

**A MATTER OF BALANCE:**  
*Managing Soil, Crop Nutrient Management Systems and Water Quality*  
**SEMINAR PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS**

**Title: In-season N applications for corn: Pros & cons**

**Dr. Carrie [Laboski](#), Professor of Soil Science  
Soil Extension Specialist, Soil Fertility/Nutrient Management  
University of Wisconsin-Madison**

In-season fertilizer N applications to corn are often considered to be more profitable and have greater environmental benefit; but not all past research supports this assumption. This presentation will highlight two recent research projects. In one Wisconsin study, various spring and in-season application timings, including pre-tassel, were evaluated on silt loam soils with contrasting drainage. Another study was conducted in eight Midwestern states to understand how soils and climate impact the decision to use split N applications (at-plant + sidedress) compared to at-plant application only.

**Title: A Farmers Perspective on Managing Soil Sustainability**

**Brock Gobrogge, CCA  
Crop Manager  
[Dykhuis Farms, Inc.](#)  
Holland, Michigan**

In a time of low commodity prices, every dollar spent has to be profitable. At Dykhuis Farms, we are continuing to explore and manage on the balance of soil health and economic profitability. I will be discussing our management strategies for continued soil improvement and the challenges and rewards that are associated with these management practices. We are strongly committed to sustainable agriculture, both environmentally and economically, and I will be explaining how we work through these situations in greater detail.

**Title: Dairy Manure N Availability as Influenced by Application Timing, Manure Treatment, and Nitrification Inhibitor Use**

**Dr. Carrie Laboski**

Predicting N availability from dairy manure is not always straightforward and can make nutrient management planning challenging. Using data from several recent studies, this presentation will describe how new technologies and practices may influence manure N availability.

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**Title: Professionals and Partnerships for Progress**

Clare [Lindahl](#), CEO  
Soil and Water Conservation Society  
Des Moines, Iowa

Clare Lindahl will speak about the past, present and future of the Soil and Water Conservation Professional and Society. The Society has been the premier international organization for professionals who practice and advance the science and art of natural resource conservation since 1943. Lindahl became the youngest and first woman CEO in August of 2017. Lindahl will share perspectives on the evolving world of the conservation professional, their practice and how leveraging partnerships can lead to great progress for our natural resources.

**Title: The Impact of Discrete Water Quality Data on Farmer Attitudes, Knowledge, and Behavior Towards Conservation: A Case Study in the River Raisin Watershed**

Alaina [Nunn](#), Research Associate  
MSU Institute of Water Research

As agricultural inputs, such as dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP), to the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) continue to rise, so does the urgency to increase farmer participation in conservation efforts. Farmers are requesting evidence-based decision-making tools. Regular reporting of water quality is essential for renewing the land-water stewardship ethic and strengthening the capacity of farming communities control agricultural inputs and protect water quality. This presentation will describe recent efforts to implement discrete subsurface monitoring for enhancing evidence-based decision-making in a predominately agricultural watershed. Farm management information and weekly water samples were collected from five tile drains over sixteen months. Semi-structured interviews (scheduled for March of 2018) will reveal the impact this information has on the attitudes, knowledge, and behavior of participating farmers towards conservation. Additionally, data will be presented to a farmer-led watershed group in April of 2018 to gain insight towards the value of this information to farmers who did not directly participate in the study.

**Title: Collaborative Edge-of-Field Projects to Protect Michigan Water Quality**

Dr. Ehsan [Ghane](#), Assistant Professor  
Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering  
Michigan State University

This presentation will describe current edge-of-field projects in Michigan. This project includes evaluation of controlled drainage and a saturated buffer in Lenawee County. Presentation will include project goals, methods and related information.