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center

Agenda

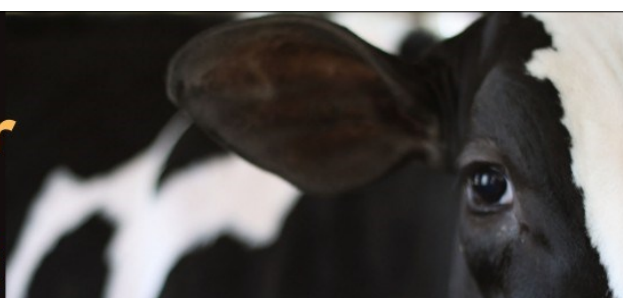
- 9:00 am Registration**
- 9:30 am Welcome**
- 9:45 am Bovine Leukemia Virus: It's not new, but you should know**
Aerica Bjurstrom | Regional Dairy Educator |
Extension Brown, Door & Kewaunee Counties
- 10:15 am Colostrum, calves, and the bottom line/COMET in a Flash**
Stephanie Bowers | Regional Dairy Educator |
Extension Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano & Winnebago Counties
- 10:45 am The other AI: Artificial intelligence and emerging dairy technology**
Angie Ulness | Agriculture Educator | Manitowoc County
- 11:15 am How production dictates the value of your milk check**
Corey Geiger | Lead Economist | CoBank
- 12 noon Lunch**
- 1:00 pm Panel Discussion**
Thinking beyond the paycheck: Building a productive employee culture
Katy Katzman | Katzman Farms
Katie Grinstead | Vir-Clar Farm
Katy Schultz | Tri-Fecta Farms, Inc
- 1:50 pm Break**
- 2:00 pm Empowering farm women: Navigating zoonotic risks and enhancing farm safety**
Dr. Lindley Reilly, DVM | Cedar Grove Veterinary Clinic
- 3:00 pm Wrap and adjourn**

dairy.extension.wisc.edu

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**badger
dairy
insight**



Join the University of Wisconsin-Madison – Division of Extension's Dairy Program on the third Tuesday of each month from 11am-12 pm CST for the Badger Dairy Insight webinar series. New this year we are switching our webinars to a monthly platform. We are featuring your local Extension Dairy Program Educators and UW Specialists as they present on current dairy topics. Take the opportunity to learn from and discuss with experts on the dates below.

There is no charge to participate in the sessions, however pre-registration is required to allow access.

All webinars will be the third Tuesday of the month at 11:00 AM.

April 16—Grazing your way to reduced heifer cost and better sustainability

May 21— Heat stress in calves

June 18—Nutrition focus

For a full list of upcoming webinars and to register, visit
<https://dairy.extension.wisc.edu/badger-dairy-insight/>



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Will Drought Persist on my Farm in 2024? Can farmers do anything to prepare for extreme weather?

Most midwestern farms do not have a drought risk management plan. The topic of weather-resilient or extreme-weather crop production practices is in its infancy throughout the Midwest. Why? In Wisconsin it rains weekly, if not more in the summer, with an average annual rainfall of 34".

A flash drought occurred in 2023 as the result of hotter than normal temperatures and less than normal rainfall. By June and July, all 72 Wisconsin counties fell into a drought category and had drought impacts.

With a dry fall in 2022 and drought sticking around this long in 2023, the effects and water shortfalls will have prolonged effects into 2024. This extraordinary deficit takes time to reverse. What we need to happen is a winter with average or above average snowfall that melts slowly next spring, combined with plentiful spring rains. But experts say there is an equal chance of 2024 being normal precipitation and the same chance of being dry. Learn more about the Wisconsin weather outlook.



What can you do on the farm to manage drought or flooding caused by extreme weather?

Extreme Weather Risk Management Tactics

Agriculture is facing new challenges related to increased flooding, hotter heat waves, drought, increased wind, and more intense pest and weed pressures. Weather preparedness is business wise. It starts with planning for unexpected weather events.

Flooding

The trend for more intense rainfall events (more than 2" in 48hours). Flooding during spring can delay planting, damage roots, and reduce yield, and also increases the potential for soil compaction and soil and nutrient loss from erosion.

Risk Management Tactics: Flooding

Utilize practices to increase soil organic matter: reduced or no-till, cover crops, manure/compost application.

- Identify low-lying fields and shift to more flood tolerant crops or remove certain areas from production.
- Adjust planting dates to avoid wet conditions.
- Provide for year-round living roots in field.
- Invest in tile drainage.
- Be sure to maintain and establish grassed waterways, riparian buffers, filter strips, retention ponds and other types of conservation buffers on the farm. These conservation practices properly installed and maintained on the farm help to reduce erosion and runoff during excessive precipitation and snow melt when the soil is frozen.
- Check or install sump pumps in buildings.
- Repair or maintain rain gutters.



Drought

Wisconsin and the Midwestern states do not typically deal with a lack of rainfall but the trend for short term drought is increasing. Drought creates yield and quality issues for crops.

Risk Management Tactics: Drought

- Increase soil organic matter and soil health: the ability of soil to hold and store water has never been more important for farmers as weather becomes more unpredictable and severe. The ability of soil to capture and retain moisture over a growing season can function like a bank account against which crops can draw between rainfall events or when a drought occurs. In a field soil textural characteristics are fixed, but a soil's water-holding capacity can be enhanced by management practices.
- If conditions are dry in the spring, terminate the cover crops early.
- Consider adjusting cash crop seed depth at planting based on soil moisture conditions. If dry, and no rain in extended forecast you may need to plant deeper.
- Leaving more crop residue in your field to improve the water-

holding capacity of your soil and reduce evaporation and erosion. The crop residue also works as a natural snow fence to trap snow and have that moisture eventually melt and stay in the field. During heavy rainfall crop residue helps to reduce raindrop impact on the soil reducing soil loss to surface runoff.

- Invest in permanent or temporary irrigation on high dollar crops. Research all types of irrigation systems that may be appropriate for your farm and the crops you grow and pick the one that will conserve the most water. Learn more here: fyi.extension.wisc.edu/cropirrigation/
- Use drought tolerant crop varieties for your area.
- Utilize precision planting to alter plant population density to reduce crop demands for water or nutrients on certain soil types.

Extreme Heat

Heat stress in Wisconsin or the Midwest is when temperatures exceed 90 F°. Our area will continue to experience hotter heat waves and warmer nighttime temperatures. Which prevents crops and livestock from having a recovery period during a heat wave each night. There will be more fire danger threats. Learn how to protect your buildings and land from wildfires from the Wisconsin DNR.

Hot temperatures during the reproductive phases for crops like pollinating corn reduce yield and the quality of fruit or grain. Warmer winters with less snow and ice cover on lakes deplete soil moisture and water levels and "trick" plants to come out of dormancy early while late and early frost/freeze events will still occur.

Risk Management Tactics: Heat

- Increase soil cover (mulch, cover crop) to conserve soil moisture and reduce soil temperatures. For more info on temperature difference based on management practices visit www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/northeast/topic/drought-resistant-practices
- Shift planting dates to avoid heat stress during key plant growth stages.
- Capitalize on a longer growing season with longer season perennial crops.
- Use irrigation and soil moisture probe technology to water wisely.

Pest Issues

Warmer weather and stressed plants and animals open the opportunities for agriculture pests: weeds, insects, diseases. The idea that a cold winter will prevent over wintering will be minimized, spring will have higher pest populations. Areas that once never saw a pest will most likely see it for the first time and be unsure of how to manage the new pest. The longer growing season will mean increased generations of pest cycles per season to control.

Risk Management Tactics for Pests

- Increased integrated pest management techniques.
- Focus on scouting, regional monitoring, and training for planned response for chemical resistant or detrimental diseases in new areas. Check out the [DATCP Home Pest Survey \(wi.gov\)](https://www.datcp.wisconsin.gov/pest-survey/)

Key Takeaways to Prepare Farms for Extreme Weather

- Wisconsin has had two consecutive dry fall seasons, plus a 2023 flash drought. 2024 has equal chance of having average precipitation or being dry again. It's too early to tell.
- Farms can prepare for extreme weather flooding, heat, and pest management strategies.
- Extreme weather effects vary by location, soil type, and crop.

Additional Resources

- [Balancing Sustainability and Innovation in Wisconsin Agriculture](https://cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu/files/2023/11/UW-Balancing-Sustainability-and-Innovation.pdf)—<https://cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu/files/2023/11/UW-Balancing-Sustainability-and-Innovation.pdf>

By Chris Clark, CCA, Regional Outreach Specialist, UW Madison Extension

SPRING 2023		TO REGISTER
FARM MACHINERY/ TRACTOR SAFETY CLASSES		ONLINE REGISTRATION • Go to nwtc.edu • Click on Current Students in the upper right hand corner • Click onto myNWTC • Log In • Click Find a Class PHONE-IN REGISTRATION To register with one of our friendly Enrollment Services staff, please call: 920-498-5444 or 888-385-NWTC. WALK-IN REGISTRATION Register in person at any NWTC campus or regional learning center. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION Call Nancy, Trades Office, at 920-498-5724. PLEASE NOTE: SPACE IS LIMITED - REGISTER EARLY. Classes may be cancelled due to low enrollment. <small>NWTC does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, disability, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin or other protected classes. Inquiries regarding the College's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the University, Equity & Inclusion Division at equity@nwtc.edu, 800.571.5222.</small>
SPECIFIC COURSE INSTRUCTION AND OUTCOMES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe operation and maintenance of farm machinery including skid steers and tractors over 20 horsepower Follow rules of the road for machinery and tractor safety Apply emergency first aid training Handle agriculture fires and extinguishers 	This course will provide youth primarily under the age of 16, but not younger than 12 at the time of enrollment , with the necessary training and preparation to take the evaluation test. Students who successfully pass the test and proficiency skills evaluation will be granted a state certificate of completion. Students under the age of 12 when enrolling may take the course for informational purposes only. The state certificate will allow students who are at least 12 years old to work for their parents or guardians operating equipment and tractors on public roads. The federal certificate allows students 14 years of age to work for someone other than their parents in operating equipment and tractors on public roads. Students should have prior tractor operating experience.	OCONTO FALLS Class #: 23832 Course Fee: \$90.57 Date: Tues, Thurs April 11, 13, 18, 20 Time: 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Location: NWTC Oconto Falls LUXEMBURG Class #: 23805 Course Fee: \$90.57 Date: Mon - Fri, March 27 to March 31 Time: 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Location: NWTC Luxemburg SUMMER 2023 DATES Luxemburg: June 8, 9, 12, 13, Class #51288 Shawano: June 5-6 Class #51442 Green Bay: June 19-22 Class #51443