

Extension Central News



Summer Edition 2025

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EXTENSION CENTRAL NEWS

A cooperative effort of multiple
Central Wisconsin Counties and
Wisconsin Extension.

Our Mission

*To be the primary source of
research based agricultural
information and education for
the agricultural community in
Central Wisconsin.*



Help Protect your Herd: Join the Milk Quality Study

Could your herd have an undetected threat?

Prototheca bovis is a newly recognized mastitis-causing pathogen with **no known cure**—and it could be silently impacting your herd’s milk quality. Because this slow-growing algae is often **outcompeted in standard cultures**, it remains **undetected until bulk tank somatic cell counts rise**.

UW-Extension needs your help to uncover how widespread *Prototheca bovis* is on Wisconsin dairy farms.

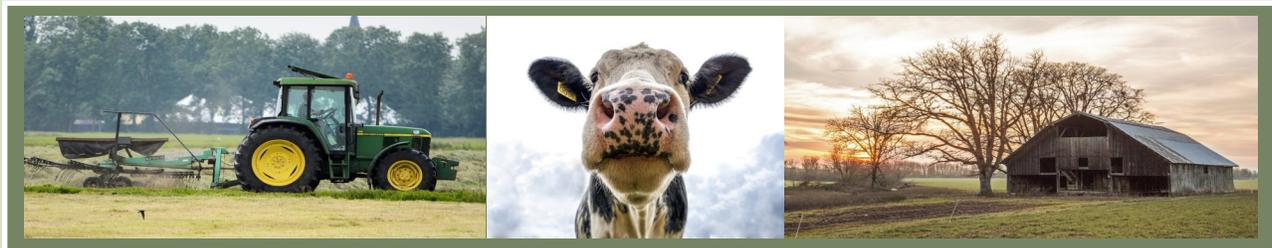
By participating in this study, you will:

- ✓ **Get a free *Prototheca bovis* screening** using specialized agar designed to detect this hidden pathogen.
- ✓ **Better understand your herd’s health** by testing 10 high-somatic cell-count cows.
- ✓ **Take proactive steps** to safeguard your milk quality and prevent costly surprises.

How to Participate:

Sign up at: <https://go.wisc.edu/milk>. We’ll coordinate with you to collect quarter milk samples—or, if preferred, you can collect them yourself. All samples will be cultured, and Marathon County DHIA will analyze somatic cell counts.

Don’t wait until it’s too late—help us uncover *Prototheca bovis*’s true impact and protect your herd.





UPCOMING EVENTS




COVER CROP FIELD DAY
TUESDAY, JUNE 24
10AM-12PM
S4903 Prairie View Dr.
Reedsburg, WI

Learn about planting into different cover crop mixes and the amount of residue they leave

- Rainfall simulator
- Byron Seed Display



PARASITE PATROL: MASTERING FECAL EGG COUNTS FOR HEALTHIER HERDS AND FLOCKS

USE DATA AND THE PARASITE LIFECYCLE TO REDUCE LOSS AND RESISTANCE

June 20, 2025
1:00 - 4:00 PM
Fond du Lac Extension Building
400 University Dr. RM 206
Fond du Lac, WI 54935



Understanding and Managing Internal Parasites of Sheep and Goats
Join the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension Agriculture Educators for a comprehensive session on internal parasites. The event provides an in-depth look at:

- **Parasite Life Cycles:** Learn the life cycles of internal parasites.
- **Management Strategies:** Discuss methods for controlling parasites
- **Fecal Egg Counts (FECs):** Discover the importance of FECs and how they can be used to improve herd health management.
- **Hands-On Experience:** Bring a fecal sample from your small ruminant flock/herd to participate in a live FEC demonstration and training.

This educational opportunity is perfect for those looking to enhance their knowledge and practical skills in managing internal parasites in small ruminants. Don't miss out on this chance to learn from experts in the field.

Registration is \$25.00 per participant. Please register by **June 16, 2025**.

Register by emailing or calling Adam Hartfiel
adam.hartfiel@wisc.edu
telephone: (920) 647-6560

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.

Badger Crop Connect

Relevant research, resources, and strategies to help you optimize crop yield

go.wisc.edu/BadgerCropConnect

(no specific time or schedule available yet)
Save the Date

The 2025 UW-Madison Agronomy and Soils Field Day will take place on **August 27 at the Arlington Ag Research Station** (N695 Hopkins Rd Arlington, WI 5391).

UW-Madison Agronomy and Soils
Field Day

Arlington Ag Research Station

August 27, 2025

Save the Date!

The University of Wisconsin Division of Extension is offering a *Save A Calf, Save A Cow* workshop series for dairy and beef producers, and dairy workers (in Spanish) in September 2025. This workshop provides information and techniques to boost your confidence in preparing the cow for calving, obstetric techniques and newborn calf care. From transition cow diets and body condition to recognizing key signs of labor and handling difficult deliveries with precision, this program equips you with practical strategies to support both cow and calf health. Whether you're seasoned or new to livestock care, you'll gain hands-on expertise to approach calving with assurance, improve outcomes, and enhance the well-being of your herd.

Topics covered during the virtual (Zoom) classroom will include:

- Getting newborns off to a good start: neonatal calf care and colostrum management
- Cow nutrition and management pre- and post-calving for health and reproductive success (breakout into either beef or dairy)

During the in-Person hands on session, participants will learn and practice:

- Stages of labor and signs to watch for - when to call for help
- Calving equipment options and function/sanitation/cleaning
- Worker Safety - cow & calf handling/ needles/ PPE/ biosecurity

The program costs \$20/person and is taught during virtual and hands-on sessions. To attend the in-person session, you must have attended a prior Zoom session. For your convenience, you may choose a combination that fits your needs: an afternoon or evening ZOOM on September 17 or in-person hands-on session on September 24 in Athens or September 25 in Altoona. The dairy worker Zoom session taught in Spanish occurs on September 18 and the dairy worker Spanish in-person session is taught in Athens on September 25.

Registration will start in August. To register, you can either 1) register online with a credit card at <https://go.wisc.edu/calving> (service fees applied), or 2) call the Taylor County Extension office at: 715 - 748 – 1413 for help with online registration or to pay by check.

For more information about this program or for accommodation requests, contact Sandra Stuttgen, Extension Taylor County, 715-748-3327. 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.

Dairy E-Newsletter

A monthly newsletter with research-based articles written by Extension dairy educators, hot topics around the dairy industry and a calendar of events. Written for those involved in the dairy industry including owners, managers, employees, and industry professionals.

Sign up to stay informed about the Extension Dairy program.

To subscribe to the Dairy E-Newsletter go to:
<https://dairy.extension.wisc.edu/dairy->

Bovi-Noticias is a bilingual (English & Spanish) newsletter providing information to **help dairy workers** learn, understand, and grow in their job skills while improving on-farm safety.

To subscribe to Bovi-Noticias go to :
<https://dairy.extension.wisc.edu/bovi-noticias/>

Recent Event:

Winter Camelina

On April 9, 2025 farmers, agency staff, and curious individuals gathered in Mauston to learn about winter camelina as a cover crop and nitrate monitoring via lysimeters.



~Educational Articles and Links~

Insect Pest Alerts

What's in your fields?

Sign up for the Bick Lab's collaborative insect pest text alert service with Extension and WI DATCP to find out what insect pests are emerging and active in fields near you.

Each week, Extension and DATCP report statewide insect pest findings to the Bick Lab. Then, the Bick Lab sends out a "heads up" text to check for specific insect pests along with relevant resources based on emergence and presence patterns.

Sign up for text alerts 



<https://go.wisc.edu/vp3343>

Sign up for weekly email updates



<https://go.wisc.edu/5oig2w>

Wisconsin Ag Weather Outlook

A weekly report to provide ag advisors, conservation staff, and farmers with relevant up-to-date Wisconsin climate information and link it to impacts on Wisconsin agriculture. The goal is to help farmers make well-informed decisions based on the current and forecasted conditions in their area.

Pricing Standing Alfalfa

Link: <https://go.wisc.edu/867qf1>

What you will find in the article:

- Key considerations for buyer-seller conversations when pricing alfalfa
- Reference table for standing alfalfa pricing in 2025
- Pricing standing hay calculator
- Download full report: Determining the Value of Standing Alfalfa in 2025

Why Test Your Soil Health?

Link: <https://go.wisc.edu/43vd2e>

- Use cases for soil health testing
- Guiding future management
- Tracking over time
- How does my soil compare to my neighbor's soil?
- Soil health testing vs. soil fertility testing
- Can we use soil health indicators to predict yield or fertilizer needs?

Fungicide Use on Small Grains in Wisconsin

Link: <https://go.wisc.edu/qi9ep6>

- Testing for grain and straw quality
- DON concentration for feed and food-grade grains
- Fungicide application and timing for small grains
- Selecting effective fungicides
- Timing fungicide applications

Contacts

Please contact your local Extension Office for the following:

- ⇒ To receive this as an eNewsletter emailed to you
- ⇒ Any changes to your email address or physical address (if mailing)
- ⇒ To unsubscribe to this newsletter completely

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