



Agriculture Dairy Programming: Apr 25 to Oct-25



Extension Dairy Educator Manuel Peña
Contributes to the structure and processes of dairy producers, conservation and financial groups and other dairy professionals, enhancing their ability to function effectively. Supports informed decision making by providing research-based information

to achieve their objectives.

Updates from the community needs forum

During the community forum in Dodge County, participants identified three major agricultural needs. The efforts described below address each of these priorities.

1 – Succession planning and support new generations

Extension works on succession planning through Farm Management, however, as dairy educator, I can and have shared information and support new generations by:

- 2025 National Dairy Council of 4-H.
 - I was invited to talk about maternity and calving management but also supported a hands-on station about nutrition and health/welfare practices.
- 2025 Corn Silage Harvest Moisture Monitoring
 - The dairy and the crops educators partnered with a Forage council to provide support to the dairies of this area of the state.

2 – Immigrant worker Support and integration

- Bovi-News. Bilingual statewide newsletter, focused on educating the dairy farm workers.
 - Partnered on design, topics and content
 - Translation of information available on the UW Extension website.
 - Addressing current local issues and events
- Wisconsin Bilingual Dairy Podcast Project
 - A document with the idea and the plan of execution of this project was elaborated as well as the first episode (pilot) of it.
- “ProHand” Bilingual Dairy Project
 - Research project with the USDA about proper animal handling. We are preparing

the materials for coming surveys and the courses that will happen on farms.

- Basics of Nutrition. (Article Series)
 - Dry Matter Explained
 - Fiber Explained
 - Protein Explained*
 - Body Condition Score Explained*
- 3 – Public perception of farming and information sharing
 - 2025 Wisconsin State Fair – Milking Demonstration.
 - Bilingual educators were invited to participate of the first milking demonstration in Spanish at the WI State Fair.

Other regional impacts in Dodge County

Discussions with dairy farmers, managers, workforce, and interns at different farms or events to build a holistic view of the current state of the county, while identifying common challenges, strengths, and opportunities for improvement within the local dairy industry.

Areas of Need Determined by Assessments:

- Safety/good practices
- Communication/language
- Calving and Nutrition Management
- Public Perception
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Most networking this summer happened at agricultural events instead of farm visits, since fieldwork kept farmers busy. The season also allowed for creating educational materials.

- Articles – Collaborations

- Best Practices for Roasting Soybeans
- Beyond BMR: Securing the Future of High-Quality Corn Silage
- Dairy Feed Inventory Management
- Feeding for Milk Protein
- Navigating Low Colostrum Yields
- Troubleshoot Milk Fat Depression

- Presentations and others

- Best practices for roasting soybeans
- The nutrition of the transition cow - Calving Management Workshop Bilingual presentation.
- What is fiber and how it affects milk production. El Break Info Lechero Webinar in Spanish