



AgrAbility *of Wisconsin*

2021 Virtual Summit

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021
THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021

11:00AM - 12:00PM



Tuesday, April 13th | FSA: Safety Net Programs, Loan Opportunities with Specifics to Veterans and SDA Farmers

Adam Steffen – County Executive Director, Monroe, La Crosse and Juneau Counties

Adam grew up on a small, 35-head dairy operation in Clark County, Wisconsin. He served for 13 years in the Wisconsin Army National Guard as Infantry Squad Leader in the 1st BN 128th Infantry Regiment. He was deployed to Iraq from 2009-2010. Adam graduated from the University of Wisconsin Stout in Menomonie with a B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in Leadership and Military Science. Within the Farm Service Agency, Adam worked as a Farm Loan Office for four years before beginning the County Operations Training program, where he then took on his current role as the County Executive Director for Monroe, La Crosse, and Juneau Counties in July of 2020.



Wednesday, April 14th | Farmer Health Insurance

Florence and Rich will be sharing this session and will focus on previous findings from health insurance research for farmers and connections to the farm operation. Rich will also share his expertise as an attorney and provide practical information on health insurance coverage.

Dr. Florence Becot – National Farm Medicine Center

Florence Becot is a rural sociologist who recently joined the National Farm Medicine Center in Marshfield as an associate research scientist. Florence’s research and extension program is focused on the health, quality of life, and economic opportunities for farm families in the US and France. Recent work includes farmers’ access to health care and health insurance and mental health. Florence earned her PhD from the Ohio State University and was previously a researcher at the University of Vermont Center for Rural Studies.



Rich Lavigne – Farm Commons

Thursday, April 15th | Farm Financials and Farmer Wellness with the Wisconsin Farm Center

With a focus on Wisconsin farmers and their families, the Wisconsin Farm Center provides services designed to help sustain and grow farm businesses including financial counseling, mediation, herd-based diagnostics, and a recently launched Farmer Wellness Program. During “Farm Financials and Farmer Wellness with the WI Farm Center” presenters will provide an overview of these key services with an emphasis on resources available through the WI Farmer Wellness Program and how the team helps farm families analyze financials in challenging times.

Dan Bauer – Program Supervisor, Wisconsin Farm Center

Raised on a dairy farm in central Wisconsin, Dan earned his bachelor’s degree in dairy science at UW-Madison. After graduating college in 2006, Dan lived and worked in Ohio for five years managing a member-owned cattle marketing business. Returning to Wisconsin in 2011, he spent over nine years working for several different global dairy genetic organizations with responsibilities ranging from direct sales, international employee training, strategic planning, and project management. Dan now leads the Wisconsin Farm Center as program supervisor. He is passionate about helping his team and its farmer clients achieve their objectives through effective communication, goal setting, and developing action plans.



Jayne Krull – Bureau Director, Ag Resource & Promotion

Jayne Krull works in the Division of Agricultural Development at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) where she leads the Bureau of Ag Resource & Promotion. Jayne's bureau is made up of the Wisconsin Farm Center, Something Special from Wisconsin, Alice in Dairyland, county and district fairs, agricultural marketing boards, and the cultivated ginseng program. Her background includes 17 years in product management and global service development with GEA Farm Technologies (formerly WestfaliaSurge), a leading dairy/milking and food processing equipment manufacturer based in Naperville, Illinois.



Mike Lochner – Financial Consulting & Farm Succession Planning Specialist, Wisconsin Farm Center

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in 1979, Mike spent the first 15 years of his professional career in the agronomy industry. He then went on to work for more than 20 years in agriculture lending with three different financial organizations. For the past 5+ years, Mike has enjoyed being able to use his vast experience in agriculture finance to provide services through the Wisconsin Farm Center where he helps deliver both financial counseling and transition planning advice to Wisconsin farmers.

