

# December 17 Program Overview

All talks are in the Kilimanjaro Room unless otherwise noted.



# 2024

Kalahari Resort,  
Wisconsin Dells

9:00 – 9:30 REGISTRATION FOR CONFERENCE ATTENDEES			
9:30 – 9:45		<b>Wisconsin Water and Soil Health Conference Welcome</b> Conference Chair: <b>Daniel H. Smith</b>	
9:45 – 10:45		<b>KEYNOTE 1: Striving Towards a Regenerative Agriculture</b> Keynote speaker: <b>Dr. Lisa Schulte Moore</b>	
10:45 – 11:00 BREAK			
11:00 – 12:00	<b>Breakout room 3</b> <b>Insect Pests, Pollinators, and Predators: The Multifaceted Impact of Cover Crops</b> Speakers: <b>Dane Elmquist</b> (Extension) <b>John Tooker</b> (Penn State) <b>Jess Gambel</b> (USDA-ARS) Moderator: <b>Dane Elmquist</b>	<b>Breakout room 6</b> <b>Minimizing Nutrient Losses From Manure Applications</b> Speakers: <b>Laura Paletta</b> (Extension) <b>Aaron Augustian</b> (Farmer) <b>Becky Larson</b> (UW-Madison) Moderator: <b>Laura Paletta</b>	<b>Breakout room 4</b> <b>Highs and Lows on the Road to Success in Conservation</b> Speakers: <b>David Roche</b> (Farmer) <b>Jenny Seifert</b> (Extension) <b>Anne Marie Nardi</b> (Extension) Moderator: <b>Guolong Liang</b>
12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH			
1:00 – 2:00		<b>KEYNOTE 2: On-Farm Soil and Water Quality Management in Northeast Wisconsin</b> Keynote speaker: <b>Nick Guilette</b>	
2:00 – 2:30 BREAK WITH REFRESHMENTS			
2:30 – 3:30		<b>FARMER PANEL: Insights into On-Farm Nitrogen Research</b> Panelists: <b>Tryston Beyrer, Jim Luedtke, Isaac Isherwood, Tom Novak</b> Moderator: <b>Lindsey Rushford</b>	
3:30 – 3:45 BREAK AND NETWORKING			
3:45 – 4:45	<b>Breakout room 3</b> <b>Steps for Success When Starting Your Cover Crop Journey</b> Speakers: <b>Matt Brugger</b> (Tilth Agronomy) <b>Barry Bubolz</b> (USDA-NRCS) <b>Jamie Patton</b> (USDA-NRCS) Moderator: <b>Jamie Patton</b>	<b>Breakout room 6</b> <b>Leveraging Farmer-Led, Peer-to-Peer Learning Through the WI Demo Farms Network</b> Speakers: <b>Marin Skidmore</b> (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) <b>Jacob Brey</b> (Farmer) <b>Whitney Prestby</b> (Extension NRI) Moderator: <b>Emily Zimmerman</b>	<b>Breakout room 4</b> <b>Using Your Voice for Conservation</b> Speakers: <b>Derek Orth</b> (WFBF) <b>Tina Hinchley</b> (WI Farmers Union) <b>Christine Johnson</b> (IL Stewardship Alliance) <b>Joseph Childs</b> (GrassWorks) Moderator: <b>Chuck Anderas</b>
4:45 – 5:00 BREAK AND NETWORKING			
5:00 – 5:30		<b>ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION 1</b>	
5:30 – 5:45 BREAK AND NETWORKING			
5:45 – 6:30		<b>ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION 2</b>	
6:30		<b>DINNER</b> (See page 6 for details and map)	

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## Signature

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**U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center**





9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

## Striving Towards a Regenerative Agriculture

Agriculture, energy and the environment provide the basic building blocks for our society, upon which other activities and outcomes are founded. Collaboration across sectors is crucial to deriving goods and services from these areas while also sustaining rural livelihoods. Dr. Schulte Moore will share stories of how farmers, researchers, industry, and other groups are successfully coming together to deliberate, innovate, and achieve such multifaceted goals in the Midwest and beyond.

**Keynote speaker: Lisa Schulte Moore**, Professor, Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management and co-director of the Bioeconomy Institute at Iowa State University

11:00 a.m. – Noon

### BREAKOUT SESSION 1 (concurrent talks)

#### ----- Breakout room 3 -----

#### **Insect Pests, Pollinators, and Predators: The Multifaceted Impact of Cover Crops** (1 PM CEU)

Explore the dynamic relationship between cover crops and insect populations in this engaging breakout session. We'll discuss how cover crops influence pest populations, enhance habitat for pollinators, and support predator species that keep "bad" bugs in check. Experts will share the latest research findings and practical insights, offering attendees a deeper understanding of how cover crops can impact pest management and pollination services. Join us to discover how integrating cover crops into agricultural systems can affect the "good" and "bad" bugs.

**Speakers: Dane Elmquist** (Extension)

**John Tooker** (Penn State)

**Jess Gambel** (USDA-ARS)

**Moderator: Dane Elmquist**

#### ----- Breakout room 6 -----

#### **Minimizing Nutrient Losses From Manure Applications** (1 NM CEU)

Being the Dairy State, there is a lot of manure to manage. Often after spreading, there are nutrients left on the soil that are unused and vulnerable to loss. On top of being expensive to haul and spread, losing nutrients forces more fertilizer use and overall increases costs. Learn more about techniques and new technologies that minimize risks to manure nutrient loss, which can help save money and lessen water quality impacts.

**Speakers: Laura Paletta** (Extension)

**Aaron Augustian** (Farmer)

**Becky Larson** (UW-Madison)

**Moderator: Laura Paletta**

#### ----- Breakout room 4 -----

#### **Highs and Lows on the Road to Success in Conservation** (1 NM CEU)

In the road of agricultural conservation, highs and lows take place. Shining light on both the highs and lows starts authentic conversations and a stronger community. Yet it can be difficult to share both with your neighbors and community. Come to this workshop to train your skills in telling your conservation story!

**Speakers: David Roche** (Farmer),

**Jenny Seifert** (Extension),

**Anne Marie Nardi** (Extension)

**Moderator: Guolong Liang**

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

## On-Farm Soil and Water Quality Management in Northeast Wisconsin

This keynote explores the vital role agronomists play in developing and managing resilient cropping systems that support soil health and water quality—both critical components for sustainable agriculture. Through the lens of CCA Conservationist of the Year, learn the practical insights of balancing productivity with environmental stewardship for Wisconsin's diverse agricultural landscapes. This talk focuses on managing cropping systems, critical success factors, actionable insights into sustainable agronomic practices, and guidance on how to achieve high crop yields while protecting the essential natural resources of soil and water.

**Keynote speaker: Nick Guilette**, Farmer, Certified Crop Advisor's Conservationist of the Year, and Door-Kewaunee Demo Farms Network's co-project manager

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

FARMER PANEL: **Insights into On-Farm Nitrogen Research**

Conducting on-farm research through the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP) generates unique & useful data, but can be challenging to implement. This panel, made up of NOPP participants, will discuss the value of their projects while addressing the practical obstacles faced by farmers to carry out this research. Beyond the numbers, panelists will delve into what it's meant for them to participate in terms of partnerships, community, and outreach.

Panelists: **Tryston Beyrer, Jim Luedtke, Isaac Isherwood, Tom Novak** Moderator: **Lindsey Rushford**

3:45 – 4:45 p.m.

**BREAKOUT SESSION 2** (concurrent talks)

----- **Breakout room 3** -----

**Steps for Success When Starting Your Cover Crop Journey**  
(1 SW CEU)

It's easy to become overwhelmed with all the information and suggestions regarding the "right way" to grow cover crops. In this session, experienced agronomists and farmers will outline basic and practical recommendations for selecting, planting, and terminating cover crops in Wisconsin dairy and row crop systems. In addition to proven strategies, speakers will also address common cover crop challenges and their "go to" workarounds for successful management.

Speakers: **Matt Brugger** (Tilth Agronomy)

**Barry Bubolz** (USDA-NRCS)  
**Jamie Patton** (USDA-NRCS)

Moderator: **Jamie Patton**

----- **Breakout room 6** -----

**Leveraging Farmer-Led, Peer-to-Peer Learning Through the WI Demo Farms Network**  
(1 SW CEU)

The WI Demo Farm Networks demonstrate innovative conservation practices designed to reduce sediment and nutrients entering watersheds and protect our water resources. Farmers are leading the way in the Demo Farm Networks, where with support from local partners, they are showcasing new conservation practices and approaches to improve local and regional water quality. Join us to learn more about the WI Demo Farms Networks from partners and farmers and how and why you can get connected!

Speakers: **Marin Skidmore** (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

**Jacob Brey** (Farmer)  
**Whitney Prestby** (Extension NRI)

Moderator: **Emily Zimmerman**

----- **Breakout room 4** -----

**Using Your Voice for Conservation**  
(1 PD CEU)

Farmers should be inspired to advocate for changes they want to see in how the state and federal government support conservation agriculture, and understand how they can become involved in the next year. The farmers on the panel come from different backgrounds, types of production, and are affiliated with different advocacy groups.

Speakers: **Derek Orth** (WFBF)  
**Tina Hinchley** (WI Farmers Union)  
**Christine Johnson** (Illinois Stewardship Alliance)  
**Joseph Childs** (GrassWorks)

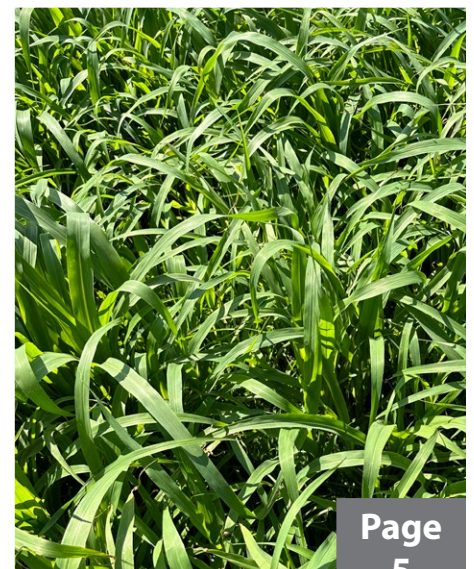
Moderator: **Chuck Anderas**

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

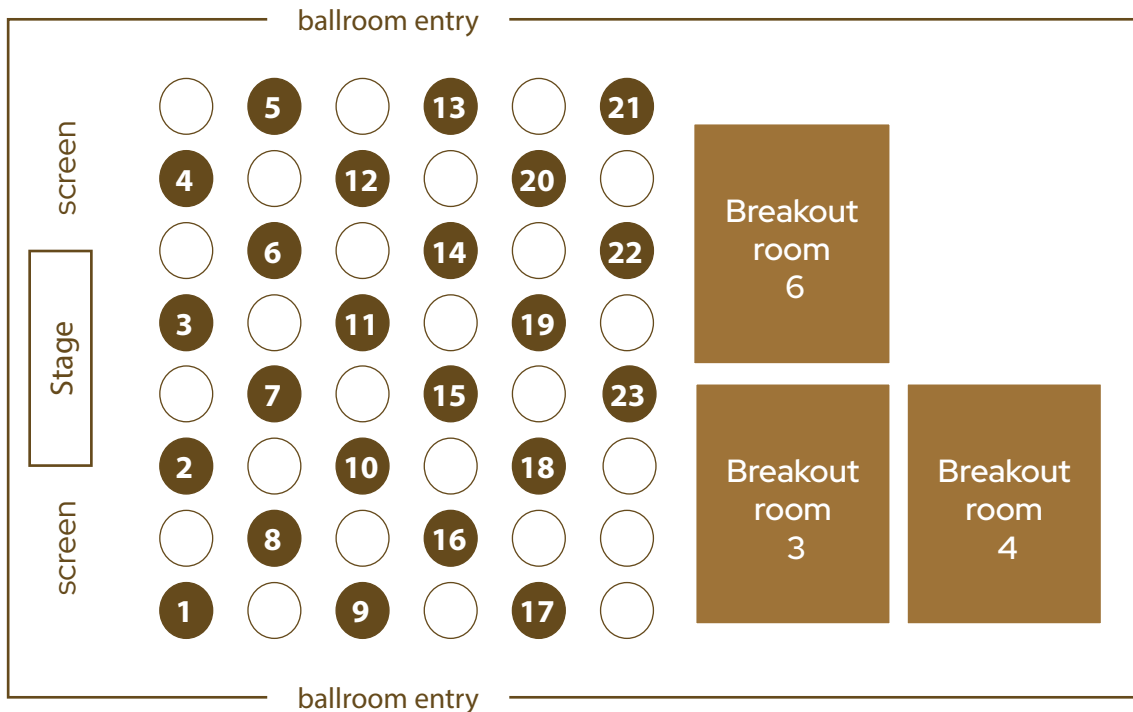
**Roundtables**

Rotate through tables featuring farmers and industry experts to workshop solutions to challenges, ask questions and engage in conversation about topics including manure composting, innovative seeding equipment, and the economics of soil health practices. You have the option to attend two roundtables.

(See page 6 for details and map)







## Roundtable topics and table numbers

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1</b> Planting Alfalfa Green (Josh Kamps)  | <b>13</b> Practices to Minimize Nitrate Leaching (Steven Hall)                      |
| <b>2</b> Herbicide Management for Cropping Systems with Cover Crop (Daniel H. Smith, Rodrigo Werle) | <b>14</b> The Value of On-Farm Nitrogen Research (Lindsey Rushford, Monica Schauer) |
| <b>3</b> Using Cover Crops as Alternative Forages (Lizzy French)                                    | <b>15</b> Agriculture and Groundwater (Moe Muldoon, Amy Wiersma)                    |
| <b>4</b> Interseeding Covers in Corn and Wheat Systems (Matt Oehmichen)                             | <b>16</b> Tradeoffs in Water Quality and No-Till (Laura Paletta)                    |
| <b>5</b> Conservation Equipment Considerations (Sam Bibby)  | <b>17</b> The Good and Bad and Ugly of Conservation Practices (Jamie Patton)        |
| <b>6</b> Economic Benefits of Diversified Cropping Systems (Jeff Hadachek)                          | <b>18</b> Producer Led Groups Moving Forward (Dani Heisler)                         |
| <b>7</b> Rotational No-till (Jed Long)  | <b>19</b> Event Planning (Marty Weiss)  |
| <b>8</b> Low Disturbance Manure Injection (Becky Larson)  | <b>20</b> Edge of Field Practices and Precision Ag (Scott Stipetich)                |
| <b>9</b> WI Farmer Experience with Grazing Cover Crops (Matt Hintz)                                 | <b>21</b> Precision Ag and How it Plays with Conservation (Allison Duff)            |
| <b>10</b> Grazing (Rachel Bouressa)   | <b>22</b> Agronomist Perspectives (Tom Novak, Steve and Ted Hoffman)                |
| <b>11</b> Soil Testing (Eric Birshbach)   | <b>23</b> Policy Surrounding Conservation in WI (Chuck Anderas and Margaret Krome)  |

7:30 – 8:45 a.m.

**Breakfast - What is your “Why” for Water Protection?**

Farmers share stories about their journey achieving water quality goals on their farms and within their farming communities.

Panelists: **Jacob Brey, Rachel Bouressa, Dan Truttman**

Moderator: **Sara Walling**

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

**Contributions of Cover Crops to Sustainably Intensified Agricultural Systems**

Sustainably intensified (SIA) cropping systems foster the main goal of maximizing profitability, while minimizing environmental damage. Dr. Armstrong will share key findings from his research program that quantified the contributions of cover crop inclusion to farm production and nutrient loss reduction at the field and watershed scales. Further, he will focus on adaptive management practices that reduce yield gaps in cover crop systems.

**Keynote speaker: Shalamar Armstrong**, Environmental Soil Scientist and Associate professor in the Department of Agronomy at Purdue University

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

**FARMER PANEL: Communicating Practices to Other Farms**

Farmer led watershed groups are truly something special in Wisconsin, but that doesn’t mean that it is easy to be part of one. One of the challenges is to communicate why and how of new management practices to expand group participation and conservation implementation. Listen to this group of experienced farmer led watershed leaders share their experiences and see if you can pick anything up that might work for you.

Panelists: **Brady Zuck, Brad Robson, Ken Kayhart, Aaron Shottliff**

Moderator: **Dani Heisler**

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

**BREAKOUT SESSION 3** (concurrent talks)

----- **Breakout room 3** -----

**Economic and Water Quality Benefits of Diversified Cropping Systems** (1 SW CEU)

Adding a new crop to the rotation can be logistically challenging with additional markets to follow, different equipment to maintain, and a new fertility/chemical program to develop. However, longer crop rotations, increased risk mitigation, and greater sustainability are all great incentives. Join us to hear from experts on the financial specifics and environmental benefits of small grains and other niche row crops. We will also hear first-hand how Wisconsin farmers are dealing with these challenges in a diversified cropping system and discuss the benefits they see in their rotation.

Speakers: **Jeff Hadachek** (UW-Madison)  
**Joe Bragger** (Farmer)

**Chelsea Zegler** (Extension/McCain Foods)

Moderator: **Sam Bibby**

----- **Breakout room 6** -----

**Edge of Field Practices: Benefits, Innovation, and Practicality** (1 SW CEU)

Innovative edge of field practices, such as grassed buffers, prairie strips, or bioreactors, offer an extension or an alternative to upland or in field management practices. This panel will discuss the benefits of edge of field practices for water quality, ecosystem services, and farm finances, from multiple perspectives.

Speakers: **Sam Welch** (LCD)  
**Brad Robson** (Farmer)  
**Scott Stipetich** (Pheasants Forever)

Moderator: **Sheri Schwert**

----- **Breakout room 4** -----

**Building Consistency in Dairy Forage Programs using Crop Diversity** (1 CM CEU)

Cover crops offer numerous benefits to our soil AND can be successfully integrated into dairy feeding systems, offering a win/win for dairy producers. There’s exciting research in the works on how to best incorporate a diverse mix of cover crops into the forage portion of dairy cattle diets, such as rye, triticale, hairy vetch, and camelina into early, peak, and mid-lactation cow diets. In addition to these initial research findings, hear a firsthand account of a producer’s journey incorporating cover crops and mixes into both his crop rotations and dairy rations.

Speakers: **Dr. Lizzy French** (USDA-ARS)  
**Dr. Ken Kalscheur** (USDA-ARS)  
**Josh Hiemstra** (Dairy Producer)

Moderator: **Liz Gartman**

Wednesday, December 18

1:15 – 2:15 p.m.

## BREAKOUT SESSION 4 (concurrent talks)

### ----- Breakout room 3 -----

#### Agronomics of Small Grains in Wisconsin (1 CM CEU)

In this session we will discuss the agronomics of incorporating small grains into your crop rotation. The discussion will also address nitrogen management and environmental implications of including small grains into the rotation.

Speakers:

**Shawn Conley** (UW–Madison)  
**Steven Hall** (UW–Madison)

Moderator: **Dan Marzu**

### ----- Breakout room 6 -----

#### Herbicide and Weed Fate in Soil Health systems (1 PM CEU)

Take cover cropping to the next level. Discover different ways to implement cover crops in your cropping rotation throughout the season. We will walk the fine line of herbicide use versus carryover and optimal weed reduction strategies.

Speakers: **Daniel H. Smith** (Extension)  
**Jed Long** (Hartung Brothers)

Moderator: **Rodrigo Werle**

### ----- Breakout room 4 -----

#### Land Management Tried and True (1 NM CEU)

Increase awareness of land management practices that are utilized to improve soil health and water quality. These practices include nutrient management, cover crops, reduced or no-till, contour strips, etc and speakers will discuss how these various practices improve functionality of the soil and mitigate water quality concerns by reducing overapplication of nutrients and soil loss.

Speakers: **Lindsey Hartfiel** (Extension)  
**Chris Bandura** (Extension)  
**Bill Stangel** (Consultant)

Moderator: **Jordan Kampa**

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

## INNOVATION PANEL: Cutting Edge Solutions Today for the Future of Agriculture

Sensors, robots, drones, and more! In this forward-looking session, speakers will discuss some emerging technologies and cutting-edge solutions to address some of the challenges facing agriculture today.

Panelists: **Jeremy Williams** (American Drone Company), **Joe Sanford** (UW-Platteville), **Chinmay Soman** (Earthsense, Inc), **Rodrigo Werle** (UW–Madison)

Moderator: **Jose Franco**



### 2024 WWASH Conference Planning Committee:

Co-chairs Chelsea Zegler (Agriculture Water Quality Program) and Daniel H. Smith (Nutrient and Pest Management Program); Amber Radatz (Agriculture Water Quality

Program); University of Wisconsin–Madison, Division of Extension Planning Committee: Chelsea Poeppel, Chris Bandura, Dan Marzu, Dane Elmquist, Erica Gentry, Guolong Liang, Jordan Kampa, Josh Kamps, Kelsey Hyland, Laura Paletta, Michael Geissinger, and Sheri Schwert; Laura Richards UW–Madison Union Conference Services

The Conference Planning Committee would like to sincerely thank the WWASH Conference Partner committee members whom met this past spring to select topics they would like to see covered at the 2024 conference based on professional experiences, past evaluation data, and the 2024 growing season conditions. This committee consists of farmers, agronomists, and conservation professionals.

### Have an idea for next year's conference?

In an effort to continue the quality of presenters and innovative ideas shared, UW–Madison Extension invites you to submit a proposal for a breakout session at our next WWASH Conference held December 2025 in the Wisconsin Dells.

More info available at [go.wisc.edu/WWASH](http://go.wisc.edu/WWASH)

