

Agriculture Update

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Welcome Jordan!

Jordan Schuler joined the Jefferson, Rock, and Walworth county extension teams on April 18th, 2022 as the Regional Crop Educator for the counties. Jordan is originally from Muskego, WI where she spent a lot of time enjoying the outdoors. Some of her past times include hunting, fishing, hiking and gardening. Jordan has been a hunter safety instructor since she was 13 years old and enjoyed working with the community.



She attended UW-Stevens Point where she received a Bachelors degree in Soil and Land Management. During her time at UWSP she was very active with both the student and parent chapters of the Izaak Walton League of America, which is an organization dedicated to conservation.

After receiving her degree, Jordan moved on to UW– Madison to pursue a Masters degree in Horticulture. There she studied alternative fruit and vegetable crops for WI growers as well as innovative production systems. She finished her Masters in

April, 2022 and moved into the Regional crop educator position with extension.

Jordan is passionate about many aspects of conservation including soil health and water quality and is excited to bring her breadth of background knowledge to the agricultural communities in Jefferson, Rock, and Walworth counties. Reach out to Jordan with any questions or just to chat.

Jordan’s contact info:

(920)-723-2843

Jordan.schuler@wisc.edu.

Jordan is looking forward to working with everyone!

Jefferson County Extension

Open Monday - Friday:
8 am - 4:30 pm

864 Collins Rd,
Jefferson WI 53549

Rock County Extension

Open Monday - Friday:
8 am - 4:30 pm

3506 N US Highway 51,
Janesville WI 53545

Walworth County Extension

Open Monday - Friday:
8 am - 5 pm

100 W Walworth St,
Elkhorn WI 53121

Hay Market Report

The information presented in this report is compiled from public and private quality tested sales and reports in the Midwest. Hay auction data is collected on the first and third week of the month and posted by or before Tuesday.

Prices quoted in this report are for “as fed” alfalfa hay.

Please use the link to see the most recent Hay Market Report.

Website: <https://cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu/hay-market-report/>

Free SCN Testing Program is Back for 2022!

Did you know that:

- Soybean Cyst Nematode (SCN) was first found in the US in North Carolina in 1954.
- SCN is the most serious soybean pest in the US and causes more than \$1 billion in soybean yield losses each year.
- SCN is a microscopic roundworm that occurs in all major soybean production areas.
- SCN causes no specific symptoms and its effects are often not dramatic.
- Many growers do not know they have a problem until a severe infestation develops.
- Yield losses due to SCN can be over 50%.

[CLICK HERE FOR LINK](#)



Understanding the life cycle of SCN, routine soil testing and proper crop management can reduce the incidence of this pest. Through a grant from the WI Soybean marketing Board, Wisconsin growers are eligible to have 4 soil samples analyzed for SCN and other plant parasitic nematodes at no charge.

For more information: <https://coolbean.info/soybean-research/scn-testing-program/>

USDA Report Shows Decade of Conservation Trends

A new U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report demonstrates progress made through voluntary conservation

Key findings include:

- Farmers increasingly adopted advanced technology, including enhanced-efficiency fertilizers and variable rate fertilization to improve efficiency, assist agricultural economies and benefit the environment.
- More efficient conservation tillage systems, particularly no-till, became the dominant form of tillage, improving soil health and reducing fuel use.
- Use of structural practices increased, largely in combination with conservation tillage as farmers increasingly integrated conservation practices to gain efficiencies. Structural practices include terraces, filter and buffer strips, grassed waterways and borders.
- Irrigation expanded in humid areas, and as irrigators shifted to more efficient systems and improved water management strategies, per-acre water application rates decreased by 19% and withdrawals by 7 million-acre-feet.
- Nearly 70% of cultivated cropland had conservation crop rotations, and 28% had high-biomass conservation crop rotations.

“Use of no-till, crop rotations, more efficient irrigation methods, and advanced technologies have climbed in recent years”

Because of this increased conservation, the report estimates:

- Average annual water (sheet and rill) and wind erosion dropped by 70 million and 94 million tons, respectively, and edge-of-field sediment loss declined by 74 million tons.
- Nearly 26 million additional acres of cultivated cropland were gaining soil carbon, and carbon gains on all cultivated cropland increased by over 8.8 million tons per year.
- Nitrogen and phosphorus losses through surface runoff declined by 3% and 6%, respectively.
- Average annual fuel use dropped by 110 million gallons of diesel fuel equivalents, avoiding associated greenhouse gas emissions of nearly 1.2 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalents.

Website: <https://nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wi/newsroom/releases/>

WI Act 223 Bill Signed April 8th, 2022

On April 8, 2022, Governor Evers signed a bill, WI Act 223, with the hopes of optimizing nitrogen applications on farms. The bill supports farmer-led conservation efforts across the state and enables farmers to continue finding ways to enhance nitrogen efficiency on farms.

Act 223 includes plans for a commercial nitrogen optimization pilot program that will incentivize farmers to engage in practices to better utilize nitrogen on farms and share project findings to farmers across the state. This act also includes a cover crop premium rebate program that will provide additional funding to farmers that plant cover crops.

Act 223 also allows the creation of an additional limited-term hydrogeologist position at Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. The goal of this position is to develop groundwater resource information, primarily at county or local scales, which include reliable soil depth-to-bedrock maps to help provide more accurate maps and data for Wisconsin farmers.

This bill was supported by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau and Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association.

For more information, go to: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/related/acts/223/>

New WI Agricultural Export Advisory Council

The WI Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the WI Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) help the first WI Agricultural Export Advisory Council meeting on May 4, 2022. This mission of this council is to guide the initiatives created through the WI Initiative for Agricultural Exports (WIAE) to promote the export of Wisconsin's agricultural products.

During the meeting, the council discussed current export trends, trade challenges, and opportunities for increasing WI agricultural exports.

The council will meet at least twice a year. Meetings are open to the public, with virtual options available.

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News_Media/NewsReleases/

“As we’ve seen in the past year, demand of WI exports of all types has grown and will continue to grow” - WEDC Secretary and CEO Hughes.

“One Good Idea,” New Online Platform

One Good Idea is a new online platform to help farmers get started and find success with regenerative practices and soil health. It was created by a multi-state team of farmers and extension professionals designed to facilitate farmer-to-farmer learning about practices that can improve soil, land, and bottom lines. Such practices include cover crops, conservation tillage, rotational grazing, and nutrient management.

The platform is a clearinghouse of videos and podcasts that feature farmers ideas and experiences in hopes to create a centralized location for farmers to learn from their peers about what has worked and what hasn't, benefits and precautions, and other details surrounding the use of conservation practices.

For more information: <https://goodideafarm.org/>

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Upcoming Events

In the future, this section will hold upcoming events relevant to the agricultural community in Jefferson county. If you have any events you would like listed here please send the information to Jordan Schuler (Jordan.schuler@wisc.edu).

Future editions will be sent out via email. To continue receiving this newsletter material or other extension correspondence, please fill out the google form online or contact the Jefferson County extension office or Jordan Schuler Directly. Accommodations can be made for those who wish to receive printed materials.

Link: <https://forms.gle/w7X99qtfybjqbXjA9>