Extension/Land Conservation Committee

Tuesday, November 3, 2026- 10:30 A.M.

Barron County Government Center | Room 2151

335 E. Monroe Avenue- Barron, WI 54812

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Acknowledgment of Public Posting Requirements
3. Public comment
4. Approval of Agenda
   - Approval of Minutes – 09/01/2026
   - Edit List- September & October
   - Announcements
5. Wildlife Damage: Set Crop Prices- David Ruid, USDA APHIS- Action item
6. Land and Water Conservation Board Election- Action item.
7. WI Land + Water -County Con Report- Discussion
8. Red Cedar Total Maximum Daily Load update-Discussion
9. Nestle Lower Chippewa River Water Quality Project
   1) Accepting Funding-Action item
   2) Increasing Headland and Buffer Rate- Action item
10. 2025 Nutrient Management Plan Report- Discussion
11. Cover Crop update- Discussion
12. Soil Water Resource Management update- Discussion
13. Staff Reports – (10 minutes) Information only
    - UWEX- report in packet
    - FSA- report in packet
    - NRCS
    - Executive Committee Report
    - Fair Board Report
14. Set date for the next meeting: December 1, 2026
15. Adjourn

PLEASE CALL 715-537-6315 IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND.

Any person with a qualifying disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act and requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in an accessible format must contact the County Clerk's office at 715-537-6200 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting so that arrangements can be made to accommodate your request.

cc: Cook, Gores, Langman, Kusilek, G. Nelson, Huth, Ellison, County Clerk, County Administrator, Webmaster, Public postings

EXTENSION-LCC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 1, 2026 | 10:30 a.m.
Room 2151

==========

Members present: Jim Gores, Randy Cook, Fran Langman, Carsten Ellison, Gary Nelson and Audrey Kusilek.
Staff present: Tyler Gruetzmacher, Ben Cole, Jeff French, Pat Brown, Becky Melton and Michelle Drury.
Staff Virtually: Lori Baltrusis
Others present: David Ruid-USDA
Absent: Kirsten Huth

Cook called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and French confirmed proper posting of the meeting. No public comment was received.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes
Motion: (Ellison/Langman) to approve the agenda; carried.
Motion: (Nelson/Kusilek) to approve the minutes of 07/07/2026 meeting; carried.

Edit list: No questions
Announcements: There were no announcements.

2027 Soil & Water Conservation Department Budget
Gruetzmacher presented the 2027 SWCD budget; Gruetzmacher, Cole and Drury then addressed questions from the committee.
Motion: (Kusilek/Ellison) to approve the 2027 SWCD budget; carried.

2027 UW Extension Budget
Baltrusis presented the 2027 UWEX Budget and answered committee questions.
Motion: (Nelson/Langman) to approve the 2027 UWEX Budget; carried.

Note: Baltrusis departed the virtual meeting at 10:50 am.

2027 Healthy Rivers & Lakes Grant Resolution
Brown presented the Healthy Rivers & Lakes Grant from the Wisconsin DNR for the purpose of continuing efforts to implement and install conservation practices related to Healthy Lakes and Rivers. Brown and Gruetzmacher answered committee questions.
Motion: (Kusilek/Gores) to approve the Healthy Lakes & Rivers Grant Application Resolution; carried.

2027 USDA APHIS WDP Program Budget
David Ruid presented the WildLife Damage Program budget and answered questions from the committee.
Motion: (Kusilek/Langman) to approve the 2027 WDP budget; carried.

2027 Deer Donation Agreement
Ruid presented the increased expenses with the WDNR WDACP Venison donation program and answered committee questions.
Motion: (Kusilek/Ellison) to approve the agreement for Wisconsin Deer Donation 2027; carried

UWSP Groundwater Testing Budget-discussion only
Gruetzmacher presented the expenses for the groundwater program adopted at the previous meeting and explained the testing process. This was followed by discussion and questions from staff and committee members.

Certificate of Compliance: Duncan Family Living Trust
A Certificate of Compliance for the Duncan Family Living Trust was presented for approval.
Motion: (Kusilek/Nelson) to approve the certificate; carried.

Staff & Committee Reports

- **UWEX:** No report
- **NRCS/FSA:** Gruetzmacher spoke of the challenges facing the NRCS/FSA surrounding earthen manure pit closures and provided an update on several ongoing projects.
- **Executive Committee:** French stated the Executive Committees main focus right now is the budget.
- **Fair Board:** French shares updates with the committee as he receives them.

Next Meeting Date
The next meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

Adjournment
Motion: By unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 11:36 a.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Melton
Administrative Secretary, Land Services

September/ October Edits

9/3/2026	Hey Everything	C0096826	Invasive Species Control	SWCD Invasive Species supplies	$16.69
9/3/2026	Hey Everything	C0096826	Small Equipment	SWCD Demo farm supplies	$10.88
9/10/2026	AgSource	C0096903	MDV Soil Testing	SWCD MDV Soil Testing	$75.60
9/30/2026	Seldon Scene Ranch	C0097082	Conservation Payments	SWCD Cost Share Contract	$8,108.65
10/8/2026	Mark Fischer	C0097107	Conservation Payments	SWCD Cost Share Contract 26BC004	$1,000.00
10/8/2026	Kevin Kruizenga	C0097109	Conservation Payments	SWCD Cost Share Contract 26BC010	$667.50
10/8/2026	Colten Maassen	C0097110	Conservation Payments	SWCD Cost Share Contract 26BC006	$937.50
10/8/2026	Ryan Lehmann	C0097108	Conservation Payments	SWCD Cost Share Contract 26BC012	$1,000.00
10/8/2026	Doyle Wiebe	C0097111	Conservation Payments	SWCD Cost Share Contract 26BC002	$1,000.00
10/15/2026	Lake Education and Planning	C0097236	Lake Education Supplies	SWCD- Lake Education Supplies	$125.00
10/15/2026	Hey Everything	C0097242	Educational Material	SWCD Education program- pools	$55.96
10/15/2026	Hey Everything	C0097242	Shed	SWCD Shed equipment repair	$10.29
10/15/2026	Karsten Mininger	C0097245	Cover Crop Cost Share	SWCD CSA 26BC007 Cover crop	$1,000.00
10/15/2026	US Dept of Agriculture-APHIS	C0097240	USDA Aphis	SWCD- 3rd quarter wildlife damage	$12,310.50
10/15/2026	WI Land & Water Conservation	C0097239	County Con Mtg Registration	SWCD- Gruetzmacher and Cook Registration	$260.00
10/15/2026	Daniel Wohlk	C0097252	Cover Crop Cost Share	SWCD CSA 26BC009 Cover crop	$1,000.00
10/22/2026	Cameron Goertzen	C0097298	Cover Crop Cost Share	SWCD CSA 26BC011 Cover Crop	$1,000.00
10/29/2026	Amazon Capital	C0097334	Small Equipment	SWCD INV 1VMY-47KW-1QRN	$19.99
					$28,598.56

2026 CROP PRICE PROPOSAL

Barron COUNTY

CROP	PRICE PROPOSED	If different than price proposed PRICE APPROVED
GRAINS:		
Corn, Field	$4.11 / Bushel	_____
Corn, Field (organ.)	$0.00 / Bushel	
Soybeans	$11.41/ Bushel	_____
CANNING CROPS:		
Sweet corn	$0.00 / Ton	
Peas	$0.00 / Ton	
OTHER CROPS:		
Potatoes	$0.00 / Cwt	
Ginseng	$0.00 / Pound	
Bee Hives:		
Covers	$0.00	
Bees	$0.00	
Deep Frames	$0.00	
Deep Hive Body	$0.00	
Beef Calves:		
Feeder calves (June/July/August feeder steer average)	$448.00/cwt	_____

Barron County Approval

By: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

	54812, 54829, & 54868- Cash Grain Bids												Synergy Coop				River Country Co-op	
Months	Barron (Jennie-O-Turkey Store)		Boyceville (Big River Resources)		Boyceville (Wheaton Grain)		Wheeler (Badger Grain Supply)		Bloomer (CDR Farms)		Cushing (Cushing Coop)		Rice Lake (Synergy Coop)		Cameron (Synergy Coop)		Bloomer (River Country Coop)	
	Corn	Soybeans	Corn	Soybeans	Corn	Soybeans	Corn	Soybeans	Corn	Soybeans	Corn	Soybeans	Corn	Soybeans	Corn	Soybeans	Corn	Soybeans
September	$3.57	-	$3.68	-	-	-	-	-	$3.60	$9.59	-	-	$3.17	$9.50	-	-	$3.76	$9.59
October	$3.66	-	$3.71	-	$3.45	$9.03	$3.54	-	$3.61	$9.44	$3.18	$8.88	$3.66	$9.37	$3.48	$9.16	$3.66	$9.44
November	$3.77	-	$3.76	-	$3.61	$10.37	$3.61	-	$3.67	$10.41	$3.41	$10.14	$3.72	$10.41	$3.90	$9.95	$3.62	$10.40
December	$3.89	-	$3.96	-	$3.66	$9.65	$3.76	-	$3.72	$9.63	$3.46	$9.45	$3.70	$9.59	$3.60	$9.59	$3.68	$9.58
January	$3.86	-	$3.86	-	$3.65	$9.75	$3.85	-	$3.70	$9.80	$3.50	$9.75	$3.70	$9.80	$3.60	$9.80	$3.66	$9.81
February		-		-				-	$3.70	$10.61							$3.68	$10.52
March	$4.11	-	$4.10	-	$3.92	$10.66	$4.00	-	$3.93	$10.62	$3.57	$10.51	$3.97	$10.62	$3.87	$10.62	$3.92	$10.64
April	$4.26	-	$4.19	-	$4.01	$10.90	$4.08	-	$4.04	$10.89	$3.73	$10.69	$4.07	$10.89	$3.97	$10.89	$3.87	$10.78
May	$4.12	-	$4.02	-	$3.79	$10.87	$3.91	-	$3.80	$10.87	$3.56	$10.75	$3.83	$10.85	$3.73	$10.85	$3.81	$10.87
June	$3.86	-	$3.86	-	$3.74	$11.07	$3.78	-	$3.70	$11.05	$3.50	$10.97	$3.73	$11.07	$3.63	$11.07	$3.73	$11.14
July									-	-							-	-
August	$4.17	-	$4.21	-	$4.05	$11.52	$4.11	-	$4.08	$11.52	$3.88	$11.17	$3.98	$11.52	$3.98	$11.52	$4.04	-
September	$4.53	-	$4.66	-	$4.63	$12.49	$4.58	-	$4.48	$12.38	$4.20	$11.99	$4.43	$12.34	$4.43	$12.44	$4.63	$12.48
October									-	-							-	-
November									-	-							-	-
December									-	-							-	-
									-	-							-	-
Avg.:	$3.98	#DIV/0!	$4.00	#DIV/0!	$3.85	$10.63	$3.92	#DIV/0!	$3.84	$10.57	$3.60	$10.43	$3.81	$10.54	$3.82	$10.59	$3.84	$10.48

2026 Barron County Crop Prices & Sources		
Sources	Price/Bushel	Price/Bushel
Local Markets	**Corn**	**Soybeans**
Barron (Jenny O-Turkey Store)	$3.98	-
Boyceville (Big River Resources)	$4.00	-
Boyceville (Wheaton Grain)	$3.85	$10.63
Wheeler (Badger Grain Supply)	$3.92	-
Bloomer (CDR Farms)	$3.84	$10.57
Cushing (Cushing Co-op)	$3.60	$10.43
Rice Lake (Synergy Co-op)	$3.81	$10.54
Cameron (Synergy Co-op)	$3.82	$10.59
Bloomer (River County Co-op)	$3.84	$10.48
Rhinelander District Sources	**Price/Bushel**	**Price/Bushel**
WASS:	$4.05	$10.83
NASS:	$4.16	$10.74
Other Sources	**Price/Bushel**	**Price/Bushel**
Chicago Mercantile Exchange:	$4.50	$11.64
Risk Management Agency Price Discovery	$4.47	$10.64
Yearly Avg.-	**$3.99**	**$10.71**
Current Avg.-	**$4.11**	**$11.76**
Projected Avg. (10/1 - 11/30 Delivery)-	**$4.24**	**$11.76**
Proposed Price-	***$4.11***	***$11.41***

	Current Price	Projected Price	Current Price	Projected Price
Sources	**Corn**	**Corn**	**Soybeans**	**Soybeans**
Barron (Jenny O-Turkey Store)	$4.44	$4.69	-	-
Boyceville (Big River Resources)	$4.20	$4.26	-	-
Boyceville (Wheaton Grain)	$4.08	$4.11	$11.68	$11.73
Wheeler (Badger Grain Supply)	$4.16	$4.16	-	-
Bloomer (CDR Farms)	$4.13	$4.13	$11.93	$11.93
Cushing (Cushing Co-op)	$3.73	-	$11.48	-
Rice Lake (Synergy Co-op)	$4.08	$4.11	$11.83	$11.87
Cameron (Synergy Co-op)	$4.03	$4.06	$11.83	$11.87
Bloomer (River County Co-op)	$4.13	$4.39	$11.79	$11.54

- Proposed county crop prices based on an average of the local markets nearest the county seat and Rhinelander District sources
- Prices are averaged from all sources; most are a yearly average, some reflect fall prices only
- WASS & NASS -(WI/National Agricultural Statistics Service) prices are averaged from Jan.-Aug.

RE: Beef Calves

Summarize

Reply | Reply All | Forward | ...

Mon 10/26/2026 2:07 PM

Keiser, Christopher A - DNR <christopher.keiser@wisconsin.gov>
To Ruid, David - MRP-APHIS

Retention Policy USDA 7 Year Permanently Delete (7 years) Expires 10/24/2033

You replied to this message on 10/26/2026 2:10 PM.

Hey Dave,

No problem. Some of the data is below:

$448.38 is the hundred weight average of feeder steers for June, July and August.
$448.38 multiplied by 5.5 or 6 depending on which weight you use, gets you to a total.
Once you have those totals, we multiply young calves by 80%.

That should give you the numbers I provided.

If they ask, the theory behind the calculation is that calves are the most likely to be killed by wolves and in reality, aren't worth that much at a couple days old. But they're extremely valuable to the farmer because they turn into the feeder cattle, which are quite valuable. The 80% part is acknowledging that newborn calves that get depredated don't have as many inputs as a full feeder steer (i.e. feed, vaccines, handling, etc.). So a little is calculated off the top to acknowledge for that.

If you have any other questions, just let me know.

Thanks,

Chris Keiser
Phone: 608-576-3914
Christopher.keiser@wisconsin.gov

Our core values include professionalism, integrity, and customer service.
Please visit our survey to provide feedback on your experience interacting with any DNR employee.



Statewide Market Report *10/28/2026 8:09:02 AM*

Volumes for week ending Saturday, October 24th 2026

Total Volume	Fed Cattle	Market Cows	Calves
10611	2002	2633	3542

As of Tuesday, October 27th, 2026

Fed Cattle	
Beef Fed Cattle	
Top 5%	229 and up
Next 20%	226-229
Next 60%	215-226

Holstein Fed Cattle	
Top 5%	212 and up
Next 20%	208-212
Next 60%	190-208
Market Cows	
Top 5% - High Yielding	133 and up
Next 20%	122-133
Next 60%	97-122
Organic Market Cows	**Top 80 %**
Organic Market Cows	100-154
Bulls	
Top 5%	205 and up
Next 20%	179-205
Next 60%	145-179
Calves - 85 - 110 lbs	**Top 80 % Sold by CWT**
Quality Bull Calves	800-1200
Good Quality Heifers	380-1200
Beef and Beef Cross Calves	1050-1625
Feeder Cattle	As of 10/24/2026
Beef Steers under 400	215-539
Beef Steers 400-600	370-505
Beef Steers 600-800	280-388
Beef Steers over 800	265-318
Beef Heifers	20-30 under the steer price
Holstein Steers under 400	220-545
Holstein Steers 400-600	215-350
Holstein Steers 600-800	135-257
Holstein Steers over 800	90-180
Feeding Holstein Heifers	50-65 under the steer price
Sheep	
Light Lambs	325 and down

Market Lambs	265 and down
Ewes	285 and down
Rams	150 and down
Goats	
Kids	295 and down
Wethers	225 and down
Does	170 and down
Bucks	165 and down

Notes

Thank you. We sincerely appreciate your business and look forward to working with you again real soon!

For details on pricing, sales schedules and to discuss all your livestock marketing needs, please contact your local Equity Cooperative Livestock Market, visit our website at www.Equitycoop.com or on Facebook

Sales Schedules, Market Reports, and Contact Information

Altoona
Arlington
Barron
Bonduel
Johnson Creek
Lomira
Maquoketa
Monroe
Reedsville
Richland Center
Sparta
Stratford
Waukon

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Here is a summary of the biographies for the seven candidates nominated for the **State Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) 2027–2028 election**: [1] AI Generated

The full biographies are available at this link

https://wisconsinlandwater.org/members-hub/lwcb/elections

The Land Conservation Committee will select 3 candidates out of the 7 running.

Travis Bassett (North Central Area)

- **Current Roles:** Portage County Board Supervisor (District 25), Vice-Chair of the Land and Water Conservation Committee, and high school social studies teacher at Iola-Scandinavia.
- **Background:** Manages a family orchard and prairie property. Holds an M.S. in Educational Leadership and Policy.
- **Focus:** Striking a balance between resource utilization and natural preservation through collaborative county conservation plans. [1, 2, 3]

Keith Gray (Southeastern Area)

- **Current Roles:** Kenosha County Board Supervisor (2nd term), Chair of the Soil & Water Conservation Plan Committee, and Chair of Planning & Development. [1]
- **Background:** Former owner of Integrated Lakes Management, Inc., a natural resource management firm. Co-founded an environmental water-monitoring company and holds two stormwater patents. [1, 2]
- **Focus:** Leveraging practical expertise in regulatory compliance, data analysis, and water/aquatic restoration. [1]

Bernadette Greenwood (Southern Area)

- **Current Roles:** Sauk County Board Supervisor (1st term) and member of the Land Resources and Extension Committee.
- **Background:** Licensed Professional Geologist with 23 years of experience in environmental consulting, groundwater contamination, and brownfield remediation. Former university and middle school science educator.
- **Focus:** Public education and protecting soil, streams, and groundwater from emerging contaminants like PFAS. [1, 2, 3, 4]

Paul McCann (Lake Winnebago Region)

- **Current Roles:** Calumet County Board Supervisor (District 3) sitting on the Land and Water Conservation Committee and the Parks Commission. [1]
- **Background:** Career background in leadership roles within the paper and construction industries, focused on regulatory stewardship and DNR collaboration. [1]
- **Focus:** Providing a fresh perspective to safely balance industry resource needs without adversely impacting future generations. [1]

John Nelson (Lake Michigan Area)

- **Current Roles:** Sheboygan County Board Supervisor and committee member.
- **Background:** 30-year Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Biologist, former Nature Conservancy Project Manager, and experienced habitat restoration professional.
- **Focus:** Deep civic and environmental experience across municipal and conservation boards. [1, 2, 3]

John Skoug (West Central Area)

- **Current Roles:** Trempealeau County Board Supervisor and committee member.
- **Background:** Retired pharmaceutical scientist operating a sustainable agro-forestry farm and advocating for renewable energy. From Amery WI. Installed the solar system at Luther Park Bible Camp on Prairie Lake.
- **Focus:** Promoting water quality through nonpartisan environmental and sustainable agriculture advocacy. [1, 2, 3]

- **Terry White (Northwestern Area)**
- **Current Roles:** Longtime member of Douglas County's Land and Water Conservation Committee and state council appointee.
- **Background:** Local conservation leader and active beekeeper.
- **Focus:** Sustaining agriculture and Great Lakes water quality by connecting with statewide leaders. [1, 2, 3]

WI LAND+WATER | County Conservation Meeting

Final Agenda

Jefferson Street Inn, Wausau
201 Jefferson St, Wausau, WI 54403

Thursday, October 15, 2026

11:30 am – 12:45 pm	**Registration open**
Noon – 12:45 pm	**Lunch**
12:45 – 1:00 pm	**Opening Session** *Matt Krueger, WI Land+Water Executive Director* *Kirstie Heidenreich, Marathon County Conservationist*
1:00 – 1:15 pm	**2026 Conservation Farm Family of the Year Award Video**
1:15 – 1:45 pm	**NRCS updates and FY 2027 program delivery** *Nathan Fikkert, NRCS Wisconsin State Conservationist*
1:45 – 2:45 pm	**Conservation Priorities for 2027-29 Biennial Budget, Legislative Session** *Matt Krueger* *Discussion of priorities; building off local advocacy successes from last budget for wins in 2027.*
2:45 – 3:15 pm	**Wetland & Waterways Program Update** *Allissa Reynolds, DNR*
3:15 – 3:30 pm	**Break**
3:30 – 5:00 pm	**NR 151 Progress & Resource Analysis Process Recap and Next Steps** *Ken Genskow, UW-Madison Division of Extension will lead a group discussion with support from partners at DNR, DATCP, and UW to recap on project process, resources shared, and plans for communicating results.*
5:00 pm	**Social Hour**

Dinner on your own

Friday, October 16, 2026

7:00 – 8:00 am **Breakfast**

8:00 – 8:05 am **Welcome**
Amy Piaget, Dane County LCD & WI Land+Water President

8:05 – 8:15 am **County Conservationist Support Network**
Michael Hook, WI Land+Water Statewide Training Coordinator

8:15 – 9:00 am **Panel Discussion: Recruitment, Development, and Retention**
This interactive panel brings together experienced county conservation staff from varied backgrounds to identify the most common drivers of LWCD staff turnover and explore practical strategies for recruitment, development, and retention.

9:00 – 10:00 am **County Updates**
Hear about innovative projects county colleagues are implementing through a 3 slide, 5-minute share out.
Lake Michigan – Shawano Co
Lake Winnebago – Fond du Lac Co
North Central – Marathon Co
Northwestern – Iron Co
Southeastern – Waukesha Co
Southern Area – Sauk Co
West Central – Clark Co
Western – Monroe Co

10:00 – 10:15 am **Break**

10:15 – 11:15 am **Partnering with US Fish & Wildlife Service**
Caitlin Nagorka, Wisconsin Assistant State Coordinator / Acting State Coordinator
Enhancing collaboration between county staff and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

11:15 am – noon **County Conservation Crowdsourcing**
What conservation questions or challenges would you like input from your peers on? We'll respond to questions submitted through registration and open the floor up to any other final questions of the day.

Noon – 12:45 pm **Lunch**

Executive Brief - AI Generated

1. Situation

The Red Cedar River Water Quality Partnership is updating its 2016 watershed plan for the next decade. The central challenge remains reducing phosphorus entering Tainter and Menomin lakes, where excess phosphorus contributes to algae growth and impaired water quality.

The draft reports encouraging progress: phosphorus loading estimates have declined since the 1990s, and recent measurements show lower phosphorus concentrations in the Red Cedar River. However, agricultural land-use changes, incomplete conservation-practice tracking, and limited monitoring data make it difficult to determine the full extent of progress or attribute improvements to specific actions.

The updated plan proposes a more targeted approach, combining watershed-wide conservation goals with focused implementation in two priority subwatersheds.

2. Key findings

427,000 lb/yr Estimated load entering Tainter Lake, based on 2014–2018 monitoring.

Proposed 10-year reduction

137,000 lb/yr Approximately 32% below the stated baseline.

Estimated investment

$75.1M Combined estimated cost of the six principal conservation strategies.

5,094 lb Point-source phosphorus - The Wastewater Treatment Plants have made substantial reductions. Reported total for 2025, compared with a 20,100 lb/yr allocation goal.

- Agriculture remains the principal focus. The plan uses historical modeling indicating approximately 66% of phosphorus loading comes from agricultural land.
- Phosphorus trends are improving, but important gaps remain. Estimated annual loading declined from 506,300 lb in the 1990s to 427,000 lb in the 2014–2018 study. The latest

processed river phosphorus measurement cited is 0.0983 mg/L in 2023. The plan cautions that the available data cannot establish which practices caused the improvements.

- Targeted implementation offers a practical starting point. Lower Pine Creek and Barker Creek are identified for focused conservation work based on modeled phosphorus concerns, opportunities to work with producers, and potential to concentrate resources effectively.
- Partnerships provide an implementation foundation. County conservation departments, producer-led watershed groups, agricultural producers, lake organizations, state and federal agencies, and university partners can support outreach, technical assistance, cost sharing, and monitoring.

3. Proposed conservation strategy

The draft identifies six principal strategies to achieve the estimated 137,000 lb/year reduction.

Strategy	Estimated annual phosphorus reduction	Estimated cost
Cover crops and no-till	42,700 lb	$7.4 million
Well-managed rotational grazing	34,160 lb	$40.6 million
Prairie field strips	25,364 lb	$19.0 million
Nutrient management targeting high-phosphorus fields	16,909 lb	$673,000
Traditional erosion control, including grassed waterways and diversions	14,000 lb	$400,000
Barnyard runoff improvements	3,442 lb	$7.0 million
Total	136,575 lb/year	$75.073 million

The proposed approach emphasizes practices that reduce runoff and nutrient losses, with greater attention to high-delivery fields and locations where conservation investments can achieve measurable results.

4. Key risks and challenges

1. Funding and affordability. The estimated $75.1 million investment is substantial. The draft recognizes that some practices may be implemented voluntarily or with existing assistance, but it does not establish that sufficient funding is available.
2. Uncertain reduction estimates. Many projections rely on older watershed models or extrapolations from the Hay River watershed. Actual performance will vary by site, management, weather, and phosphorus form. The six estimates should not be treated as guaranteed reductions.
3. Insufficient monitoring and baseline data. Lower Pine Creek monitoring began in 2026, while Barker Creek still needs baseline monitoring

4. Adoption and coordination. Rotational grazing and prairie strips require significant land-management changes and investment.
5. Data quality and accountability. Current BMP tracking does not fully capture practices installed without cost-share assistance, and annual reported reductions may not represent entirely new acres each year.

5. Recommended next steps

1. Finalize measurable targets and assumptions. Confirm the 427,000 lb/year baseline, document the limitations of historical models, and clearly distinguish estimated reductions from measured results. Reconcile the watershed-wide targets with the site-specific monitoring plans.
2. Prioritize projects by impact and cost. Develop a project pipeline for Lower Pine Creek and Barker Creek using available conservation-planning tools, field assessments, landowner interest, and expected downstream benefits.
3. Secure funding and technical capacity. Identify grant programs, cost-share sources, local contributions, and staffing needs. Prioritize technical assistance for grazing plans, nutrient management, erosion-control projects, and barnyard improvements.
4. Establish consistent monitoring and reporting. Fund Barker Creek baseline monitoring, continue Lower Pine Creek monitoring, and maintain annual tracking of BMP installation, producer participation, and water quality. Establish a consistent method for counting new acres and estimating phosphorus reductions.
5. Strengthen producer and community engagement. Use producer-led watershed groups, demonstration farms, field days, and the annual watershed conference to encourage adoption, share results, and gather feedback from landowners and residents.
6. Conduct regular performance reviews. Use the draft's 10-year monitoring schedule to assess progress annually and adjust practices, geographic priorities, and funding as results become available. Plan for a comprehensive watershed-wide monitoring study in the final years.

Executive conclusion

The draft provides a credible direction for the next decade: build on improving phosphorus trends, focus conservation investments where they can have the greatest effect, and expand proven agricultural practices. Its strongest feature is the combination of watershed-wide goals with targeted work in Lower Pine Creek and Barker Creek.

The most important decision is how to translate the estimated 137,000 lb/year reduction into a funded, measurable implementation program. Before final adoption, the Partnership should validate key assumptions, establish baseline monitoring and reporting requirements, identify funding and staffing commitments, and set clear milestones for evaluating progress.

Prepared from the uploaded 2026 Red Cedar Plan Update draft. This brief summarizes the document and identifies implementation recommendations; it does not independently validate the underlying models or estimates.

Nestle water quality project

The Nestle corporation approached Wis Land + Water last year looking to partner with a conservation organization on decreasing runoff. They are willing to contribute ~$450,000 to work in the Chippewa basin as they have a facility in the area.

After a year of discussion, they agreed to have Land + Water disperse the money to the counties in the basin. Roughly $25,000 per county.

Nestle is looking for projects with an erosion and runoff control focus.

I am proposing we accept this funding and use it to pay for more headlands buffers as an extension of our MDV program. **Action item**

That program pays $750 per acre for conversion to grass for a 5 year commitment. Our signup hasn't been as robust as expected at that rate. During the area discussion, Pierce County has a similar program and they are paying $1000 for the 5 year commitment. I would propose we increase our rate to $1000 per acre for the 5 years. **Action item**

We have identified many possible sites across the county where headland could be planted to grass. We could send targeted mailings to those individuals outlining the program along with a map of the suggested site.

The expectation is that the funds would be spent in 2027.



NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (DATCP)

Program Overview

In 2025, the DATCP Nutrient Management Program, along with county land conservation departments, continued working with farmers, agronomists, and conservation partners to advance nutrient management planning across Wisconsin. These plans guide the use of manure and fertilizer to meet crop nutrient needs while protecting water quality by minimizing runoff to surface and groundwater resources. Planning is based on soil and manure testing and must follow the NRCS 590 Nutrient Management Standard.

Statewide support for nutrient management continues to grow through programs like Nutrient Management Farmer Education Program, the Farmland Preservation Program, and the development of a new conservation agronomy curriculum to help prepare more people to support nutrient management planning at the local level.

NM Plan Numbers	2024	2025
NM Plans Reported by Wisconsin Counties	7,917	7,472
Statewide Acres	3.82 mil	3.88 mil
Percent of Wisconsin Cropland Covered by a NM Plan	44%	44%
Farmer Written Plans	1,539	1,648

Figure 1: Summary of NM plan metrics reported by counties to DATCP for 2024 and 2025.

Counties play a central role in reviewing plans and reporting annual progress to DATCP. In 2025, they reported 3.88 million acres of cropland covered by nutrient management (NM) plans, representing approximately 44% of Wisconsin's harvestable cropland. This growth reflects a strong, ongoing commitment by farmers, planners, and conservation staff to support nutrient management and protect Wisconsin's natural resources.

Figures 1 and 2 provide a quick overview of year-to-year nutrient management planning activity. Together, they show that plan numbers, total acres, statewide coverage, and farmer-written plans can each tell a slightly different part of the story. Because individual plans vary in size and purpose, changes in the number of plans do not always move in the same direction as changes in reported acres. The following pages provide more context for where these acres are reported; how county-level reporting varies; and how farmers, plan writers, and conservation partners support nutrient management planning across Wisconsin.

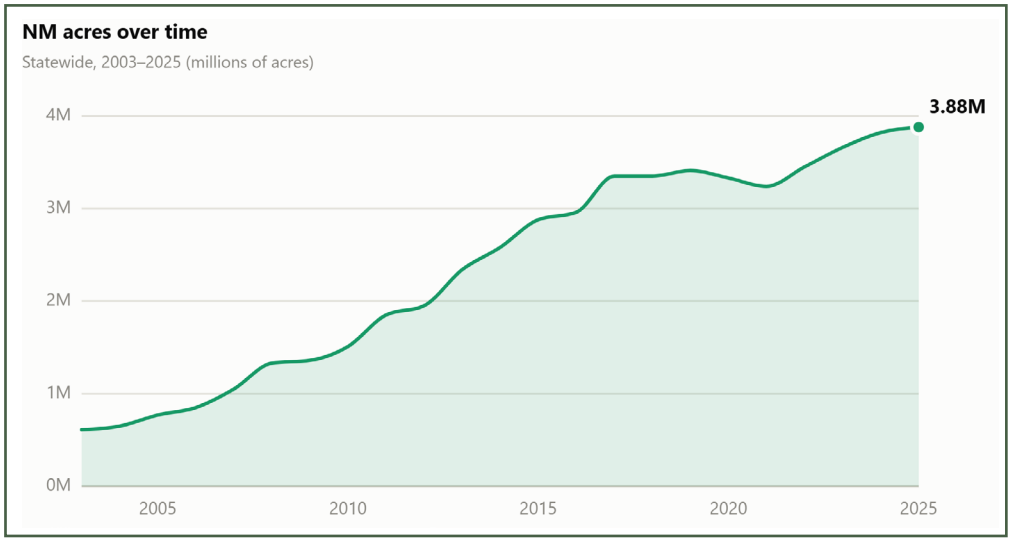


Figure 2: Trends in NM plans acres from 2003-2025.

Wisconsin's Nutrient Management Numbers

The map on this page shows the total number of acres covered by NM plans in each county for 2025. NM plans may include cropland such as row crops and cranberries, as well as pastures and other agricultural lands that receive manure, fertilizer, or other nutrient inputs. Displaying the data by county helps show where nutrient management planning is occurring across the state and reflects the local work involved in reviewing, tracking, and supporting these plans.

These numbers are submitted to DATCP annually by county land conservation departments. County staff compile acres from NM plans they review throughout the year. Because plans may be developed for several different reasons, county reporting helps bring local, state, and federal planning activity together into one statewide dataset.

The accompanying chart shows how reported plans are distributed by agency or program. DATCP-related plans are largely driven by farmland preservation and Soil and Water Resource Management cost-share. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) related plans may be associated with Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits or other DNR grants. County-reported plans may come from local cost-share programs, county ordinances, livestock siting, or other locally tracked conservation efforts. And lastly, the Environmental Qualities Incentive and Conservation Stewardship Programs drive Natural Resources Conservation Service related nutrient management efforts.

County totals provide one way to understand nutrient management planning, but total acres alone do not tell the full story. The next page shows the data from two additional perspectives: the percentage of each county's cropland covered by NM plans and the year-to-year change in reported acres. Together, these maps help convey both the scale of nutrient management planning and how coverage is changing across Wisconsin.

Click the map for an enlarged view.

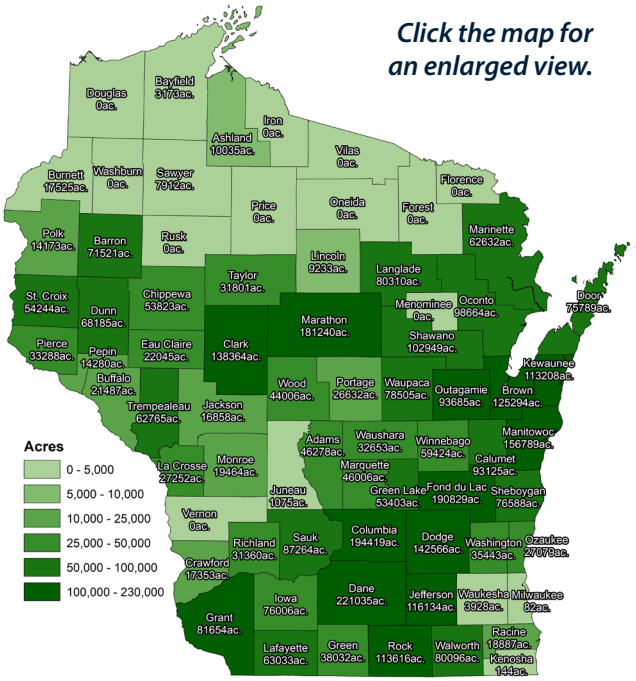


Figure 3: NM plan acres per county for 2025.

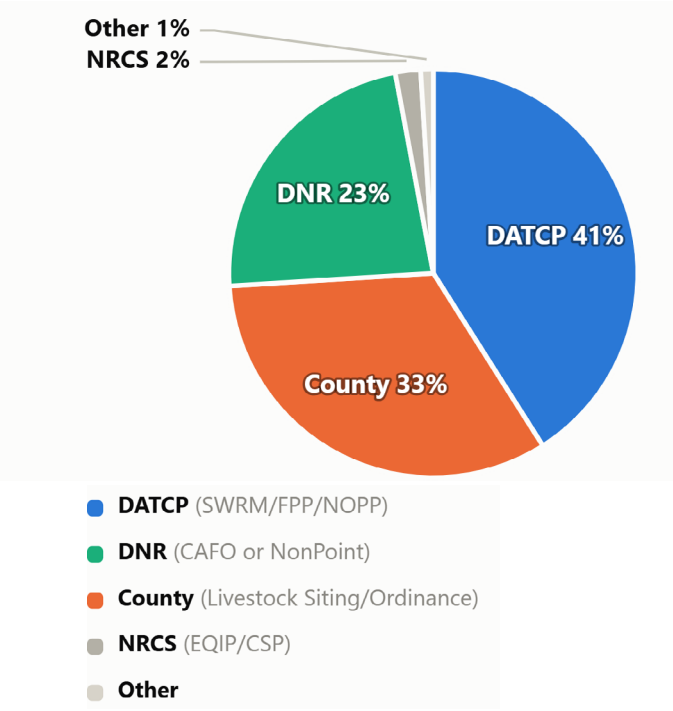


Figure 4: 2025 NM plan distribution by agency or program.

Understanding Year-to-Year Change

The total acres map is useful because it shows the overall scale of nutrient management activity in each county. However, total acres are only one way to understand the data. Wisconsin counties vary widely in how much cropland they have, so larger agricultural counties may naturally report more acres while counties with a smaller cropland base may appear lower on the map even when a significant share of their land is planned.

The percent coverage map helps account for that difference. By comparing planned acres to each county's cropland base, this map shows how widely nutrient management is being used relative to the land available for planning. This helps highlight local progress that may not be obvious from total acres alone, especially in counties where the overall amount of cropland is smaller.

The year-to-year change map adds a third perspective by showing how county totals shifted from the previous reporting year. This map is helpful for seeing where acres increased, decreased, or remained relatively stable. A decrease in acres does not necessarily mean less conservation work is happening or that a county is moving backward.

Annual changes can happen for several reasons. Acres may shift because of land use changes, plan updates, new or ended program participation, acres moving between plans, staffing capacity, or reporting timelines. In some cases, plans submitted late in the year may not be included until the next reporting cycle, particularly when county workload or other program reporting timelines affect when plans are reviewed and entered.

Together, these maps provide context for how nutrient management planning is reported across Wisconsin. Total acres, percent coverage, and annual change each tell a different part of the story. However, the work behind those numbers depends on farmers, plan writers, county staff, and other partners working together to develop, review, and implement NM plans.

Click the map for an enlarged view.

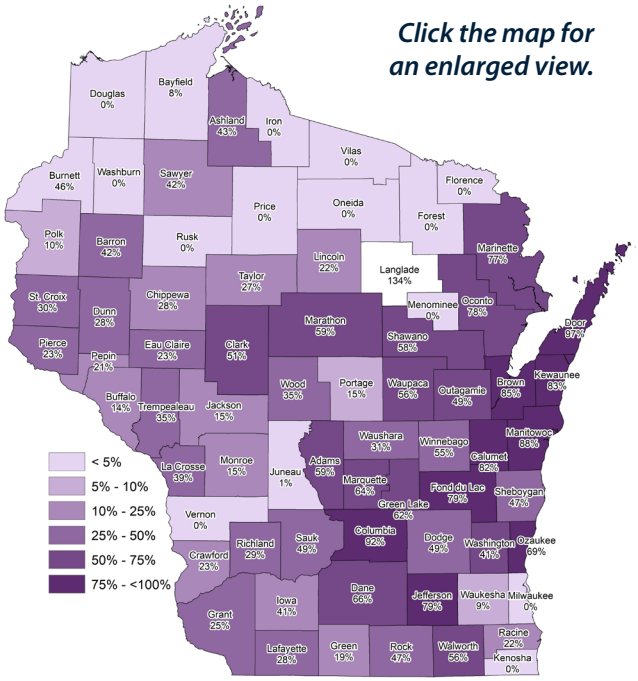


Figure 5: Percent of county cropland covered by NM plans.

Click the map for an enlarged view.

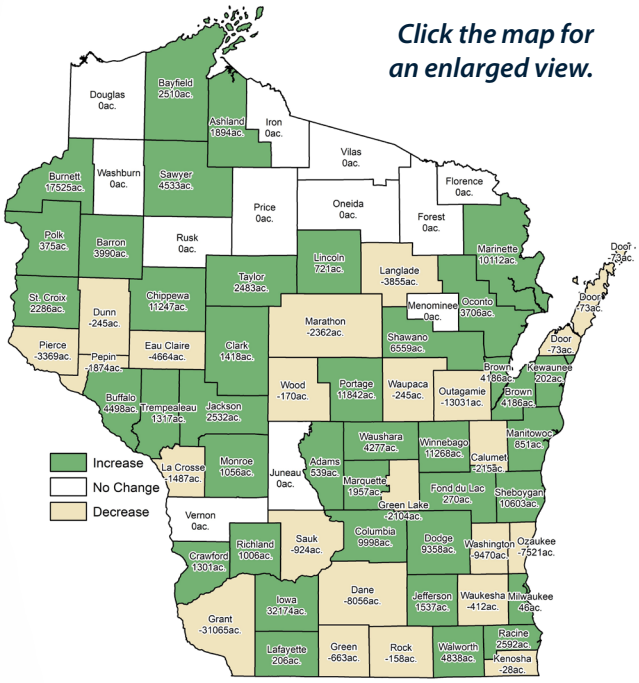


Figure 6: Change in acres of active and recorded NM plans from 2024 to 2025.

Supporting Farmers and Plan Writers

Nutrient management planning depends on both farmer-written plans and the work of professional plan writers. Farmers bring firsthand knowledge of their fields, cropping systems, manure sources, and day-to-day management decisions. Professional planners including agronomists, crop consultants, certified crop advisers, county staff, technical colleges, and other qualified planners provide technical support to help ensure plans are practical, accurate, and consistent with the NRCS 590 Nutrient Management Standard.

In 2025, the Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE) Program continued to support farmers to write and better understand their own NM plans. NMFE awarded $416,266 to 28 applicants, supporting farmers who operate 141,927 acres. These efforts help build local knowledge and give producers the tools to make informed nutrient management decisions on their own farms.

DATCP also supported nutrient management through broader training and outreach efforts beyond NMFE. In 2025, DATCP assisted with or held 28 total trainings, reaching 843 individuals. These trainings included NMFE classes, county staff trainings on operating local nutrient management programs, SnapPlus trainings for agronomists and plan writers, and other technical assistance opportunities.

The 2025 Nutrient Management Regional Meetings provided another opportunity to connect directly with county staff, private plan writers, agency partners, and students preparing to work in conservation and agronomy. Meetings were held across the state and brought together 202 attendees, including land and water conservation department staff, certified crop advisers, agronomists, DNR and NRCS partners, and others involved in nutrient management planning. Topics included updates to the NRCS 590, A2809, SnapPlus V3 demonstrations, and other updates. These meetings help keep planners and partners informed, provide space for questions and discussion, and support more consistent nutrient management planning across Wisconsin.

Resources for Wisconsin's Qualified Nutrient Management Planners

Access the Nutrient Management Planner Resources homepage to view a series of prerecorded webinars that guide users through Wisconsin's nutrient management rules.

Nutrient Management Trainings Page

Visit the Nutrient Management Trainings page to view all future and prior trainings and outreach events.

Funding Resources

To find out more about nutrient management-related financial assistance opportunities, and programs for other resources, access the webpages listed below:

SWRM Cost-Share Grants NMFE Grants Farmland Preservation Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program

SNAP+ V3 Resources

SnapPlus V3 User Group Names YouTube Video Playlist SnapPlus V3 Magazine

SnapPlus Wiki Page Change Log

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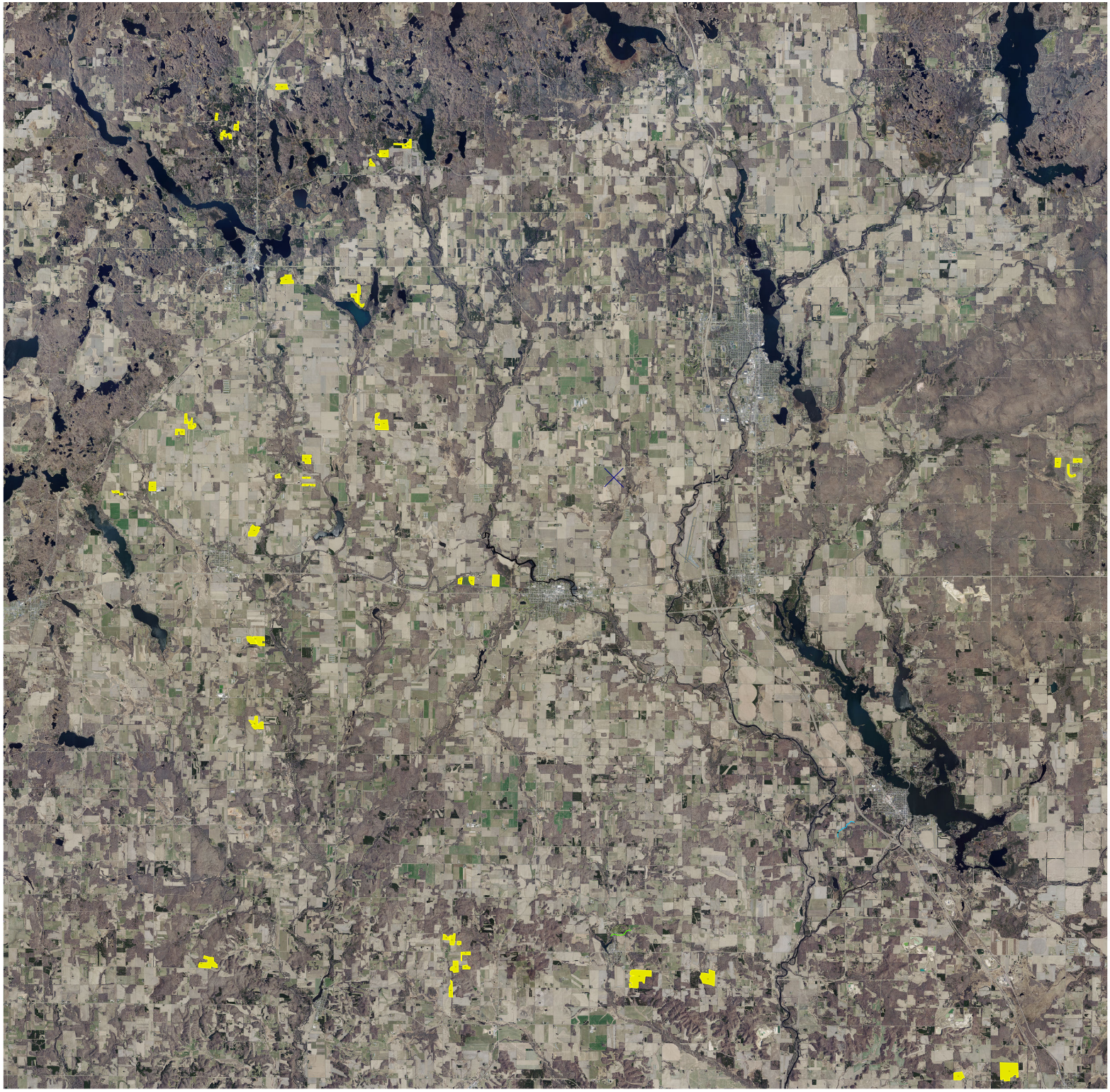
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Website
https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/NutrientManagement.aspx

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P-DARM593(10/26)





2026
Barron Co
Cover Crop
1232 acres total
768 ac cost shared
$25/ac 40 ac max

Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON
BARRON COUNTY



QUARTERLY REPORT

Q3

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Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

UW–Madison Extension's outreach creates key connection points for families, farms, communities, businesses, nonprofit organizations, government, and more. We support local volunteers and leaders to take action and serve as role models in their communities, and we make sure Wisconsinites have the latest research, best practices, and educational opportunities.

Learn more at
extension.wisc.edu









Agriculture

Emerging Crops

(Barron, Burnett, Sawyer and Washburn Counties)



Tawonga facilitated the **Honeyberry Field Day**, an event she helped organize to educate community members about the crop, the ongoing research at the Spooner Agricultural Research Station, and its potential for growers in the region. Growers learned about honeyberry research, variety selection, and management practices. Participants were able to taste test of five trial varieties. And increased their awareness of honeyberries as a crop diversification opportunity.

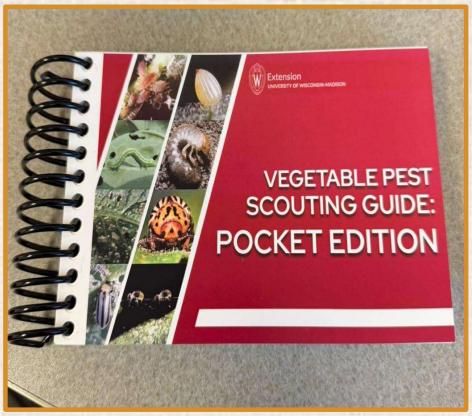


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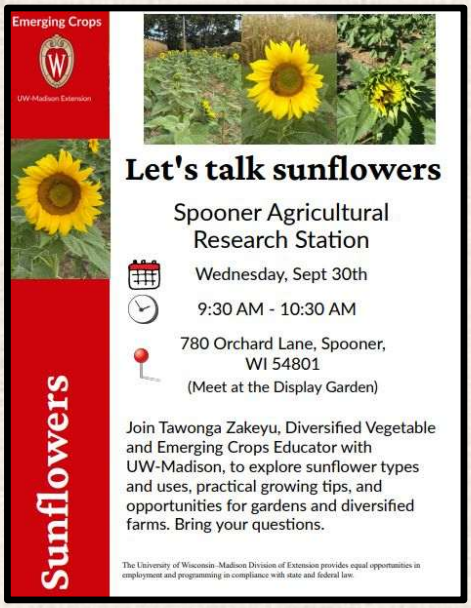


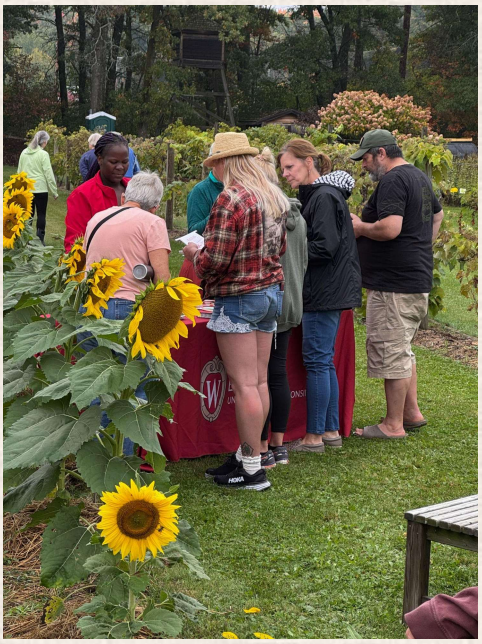


Between August and September, Tawonga connected with growers, farmers market vendors, community and economic development partners to better understand local agricultural needs, production challenges and interests in crop diversification. She also worked on producing a vegetable pest scouting guide, pocket edition. . These conversations are helping guide future Extension programming and plan of work.



Sunflowers!





Tawonga prepared for "Let's talk about sunflowers," an educational session in exploring sunflower production, potential uses, and consideration for incorporating sunflowers into local farms. Growers who are interested in the diversification of their farms need research-based information about available alternative crops and their adaptability in the area. Sunflowers offer several uses including birdseed, oil seed, cut flowers about others, but it is important for growers to consider variety selection, production practices, and markets before planting them. This program introduced sunflowers as an alternative crop and provided an opportunity for growers to ask questions and decide if incorporating sunflowers into their farms is a good fit. A sunflower demonstration plot was established at the Spooner Ag Research Station with the goal of having an education sunflower field day.

The activity included a presentation, Extension and Sunflower seeds handouts, Q&A discussion and a walk around the plot. Participants engaged in an extended discussion during and after the presentation, which showed interest in sunflowers, and they were also able to collect sunflower seeds handouts for their future production, but growing practices or adaption have not been assessed yet.





Human Development & Relationships

Throughout Q3, Missy continued to provide high-quality, research-based programming that delivers meaningful benefits to children, parents, caregivers, and family-serving professionals across Barron County.

Through strong community partnerships, innovative virtual and in-person education, and a focus on meeting families where they are, these efforts help strengthen relationships, build parenting confidence, support healthy child development, and increase access to resources that promote long-term family well-being and resilience.



Missy Bablick
Human Development and Relationships Educator
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MISSION

We promote the development of resilient individuals and communities across Wisconsin and at every stage of life through meaningful collaborations and research-based education.

VALUES

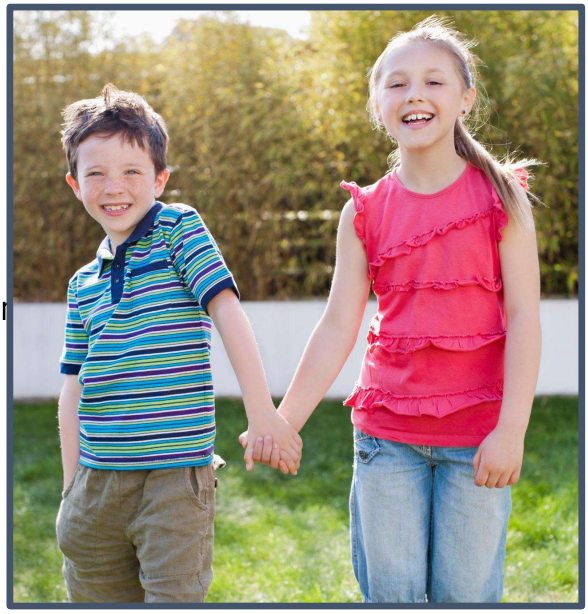
Service
We meet community needs by collaborating with local residents and partners and connecting them with university resources.

Inclusion
We foster belonging and respect and amplify diverse voices within our communities and our work.

Growth
We rely on current research to guide our work and evolve through innovation and quality improvement.

Human Development & Relationships

Strong parent-child relationships are essential to healthy child development and resilient families. In Barron County, families face challenges including economic hardship, rural isolation, limited access to childcare and mental health services, and the impacts of parental incarceration. Through evidence-based education and community partnerships, Family Engagement and Relationships (FER) programming helps families build skills, strengthen relationships, and improve outcomes for children.



Key Focus Areas

- Parenting and child development education
- Co-parenting and relationship skill building
- Support for families impacted by incarceration
- Father engagement initiatives
- Early childhood workforce development
- Community collaboration and referrals

Major Activities

- Offer Triple P, Parents Forever, Raising a Thinking Child, and Resilient Co-Parenting programs
- Support statewide fatherhood and Strong Couples Coaching initiatives
- Partner with DHHS, Family Treatment Drug Court, CCR&R, and other local agencies
- Deliver parenting, relationship, wellness, and financial education in the county jail
- Provide professional development opportunities for early childhood educators

Expected Outcomes

- Stronger family relationships and parent-child connections
- Increased parenting knowledge, confidence, and communication skills
- Reduced family conflict and improved co-parenting
- Improved child behavior, emotional regulation, and development
- Greater access to family support resources across Barron County

Human Development & Relationships

Resilient Co-Parenting

Resilient Co-Parenting is an ongoing monthly series for parents and caregivers experiencing separation, divorce, or changes in custody of their children.

This series is designed to improve understanding of positive parenting practices that are useful during stress, while providing social connection for parents experiencing family transitions.

This quarter, monthly topics included:

- Money Talks: Less Stress, More Success
- Healthy Coping During Times of Transition
- Relationship Readiness



Parents Forever

Parents Forever is another co-parenting class that is offered for parents and caregivers in the process of divorce, already divorced, or never married but separating. Participants will learn how family transitions affect children and how children experience family conflict.

"Thinking about ways to reframe negative thoughts into something more positive was a helpful reminder. Getting affirmation that what I'm trying to do is worth it for my kids, and just not feeling so alone in the co-parenting struggles was helpful too."
– Parent in a Resilient Co-Parenting class

Barron County 4-H

Overview

This quarter focused on creating meaningful opportunities for youth to build leadership, explore new interests, develop skills, and strengthen connections across Barron County and neighboring counties. Programming included county fair activities, camps, leadership development, project-area planning, and expanded resources for youth and families.

Key themes

- Youth leadership and voice
- Hands-on learning and exploration
- Cross-county collaboration
- Volunteer and program development
- Improved access to resources and opportunities

During this quarter, Associate 4-H Program Educator Kelly Drake departed from Barron County Extension. We are currently looking to fill the position and are working to ensure continued support for 4-H programs during this transition.



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Barron County 4-H

Barron County Fair

The Barron County Fair offered many opportunities for 4-H youth to get involved!

Little Britches Dairy Show



Little Shepherds Sheep Show



Junior Stuffed Animal Show



Barron County 4-H

Developing Youth Leadership & Voice

Youth leadership remained a central focus, with opportunities for young people to take greater ownership of activities, develop leadership skills, and contribute to the direction of their 4-H programs.

The Barron County 4-H Junior Leaders group provides a strong foundation for this work, supporting youth as they plan, organize, lead, serve their communities, and build skills for future leadership roles.

Junior Leaders Shake Stand at the Barron County Fair

The shake stand is a fundraiser for the youth of Barron County 4-H, and provides Barron County 4-H teens with opportunities to build leadership and citizenship skills. Funds raised help fund service projects, leadership projects, travel and educational experiences and other opportunities directly benefiting the youth. The youth working in the stand get to decide exactly how the money supports 4-H!



Barron County 4-H

2026 Summer Camps

- Cloverbud Camp (K-2 Grade)
- 4-H Base Camp (3-6 Grade)
- 4-H Outpost Camp (7-8 Grade)











Barron County 4-H

Overall Impact & Looking Ahead

This quarter balanced direct youth engagement with long-term program development. Youth gained new experiences and leadership opportunities while educators and volunteers worked to strengthen the structures supporting those experiences.

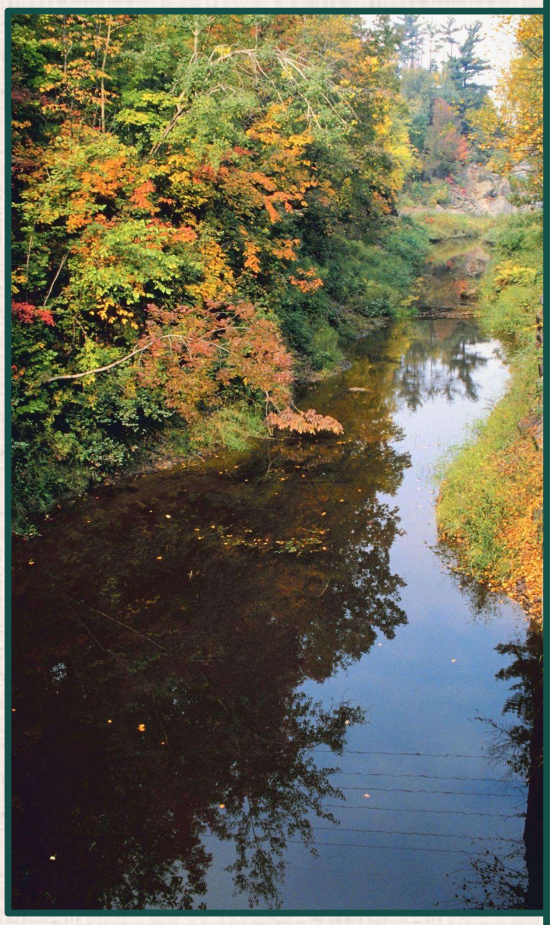
Looking ahead, priorities include:

- Expanding youth leadership and voice
- Strengthening volunteer-supported project opportunities
- Growing Small Animals and poultry programming
- Increasing access to information and resources
- Providing welcoming entry points for younger and newer 4-H members
- Continuing cross-county collaboration
- Planning for 4-H Fall Forum
- Planning and development of the "Information Hub" for the Barron County 4-H Program
- Cloverbuds Newsletter

Natural Resources

Red Cedar River Water Quality Partnership

UW–Madison Division of Extension supports long-term water quality improvement in Barron County and the broader Red Cedar River Watershed by bringing farmers, local governments, conservation organizations, businesses, and community partners together to turn research into practical conservation action.



Red Cedar River Water Quality Partnership

Extension provides ongoing leadership and facilitation for the Partnership, helping partners coordinate implementation of the 10-year comprehensive watershed management plan.

- Meetings every other month with approximately 12 partner organizations represented
- Collaboration includes Barron and Dunn Counties, WDNR, NRCS, municipalities, agriculture organizations, businesses, UW institutions, and lake associations
- Activities reach thousands of people through field days, outreach events, producer contacts, conferences, and other conservation efforts

Other Office Information

Extension Bringing Learning to Life at the Barron County Fair with Education Station



The Education Station provided hands-on learning experiences for youth, families, and adults during the Barron County Fair. Through interactive activities, demonstrations, and service projects, Extension staff and community partners helped fairgoers explore new skills, discover local resources, and spark new interests.



Highlights:

- Engaged fairgoers of all ages through hands-on educational activities
- Featured interactive demonstrations, take-and-make projects, and community-led learning opportunities
- Offered the popular "Sew at the Fair" project, combining skill-building with service
- Showcased Extension programs and strengthened community partnerships
- Encouraged curiosity, lifelong learning, and exploration of new interests through fun, interactive experiences

Other Office Information

Quarter 3 continued to center on responsive public service, educator support, and maintaining efficient day-to-day office operations. With the summer season winding down, attention shifted toward keeping information current, supporting ongoing programming, and preparing resources for the months ahead.

- **Public & program support**- Responded to inquiries, connected residents with resources, and prepared materials for educators and programs.
- **Upcoming programming**- Organized and prepared materials for the upcoming Raising a Thinking Child class.
- **Digital communication**- Updated website and social media content and maintained accurate, accessible online information.
- **Administrative support**- Processed deposits and Point & Pay transactions while maintaining accurate financial records.



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ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER

UW-Madison Division of Extension works alongside the people of Wisconsin to deliver practical educational programs where people live and work – on the farm, in schools and throughout urban and rural communities. With educators in all 72 counties, on 5 campuses and within 5 tribal nations, we're helping our neighbors put their own great ideas into practice with the support of our expertise, resources and university research.

Other Ways Extension Serves Barron County

Covering Wisconsin

Through Covering Wisconsin, Extension provides free, year-round support to help individuals and families understand, obtain, and use health insurance.

- Free, unbiased enrollment assistance for Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, and HealthCare.gov
- Help with renewals, coverage questions, appeals, and complex insurance cases
- Connections to charity care, clinics, and other affordable care options
- Education and resources for community partners and professionals

Statewide impact: 74,147 coverage assistance services, 13,360 consumers assisted with Marketplace/Medicaid enrollment, and 9,206 consumers reached through health insurance literacy efforts.

Why it matters: Extension connects Wisconsin residents, including those in Barron County, with trusted resources to help them access affordable coverage and navigate the healthcare system.



Other Ways Extension Serves Barron County

Upcoming: Virtual Classes for Farmers

Shoebox to Strategy: Organizing your Farm's Legacy

go.wisc.edu/shoebox

- This workshop series helps farmers organize essential documents and financial information to better prepare for estate planning or unexpected emergencies.

Cultivation Your Farm's Future

go.wisc.edu/cyff

- This workshop series is intended for farmers who are ready to begin the farm succession planning process.





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The University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.

November FSA Updates

Agriculture Risk Coverage Program (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage Program (PLC)

ARC/PLC payments were issued in early October for crop year 2025. $2,421,717 was dispersed to Barron County commodity producers. The signup for program year 2026 is currently taking place through December 11th. The signup for program year 2027 begins November 2nd and ends March 15, 2027.

Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP)

The signup for SDRP ended back on September 30th and provided payments to farmers for both production and quality losses that they experienced in 2023 and/or 2024 due to an eligible loss condition. There were two stages to the program. The first stage provided an additional payment to producers who had already received an indemnity payment from crop insurance for their losses. The second stage was for producers who either had uninsured crops or who had crop insurance, but whose losses weren't great enough to generate a payment. $9,085,448 was issued to Barron County producers under Stage 1 of the program. Stage 2 generated another $1,055,328. $7,718 was issued for Stage 1 quality losses.

Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC)

DMC is a risk management tool that protects dairy farmers against declining milk prices and increasing feed costs. Payments were issued for January ($1.69/cwt), February ($1.04/cwt) and August ($0.16/cwt), with total payments for calendar year 2026 totaling $325,059. Price forecasts indicate payments yet for September and October 2026 and for July 2027. The 2027 DMC signup is currently taking place through December 18th.

Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers (ASCF) Program

The ASCF Program ended back on August 7th. Producers received payments based on the eligible specialty crops they planted in 2025. The most common crops we saw payments on here in Barron County were strawberries ($650/acre), potatoes ($225/acre), and sweet corn ($65/acre). $339,034 was issued to Barron County producers under the ASCF Program.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

LFP provides financial support to livestock producers who experienced grazing losses due to a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period. Barron County became eligible for the LFP Program on September 14th after spending 7 consecutive weeks in a D2 drought status. The county has been in a D2 drought status ever since. To date, we have paid 56 producers a total of $19,538.52 under the 2026 LFP Program.

Login.gov

USDA is moving towards a more digital platform and is therefore increasingly pushing the use of Login.gov. Login.gov is currently the only option for producers to access USDA online resources. A Login.gov account can be used to conduct business with multiple government agencies including FSA, NRCS, VA, Social Security Administration, etc. Currently, producers may sign various program applications via Login.gov; however, in the coming months they will also have the opportunity to complete acreage reports via Login.gov. Of course, signing applications in the county office is always an option. Login.gov is just another option for producers. A Login.gov account can be created by visiting farmers.gov/account.

County Committee Elections

Eligible voters may submit their ballots for county committee elections through December 1st. Kenneth Drost of Rice Lake is the sole nominee on the ballot for 2026. Our county committee members play a vital role in FSA programs by providing their knowledge to help make decisions regarding disaster assistance and other financial and technical support programs. Newly elected members take office on January 1st and serve a three-year term.

Acreage Reporting

Producers who planted small grains this fall should contact our office before November 15th to report their crops or risk paying a late-file fee if reported after that date. Cover crops planted this fall may also be reported now; however, the deadline to report them to FSA isn't until July 15, 2027.