Fall Edition 2025

EXTENSION CENTRAL NEWSLETTER

University of Madison Division of Extension

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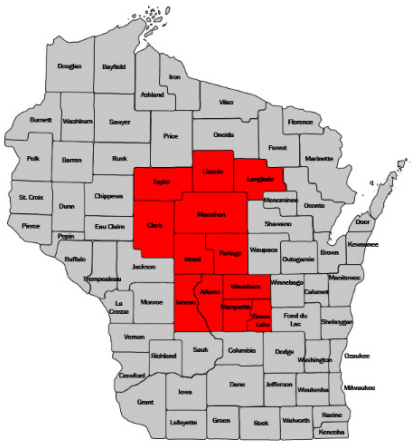
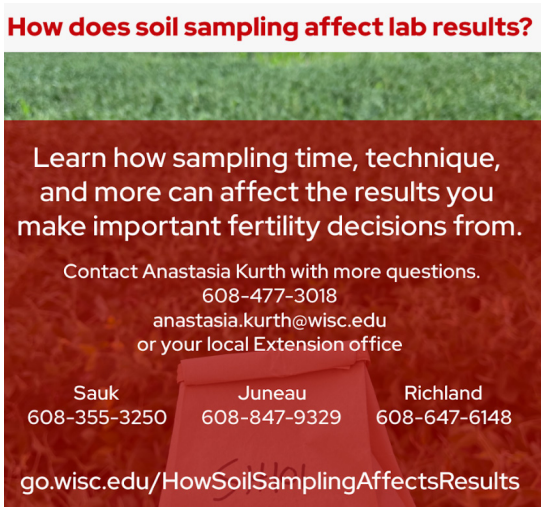
OUR MISSION:
To be the primary source of research based agricultural information and education for the agricultural community in Central Wisconsin.



EXTENSION CENTRAL NEWS
A cooperative effort of multiple Central Wisconsin Counties and Wisconsin Extension.



Did you know? Our Extension Faculty Specialists, Regional Educators, and Outreach Specialists offer valuable educational resources for Wisconsin farmers and gardeners. Stay informed by subscribing to our program newsletters, attending events, or enrolling in our virtual courses.

Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

SAVE THE DATE:

Wisconsin Water and Soil Health Conference
December 16-17, 2025
Kalahari Resort & Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells, WI

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Join us at the 2025 WWASH Conference to explore the intersection of On-farm research, soil health, and water quality. Engage with other farmers, dynamic keynote speakers, participate in interactive breakout sessions, and contribute to thought-provoking roundtable discussions, all designed to deepen your expertise and provide actionable insights for your farm or the producers you support.

Weed Management Workshop

Sept. 11, 2025
8:30 am - 4:00 pm
N633 Hopkins Rd,
Arlington Public Events Building

Scan for more information

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Grazing Cover Crops & Annual Forages

LINK:
http://cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu/articles/grazing-cover-crops-and-annual-forages/

- Build a Forage Chain
- Cover Crop Grazing
- Categories of Cover Crop & Annual Forage Species
- Seasonal Grazing of Cover Crops & Annual Forages
- Using Annual Forages in Perennial Pasture Systems
- Resources

Soil Health Lab, Sampling, & Test Selection Considerations

LINK: https://cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu/articles/soil-health-lab-sampling-and-test-selection-considerations/

- Lab Considerations
- When, How, & Where to Sample Soils
- Choosing Soil Health Tests

Beyond BMR: Securing the Future of High-Quality Corn Silage

LINK: https://cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu/articles/beyond-bmr-securing-the-future-of-high-quality-corn-silage/

What you will find in the article:
- What's new & in development?
- Conventional BMR changes
- New hybrid varieties
- Biological products
- How to maximize milk per ton with corn silage
- NDFD30 & milk quality
- Corn planting population
- Cutting height
- Boosting forage quality& performance today

Ticks and Flies, Oh My!

By Sandy Stuttgen, DVM, Livestock Educator Taylor County and Adam Hartfiel, Regional Livestock Educator Adams, Waushara and Green Lake Counties, UW-Madison Division of Extension

Lately, we've been hearing about **Asian Longhorned Ticks** and **New World Screwworm** flies - pests linked to diseases in both humans and cattle. Will our routine biosecurity practices be enough to help stop their invasion?

Native to Eastern Asia, **Asian Longhorned Ticks (ALHT**, Haemaphysalis longicornis) were first found in New Jersey in 2017 and have since spread to 20 states including neighboring MI, IN, IL and most recently, IA. Like other ticks, ALHT feeds on blood from mammals. Tick infestations can cause severe anemia in susceptible animals. Ticks can also transmit (vector) bacteria, protozoa and viruses that cause disease in cattle and humans. In many states, diseases associated with ALHT are considered reportable but not actionable, meaning that there is no regulatory management for the tick itself.

Iowa producers found easily visible tick masses on their cattle. Ticks may be found on livestock ears, under the tail, between the hind legs and the udder skin folds. Monitor pastured cattle for symptoms caused by blood loss from tick feeding, including lethargy, anemia, and difficulty breathing. Animals at risk include young and stressed animals of any age or those without prior exposure to this tick. Bulls servicing cows on pasture, fall calving cows, or any animal experiencing nutritional deficiencies may be more vulnerable to tick infestations.

On June 13, Iowa confirmed cases of theileriosis that were transmitted by ALHT in southeastern IA. The Theileria protozoan parasite contributed to abdominal edema, jaundice, abortions and cattle death.

There is no US approved treatment or vaccination for bovine theileriosis and infected cattle become lifelong carriers. Prevention hinges upon controlling ticks. The most effective methods include back rubbers or regular pour-on applications of pyrethroid-based insecticides; insecticidal ear tags alone are not sufficient. Always read product labels to confirm tick control is included.

AHLT can move short distances on its own, but it's infested animals and birds that move the tick between states. Required veterinary interstate inspections aid in ALHT detection. Practice daily biosecurity when introducing new animals to your farm or reintroducing animals from tick-affected areas. Use clean trailers (without previously used bedding that could harbor insects) and ensure they travel only in designated on-farm lanes to minimize cross-contamination. Isolate new or returning cattle and monitor them closely for signs of ticks or illness. Talk with your veterinarian about prophylactic insecticidal treatment to kill ticks.

Ticks thrive in environments where there is moisture and cover provided by grass and brush. They also need blood meals from hosts that seek refuge in the brush, including rodents, rabbits,

Ticks and Flies, Oh My! Continued....

and deer. Reduce tick habitats by clipping tall grass, cutting or removing brush, and maintaining clean field edges and fence lines.

Remember to protect yourself against ticks while working with cattle. You know the drill: tuck long pants into socks, wear long sleeve shirts, apply tick repellent, don't bring the worn clothing into your house, launder clothing as soon as possible after wearing it, and check your body for ticks after potentially being exposed.

Texas cattle producers last dealt with **New World Screw Worm (NWSW)** flies in the late 1970's. These flies are endemic in Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and countries in South America, and they have spread to Mexico. NWSW does not vector other diseases. They cause destruction and death all by themselves. Adult flies are attracted to blood from cuts or scratches and will lay eggs along broken skin edges. As eggs hatch, maggots feed on living tissue. Visit the Texas Screwworm Resource website to learn more.

Producers and veterinarians have the duty to report NWSW to state veterinarians when they are suspicious of it; this triggers a federal response. In July 2025, NWSW was found just 370 miles south of the US–Mexico border, prompting the US to restrict livestock entry from Mexico. They can move short distances on their own, but it's infected animals that take maggots the farthest.

Your biosecurity efforts will help prevent NWSW introduction to Wisconsin, especially by following rules for the interstate travel of livestock from states that boarder Mexico. Remember to routinely inspect yourself if you vacation in places like the Dominican Republic, as NWSW also infects humans.

Ticks and flies ride in on infested animals and birds. Stay vigilant — biosecurity is your first line of defense.

Citations

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Veterinary Services.

*(2024, May 7). Pest alert: Asian longhorned tick (VS-21-001). https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/alert-asian-longhorned-tick.508.pdf
*(2024, January). Monitoring Haemaphysalis longicornis (Asian longhorned tick) populations in the United States. https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/h-longicornis-response-plan_usda.pdf
*(2024, January). Bovine theileriosis. https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/bovine-theileriosis-infosheet.pdf
*(2025, January). Historical economic impact estimates of New World screwworm in the United States. https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/nws-historical-economic-impact.pdf

Drovers. (2025, June 19). Beef producers be aware: Dangerous Asian longhorned tick continues migrating west. http://www.drovers.com/news/beef-production/beef-producers-be-aware-dangerous-asian-longhorned-tick-continues-migrating-

Dewell, G. (2025, June 13). Beef cattle disease confirmed in Iowa for the first time. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. https://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/beef-cattle-disease-confirmed-iowa-first-time

Small Ruminant Parasite Management and FAMACHA Training

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension is hosting a "Parasite Patrol - Plus" workshop for all sheep and goat producers. This workshop will be held from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm on Saturday, October 18, 2025, at the Edgar Steam Show Grounds, 223755 Steam Hill Dr., Edgar, WI 54426.

This workshop and its two hands-on sessions focus on managing the health and production risks that intestinal parasites (helminths) pose to flocks and herds. Topics include:

- Intestinal parasite life cycle
- Development of resistance
- Management strategies
- Fecal Egg Count (FEC) hands-on session using a fecal sample from their animals
- FAMACHA© session

The UW-Extension Small Ruminant Specialist will teach and demonstrate how to identify, understand, and effectively treat intestinal parasites. Worldwide anthelmintic resistance has been reported for all currently available dewormers. Using FEC and/or FAMACHA© allows small ruminant producers to make selective deworming decisions.

Participants selecting the FEC session are asked to bring a fresh fecal sample from one of their animals. They will receive a McMaster microscope slide and instructions on how to perform fecal egg counts at home. Those selecting FAMACHA© will earn their certification after practicing with the provided animals.

Registration Details:
Pre-registration is required and limited to the first 25 paid participants. Register by October 9 at https://go.wisc.edu/ppp2025

Cost: $25 per participant/ selected session. Participants can select the FEC and/or the FAMACHA session. The Registration fee includes training materials and snacks.

For more information or help with registration, contact Sandra Stuttgen at 715-748-3327, ext. 1, or Heather Schlesser at 715-261-1230, ext. 3.

The University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law. You may request an interpreter, materials in an alternative language or format, or other services to make this workshop more accessible, by contacting Carolyn Ihde at cihde@wisc.edu by October 9.

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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