



Rural Livability in Wisconsin 2024 Ag Outlook Forum

—
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College of
Agricultural & Life Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Update



Teaching

Extension and Outreach

Research

CALS Instruction and Student Life

- 3,453 undergraduates enrolled in CALS in 23 majors
- CALS newest major: Animal and Veterinary Biosciences
 - 112 majors Fall 2023
- Fostering a sense of student belonging



New CALS Undergraduate Profile

- CALS Median income of FAFSA filers: \$151K
 - UW-Madison median: \$158K
- CALS Pell-eligible rate: 18%
 - UW-Madison rate: 16.5%
- CALS Residency
 - Wisconsin: 51%
 - Minnesota: 12%
 - Nonresident: 30%
 - International: 7%





CALS Student Experience

- Hands-on learning
- Building community
- Gain global perspective



CALS Extension and Outreach

- 45 Extension-funded faculty
 - Water quantity specialist: Malika Nocco
 - Soil fertility specialist: Natasha Rayne:
 - Water quality specialist: Steven Hall
 - Search for corn agronomist
- 10 Extension-funded academic staff
- FISC Ag Forward





Research

- \$186 Million awarded to CALS investigators in FY23
 - Sustainable Agriculture
 - Decarbonizing our food production systems
 - Improving systems for water sustainability
 - Developing innovative crop and livestock systems
 - Health
 - Feeding the world through plant biology
 - Promoting healthy aging through gut microbiome & nutrition
 - Preventing vector-borne diseases



Noteworthy Awards



\$26M for CDR's Dairy Business Innovation Alliance



\$4.1M Cranberry Fruit Rot, Leslie Holland, Plant Pathology



\$9.3M for the Rural Partnerships Institute



UW-Madison Rural Partnerships Institute

- Rural Wisconsin has 1.5 million residents that face many unique challenges
- Institute funds research and outreach to maintain the social and economic vitality of rural communities
- Collaborate with community-based initiatives and with local research, educational institutions and subject matter experts at three universities:





UW RPI: Funded Projects

- Community health workers bridging Extension and rural healthcare systems to support family health and well-being
- Connecting cultural values and Indigenous research towards food system resilience
- Promoting family-centered and family/school/community mental health support for children in rural Wisconsin
- WISCONET, Wisconsin's environmental Mesonet
- Wisconsin State Climatology Office
- **Rural Livability Project (This Afternoon's Topic)**



Rural Livability

- Rural communities faces many unique challenges to their schools, healthcare, housing, childcare, businesses
- Today's goal is to better understand the challenges facing rural communities and what our leaders and experts are doing to help
- We will hear from leaders in the public and non-profit sectors engaged in efforts to maintain, enhance, or revitalize rural life
- First panel offers Wisconsin perspectives
- Second panel offers perspectives from beyond Wisconsin

