



Agriculture: Crops & Soils Programming Jan.-June 2026



Extension Regional Crops Educator Will Fulwider collaborates with Dane County row and forage crop farmers as well as agribusiness professionals to create educational programming and on-farm research tailored to meet the need for farm economic and environmental sustainability

Needs Assessment

- Informal, semi-structured interviews with farmers and agribusiness professionals (crop consultants, agronomists, agency staff, ag lenders) about key challenges in their production systems
- Advise and solicit feedback from DATCP Producer-led Watershed Groups in the county and region
- Evaluations from both Extension-hosted and farmer-hosted educational programming events

First Half Highlight

Camelina Conversation Meeting in Columbus

- In response to increased interest in winter camelina, as both a new crop and cover crop for WI, hosted a workshop in Columbus
- Provided an overview of the crop and a summation of Extension's research results on nitrate leaching
- Farmer panel brought in boots on the ground perspectives to working with the crop, while a representative from Cargill presented about bringing the crop to harvest and their purchasing program

Outcome

- 60+ attendees, one attendee called it the best winter meeting he had been to that year
- In post-event survey and conversations, collective attendee knowledge about the crop increased nearly two-fold, while meeting or exceeding every attendees expectations
- A majority of participants would be open to growing camelina

Ongoing Projects

Winter barley trials | 2024-

- Goal to identify an overwintering crop that can help reduce soil and nutrient runoff while helping to regionalize value added supply chains
- Planting date x variety trials taking place in collaboration with colleagues at the Rock Co. Farm and Spooner Agricultural Station
- Working with 4 local brewers to pair agronomic data collected from trials with brewhouse performance to better make variety and planting date recommendations for farmers

Winter camelina: a new cover crop for Wisconsin? | 2023-

- Goal to integrate a new cover crop that will increase adoption by mitigating yield drag in the corn sometimes seen with cereal rye
- 4 farmers across southern Wisconsin planted winter camelina and rye covers after soybeans to evaluate effects on nitrate leaching and yield drag in corn
- Secured \$39,000 in grant dollars for the project
- Expanding research to collaborate with multiple CALS faculty and several funding sources

Forage mix performance on solar sites | 2023-

- Conducted at the Kegonsa Research Campus solar site near Stoughton with goal to determine suitability of different forage mixes for solar sites to drive adoption of agriculture in and under utility-scale solar

Cover crop alleviating compaction | 2026-

- Collaborating with two farmers in southwestern and northwestern Dane County to evaluate the performance of different cover crop species in helping to alleviate the compaction caused by corn silage harvest and manure hauling

Field Notes podcast | 10 episodes a year on topics ranging from economics of conservation to frost seeding red clover, with 4 episodes featuring Dodge County guests

- Listenership ranges from 200-1000+ listens per episode with the vast majority of listens coming from Wisconsin, but with listeners from 45 countries

Ag Update E-Newsletter | Monthly newsletter sent to more 450+ recipients in Dane County and 870+ across the region