## **Waushara Argus**

# Farming Agriculture



You can find a variety of fresh produce throughout the summer and fall in Waushara County. From fresh vegetables to fruit, our local farmers provide everything you need for a delicious meal.

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N1862 State Rd. 49, Berlin, WI 54923 Open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. • (920) 538-4056

Peppers, beans, Watermelon, tomatoes, peas, swiss chard, muskmelons, potatoes, sweetcorn, carrots, cucumbers, onions, radishes, pumpkins, squash, gourds, Indian corn.

#### **Lee Chase**

W970 Archer Dr., Fremont, WI 54940 Open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. • (920) 538-4056

Peppers, beans, watermelon, tomatoes, peas, swiss chard, muskmelons, potatoes, sweetcorn, carrots, cucumbers, onions, radishes, pumpkins, squash, gourds, Indian corn.

#### **Decker Family Vegetable Farms**

- 1. N2320 22nd Lane, Wautoma, WI 54982
- 2. Between Waushara Rental and Ellickson Agency in Wautoma
- 3. On Main St. by Hometown Bank in Redgranite, WI 54970 (920) 295-5396

Bi-color sweetcorn, red, white, blue, yellow, russet and finger potatoes, muskmelons, watermelons, watermelons, pumpkins, gourds, squash, sweet potatoes, beets, carrots, green and yellow beans, tomatoes, peppers, indian corn, straw bales, eggs, corn stalks, kohlrabi, cabbage, and zucchini.

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W6849 Big Horn Court, Wautoma, WI 54982 (920) 787-3299 buzz@vstrees.com

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#### **Rhode Farm Market**

N731 State Rd. 22, Wautoma, WI 54982 Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m., seven days a week. Call ahead, will pick fresh: (920) 240-6459

Greenhouse is open in the spring, and fresh vegetable plants and flowers are available. Eggs, carrots, beans, beets, kale, zucchini (green and yellow,) peppers (bell, jalapeno, banana, serrano,) tomatoes, tomatillos, and squash. In the fall pumpkins are available as well as Christmas trees and wreaths.

#### **Gramma Miller's Farm Market**

N4317 Elizabeth Lane, Hancock, WI 54943 Open May-October, seven days a week (715) 249-3060 www.grammamillersmarket.com

Carrots, potatoes, peas, sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, squash, pumpkins.

#### **Roemer Produce**

719 Maple St., Wild Rose, WI 54984 Open 8 a.m.-7 p.m. from July to October

Fruits, vegetables, zucchini, tomatoes, beans, peppers, apples, pumpkins.

#### **Schmidt Farm Market**

N3390 State Rd. 49, Berlin, WI 54923 (920) 987-5118

Vegetables, squash, pumpkins, gourds.

#### The Polish Ponderosa, Lennie and Julie Nowakowski

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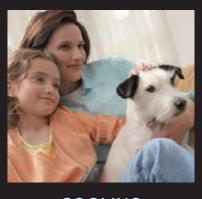
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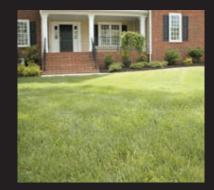
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SEPTIC INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

# The many ways a thriving agricultural sector is beneficial

Inflation has been a hot topic for several years running. Many businesses have been forced to raise their prices in an effort to combat a host of variables, including materials costs, labor shortages and political uncertainty across the globe. That's been hard on consumers' and business owners' pocketbooks, and precisely when inflation will simmer down remains a mystery.

Though the cost of many goods and services has skyrocketed in recent years, discussions about inflation often focus on the rising cost of groceries. According to USDA Economic Research, food prices in the United States rose 23.6 percent between 2020 and 2024. That's led many people to cut back on luxuries like dining out. As people dine out less, they may be looking to expand their culinary horizons at home, and that goal is best achieved when the agricultural sector is put in position to meet consumer demands. Indeed, that link is just one of the many ways that a thriving agricultural sector benefits everyone.

• A strong agricultural sector greatly benefits the economy. Job creation is widely cited as a pathway to economic recovery, and a well-supported agricultural sector can create millions of jobs. The agricultural tech firm Sabanto estimates 2025 began with around 2.4 million unfilled jobs within the agricultural



sector. A 2022 report from Maryville University indicated the agricultural sector contributes \$7 trillion to the U.S. economy, employing as much as 10.3 percent of the nation's workers. The link between a thriving agricultural sector and a strong economy is undeniable, making it a worthy endeavor to support policies that prioritize agriculture.

• A thriving farm is a productive farm. Modern grocery stores offer an abundance of healthy foods, and many of those foods are grown on farms. The Farm Bureau reports that a single acre of land can grow various crops, producing as much as 50,000 strawberries or just under 2,800 bushels of wheat. Consumers who enjoy visiting grocery stores that offer an array of fresh, nutritious foods, including fruits and vegetables, should know that those options are only available when a thriving agricultural sector is prioritized.

• Farms are vital to production of other products as well. Maryville University notes a thriving agricultural sector is involved in more than just food production. IFP Energies notes that bio-based chemistry uses raw materials derived from biomass, such as plants like wheat, corn and potatoes, to produce an array of products, including inks, dyes and detergents. So it's not just the foods people eat that can be traced to a thriving agricultural sector. Bio-based chemistry also is considered green because it promotes a reduction of the environmental impact of industrial production.

There's no shortage of reasons to support a thriving agricultural sector. Indeed, consumers from all walks of life benefit in myriad ways when the success of the agricultural sector is prioritized.

-Metro



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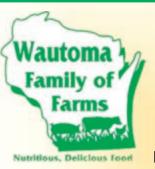


Local farm announces new name

Mark your calendars for this year's Waushara County June Dairy Breakfast on Sunday, June 29! This year's host will be Sheadview Dairy, located W215 State Rd. 21, Berlin. You may have previously known them as Krentz Family Dairy. It's still the same great farm with a new name a few additions!

Enjoy breakfast with the whole family starting at 7:30 a.m.





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## Postpartum Management of Beef Cows

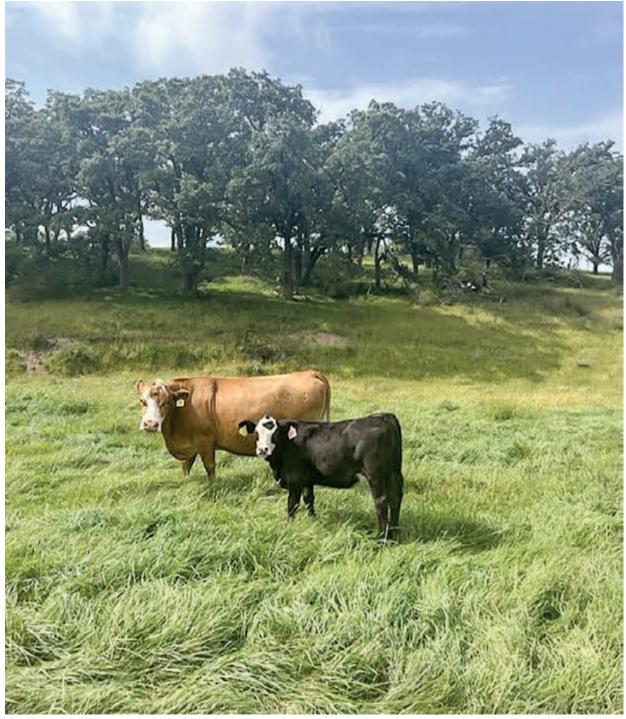
#### **WRITTEN BY ADAM HARTFIEL**

UW-EXTENSION REGIONAL LIVESTOCK EDUCATOR, ADAMS, GREEN LAKE, WAUSHARA COUNTIES

Thile some beef producers finish up calving this season, others are just getting started. No matter what point in the season beef producers find themselves in, all need to remember that continuing proper cow management is necessary for the cows to have a successful, tight calving window next year. One of the most effective ways to manage the post-partum interval is to maintain the body condition scores (BCS) of your herd.

Beef cattle body condition scoring uses a 1-9 scale to quantify overall body condition, with 1 being an emaciated cow and 9 being an extremely overweight animal. BCS scores help make management decisions because thin cows that have a low BCS (1-3) will experience low production and reproductive performance. Producers should target forage/feed and pasture management to have cows at a BCS of 5 to 6 at breeding to achieve optimum conception success. Research has demonstrated that cows with a BCS of 4 or lower had pregnancy rates of 61%, in contrast to 90% for those cows that calved with a BCS of 5 or greater (Selk et al. 1986). Cows with a BCS of 5 will typically have a few ribs visible with little fat in the brisket region, their hooks and pins will also be clearly defined with a smooth overall appearance. It is important to remember that over-conditioned cows (BCS 8 and greater) will also experience reproduction issues like retained placentas and likely have a difficult time being rebred due to metabolic issues. Maintaining body condition at 5 to 6 with minimal changes throughout the year is usually the most economical way to manage the cow's nutritional needs.

Younger cows and first-time heifers often experience more trouble maintaining their body condition because the nutrients they consume are going into lactation for their newborns and their growth. First-calf heifers will continue to grow to their mature size until about 4 years of age. Nutrient allocation is prioritized for the young cow's growth over lactation and reproduction. First-calf heifers need to



return to normal estrous 80 days after calving, but they will not be able to do that without sufficient nutrition. It may be beneficial to have first-calf heifers and younger cows at a BCS of 6 before calving to accommodate the greater energy needs they have due to the demands of their growth. However, feed costs and availability, or pasture quality, are some obstacles producers may run into while trying to increase or maintain the body condition of their herd.

Maintaining body condition is just one piece of the puzzle that could help assist your operation in getting cows bred back in an ideal timeframe for a tighter calving window. Having a tight calving window is important. Calves born closer together provide a more uniform group at sale time due to being closer in size and age. Replacement heifer calves born during the first 21 days of the calving season have increased weaning, pre-breeding, and pre-calving body weight during their first reproduction period compared to calves born later in the same calving season. Calves born during the first 21 days of the calving season could equal higher average group weights come sale time or increased chances of cycling before breeding.

Cows may experience a net energy-deficient period before calving as the enlarged uterus effectively shrinks rumen capacity unless the ratio takes this reduced intake ability into account. The key is to manage this time, so she does not lose her body condition. By maintaining good body condition early on, you set yourself and your herd up for better success in the future.



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Agribusiness Management Technician **(TD):** This degree will give you the skills for entry-level agri-business management. Classes cover agribusiness management principles, sales commodity and marketing, global economics, crop production, and animal fundamentals.

Agribusiness/Science Technology (AAS): Gain skills in animal science and nutrition, integrated pest management, soil science, crop production, and precision agriculture. This program teach to you develop crop management, livestock management and business plans.

Agricultural Accounting (C): This program teaches agribusiness management and how to handle accounting books, including recording transactions and creating financial statements. You will also be able to gain experience with software programs like Quickbooks and Excel.

**Agricultural Entrepreneurship (C):** This certificate centers on the foundational skill in agribusiness management and opportunities. In addition to agribusiness training, you will also be exposed to concepts of entrepreneurial thoughts/ processes. This certificate can be combined with other degree programs.

Agricultural Equipment Technology (AAS): Courses provide students with handson training and critical diagnostic and troubleshooting skills. You will be able to work on the latest electronically controlled diesel engines, drive trains, hydraulics and electrical systems, air conditioning, materials handing equipment and harvesting equipment.

Agriculture Equipment Apprentice (A): This brand new course centers around learning to maintain and repair diesel engine systems, drive trains, hydraulics, electrical systems,



GPS, air-conditions, material handling equipment, and harvesting equipment. This course will give you hands-on training and applied skills such as repair, diagnostics and troubleshooting. which are critical in this industry.

Agriculture Equipment Service Techni**cian (TD):** With equipment becoming more and more complex, you will need the advanced technical skills to work on planting/harvesting equipment. Learn to maintain and repair diesel engine systems, drive trains, hydraulics, electrical systems, GPS, air-conditions, material handling equipment, and harvesting equipment.

**Agronomy (AAS):** This program prepares you for a career in precision agriculture, cropping systems, fertilizer, integrated pest management, farm management and farm supply areas of agriculture.

Agronomy Technician (TD): Gain handson experience on producing a crop, keeping pests away, making soil more fertile, marketing commodities and managing a farm.

Animal Science (AAS): Learn about animal science, sire selection, animal nutrition and ration balancing, record keeping and heard health. You will also gain skills in marketing and sales management through this course.

Dairy Automation (TD): Agriculture businesses need skilled people to install, design, troubleshoot and repair automated systems that integrate multiple technologies. With this degree, you could qualify for those high-tech careers. You'll gain cross-functional, hands-on expertise in agriculture and automation through courses in agriculture, electronics, computers, control systems, programming, robots, fluid power, sensors and more.

Dairy Science (TD); Learn to manage a dairy herd with skills like artificial insemination, sire selection, reproduction, herd health, nutrition and ration balancing. You'll also learn records management, commodity marketing and agribusiness management.

Farm Business & Production Management (TD): Go on special field trips, attend classes and get personalized instruction on your farm while learning soil, crop and dairy management. You'll also learn how to keep farm records and analyze your farm business operation. This part-time program is designed to fit around your work schedule.

Farm Operation (TD): This program is designed for beginning farmers, farm technicians or herd managers. You'll gain the skills needed to make sound



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business management decisions, care for livestock and crops, manage data, select appropriate equipment and maintain the needed equipment. Your training focuses on day-to-day farm activities and introduces you to the most up-to-date practices in production agriculture.

Precision Agriculture Technician (TD): This technical diploma will introduce you to systems used in the high-tech industry of precision agriculture. You'll learn how Global Positioning Systems (GPS) works and how it is used in farming. Through the coursework, you'll gain the necessary skills to set up and properly operate high-tech equipment using today's modern technology. In

addition, you'll gain basic knowledge in crop production to help in the selection of management practices within precision agriculture.

#### **Precision Agriculture Technology (AAS):**

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## Beyond the Crown

Introducing our local Alice in Dairyland finalist

You may recognize Mikayla Flyte from Flyte Family Farms of Coloma. She found her roots in agriculture while growing up on the farm and participating in 4H. Now she finds herself in the top—finalists for Alice in Dairyland this year.

Prior to being selected, Flyte completed an application and preliminary interview. Since then she has been practicing sharing her public relation skills. Flyte took the time to share her experience and passion for agriculture with the Waushara Argus.

#### What is some of your agricultural experience?

I have a deep appreciation for agriculture not only because of the livelihood it has provided my family. but more importantly, because it embodies the spirit of creativity, hard work, and community that runs deeply in those who feed America. I am familiar with the merit of being an agriculture ambassador because of the passion I feel for selling produce at the Dane County Farmers Market, working as a hostess for a farm-to-table dinner, or guiding people in the strawberry patch eager to taste their first June strawberry of the year. Uniquely, becoming Alice provides an opportunity to further invest myself in learning and sharing the story of Wisconsin's agriculture. Part of my role on the farm includes creating educational and promotional content to share with our customers. This includes answering questions via phone or in person about our products and operations. I especially enjoy creating relationships with customers who live in urban areas and become regulars at our Madison markets. One of my passion projects is running the farm's ice cream truck, affectionately known as "Melvin the Moo Truck." Melvin has taught me how to manage a start-up business, set up satellite gigs, mentor employees, and get creative



with ice cream specialties. One of my favorite things about Melvin is that we serve Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream, which supports another Wisconsin family business!

## What aspects of Wisconsin agriculture are you passionate about sharing?

I am most passionate about sharing the diversity of Wisconsin's 116.3 billion dollar agriculture economy. I grew up on a farm where we grow everything from potatoes, cabbage and corn to specialty crops like strawberries and blueberries. Wisconsin is known as a dairy powerhouse but I find it equally important to highlight the other crops we are good at growing such as cranberries, snap beans and carrots to name a few. My family values providing consumers a quality product and experience. I enjoy seeing the development of agritourism in Wisconsin and the creativity of producers! There are so many ways for Wisconsinites to support agriculture including buying Wisconsin grown produce and visiting farms that offer seasonal activities such as farm-to-table dinners and corn mazes.

## How does that connect to the agricultural landscape of Waushara County?

Waushara county is a great place to highlight Wisconsin agriculture because of the diversity we have right here. Known as the golden sands region, we are well known for our production of potatoes, corn, soybeans, snap beans, hay, fresh market produce and berries! Many crops thrive in sandy soil which makes for a great agricultural landscape. Dairy production

also remains strong in our county! I am really proud of the area we live in and have always enjoyed the beauty of the farmland and natural landscape.

## What is a memorable experience that deepened your appreciation for agriculture?

Throughout my youth, I showed beef, swine and horses at the Waushara County Fair. I enjoyed working with my brothers and cousins on our animal projects. It was always really rewarding to see our hard work pay off in August. 4-H gave me so many opportunities to grow as a leader and learn service skills.

I also have very fond memories of attending the farmer's markets with my mom as a kid. I grew up learning how to count back change and interact with customers! It was fun to trade our produce to other vendors for my favorite baked goods, honey or raspberries before we grew them on our farm. Saturday markets are the perfect place to highlight the diversity of Wisconsin agriculture.

### What would be your goals if serving as Alice in Dairyland?

If given the opportunity, my goal as Alice in Dairyland is to be a source of light for the community and proudly show the beauty of Wisconsin agriculture. Alice has grown her online presence and social media following recently. I'd love to enhance these efforts with creative content and stories of Wisconsin producers. Additionally, I would like to continue attending local Wisconsin events and connect consumers with their food, fuel and fiber.



#### How does it feel to be a finalist?

I am honored to be a Top Candidate for the 78th Alice in Dairyland. I am really excited about the opportunity to learn more about Wisconsin agriculture and represent the diverse agribusinesses in my local community. It is empowering to have the opportunity to be a strong female voice in agriculture. I am excited to show that my background in English, education, business, and even sport psychology connect to my roots growing up on a farm. The Alice in Dairyland interview process is so unique in the





personal development opportunities it offers. I am looking forward to growing in my public speaking abilities, networking with consumers and producers, and elevating special Wisconsin products through the speeches, writing samples and projects I am preparing for the finals in May.

The 78th Alice in Dairyland finals will take place May 15-17 in Crawford County. The three-day finals include agribusiness tours, media interviews, an impromptu question-and-answer session, candidate presentations, and more. The selection of the 78th Alice in Dairyland will be announced at a public event on Saturday, May 17 in Prairie du Chien, and then she will begin her term on July 7, 2025.







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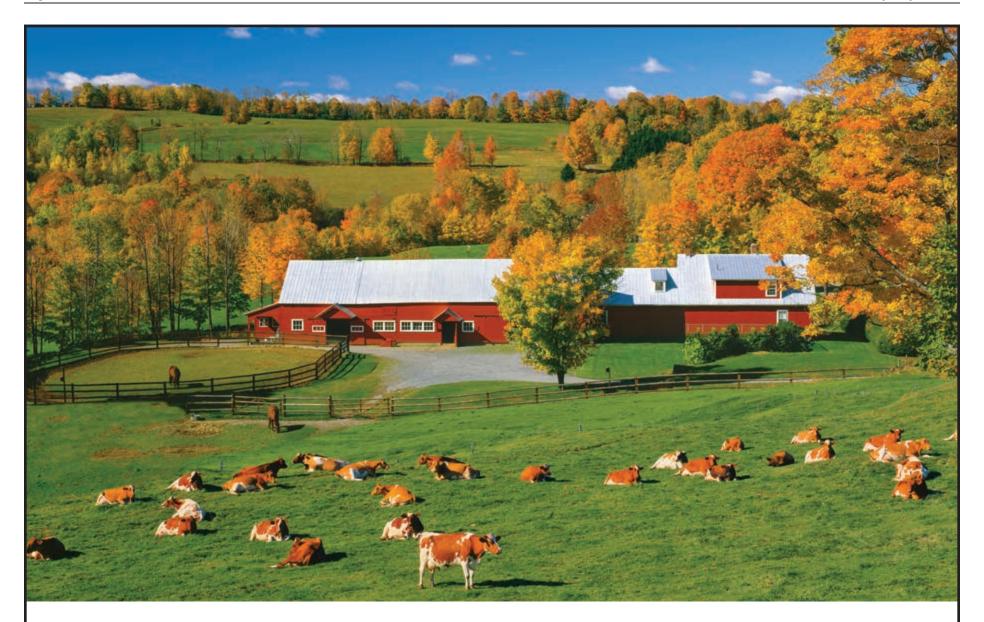


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