



NEWS FROM EXTENSION

UW-MADISON DIVISION OF EXTENSION MANITOWOC COUNTY



Farm Transition Interest - Manitowoc County



Are you wondering where to begin the conversation about farm succession?

Do you have questions like:

- What farm succession topics should I learn more about?
- What steps should I take first to start the conversation?
- How do I determine what is fair versus equal among all of my children?
- What strategies should I consider before talking with a lawyer or hiring a consultant?

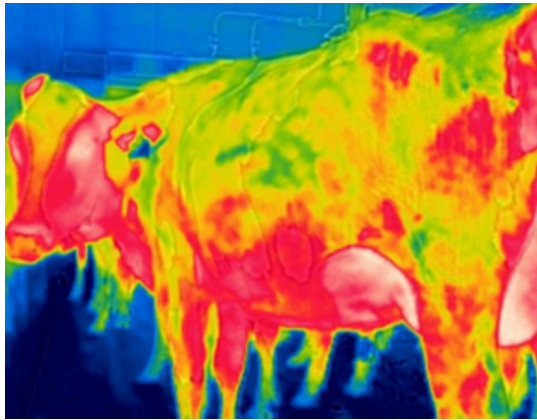
If these questions sound familiar, this Farm Succession Interest Assessment may be for you. Farm succession planning continues to be top of mind for dairy farmers in Manitowoc County, according to the 2025 Manitowoc County Community Needs Forum. Interestingly, the average age of a farmer in Manitowoc County is 55.9 years old (Census of Agriculture, 2022).

Many farm families know succession planning is important, but are unsure where to start. In fact, a high percentage of Manitowoc farm businesses have not yet identified a successor or developed a succession plan. One of the greatest challenges dairy farm families face is simply understanding the first steps in the process. This interest form can be filled out by multiple generations involved in the farm.

By completing this assessment, you can help identify the topics, resources, and educational opportunities that would be most valuable for local farm families as you begin planning for the future of your farm and family legacy. I would like to bring a valuable series of peer-to-peer discussions to the Manitowoc Farmers' interested in farm succession. The first meeting will be on July 21st, and then we will meet again bi-weekly in the fall.

[Assessment Survey](#)

Managing Heat Stress in Dairy



Beat the heat with the UW - Madison Extension Managing Heat Stress resource page! This collection of researched-based articles, videos, and decision-support tools covers topics including cooling strategies, ventilation, nutrition, animal handling, calf management, and worker safety to help dairy producers reduce the impacts of heat stress and improve herd performance.

[Managing Heat Stress Resources](#)

Dairy Ventilation App: A New Tool Helps Wisconsin Dairy Producers Manage Heat Stress

Nesli Akdeniz, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist at UW-Madison Extension

Dairy producers across Wisconsin now have a new tool to help manage one of summer's biggest challenges: heat stress. It costs the U.S. dairy industry significantly each year through reduced milk production, lower fertility, and added health expenses. At the same time, the cost of running the fans and ventilation systems that prevent those losses keeps rising, making smart decisions on the farm matter more than ever.

Dairy Ventilation App

*A Ventilation Decision App for Wisconsin Dairy Producers:
Real-time temperature-humidity index (THI) tracking,
ventilation needs, fan selection, and cost analysis.*



KEY FEATURES

- Live local weather via GPS
- Instant THI calculation
- Heat stress risk levels
- Ventilation recommendations
- Cost analysis
- Works on phone and tablet

WHY IT MATTERS

Heat stress causes significant losses for U.S. dairy producers each year. Reduced milk production, lower fertility, and added health expenses all add up. At the same time, the cost of running ventilation fans that prevent those losses keeps rising. This app helps producers make smart ventilation design decisions.

DOWNLOAD TODAY — FREE

Google Play Android

Apple App Store

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.



Badger Dairy Insight
3rd Tuesday of each month from 11 am - 12 pm
CT



Strategies to Reduce Methane Emissions on Dairy Farms

Anaerobic manure storage is the dominant source of methane emissions in manure management systems. Emissions can be reduced through a combination of technological and management strategies, including anaerobic digestion, solids separation, manure acidification, and more frequent storage emptying during warm periods when methane production is highest. This presentation introduces the main mitigation approaches, with attention to their effectiveness, tradeoffs, and relative costs within whole-farm systems.

Register for Badger Dairy Insight webinar

Pricing Standing Alfalfa

Written by [Kevin Jarek](#) and [Scott Newell](#)

Are you considering selling or purchasing alfalfa? Factors to consider when determining a fair price for standing forage include stand density, average yield per cutting, expected total season yield, weather risks and field losses, value per ton DM, and harvesting costs. Kevin Jarek and Scott Newell put together a document that you can refer to by clicking the button below.

[Click for Article](#)

Hay Market Report



[Click for Hay Market Report](#)

Save the Date



Join us for a High-Oleic Soybean Field Day on August 25th.

This field day will focus on practical information for dairy farms interested in incorporating high-oleic soybeans into their feeding programs.

The day will begin with educational presentations and lunch at the Brillion Nature Center. In the afternoon, participants will visit Woldt Farms for hands-on learning activities.

Topics for the Day

- Background of high-oleic soybeans
- Growing and agronomic considerations
- Handling and identity preservation
- Economics and best practices for roasting and processing
- Farm and industry Q&A

Register at <https://go.wisc.edu/hosb26>

Registration will be required for accurate meal counts.

Questions? Contact Katelyn Goldsmith (katelyn.goldsmith@wisc.edu).

[Register Here](#)

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

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