



## Reducing Enteric Methane Emissions in US Holstein Cows

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is crucial for addressing the challenges ahead, both in the dairy industry and for society as a whole. Meeting the growing demand for animal protein while minimizing environmental impact has become an urgent priority. Guillermo Martinez Boggio, Post Doctoral Associate at UW-Madison, was invited to talk about his research in the Badger Dairy Insight last month. He talks about the objectives of his research, the efforts he and his team has done to collect data from commercial farms and some preliminary results on methane prediction using milk spectra data.

[Read full article here](#)

## New Tool Helps Farmers Make Conservation Decisions

Sustainability is a common topic of discussion in agriculture. We typically equate sustainability to the environment, but it actually has three facets; environmental, financial, and social. Social sustainability involves the well-being of the people impacted, and financial sustainability involves making decisions to promote the financial viability on an entity.

[Read full article here](#)

## Did You Know??.....

The Wisconsin Well Testing Access Program (WellTAP) provides no-cost testing to private well users for whom a burden prevents them from testing their wells for Wisconsin's most common groundwater contaminants. \*WellTAP is provided to well users through coordination with the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene (WSLH), the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and local and tribal health departments (LTHDs).

**[Wisconsin WellTAP](#)**

# Upcoming Events



Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## DMC & ARC/PLC Update

Featuring  
Leonard Polzin and  
Silva Gaku



**Wednesday, February 5 at 1 pm  
to register visit**

**<https://go.wisc.edu/dmc-arcplc>**

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# FOCUS ON FORAGE

Focus on Forage is a free, four-part webinar series highlighting research-based information and farmer strategies to optimize forage yield, quality, and profitability in Wisconsin. This series continues in 2025 starting on February 5. Join forage industry experts, UW–Madison specialists, and Extension educators from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. on the following dates for discussions on alfalfa, corn silage and forage cover crops.

[Register Here](#)

**Feb. 5, 2025:** *Focus on Alfalfa Companions*–Josh Kamps, UW–Madison; Shelby Gruss, Iowa State University; and Marta Kohmann, UW–Madison, will lead the first alfalfa webinar. Josh Kamps will discuss planting alfalfa green into a cereal rye cover crop, Dr. Gruss will present on the integration of warm season annuals grasses into alfalfa, and Dr. Kohmann will present on alfalfa nutrient credits.

**Feb. 12, 2025:** *Focus on Corn Silage*–Damon Smith, UW–Madison; John Goeser, Rock River Laboratory; and Harkirat Kaur, UW–Madison will lead a corn silage webinar. Dr. Smith will cover mycotoxin accumulation in corn and silage, Dr. Goeser will cover trends in forage quality energy & hygiene, and Dr. Kaur will present on the potential for new short corn hybrids for silage use.

**Feb. 26, 2025:** *Focus on Forage Cover Crops*–Ken Kalscheur, Lizzy French and Barbara Dittrich, USDA Dairy Forage Research Center; and Dan Marzu, UW–Madison will lead a webinar focused on forage cover crops. Dr. Kalscheur will present on the use of cover crops as alternative forage in the dairy ration, Dr. French and Barbara Dittrich will discuss precision feeding of alternative forages to dairy cows during early lactation, and Dan Marzu will present on preliminary trends in forage quality from the Wisconsin Cover Crop Citizen Science Survey.

**March 5, 2025:** *Focus on the Alfalfa Toolbox*–Mike Bertram, Scott Newell and Mark Renz of UW–Madison and Mike Stanek, WI NRCS will lead the second alfalfa webinar. Bertram will showcase the 2024 results of the Wisconsin Alfalfa Yield and Persistence project, Newell will showcase the UW–Madison Alfalfa Cutting Tool, Dr. Renz asks “How much weed management does alfalfa REALLY need?”, and Stanek will discuss the new Short Term Perennial NRCS scenario with money available to establish alfalfa.

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# YOU'RE INVITED! FARMER-TO- FARMER LUNCH-N-LEARN

CALL OR TEXT 920-973-2010  
TO RSVP BY FEBRUARY 3

Attend a location that works best for you!

All Lunch & Learns are from  
10am-12pm

GRAB LUNCH AND JOIN NEIGHBORING  
FARMERS FOR A "LUNCH AND LEARN."

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH**  
**MEAT'S OPERA HAUS**  
**204 S 4TH AVE ST. NAZIANZ**

**IN THIS FARMER-DRIVEN DISCUSSION  
WE'LL TALK ABOUT ALTERNATIVE  
METHODS FOR SEEDING COVER CROPS**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19TH**  
**BRANCH STATION**  
**8112 VILLAGE DR WHITELAW**

- TREVOR WITTMUS-POPLAR FARMS  
AGRONOMIST-DRONE SEEDING
  - JESSY HILL-COUNTRY VISIONS  
AGRONOMIST-DIFFERENT METHODS  
OF APPLYING COVER CROPS
  - ZAK KENNEKE-LIBERTYLAND FARMS-  
AIR SEEDING
-

# Manitowoc County Certified Crop Advisor & Manure Applicator Meeting

February 20, 2025

9:30AM - 12:00PM

MANITOWOC COUNTY OFFICE  
COMPLEX ROOM 300

Please RSVP by February 13, 2025  
Register Online at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxDeBtN27m0EGSi4QKb4A--0zEpepuA0VuYrf-FBNbm6Ng2g/viewform?usp=sharing>

Or Call 920-683-4183



## COMMUNICATE, COLLABORATE

Join us for an essential meeting designed specifically for CCAs, Manure Applicators, and Producers who apply their own manure! With the new Silurian Bedrock Standards in effect soon and TMDL implementation underway, this gathering is crucial for staying informed. Don't miss the demonstration of the new Manitowoc County Live Hazards Map, and chance to provide your feedback. This event also offers a fantastic opportunity for CCAs, manure applicators, and county representatives to engage, collaborate, and prepare for the upcoming growing season. Your participation is vital—let's work together to ensure a successful 2025!

1.5 Nutrient Management CEUs Available



9:30 HOT BREAKFAST BUFFET

10:00 **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**  
Dave Wetenkamp,  
SWCD Director

10:10 **IMPLEMENTING THE SILURIAN BEDROCK STANDARD**  
Cheyenne Behnke, SWCD  
Resource Conservationist, CCA

10:30 **INTRO TO THE TMDL & TMDL PILOT PROJECT**  
Dave Wetenkamp,  
SWCD Director

11:00 **MANITOWOC COUNTY LIVE HAZARD MAP, DEMO, & FEEDBACK**  
Cheyenne Behnke, SWCD  
Resource Conservationist, CCA

11:30 **OPEN FLOOR DISCUSSIONS**  
Facilitated by Angie Ulness,  
Div of Ext, Ag Educator



MANITOWOC COUNTY OFFICE COMPLEX

ROOM 300

4319 EXPO DRIVE, MANITOWOC

# Milking Robots: Are they the future?



*For dairy farmers, consultants, students, and service providers to discuss strategies for implementing AMS technology.*

## Conference Highlights:

- **Expert Presentations:** Learn from leading experts Shaheer Burney, Douglas Reinemann, Stephanie Plaster, and Carolina Pinzón from the University of Wisconsin; Jim Salfer from the University of Minnesota; and Luis Pena-Levano from the University of California - Davis.
- **Key Topics:** AMS profitability, labor efficiency, herd health impacts, data-driven diagnostics, and key considerations before transitioning to robotic milking systems.
- **Producer Panel:** Hear firsthand experiences and lessons learned from dairy farmers who have implemented robotic systems.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with industry experts and peers to share insights and strategies.

## Locations & Dates

- **Paynesville, Minnesota**  
Wednesday, Feb. 26, 10 a.m. –4 p.m.  
Shady's Bar and Grill Railside  
28603 W Hwy 55

- **Eau Claire, Wisconsin**  
Thursday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m. –4 p.m.  
Eau Claire Library,  
400 Eau Claire St

## CONTACT US:

↘ Jim Salfer  
(612) 360-4506  
salfe001@umn.edu

**Register for FREE by February 19 at**  
<https://z.umn.edu/DairyRobotMeeting2025>  
*Lunch provided for those who register.*

**Thanks to our generous sponsors NCR SARE,  
Leedstone Lely Center, and DeLaval!**

# **Manitowoc County** **Forage Council** **Annual Meeting**

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Meat's Opera Haus**  
**204 S. 4th Avenue, St. Nazianz**



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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
MANITOWOC COUNTY

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Crops & Soil Educator  
Outagamie & Winnebago  
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Women in agriculture are

# VITAL

*Valuably Informed Thriving Agriculture Leader*

A day to learn, network, and grow for dairy farm & industry women

Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center, Manitowoc, WI

**March 7, 2025**

## Topics include:

- Colostrum management
- Self-care & stress management
- Employee retention
- Calves fit for transport
- Farm estate planning
- Implementing farm automation
- Farmer panel - reaching consumers with a positive message

For a full agenda and to register, visit

<https://go.wisc.edu/VITAL2025>



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Registration

## Youth Opportunity Event





## A Fun Opportunity for Students to Learn from Industry Experts

# AG DISCOVERY DAY

Saturday, February 22, 2025 | 10:15 AM - 12:15 PM  
Lakeshore College Campus | Cleveland

Students of all ages are invited to dive into the exciting world of cutting-edge livestock technology at this free hands-on event! Get a free t-shirt and learn at interactive stations led by industry experts covering:

- Calf Care
- Reproductive Insights
- Quality Assurance in Everyday Practice
- Artificial Breeding Basics

For more information, visit  
[gotoltc.edu/ag-discovery](https://gotoltc.edu/ag-discovery) or register  
today by scanning this QR code:



### BONUS

9-10 AM  
Check in early to  
complete an in-  
person Youth for  
the Quality Care  
of Animals (YQCA)  
training.



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YQCA participants please register [here](#) if  
participating in the training

# Scholarships

## 2025 Ag Alumni Scholarship

## 2025 Donald R Peterson Scholarship

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*The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension Dairy Program is your connection to researched-based dairy information which promotes healthy dairy cattle, profitable dairy farms, and competitiveness in the dairy industry.*

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Website: <https://manitowoc.extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/>

Email Addresses: [angie.ulness@wisc.edu](mailto:angie.ulness@wisc.edu)

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### AGRICULTURE EDUCATOR

UW-Madison, Division of  
Extension Manitowoc County  
Angie Ulness  
(920) 683-4511



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