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## **OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup> WHOLE FARM WORKSHOP FREE FOR LAFAYETTE COUNTY FARMERS**

Bring all of the pieces of your farm together, connect with local resources, and enjoy free lunch

DARLINGTON, WI – Farmers and non-farming landowners in Southwest Wisconsin are invited to a workshop featuring all aspects of farm planning. “Whole farm planning is an ongoing process that starts with awareness of a major problem or opportunity on your farm. During the workshop, we’ll hear from local farmers and experts about how they use conservation programs to save money, increase production, and enhance the health of their land” says Robert Bauer, Grazing Specialist for Southwest Badger RC&D and organizer of the event.



Landowner Chele Isaac and Conservationist Landon Baumgartner discuss conservation planning options.

The workshop is sponsored by the Pecatonica Pride Watershed Association, a collaboration of community groups, farmers, fishers, landowners, and river lovers pulling together to improve and promote the Pecatonica River and its trout streams between Blanchardville and Argyle, Wisconsin. Funding for the workshop is provided by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, with support from Southwest Badger RC&D.

“Saving money on fertilizer is a big benefit of whole farm planning for crop and livestock farmers. By using on-farm and commercial sources of fertilizer and applying them at the right rate, place, and time you can improve farm profitability and reduce environmental risk. During the workshop, I’ll explain how to start or get more out of your nutrient management plan” says Dan Smith, Regional Specialist for the University of Wisconsin Nutrient and Pest Management Program.

Several local farmers will share their experiences of whole farm planning, including Jacob Marty on being a sixth generation livestock farmer. Other speakers will include Wisconsin State Grazing Specialist Brian Pillsbury on how to plan fence and water for pastured livestock. Sponsoring organizations from Lafayette County’s Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) will be on hand to discuss conservation programs during breaks.

The “Whole Farm Planning” workshop is scheduled for Oct. 9, 2018 from 10:00 am-3:00 pm at Town Bank, Community Room, 15815 State Rd 81, Darlington, WI. Lunch will be served from 12:15-1:00 pm thanks to Wisconsin Farmers Union. The event is open to the public and RSVP is requested by October 5<sup>th</sup> at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/whole-farm-planning-workshop-tickets-50029245821>.

Registration is \$50 for general admission, \$30 for Southwest Badger members, and free for residents of Lafayette County and the Pecatonica River watershed.



Jacob Marty (pictured, right) shares his experience as a sixth generation farmer with conservation staff.

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