

World Dairy Expo 2023

Dairy Forage Seminars

Hosted by the organizing partners of the
World Forage Analysis Superbowl

Wednesday, October 4th at 10:00 a.m.

How to Interseed Alfalfa into Corn Silage and the Environmental and Economic Benefits of This Practice

Speaker: Mark Renz, Ph.D., Professor and Extension Specialist, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wis.

Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Continuing Education Units:

Tracking Number(s): WI 58187

On Demand Tracking Number(s): SS 57426

Crop Management CEUs: 1

Interseeding alfalfa into corn silage is a system that can provide both economic and environmental benefits. Research has demonstrated this system can result in high yields of corn silage and successful establishment of alfalfa. While no alfalfa is harvested during the establishment year under corn, forage yield the following year matches that of a fully established alfalfa field, thus this approach bypasses the low yielding establishment year of solo-seeded alfalfa. Results over the last ten years have shown that this approach provides 10% more forage over the two-year timeframe and increases the profitability for farmers. Additionally, interseeding alfalfa provides key services such as reducing soil erosion, nutrient runoff and soil nitrate levels (after harvest) compared to solo-seeded corn silage. This presentation will highlight the best management practices to successfully adopt this practice and key issues that are currently being studied to further improve economic and environmental benefits from this innovative practice.

Wednesday, October 4th at 1:30 p.m.

Producing High Quality Forage: Four Hands Holsteins

Speakers: Rick and Gwen Dado, Producers, Four Hands Holsteins of Amery, WI

Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Continuing Education Units:

Tracking Number(s): WI 58188

On Demand Tracking Number(s): SS 57427

Nutrient Management CEUs: 1

Owned and operated by Rick and Gwen Dado, Four Hands Holsteins is a 500 cow dairy farm in northwest Wisconsin that grows and harvests conventional alfalfa and bMR corn silages for their lactating herd. Achieving high quality forages remains a team effort from seed selection all the way to TMR delivered to the cows. Like high quality milk in the udder, forage quality begins its journey at peak levels as standing plants in the field; it is our challenge to preserve this quality throughout the harvest, storage, and feedout process. As a former forage researcher, and now a daily cow feeder, Rick will share insights from his past 20+ years producing sufficient, economical, and hopefully high-quality feedstuffs for their registered Holstein herd.

Thursday, October 5th at 10:00 a.m.

Corn Silage Production: The Key to Unlocking Your Farm's Potential

Speaker: Joe Lauer, Ph.D., Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wis.

Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Continuing Education Units:

Tracking Number(s): WI 58189

On Demand Tracking Number(s): SS 57428

Crop Management CEUs: 1

Corn silage is a high-quality forage crop that is used to feed dairy cows and beef cattle. Corn silage is a relatively inexpensive feed to produce, and it can be stored for long periods of time. The keys to successful corn silage production include: 1) Choosing the right hybrid, 2) Managing the crop for optimum growth and

development, 3) Harvesting at the correct moisture for the storage structure, and 4) Ensiling properly. This presentation will dive deeper into a comprehensive overview of these key management factors for corn silage production to ensure a successful harvest.

Thursday, October 5th at 1:30 p.m.

Linking Forage Quality Measures to Economic Value

Speaker: Bill Weiss, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor, The Ohio State University, Ohio Agricultural Research & Development Center

Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Continuing Education Units:

Tracking Number(s): WI 58190

On Demand Tracking Number(s): SS 57429

Nutrient Management CEUs: 1

The economic value of forage should be based on its ability to provide fiber, protein and energy to dairy cows while promoting high dry matter intake. A nutrient analysis of a forage is essential to formulate productive and cost-effective diets for dairy cows and to estimate its value when buying or selling. One common index used to price forage is Relative Forage Quality (RFQ); however, that index does not include protein which has substantial value to a dairy cow. This talk will discuss a method of using commonly measured nutrients (CP, NDF, IVNDFD) to estimate the total economic value of a forage when fed to dairy cows.

Friday, October 6th at 10:00 a.m.

Grazing Systems Can Be A Win-Win Solution for the Modern-Day Dairy

Speaker: David Jaramillo, Ph.D., Res. Animal Scientist, U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center, Marshfield, Wis.

Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Continuing Education Units:

Tracking Number(s): WI 58191

On Demand Tracking Number(s): SS 57430

Nutrient Management CEUs: 1

Incorporating pasture systems into modern-day dairies has potential to promote positive environmental, economic, and animal welfare outcomes. Despite the potential benefits of grazing management, numerous challenges remain which have hindered the adoption of these practices. However, in modern-day dairies, grazing systems might fit especially well for raising replacement heifers, as evidence suggests that pasture-raised heifers can be more productive than confinement-raised heifers at first lactation. As a whole, grazing systems have potential to be a win-win strategy for the modern-day dairy. Through this session, we will be addressing some of the benefits and challenges of the adoption of grazing-based systems, and identifying where these systems might fit into the modern-day dairy.

Friday, October 6th at 1:30 p.m.

What's In A Name? Dual-Purpose Crops for Conservation and Forage

Speaker: Jose Franco, Ph.D., Res. Agronomist, U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center, Madison, Wis.

Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Continuing Education Units:

Tracking Number(s): WI 58192

On Demand Tracking Number(s): SS 57431

Crop Management CEUs: 1

Cover crops are plants that are used for reducing soil erosion caused by rainfall and wind, improving soil health, enhancing weed management programs, increasing biological diversity, and scavenging excess nutrients following a cash crop (among others). However, many species of cover crops can also be utilized as a supplemental forage source. In addition, grazing or cutting them for forage may be a quick way of recovering the costs associated with cover crop seed and establishment. In this talk, I'll discuss the technical definition of a "cover crop" and how this may restrict their utility as forage, and their potential for helping to achieve conservation goals while also providing valuable feed for livestock.