

Columbia County Ag Reporter



November/December 2018

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Agricultural newsletter for Columbia County landowners and residents

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Farmers don't just
work til the sun
goes down

They work til the job
gets done. FASTLINE.COM



Ag Reporter Calendar of Events

November

14	Pest Management Meeting, Janesville
15	Pest Management Meeting, Fond du Lac
22	Thanksgiving, office closed
23	Offices closed
27	Soil, Water and Nutrient Management Meeting, DeForest

December

3	Soil, Water and Nutrient Management Meeting, Juneau
12	UW-Discovery Farms Conference, Glacier Canyon, WI Dells
13	Columbia County Corn Growers Meeting, Club 60, Columbus
24	Christmas Eve, Offices closed
25	Christmas, Offices closed
31	New Year's Eve, Offices closed

January

1	New Year's Day, offices closed
8	WI Agronomy Update Meeting, DeForest
8	Milk Marketing Meeting, Administration Building, Portage
15-17	WI Ag Classic, Alliant Energy Center, Madison
22	Pesticide Applicator Training, Otsego Town Hall
23	Nutrient Management Update Class, Administration Bldg, Portage
30	Nutrient Management Update Class, Administration Bldg, Portage
31-1	Corn/Soy/Pork Conference, Kalahari, WI Dells
31-2	Grassworks Conference, Chula Vista, WI Dells

Mark your
calendar!

WI Corn Growers Yield Contest

The rules and contest information have just been released from the Wisconsin Corn Growers Association for the 2018 growing season. You may either follow this link: <http://wicorn.org/growers/corn-yield-contest/> or contact George for a copy of the rules and Contest Harvest Report Forms.

You must be a member of the Wisconsin Corn Growers organization and Harvest Report Forms must be post-marked, emailed, or faxed by December 31, 2018.



NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Periodically, UW-Extension, Cooperative Extension takes steps to assure that our partners know and understand our policy of nondiscrimination. This letter is to remind or notify you that the University of Wisconsin-Extension does not discriminate in the treatment of individuals, in the admission or access to its programs and activities, in the provision of services, or in employment.

Further, UW-Extension, an institution receiving federal financial assistance through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, cannot participate with or partner with organizations that discriminate on the basis of any of the legally prohibited categories of discrimination, based on Civil Rights laws. Categories of prohibited discrimination include race, color, gender/sex, creed, disability, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or parental status, arrest of conviction record, or membership in the national guard, state defense force or any other reserve component of the military service.

Consistent with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons who need materials in alternative format or other accommodations are encouraged to write or call the UW-Extension contact person for the specific program or call the main telephone number of the Columbia County Extension Office, (608)742-9680, as early as possible prior to the event so appropriate arrangements can be made. Requests are kept confidential. Individuals who need special access due to hearing impairment may contact the Columbia County Extension Office by calling the relay service for the hearing impaired by dialing 711.

On behalf of Columbia County Cooperative Extension, I want to thank you for collaborating with UW-Extension on educational programs. We appreciate your support and partnership as we provide education designed to meet the needs of the diverse residents of Columbia County.

Sincerely,

George Koepp, Columbia County UW-Extension Ag Agent

WI Soybean Yield Contest

Entries are due by December 15, 2018



CONTEST DESCRIPTION

Any soybean production system can enter in the contest. Two winners will be selected from each of four geographical divisions in the state. Divisions are based on long-term county soybean yield averages. WSA is not responsible for incorrect or missing entries. All rules set forth herein apply to all entries.

CONTEST ENTRANT QUALIFICATIONS

More than one person in a family can enter, but each entry must have a separate entry and fee. The cost is \$25 per entry. Entrant must be at least fourteen (14) years of age or older on or before December 15, 2018.

RELEASE OF CONTEST ENTRY FIELD RECORDS

If requested, the entrant agrees to provide records to WSA of their methods of handling and preparing the land; cultivation and weed control methods; insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers and rates of same that are used; the brand and variety of seed, seeding rate; date of planting, type and brand of soybean planter, row width and date of harvesting; and amount of each application and type of irrigation used. Failure to provide such records may lead to disqualification.

CONTEST FIELD AND ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

Contest field must be in the state of Wisconsin. Contest entry must be at least 5 continuous acres of one variety. Contestant may select the best 5 acres in a soybean field larger than 5 acres and enter that variety. In the interest of Best Management Practices, grass waterways may be a part of the contest plot area. The length of any rows planted in a grass waterway will be included in the harvested row length if soybean rows are planted in the waterway. If soybean rows are not planted in the waterway, the length of each row will not include areas in the waterway.

The land entered in the Contest must be owned or leased by the entrant and located in Wisconsin. The variety entered must be currently commercially available.

MULTIPLE CONTEST ENTRIES

Any individual contestant may enter more than one entry in the contest. Any individual can win only one state award.

ENTRY FEE AND DEADLINE

Entries must be postmarked by December 15, 2018 to be eligible for this contest. No late entries will be accepted. An entry fee of \$25 in the form of a personal check must be received with the Contest Entry Form or the form cannot be accepted.

2019 Agronomy Update Meetings

The Department of Agronomy and UWEX will offer Crop Production and Management meetings at eight locations during 2019. Joe Lauer and Shawn Conley will present the latest information on hybrid/variety performance, an analysis and discussion of last year's growing season, and updated recommendations for field crop production.

We invite you to be a part of these meetings. Contact the individuals below to register for the meeting of your choice. The meeting dates and locations for the 2019 Agronomy Update meetings in our area are:

Janesville

Monday, Jan. 7 at 12:00 pm
Holiday Inn Express
3100 Wellington Dr.
Nick Baker, Rock Co. Extension Office
51 S. Main St., Janesville, WI 53545
(608) 757-5696
nick.baker@ces.uwex.edu

Madison

Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 7:30 am
Comfort Inn, 5025 County Hwy. V
De Forest, WI (Hwy V exit off of 90/94)
Heidi Johnson, Dane Co. Extension Office
5201 Fen Oak Drive, Rm. 138
Madison, WI 53718 <http://fyi.uwex.edu/danecountyag>
(608) 224-3716
Heidi.johnson@ces.uwex.edu

Fond du Lac

Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 12:00 pm
UW Fond du Lac, Rm. 114
University Center, 400 University Dr.
Tina Kohlman, Fond du Lac Co. Extension Office
400 University Drive
Fond du Lac, WI 54935-2998
(920) 929-3171
tina.kohlman@ces.uwex.edu



WI PEST MANAGEMENT UPDATE MEETINGS

The schedule for the Wisconsin Pest Management Update meeting series is listed below. Presentations will include agronomic pest management information for Wisconsin field and forage crops. Speakers include Mark Renz and Rodrigo Werle, weed scientists, Damon Smith, plant pathologist, and Bryan Jensen, entomologist.

The format will be the same as in 2017. Meetings will either be in the morning or afternoon and will run for 3 hours.

Please make your reservation with the host agent at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting date.

Wednesday, November 14, 1pm to 4 pm

Janesville Holiday Inn Express Janesville 3100 Wellington Place Janesville, WI 53546 (I-90 and US Highway 14, West on 14)	Nick Baker Rock County Extension 51 S. Main Street Janesville, WI 53545 (608) 757-5698
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Thursday, November 15, 9am to 12 pm

Fond du Lac University of Wisconsin – Fond du Lac Rm 113 University Center 400 University Drive Fond du Lac, WI 54935	Tina Engelhardt* Fond du Lac County Extension 227 Admin/Extension Bldg. 400 University Dr. Fond du Lac, WI 54935 (920) 929-3171
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WiscWeeds Waterhemp Project

University of Wisconsin-Madison Cropping Systems
Weed Science

Seed Collection Protocol:

- Collect seed heads from 20 mature waterhemp female plants. Collect plants as far apart as possible within the field to represent the population.
 - Place all seed heads from the same field in the same paper bag (leave paper bags open until samples are dry).
 - Properly ID the sample bag and fill out the "Field History Form". Crop management and herbicide information are crucial for our research. Weed distribution and density within a field will be a "polite guess". For sample ID, use county and farmer's name.
 - Store the samples in a dry environment. Please mail samples to Rodrigo Werle, 1575 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706.
- For questions, contact Dr. Werle:
rwerle@wisc.edu or 608-262-7130
(www.wiscweeds.info).

Waterhemp plants have short petioles, no hairs on the leaves and stems, leaves are lanceolate and waxy.



WiscWeeds Waterhemp Project

SAMPLE ID: _____

University of Wisconsin-Madison Cropping Systems Weed Science

Farmer's name: _____
Farmer's contact information: _____
Field GPS coordinates & address: _____
Field Soil information: OM: _____%, pH _____, Texture: sand _____%, silt _____%, clay _____%

Collaborator's name: _____

Collaborator's contact information: _____

Field History Information

Year	Crop	Tillage (YES/NO)	Manure (YES/NO)	PRE-Emergence Herbicide Program	POST-Emergence Herbicide Program	Waterhemp distribution (e.g., edges, entire field)	Waterhemp infestation (e.g., low, medium, high)
2014	Crop:	Date(s) & type(s):		Product: Rate: Date:	Product: Rate: Date:		
	Harvest date:						
2015	Crop:	Date(s) & type(s):		Product: Rate: Date:	Product: Rate: Date:		
	Harvest date:						
2016	Crop:	Date(s) & type(s):		Product: Rate: Date:	Product: Rate: Date:		
	Harvest date:						
2017	Crop:	Date(s) & type(s):		Product: Rate: Date:	Product: Rate: Date:		
	Harvest date:						
2018	Crop:	Date(s) & type(s):		Product: Rate: Date:	Product: Rate: Date:		
	Harvest date:						

Additional Information/Observations:

2018 Soil, Water and Nutrient Management Meetings

The University of Wisconsin-Extension in conjunction with UW-Madison Department of Soil Science will conduct eight Soil, Water and Nutrient Management Meetings November 27 to December 6, 2018 around the state to provide research updates in the field of soil management, fertility, and nutrient management. Questions/comments should be directed to Francisco Arriaga, 608-263-3913, farriaga@wisc.edu

Presentations include:

- Cover crops and nutrient management
- Can we use soil health tests for fertilizer recommendations?
- Evaluating fall manure BMPs
- Sampling soils and plants in Wisconsin
- Are FGD and SDA calcium sulfite worth using?
- Soil compaction issues after a wet fall - recap
- Wisconsin nutrient management update

Speakers include UW-Extension Soil Specialists Carrie Laboski, Matt Ruark, and Francisco Arriaga; Andrew Stammer, Director of the Soil & Forage Analysis Laboratory; and Sue Porter, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Meetings will held from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm with a lunch break between 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm. Registration is \$45 per person. Lunch and a packet with relevant resources are included with registration. It is requested to contact the host of the location you are interested in attending to pre-register at least 1 week prior to the event to save a seat, meal, and materials packet. Continued Education Units (CEUs) for Certified Crop Advisers will be provided (2.0 NM and 2.0 SW).

The schedule for the meetings is:

- **Tuesday, November 27:** DeForest at Comfort Inn, 5025 County Hwy V. Contact: Heidi Johnson, UW-Extension Dane County at 608-224-3716. Please register online at fyi.uwex.edu/danecountyag/upcoming-ag-programs/



- **Thursday, November 29:** Sparta at Jake's Northwoods, 1132 Angelo Rd., Hwy 21. Contact: Bill Halfman, UW-Extension Monroe County, 14345 Co. Hwy B, Rm. 1, Sparta, WI 54656; 608-269-8722.
- **Monday, December 3:** Juneau at Dodge County Admin Bldg., 127 Oak St. Contact: Laure Dei, UW-Extension Dodge County, Admin Bldg. 127 Oak St., Juneau, WI 53039; 920-386-3790.
- **Thursday, December 6:** Dodgeville at Iowa County Health and Human Services Bldg., 303 W. Chapel St. Contact: Gene Schriefer, UW-Extension Iowa County, 303 W. Chapel St., Ste.

2019 Pesticide Applicator Trainings



All private farmers who apply restricted use pesticides must be certified once every five years. Your certification expires in 2019. The training and testing for this program is a cooperative effort by UW Extension, DATCP, and local coops and suppliers. This year we are offering the two sessions that are listed on the reverse of this page. Please contact the Columbia County UW-Extension office to sign up for one of the sessions. The fee is payable when you pick up your materials. Please notice that we have attendance limits at

each location and occasionally a session is cancelled due to lack of registrations. You will be notified if there is any change in your chosen session.

PAT Manuals are available at the UW-Extension Office, 112 E. Edgewater Street, Room 212, Portage, WI. We encourage you to purchase and review the manual before you attend the training session. The exam is based on both the manual and the training program. If you are unable to attend one of the sessions, you may schedule a time to take the self-study exam at the Extension office. Registrations must be received by the registration date for each session.

To register, please email or phone Jennifer or George, providing the name, phone number and email (if available) for all participants:

Jennifer Evans, Administrative Assistant; 608-742-9687;
jennifer.evans@co.columbia.wi.us

George Koepp, Columbia County Ag Agent; 608-742-9682;
george.koepp@ces.uwex.edu



Columbia County Pesticide Applicator Training 2019

Date: January 22, 2019 Tuesday \$30.00
Site: Otsego
Lunch: Sponsored by Landmark Rio Co-op
Location: Otsego Town Hall
W3199 State Road 16
Columbus, WI
Limit: 50 (Registration due by 1/2/19)

Date: February 27, 2019 Wednesday \$40.00
Site: Portage (\$10.00 for lunch)
Lunch: Catered in
Location: Columbia County Administration Building -
Meeting Room 113
112 E. Edgewater Street, Portage, WI 53901
Limit: 40 (Registration due by 2/4/19)

UW-Extension - Your trusted source for University Research based, factual information

As some of you have heard, UW-Extension is going through many changes. Like so many businesses and organizations, we try to do more with less. Fewer educators to serve more people. Change is inevitable, it is how we all deal with change that can make it a positive difference. As we become more connected and aligned with UW-Madison and more specifically for the Ag Educators more aligned with CALS, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, we will find some efficiencies and stronger connections with CALS agriculture specialists.

UW-Extension is noted for "The Wisconsin Idea!", which is connecting the power, research, and knowledge of the University of Wisconsin directly to the people of Wisconsin. This will not change, we are working to make this connection shorter and stronger than before. The Agriculture Educators will be organized into

the "Agriculture Institute". Within the "Agriculture Institute" we will find six main Program areas which will include, Dairy, Livestock, Crops and Soils, Farm Management, Horticulture, and Discovery Farms. Each County Agriculture Educator will identify with one Primary Program area and a Secondary Program Area. These are the areas that we will spend most of our programming efforts. We will work with other program areas from time to time.

We are told that UW-Extension will be getting a new logo and so we may look a little different on the outside, but we will be the same people, providing the same University based information to the residents of Wisconsin. We will share the new look with you when we get it. Our email addresses will change, but again we will share that information with all of you when we get it.

Let us know if you have any questions. We are here to serve you, the residents of Columbia County and citizens of Wisconsin. Same good people serving all the residents of Columbia County.

Columbia County Corn Growers Meeting Agenda Thursday, December 13, 2018 Club 60, W2164 State Road 60, Columbus, WI

Put this event on your calendar and join other Columbia County Farmers to improve your corn and soybean growing skills. This event will help you make sound, data driven decisions that can improve you farm's profitability. We plan plenty of time for you to ask questions and meet with the specialists. There is no charge to attend this program and it includes a free lunch at Club 60. Please call or email Jennifer Evans to register by Monday December 10 at 608-742-9687, or jennifer.evans@co.columbia.wi.us

8:00	Registration
8:30	Welcome and Sponsor Recognition – Jason Link
8:35	FSA Update – Jonathon Williams
8:45	NRCS Update – Twyla Kite
8:55	Land and Water Conservation Update – Kurt Calkins
9:05	Grain Market Update – Mike North, Commodity Risk Management Group
10:00	Break
10:15	Tar Spot and other disease management forecast for 2019 Damon Smith, UW-Extension Plant Pathologist
11:00	Waterhemp and other resistant weed management programs for 2019, Rodrigo Werle, UW-Extension Weed Specialist
11:45	UW-Extension Update – George Koepp
11:55	Announcements and Sponsors Thank you
12:00	Lunch and networking with our sponsors and growers

DATCP Confirms Bovine Tuberculosis in Dane County Dairy Herd

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) confirms that a Wisconsin dairy herd in Dane County has tested positive for bovine tuberculosis (TB). Meat inspectors identified a carcass during a routine slaughter inspection and sent a sample to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory for testing. Through animal identification records, the carcass was traced back to a herd in Dane County that DATCP immediately quarantined. A quarantine prevents any animals from moving on or off of the farm.

"We are working closely with the herd owner, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of Health Services, area veterinarians, industry partners, and other herd owners. We are taking aggressive measures to control and prevent the spread of this disease," said Dr. Darlene Konkle, DATCP's acting State Veterinarian. "Our staff and partners train for these types of responses and are taking the necessary steps to protect animal and human health."

Pasteurized milk continues to be safe to consume. The pasteurization process, which destroys disease-causing organisms in milk by rapidly heating and then cooling the milk, eliminates

the disease from milk and milk products. Bovine TB is most commonly spread to humans through consuming unpasteurized milk or milk products from infected animals, and close contact with infected animals or people. Also, infected people can be a source of infection to animals. More information about human TB is on the Centers for Disease Control website.

Food safety laws prevent meat from infected animals from entering the food chain. State and federal inspectors at slaughter plants evaluate live animals and animal products for signs or symptoms of disease and remove any from entering food production.

Bovine TB is a respiratory disease of cattle that does not spread easily. It is a chronic, slowly progressing progressive disease meaning it can take months to years to worsen, grow, or spread. Infected animals may pass the infection to other animals even if they appear healthy. Animals often do not show signs until the infection has reached an advanced stage. The U.S. has nearly eliminated bovine TB due to the National Tuberculosis Eradication Program. Wisconsin has been certified as TB-free since 1980. With a thorough investigation and containment of an outbreak Wisconsin will maintain its TB-free status with USDA.

More information about bovine TB is available on [DATCP's website](#).

Land & Water Conservation Department Updates & Program Information

By Kurt Calkins, Director of Columbia County Land & Water Conservation

2018-19 Columbia County LWCD Tree Sales Program:

The Columbia County Tree Sales Program for 2018-2019 will begin in November, the order forms should reach everyone you is already on our mailing list by the middle of November. You will be able to find the order form online when you receive your order form as well, at: <http://www.co.columbia.wi.us/columbiacounty/lwcd/TreeProgram>

Or you can contact our office to receive an order form and information on the sale. Tree pick-up day is tentatively scheduled for April 25, 2019. We will have our Early bird drawing again, picking from orders placed by January 31, 2019. We have a few new species again this year, check out what we have!! You can bring in or mail in your order with payment; use our paypal system or even call in your order. Thanks for your continued support. If you have questions, please contact us at 608 742-9670.

Poster/Speaking Contest 2019

The Youth Poster & Speaking Contests will be held in January & February of 2019. Speaking Contest for Columbia County students – January 21, 2019 and Poster Contest – February 4, 2019. The poster theme this year is "*Life in the Soil – Dig Deeper*" and for our speaking contest you can present a speech on any conservation-related subject. This is open to any students in the Columbia County area. If there is anyone interested in

entering this contest, [please contact our office for forms, deadlines and more information](#) on these contests. There is always good prizes for winners and some participants as well as a drawing for a Summer Camp scholarship pertaining to certain age groups. There are teacher and class awards available as well.



Nutrient Management Planning

Learn How to Write and Maintain Your Own Nutrient Management Plan:

We are happy to report that the Columbia County Land & Water Conservation Department has been awarded a 2019 Nutrient Management Farmer Education Grant from DATCP. This grant allows us to run a series of winter training classes for landowners who want to learn to develop their own 590 Nutrient Management Plan. In addition to providing an opportunity to develop your first plan, we will again be offering a chance to complete a review and update of your existing plan. This cooperative opportunity between UWEX, Columbia County LWCD, NRCS and DATCP will again allow landowner the opportunity to learn to develop their own Nutrient Management Plan that will meet the 590 NMP



standard. This year we will offer 2 different days in January for landowners to complete updates to existing plans and stay certified. This is a 1 day course, with 2 different days to pick from. Landowners who attend the review class will receive a \$50 payment.

We also offer a larger 3 day workshop for landowners who have not previously done a plan. The grant allows us to provide class attendance incentives along with soil testing stipend. Landowners could be eligible for first time plan developments stipends greater than \$1000.

One main requirement for both groups is to have current soil sample data for all your fields. That means less than 4 years old and a minimum of one soil sample for every five acres. Soil sampling right now before the soil freezes is a perfect time to sample, because the lab can have your samples processed before we help you with the update classes or beginning classes.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity and want to get on the registration list contact the Land & Water Conservation Department -(608) 742-9670.

2018 Dates: Sign Up Now @ (608) 742- 9670

Review/Update Class: January 23rd or January 30th (Pick One)

New Plan Classes- February 13th, 28th & March 6th (3 day Course)



Nutrient Management



608-742-9670
FAX: 608-742-9840
E-MAIL: land.conservation@co.columbia.wi.us
WEBSITE: www.co.columbia.wi.us

112 E. Edgewater Street
Portage, WI 53901

NRCS Announces EQIP Signup for 2019 Funding, Apply by November 16, 2018

Farmers and forest landowners will want to plan ahead and sign up early for USDA conservation funding. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Wisconsin, announced farmers and forest landowners interested in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) need to apply by November 16, 2018, for funding in 2019. Applications are being taken at all USDA Service Centers in Wisconsin.

EQIP is the primary program available to farmers for farm and woodland conservation work, offering payments for over 110 basic conservation practices. By getting applications in early, we have time for staff to visit individual farms to help plan all practices needed and offer advice. It's easier to do an accurate plan before the snow starts, when you can better see the landscape.

All eligible applications received by November 16, will be evaluated, prioritized and ranked for funding in 2019. Farmers may contact their local USDA Service Center to get started on producer eligibility and planning. NRCS reminds farmers who are interested in practices that may require permits, such as manure storage or streambank restoration, to begin planning and seeking permits as soon as possible. Applicants with shovel-ready projects (designs completed and permit applications submitted) will receive higher priority.

Signup by November 16, 2018 for Several Special Initiatives Focusing on Conservation Efforts

Special sign-up opportunities are also now open for On-Farm Energy, Organic, Specialty Crops and Seasonal High Tunnel conservation practices, as well as a number of landscape based initiatives. All offer technical and financial assistance through EQIP.

Farmstead: NRCS helps livestock producers improve nutrient handling and clean water separation by implementing practices supporting manure storage, feedlot and barnyard runoff, and clean water diversion. This special opportunity also provides technical and financial assistance for roofs and covers placed over, for example, open cattle lots.

Soil Health: NRCS is working with producers to improve soil health through sound principles and systems that include no-till, cover crop, diversifying the crop rotation, and managing nutrients and pesticide applications. Improving

soil health of the soil allows for improved soil organic matter, increased water infiltration, as well as better profits and crop yields.

On-Farm Energy: NRCS and producers develop Agricultural Energy Management Plans (AgEMP) or farm energy audits that assess energy consumption on an operation. Audit data is used to develop energy conservation recommendations.

Organic: NRCS helps certified organic growers and producers, working to achieve organic certification, install conservation practices to address resource concerns on organic operations.

Seasonal High Tunnel (Hoop House): NRCS helps producers plan and implement high tunnels - steel-framed, polyethylene-covered structures that extend growing seasons in an environmentally safe manner. High tunnel benefits include better plant and soil quality, fewer nutrients and pesticides in the environment, and better air quality due to fewer vehicles being needed to transport crops. Supporting conservation practices such as grassed waterways, and diversions are available to address resource concerns on operations with Seasonal High Tunnel structures.

Honey Bee: The upper Midwest is the resting ground for over 65 percent of commercially managed honey bees in the country. The NRCS is helping farmers and landowners implement conservation practices that will provide safe and diverse food sources for honey bees. Pasture management, wildlife habitat, and appropriate cover crops are used as tools to improve the health of our honey bees, which support more than \$15 billion worth of agricultural production.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: Through GLRI, NRCS offers financial assistance to agricultural producers for implementing practices that improve water quality in selected watersheds. Eligible watersheds in Wisconsin include the Door-Kewaunee Rivers, Lower Fox River, Manitowoc-Sheboygan Milwaukee River, Upper Fox River, Wolf River, and Lake Winnebago. Financial assistance is also available in the entire Lake Superior and Lake Michigan basins of Wisconsin to address invasive species.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program: The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements. Current active projects for water quality improvement are located within the Baraboo River watershed and the Yahara River watershed. Projects to improve fish and wildlife habitat include monarch habitat statewide as well as stream and

Soil Health Initiative: Soil is a living and life giving natural resource. By farming using soil health principles and systems that include no-till, cover cropping and diverse rotations, more and more farmers are actually increasing their soil's organic matter and improving microbial activity.

Landowners interested in applying for EQIP funding should contact their local NRCS office at the [USDA Service Center](#) in their county. For more information, visit www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov.

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DIRECTORY

UW-Extension Columbia County Agriculture Staff

George Koepp, Agriculture Agent.....(608) 742-9682
george.koepp@ces.uwex.edu

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Office: (608) 742-9680; **Fax:** (608) 742-9862; <http://columbia.uwex.edu/agriculture/>

UW-Extension Columbia County (UWEX) Office Staff

Jennifer Evans, Administrative Assistant (4-H, Ag, CRD)(608) 742-9687
 Kathleen Haas, CRD Educator(608) 742-9683
 Vacant, Family Living Educator.....(608) 742-9686
 Pat Wagner, Positive Youth Development Educator.....(608) 742-9685
 LuAnn Olson, Administrative Assistant (Admin, FL, FoodWise)(608) 742-9688
 Caitlin Richardson, WI FoodWise Coordinator(608) 742-9693
 Web Site: <http://columbia.uwex.edu/>

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If you have a change of email, address or would like to be removed, please call the UW-Extension office at (608) 742-9687 or email your request to:
jennifer.evans@ces.uwex.edu

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 Columbia County Ag Reporter
 112 E. Edgewater Street, Room 212
 Portage, WI 53901
 608-742-9680

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