



Precipitation and Weather

Precipitation came at closer to "normal" amounts this growing season, especially when compared to 2023 and 2024. September and October saw greater deficits from normal which proved difficult for cover crop establishment in some cases.

Month	Total Rainfall (inches)	Deviation from Normal
April	2.74	-1.12
May	3.66	-0.67
June	6.18	+0.86
July	4.52	+0.28
August	5.05	+0.93
September	0.93	-3.01
October	0.95	-1.43

Data collected from WiscoNet station in Prairie du Sac and historical data from the Wisconsin State Climatology Office.

What impact did wildfire smoke have on crops? We are unsure.



Yield and Economics

Plot	Crop	Yield	\$/bu	Gross Rev.	Expenses	Net
101	Corn	175.6	4.22	741.03	464.94	276.09
102	Corn	175.5	4.22	740.61	485.97	254.64
103	Soybean	61.9	13.38	828.22	419.67	408.55
104*	Soybean	60.1	13.38	804.14	392.79	411.35
105	Corn	158.2	4.22	667.60	537.41	130.19
106*	Corn	112.8	4.22	475.81	424.71	51.10

Corn planted on May 13, 2025 and harvested on October 17, 2025

Soybean planted on May 17, 2025 and harvested on October 9, 2025

* Plots are low fertility – Plot 104 received no R3 fungicide, Plot 106 did not have a mid-season y-drop application

Plot Overall Net Income (2023-2025) – given on a per acre basis

Plot 1	Plot 2	Plot 3	Plot 4	Plot 5	Plot 6
\$224.99	\$214.46	\$100.41	-\$36.40	\$319.78	\$267.58

Additional Research

The Sauk County Farm and Demonstration Plots offer a place of research and learning. In addition to the agronomic measures in the demonstration plots, several other efforts related to crop pests took place in 2025.



DATCP Pest Monitoring

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection hosts sites across the state to track different pests that threaten agricultural production. The goal is early detection through the Pest Survey. Data can be found online under 'Sauk County' 'Reedsburg.'



SlugNet

2024 was a "slug year" and slugs caused a lot of crop damage throughout the state, especially in systems using no-till and cover crops. In response, UW created SlugNet and recruited monitoring sites across the state to monitor populations. No slugs were found at the county farm in 2025.

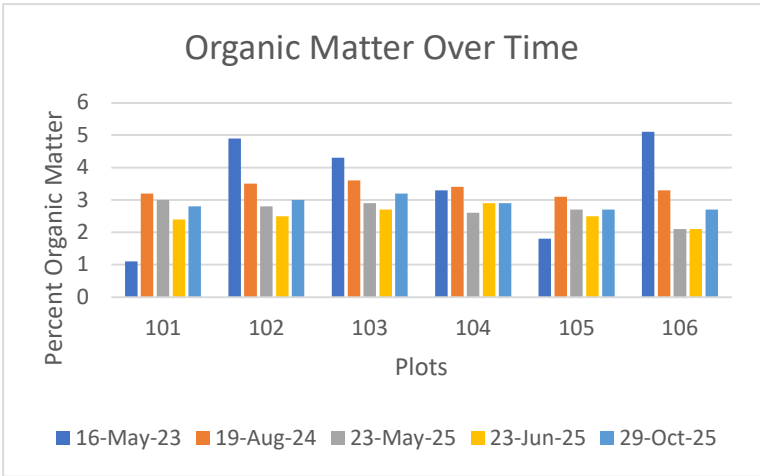


Soil Tests

We are collecting routine nutrient and soil health samples before/at planting and after harvest. PSNT and plant tissue samples are collected in June.

2025 Routine Nutrients

Nutrient	Spring	Fall
Phosphorus	Excessive (all plots)	Excessive (all plots)
Potassium	Very low or low (all plots)	Low (plots 101-105), High (plot 106)
Calcium	High (all plots)	High (all plots)
Magnesium	Optimum (all plots)	High (all plots)



Soil Health (Haney) – Spring; Fall

Plot	Soil Health Score	CO ₂ Respiration	Organic C:N Ratio	Organic C %
101	6.2*; 6.8*	36.2*; 51.5*	8.6; 2.7*	1.48*
102	9.5; 8.9*	73.8; 74.1	10.3; 2.7*	1.52*
103	7.4*; 8.5*	55.7*; 70.9*	18.8; 3.4*	1.59*
104	8.9*; 8.8*	65.7; 73.5	10.5; 3.1*	1.60*
105	5.9*; 3.0*	42.8*; 13.0*	21.9*; 2.6*	1.32*
106	7.7*; 6.7*	54.1*; 51.9	12.7; 3.3*	1.22*

*Indicates low value

- Almost all values dropped from 2024 samples. High variability.
- Consistency is key.

What is Next?

Plot	2025	2026
101	Corn	Soybean
102	Corn	Soybean
103	Soybean	Winter wheat
104	Soybean	Winter wheat
105	Corn – rye	Soybean
106	Corn – rye	Soybean

Other Happenings at the Farm...

On July 19th, Sauk County LRE and UW-Madison Extension hosted new landowners to the Sauk County Farm. Attendees learned about many topics including soil health, conservation ag, and the demonstration plots.

On October 9th, approximately 70 middle schoolers enrolled in ag classes at Webb Middle School (Reedsburg) visited the Sauk County Farm. Topics covered included: conservation agriculture, soils and soil health, grazing, and prairie plants. Members of SSWIG, Sauk County LRE, and Extension taught the students.

