

## Speaker Information

### *Panel: Farmer-led conservation*

#### **Dennis Frame**

(715) 299-0081

dennisrframe@gmail.com

**Dennis Frame** joined UW-Extension in 1982 and worked in Wood, Brown and Trempealeau counties. He has focused his educational programming on environmental rules and regulations, developed a nutrient management-training program and designed and developed the UW Discovery Farms Program. Dennis retired from Extension in 2013 and founded Timber Ridge Consulting. He continues to work with farmer-led organizations on protecting water quality.

#### **Steve Richter**

(608) 316-6434

srichter@tnc.org

**Steve Richter** coordinates Wisconsin chapter conservation strategies in agricultural landscapes. The Nature Conservancy works with partners and farmers to change farm practices in ways that work for farmers and improve water quality in Wisconsin's lakes and streams. In southwest Wisconsin, the Conservancy owns and manages land where prairie is planted and grazing and haying is done by neighboring farmers. Steve supervises staff leading projects in Wisconsin, and in all projects the Conservancy works with partners to impact conservation work in working landscapes. He leads a water fund strategy team of Conservancy staff from five states on the Upper Mississippi River project.

#### **Chuck Ripp**

(608) 692-8610

rdv56@tds.net

**Chuck Ripp** along with brothers Troy and Gary, own Ripp's Dairy Valley in Dane, Wis. They milk about 900 cows and crop enough acres to harvest all the feed needed for their cattle. The farm was founded in 1953 by his grandfather, Hardy, making Chuck the third generation to farm the land on the outskirts of Waunakee, and his children, the fourth. Chuck serves as the Secretary for Yahara Pride Farms, one of the first groups in the 'farmer-led' movement. Ripp's Dairy Valley is one of three dairy farms who provide manure to the Clean Fuel Partners digester. The farms uses cover crops and low disturbance manure injection tactics (to name a few) to reduce Phosphorus runoff from his farm fields.

## Speaker Information (Cont.)

### **Pat Murphy**

(608) 772-2602

murphpa58@gmail.com

**Pat Murphy** has been a member of AgriEnvironmental Advisors LLC since 2015, providing conservation planning and environmental assessment services to farmers and agribusiness. He provided state-wide leadership on conservation planning, resource assessment and development of non-engineering conservation practice standards including nutrient management and cover crops as the NRCS State Resource Conservationist from 2001-2015. Pat spent more than 20 years in the field, working for NRCS around Wisconsin prior to his tenure in the state role. He is a graduate of UW-Stevens Point with a major in soil science and a minor in water resources.

### **Jim Digangi**

(661) 255-1893

darlingtonridgefarms@gmail.com

**Jim DiGangi** grew up on his family's 40-cow dairy farm in upstate New York, where his family continues to farm today. After graduating from college, Jim worked as a herd manager in Idaho and California. He set his sights on the Midwest to pursue his dream of farming in America's Dairyland, where the people, climate and fertile farm ground attracted him. Established in 2008, Darlington Ridge Farms LLC, is currently milking 2600 cows and harvests feed for the dairy from 2,000 acres of corn and alfalfa. Jim and his wife Katie, live about a mile from the farm and have a 14-month old daughter, Mila.

### **Terry Loeffelholz**

(608) 776-3836

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**Terry Loeffelholz** is the conservation and zoning manager for Lafayette County since April of 2013. Prior to that was the County Zoning Administrator for Grant County. He has also worked as the farmland preservation planner for Lafayette County. He grew up on a small dairy farm near Dickeyville, WI.

## Speaker Information (Cont.)

### *Innovation session*

#### **Dustin Ransom**

(262) 949-1827

dustin@tkagworks.com

**Dustin Ransom** operates T-K Ag Works in Darien, Wis. The business was founded by Dustin's parents Tim and Kay over 35 years ago. Specializing in custom manure application, T-K Ag Works also operates a complete design and fabrication shop. As part of his passion for equipment, knowledge of manure application and practical welding experience, Dustin has designed several low disturbance and no-till manure injection tool bars that he uses for clients in the area. Most recently, T-K Ag Works received a grant from Dane County to fund research and development for new manure technology designed to reduce nutrient runoff.

### *Presentation: Manure Economics*

#### **Dr. Daniel Andersen**

(563) 880-7111

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**Daniel Andersen** is an Assistant Professor of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at Iowa State University, where his research work focuses on manure management and treatment, water quality, and nutrient cycling in agroecosystems. As part of his extension appointment, Dan leads the Iowa Manure Applicator Certification program, which annually certifies around 5,000 manure applicators. You can find him on Twitter @drmanure and at his blog, <http://themanurescoop.blogspot.com>, where he provides information about getting the most from your manure and protecting the environment.

### *Presentation: Cover Crops*

#### **Heidi Johnson**

(608) 224-3716

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**Heidi Johnson** is the Crop & Soils Educator for Dane County UW-Extension. She has extensive experience working with cover crops in the Yahara Watershed and has several test plots with Yahara Pride Farms. Prior to her role in Dane County, she worked in Jefferson County UW-Extension as that county's Crop and Soils Agent. She has also worked for Extension in Kenosha and Milwaukee counties. Johnson attended UW-Madison, earning a Masters and PhD while studying soybean aphid management in the Entomology Department and sweet corn and snap bean weed and nutrient management in the Horticulture Department.