



# *Crop Management in the 21st Century*

December 12, 2012

9:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Glacier Canyon Conference Center at the Wilderness  
Wisconsin Dells, WI

Register on-line at [www.uwdiscoveryfarms.org](http://www.uwdiscoveryfarms.org)

Registration by December 5, 2012—\$40

After December 5, 2012—\$45

*Registration includes materials and noon meal.*

- ❖ **What practices are reducing environmental and economic risks on Wisconsin farms?**  
*Dennis Frame, University of Wisconsin – Discovery Farms*
- ❖ **How much water do I need for a crop this year?**  
*Jerry Hatfield, USDA-ARS National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment*
- ❖ **Climate change in Wisconsin and impacts on agriculture**  
*Chris Kucharik, University of Wisconsin – Madison Agronomy*
- ❖ **Frequency, magnitude and timing of large storm events on sediment and nutrient loss**  
*Eric Cooley, University of Wisconsin – Discovery Farms*
- ❖ **Is conservation tillage the right choice for your bottom line?**  
*Jayson Harper, Penn State University Agricultural Economics*
- ❖ **You'd have to be crazy to farm those slopes**  
*Joe Bragger, Dairy and Poultry Producer, Buffalo County, WI*
- ❖ **Panel discussion: economics, challenges, and new opportunities in manure handling**  
*Dairy Producer: Ben Peterson, Four Cubs Farm LLC, Grantsburg, WI*  
*Custom Manure Applicator: Brent Cook, Cook's Countryside Trucking, North Freedom, WI*  
*Dairy Producer: Kenn Buelow, Holsum Dairies, LLC, Hilbert, WI*

4.5 CEUs applied for (1.0 Nutrient Management, 3.5 Soil & Water Management)

University of Wisconsin – Extension

**DISCOVERY**  
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University of Wisconsin – Madison

## 9:30 a.m.—Registration

### 10:00 a.m.—What practices are reducing environmental and economic risks on Wisconsin farms?

- *Dennis Frame, University of Wisconsin – Discovery Farms*

For the past 12 years, the UW Discovery Farms Program has worked with Wisconsin farmers to collect and present the best available data on runoff risk and nutrient and sediment loss from several types of farming systems and landscapes in Wisconsin. Dennis will outline what we've learned about the riskiest time periods, practices, and landscapes and give some valuable context to the rest of the day's discussions.

### 10:45 a.m.—How much water do I need for a crop this year?

- *Jerry Hatfield, USDA-ARS National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment*

After the summer of 2012, we are well acquainted with the effect that too little water has on crops and pastures. Jerry's research has focused on the evaluation of farming systems and their unique response to water. He will discuss climate related issues in cropping systems, pasture and grazing lands, and answer the questions: If you do everything else perfectly, and don't have enough water, how much can you really lose? How much precipitation water can you really afford to lose in an average year?

## 11:30 - 12:30 p.m.—Lunch

### Climate change in Wisconsin and impacts on agriculture

- *Chris Kucharik, University of Wisconsin – Madison Agronomy*

Even though winter in Wisconsin can still be cold and miserable, several aspects of Wisconsin's climate have changed over the last century. Chris will provide some historical context for how climate has changed across Wisconsin since the 1950s. Then, he will review what climate models suggest we can expect from Wisconsin's climate for the next 50-100 years, and explain the impacts this may have on agricultural systems.

### 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.—Frequency, magnitude and timing of large storm events on sediment and nutrient loss

- *Eric Cooley, University of Wisconsin – Discovery Farms*

Weather is trending towards bigger storms with higher intensities. How much impact do these single storms have on soil and nutrient loss? What does this mean for tillage management, residue and crop cover options? Are conservation practices still effective for storms larger than the design criteria?

### 1:00 - 1:45 p.m.—Is conservation tillage the right choice for your bottom line?

- *Jayson Harper, Penn State University Agricultural Economics*

How have new technologies and market fluctuations changed the economics of conservation tillage systems? Jay will share results from his research on the benefits and costs of different tillage systems. He will compare and contrast systems based on factors like labor, fuel usage, and investment cost, and detail how the economics have changed over the past 15 years.

### 2:00 - 2:30 p.m. —You'd have to be crazy to farm those slopes

- *Joe Bragger, Dairy and Poultry Producer, Buffalo County, WI*

When the weather and your landscape stacks the odds against you, how do you minimize your environmental impact and still stay profitable? Bragger Family Dairy is located in one of the most challenging landscapes in the state. Joe will discuss the network of practices he has put into place to protect his crops and operation from erosion and runoff during different times of the year and precipitation events. Joe's unique way of arriving at a solution is sure to get you thinking about creative ways to enhance risk protection in your farming system.

### 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.—Panel discussion: economics, challenges, and new opportunities in manure handling

- *Dairy Producer: Ben Peterson, Four Cubs Farm LLC, Grantsburg, WI*
- *Custom Manure Applicator: Brent Cook, Cook's Countryside Trucking, North Freedom, WI*
- *Dairy Producer: Kenn Buelow, Holsum Dairies, LLC, Hilbert, WI*

We will have perspectives from three different manure handlers, each with their own unique situation of economics, handling procedures, and challenges and limitations. Each panel member will introduce their unique situation give us some insight as to how they see their handling system changing in the next 5 years. After introductions, a facilitated discussion will follow, so get your questions ready!

## 3:45 p.m.—Closing thoughts and adjourn