



June 2025
Volume 34 No. 1

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June Dairy Month

June Dairy Month is a time to honor the heart and soul of Wisconsin's dairy industry, our farmers. With 99% of Wisconsin dairy farms being family-owned, generations of dedicated farmers continue to care for their cows, protect our land, and produce some of the world's finest dairy products.



Please direct inquiries to :
AgrAbility of Wisconsin
460 Henry Mall
Madison, WI 53706
(608) 262-9336
agrability@wisc.edu

This commitment to excellence extends to every corner of our state, including farmers with disabilities who, thanks to adaptive equipment and the support of AgrAbility of Wisconsin, are able to continue their vital work. From advanced milking systems to mobility aids, AgrAbility ensures that every farmer has the tools they need to thrive, no matter the challenge.

AgrAbility of Wisconsin is a partnership between the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension and Easterseals Wisconsin



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And what better way to celebrate than with a fresh, flavorful dish that showcases the best of Wisconsin dairy? Try a Mexican-Style Watermelon Salad, a vibrant mix of sweet watermelon, crisp cucumber, zesty jalapeño, and bright cilantro, all brought together with creamy Wisconsin queso fresco. It's a nutrient-rich twist that's perfect for summer.



www.wisconsin dairy.org/june-dairy-month

Staying Safe on the Farm During Summer Heat

Working long hours in the summer heat can take a serious toll on your health. Heat-related illnesses like heat exhaustion and heatstroke can develop quickly and become life-threatening. Early signs include heavy sweating, dizziness, nausea, and confusion. If symptoms appear, it's important to cool down immediately, find shade, drink water, and rest. In severe cases, seek medical help right away.



To stay safe, plan the most strenuous tasks for early morning or evening, wear lightweight and breathable clothing, and take frequent breaks in shaded or ventilated areas. Stay hydrated, water is best, and avoid sugary or caffeinated drinks. A wide-brimmed hat and sunscreen can also help protect you from sun exposure. With heat causing more deaths annually than many other natural disasters combined, taking these precautions can help you stay healthy and productive all season long.



A Handy Tool to Help Beat the Heat

For those long, hot days in the field, a personal neck fan can be a game-changer. These lightweight, wearable devices rest comfortably around your neck and provide a steady stream of air to your face and upper body. Many models offer multiple fan speeds, cooling plates, and rechargeable batteries that can last for hours. Some even include features like air filters or ionizers to help reduce dust and allergens. If you're looking for a simple, hands-free way to stay cooler while working outdoors, a neck fan might be worth considering.

AgrAbility of Wisconsin Staff Gain Insights at National Training Workshop

Brian Luck, Jeff Kratochwill, and Michelle Bachand recently represented AgrAbility of Wisconsin at the 2025 AgrAbility National Training Workshop in Las Cruces, New Mexico. This annual event brings together professionals from across the country who are dedicated to supporting farmers and ranchers with disabilities. The workshop offered a valuable opportunity to connect with peers, share best practices, and explore innovative tools and strategies that can enhance the quality of life and work for agricultural producers facing physical or cognitive challenges.

By attending sessions on assistive technology, mental health, and inclusive agricultural practices, the AAW team returned with fresh ideas and renewed energy to support Wisconsin's farming community. The knowledge and connections gained at the workshop will help strengthen local outreach, improve service delivery, and ensure that AgrAbility of Wisconsin continues to provide relevant, effective support to those who need it most.

Offering a Listening Ear

The Wisconsin Farm Center's Farmer Wellness Helpline is here to listen any time, day or night.

To learn more about programs and assistance offered through the Wisconsin Farm Center, including free and confidential counseling services, visit farmcenter.wi.gov or call (888) 901-2558.

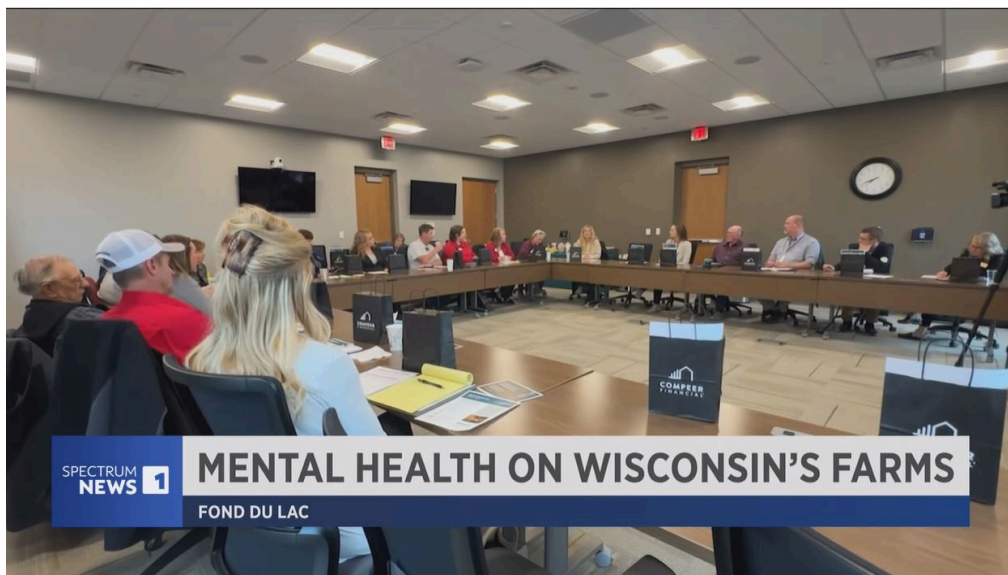


AgrAbility Joins Statewide Conversation on Farmer Mental Health

AgrAbility of Wisconsin was proud to take part in a recent roundtable hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) in recognition of National Mental Health Awareness Month. Representing AgrAbility were Michelle Bachand and Jeff Kratochwill, who joined other stakeholders in a meaningful discussion focused on the mental health challenges facing Wisconsin farmers.

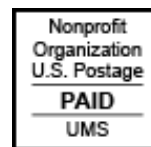
The roundtable provided updates on DATCP's ongoing mental health initiatives and created a welcoming space for participants to share personal stories, insights, and ideas. The goal was to reduce stigma, foster open dialogue, and explore new ways to support the well-being of farmers and their families.

Insights from the event will help shape future programming and contribute to broader efforts through Governor Evers' Interagency Council on Mental Health. The Council is working toward a statewide action plan to improve access to mental health services and build healthier rural communities across Wisconsin.





AgrAbility of Wisconsin
UW-Madison Division of Extension
3001 US Hwy 12 E, Suite 216
Menomonie, WI 54751



Make a Gift

Support our project with a gift to the
UW-Madison Foundation's AgrAbility
of Wisconsin Fund #112048316.

Thank you for your support!



This material is based upon work supported by the AgrAbility of Wisconsin project award no. 2022-41590-38131 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law. If you need this material in another format, please contact AgrAbility of Wisconsin at (608) 262-9336 or AgrAbility@wisc.edu