



Agriculture Dairy Programming: Jan to Mar 26



**Extension Dairy
Educator - Manuel Peña**

Supports dairy producers and industry professionals **by strengthening management practices, facilitating collaboration, and providing research-based information** that helps guide informed

decisions and improve farm performance, sustainability, workforce skills, and long-term agricultural success.

Ongoing Needs Assessment in Dodge County

Discussions with dairy farmers, managers, workforce, Ag company representatives, and interns at different farms or Ag 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:

- Nutrition and feeding practices
- Safety training
- Calving management
- Communication/language
- Public Perception

During these months I have been able to establish new connections with farmers by attending the regular annual meetings that some organizations have at this time of the year but also by visiting farmers in situ. It has also been time to visit the radio and promote the programs/research and materials I am involved in.

- **Basics of Nutrition. Article Series**
 - o Dry Matter Explained
 - o Fiber Explained
 - o Protein Explained
 - o Body Condition Score Explained
- **Articles – Collaborations**
 - o Best Practices for Roasting Soybeans
 - o Beyond BMR: Securing the Future of High-Quality Corn Silage
 - o Dairy Feed Inventory Management

- o Feeding for Milk Protein
- o Navigating Low Colostrum Yields
- o Troubleshoot Milk Fat Depression

- Presentations and other events
 - o Clean farm families' meetings
 - o Hosting the BDI (Webinar)
 - o Article for the agriculturist
 - o Dodge Forage Council

Regional impacts on Dodge County

- Bovi-News. Bilingual statewide newsletter, focused on educating the dairy farm workers.
 - o Partnered on design, topics and content
 - o Translation of information available on the UW Extension website.
 - o Addressing current local issues and events
- “ProHand” Bilingual Dairy Project
 - o Research project with the USDA about proper animal handling. We ran the first pilot already. We will be delivering in farm soon.
- Forward Safety toolbox
 - o We are building a program to work on welfare and safety. It started as a tractor program, but we are including cow management and milking practices. The pilot will be hosted on March 16th and 17th.
- Heifer survey
 - o Trying to figure out how much it is to raise a heifer. Last time, it was done was 10 years ago. We provide personal reports by farm for participants.
- Answer for the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (Dec)
 - o Hosted a meeting to explain the importance of taking care of the animals as well as the personnel working on the farm.
- Other projects I am participating in:
 - o BMR. Strategies to replace it as a feed source for dairy cows.