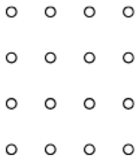


**Ag
News**



Extension
Manitowoc County



**NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE HERD
FOR THE 2026 7-LB CLUB AWARD!**



**NOMINATIONS ARE DUE
FRIDAY, MAY 8**



**Four-State
Dairy Nutrition
& Management
Conference**



Making the Switch to Robots: A New Budgeting Tool for Transitioning to Automatic Milking Systems

For many dairy farmers, the decision to switch to Automatic Milking Systems (AMS), or “milking robots,” is driven by a single, pressing reality: labor is hard to find and is getting more expensive.

However, trading human labor for capital investment is not a simple swap. While robots reduce the physical demand of milking, they introduce new costs—maintenance contracts, electricity, facility retrofits—and change the farm’s revenue structure through potential shifts in milk yield and feed costs.

To help producers navigate this complex financial decision, the **Dairy Management** program at UW-Madison has released the ***AMS Transition Budgeter***. This web-based tool allows farmers to move beyond “back-of-the-napkin” math and visualize the long-term financial impact of retrofitting their farm for robotics.

[AMS Budgeting Tool](#)

36TH ANNUAL MANITOWOC COUNTY BREAKFAST ON THE FARM Hochkammer Dairy Farm, LLC 5908 Center Road Manitowoc, WI 54220



Back Row: Sara, Casey, Gary, and Megan Hochkammer, Brody and Cory Krueger
Front Row: Dein, Beth, Alivia, Tom (Herbie), and Anne Hochkammer, Emma and Kim Krueger

Sunday, June 14th 8:00 a.m. to Noon

Adults \$10.00 ■ Children (Ages 5-12) \$5.00 ■ Age 4 & under Free

Attractions

Guided Farm Tours
Petting Zoo
Children's Activities
Cow Bounce House
Dairy Princess and Miss Farm Bureau
Crowning at 9:30 a.m.
Music by Nettle Hill

Breakfast Menu

Ham & Cheese Omelet
Sausage
Cheese Quesadilla
Cheese Curds
Variety of Cheeses
Yogurt
Cinnamon Bread & Butter
Milk & Coffee
Ice Cream Sundaes

**Sponsored by the Manitowoc County Dairy Promotion Committee, Manitowoc County Farm Bureau,
and Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin**

For more information, contact Joanna Strzyzewski at 920.901.5523 or Brent Sinkula at 920.242.1309.

Parking will be in a hayfield near the farm. Please watch for signs and following parking volunteer directions.

In the event of rain, buses will be used for transportation to and from Breakfast on the Farm, and parking will be announced.

Please tune to WCUB (AM 980), WOMT (AM 1240), or WQTC 102.3 (FM) or visit the Manitowoc County Breakfast on the Farm Facebook page for parking details if rain is in the forecast.

[Click Here to Volunteer](#)

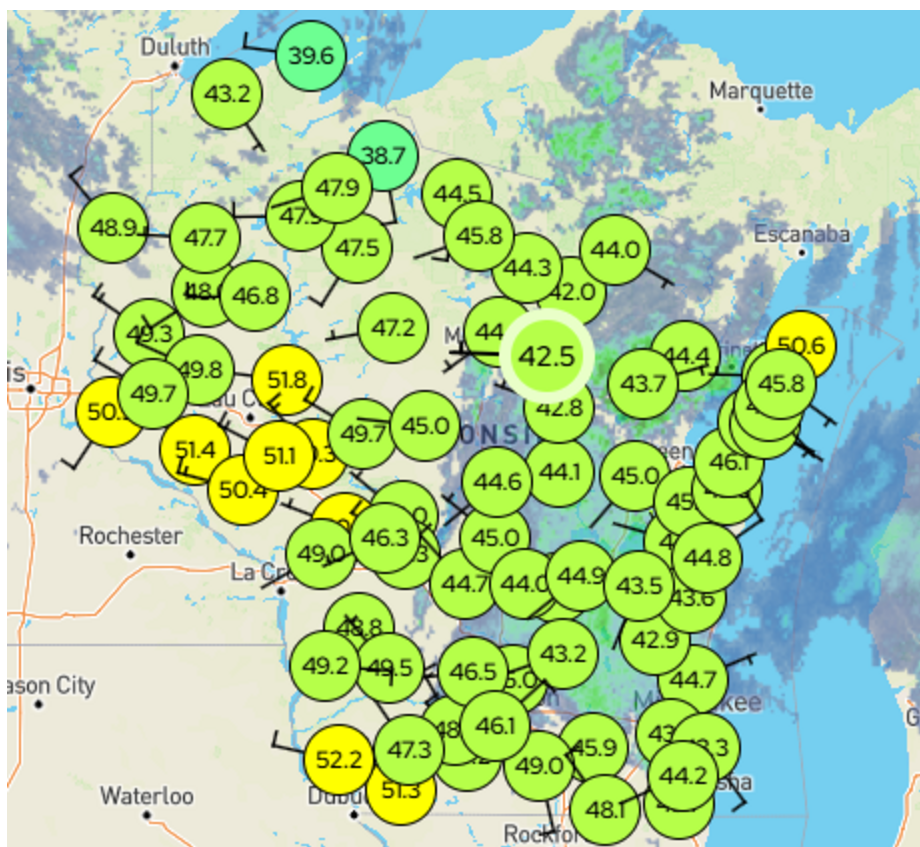
2026 Wisconsin Custom Rate Survey

You are invited to participate in the 2026 Wisconsin Custom Rate Survey. Participation is completely voluntary. You can choose to exit at any time. Your responses will be confidential, and published results will be anonymized. The survey will take about 15 minutes. Please feel free to contact Paul Mitchell (pdmitchell@wisc.edu, 608-265-6514) if you have any questions or comments on the survey. Thank you!

[Survey Link](#)

Wisconet

A statewide network of weather and soil monitoring stations in Wisconsin, delivering high-quality data every 5 minutes to support research.



[Wisconet-Statewide](#)

[Wisconet-Valders](#)

How much is it costing you to raise your heifers?

[Sign Up Link](#)

We want to hear from you!

Do you know your actual costs of raising your heifers from birth to bulk tank?



We are launching a new survey to gather the costs of raising Dairy Replacements in Wisconsin. Please sign up to have a local educator reach out to you.

<http://go.wisc.edu/dairysurvey26>



Why Your Input Matters!

- Make your voice count in WI Ag Research
- Influence future decisions
- Accurate data starts with real farmers-like you!
- Need help? Your ag educator is ready to assist you
- Your privacy is protected, survey is anonymous
- Compare your results to your contemporaries



The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.

Raising dairy calves and replacement heifers is a major expense for Wisconsin dairies, tracking these costs and benchmarking against peers supports better management decisions. Periodically, Wisconsin Extension Educators have collected farm level data to track these costs. Extension is currently seeking this information and needs your help. If you are interested in having a dairy educator reach out to you, please provide your contact information by clicking the button below. Information gathered includes average costs for the last complete month related to:

- Feed (milk, starter, forages, supplements)
- Bedding
- Veterinary and Breeding Services
- Labor
- Housing
- Equipment
- Utilities
- Custom Raising Charges

Educational Opportunities

WELCOME TO DAIRY INNOVATION



AGES 12 - 17

\$175

PER CAMPER

9 - 12

JULY

2026



**Hands-on workshops, tours,
networking with students/alumni,
and recreational activities**



Subscribe to Bovi-Noticias

Past Issues

Upcoming Events

4-H Dairy Judging May Practices

May 5: Mark & Vanna Leichtfuss

Milkinaire Dairy: 7607 Tannery Road, Two Rivers, WI 54241

May 12: Brian & Angie Staudinger

Blue Royal: 1329 Menchalville Rd, Reedsville, WI 54230

May 19: Mark & Angie Ulness

Ragnar Holsteins: 4718 County Road J, Valders, WI 54245

May 26: Dan & Donna Stock

D & D Jerseys: 8506 Center Road, Manitowoc, WI 53063

All practices at 6:30 pm

Coaches:


Paul Siemers, Angie Ulness, & Grace Vos


Questions: 920-901-6929


JOIN US FOR 2026 DAIRY CALVING MANAGEMENT, NEONATE CARE & DEVELOPMENT - WORKSHOP



This Hands-On workshop is ideal for dairy employees, and will provide the skillsets to meet **National FARM Program** compliance. It will be offered in **English** and **Spanish**.

 **MAY**
28 - 29

 **9AM - 4PM**

 **UW-Madison Extension**
office - Sheboygan County
5 University Dr, Sheboygan,
WI 53081



 **SCAN ME**

COST: \$20 INCLUDES LUNCH

REGISTER HERE

<https://go.wisc.edu/dairycalving2026>



[Agenda](#)

[Register Here](#)

VOICES FROM ACROSS WISCONSIN:

WORKPLACE DYNAMICS AND HERD HEALTH



Laura Solano, DVM, PhD

Assistant Professor
University of Wisconsin-Madison,
School of Veterinary Medicine



Voices from Across Wisconsin: Workplace Dynamics and Herd Health - May 19

You'll hear directly from Laura Solano (DVM, PhD) as she talks about what really happens on today's dairy farms. She will share how good communication, teamwork, and everyday routines affect not only how smoothly a farm runs, but also the health and comfort of the cows.

[Sign up for Badger Dairy Insight Webinar Series](#)



Badger Crop Connect

TIMELY CROP UPDATES FOR WISCONSIN

Get real-time expert management tips for your or your clients' fields. Join our webinars to hear from UW-Madison corn, soybean, small grain, and forage management researchers throughout the Wisconsin growing season. Earn free CCA credits for every webinar you attend.

Recordings for on-demand viewing are available on the Division of Extension's YouTube channel or by expanding the Recordings tab below. To receive emails about upcoming webinar topics, recorded video availability, and other training opportunities and resources, sign up below.

Thursday May 14 at 12:30- Early Season Corn and Soybean Updates

Dr. Shawn Conley and Dr. Harkirat Kaur will present on agronomic pivot points for mid-May corn and soybean plantings. When the calendar hits mid-May, the standard planting playbook may need a rewrite to protect your yield potential. Here we discuss the critical "pivot points" for corn and soybean, focusing on how to adjust management decisions as the growing season begins to tighten.

[Register](#)



Attention youth dairy enthusiasts, consider participating in the Outstanding Dairy Cattle Youth Exhibitor or taking advantage of entering for the Herd Builder Award. Applications are available by clicking the picture above and due by August 1, 2026 to be eligible.

[Herd Builder Award Application](#)

[Outstanding Dairy Cattle Youth Exhibitor Application](#)

AGRICULTURE EDUCATOR

Angie Ulness
(920) 683-4511
angie.ulness@wisc.edu

Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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.

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

Email Addresss: angie.ulness@wisc.edu

Like us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/extensionmanitowoccounty>

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