

# NEWS FROM EXTENSION

Wood County | September 2025



## Save a Calf, Save a Cow

by Matt Lippert, Agriculture (Dairy) Educator

Good maternal care is not just important for humans; it is also very important for our livestock.

UW-Madison Division of Extension is offering a program to assist cattle owners and livestock workers with calving time and the many stresses that may occur for dairy and beef cows during this important time in the cow's life. A successful calving is helped by advance preparation including proper diet, adequate housing and cow comfort, cooling during the heat of summer, adequate space to reduce competition between animals and clean conditions for the cow.

Since some practices differ between beef cattle and dairy cattle, we are offering two tracks to specialize the discussion based on the type of cattle. We are also offering the program in English and Spanish as especially for dairy cattle many of the people working with cows as they calf will learn better if the information is provided in Spanish.

To accommodate small beef farmers and others that often have day jobs off the farm we are offering evening programs in two locations as well as mid-day programs. There is also a virtual session along with the face-to-face programs that utilizes model cows designed to simulate the birthing process. As you see, the program is designed to provide access to a wide variety of owners and farm workers.

***The program is offered in the Athens area, on September 24 and in Altoona on September 25. The virtual sessions are offered on September 17 and 18.***

Topics include nutrition and care prior to calving, identifying the stages of labor, veterinary tools to assist with calving, abnormal calving positions, hygiene and delivery time and worker safety.

While good husbandry at the time of calving has always been extremely important, recently newborn calves for dairy replacement or as beef calves has become very valuable as we are experiencing an extreme shortage of cattle of all types due to previous economic conditions and other factors such as repeated drought.



# Wisconsin's 2<sup>nd</sup> Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) Conference in Wisconsin Rapids Celebrates Small Town Innovation and Growth

*by Kayla Rombalski, Community Development Educator*

The second annual Community Economic Development Conference (CEC) was held in Wisconsin Rapids on June 16-18, 2025, and the energy, inspiration, and impact are still reverberating across the state.

With **210 registrants representing 47 Wisconsin counties** – plus attendees from **Florida, Illinois, and Minnesota** – this year's conference was a powerful testament to the strength and creativity of small towns. The CEC Conference brings together economic developers, local government leaders, and community champions to explore rural entrepreneurship, placemaking, infrastructure, and agritourism.

Conference highlights included:

- **Four Learning Tracks:** Sessions focused on ecosystem building, rural innovation, Central Wisconsin success stories, and sustaining entrepreneurship across generations, and individual sessions that covered topics like digital storytelling, food entrepreneurship, youth career pathways, tribal innovation, and rural tech hubs.
- **Keynotes & Plenaries:** Featured leaders from Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) and the Center on Rural Innovation (CORI), and entrepreneurial success stories like Rooted in Red and Dempze Cranberry Co.
- **Networking Events:** Including a welcome at Witter Field's Rat Trap and a reception with live music, food and refreshments at Rooted in Red, an active cranberry marsh.
- **Local Flavor:** In addition, attendees enjoyed food trucks, local restaurants, and breakout session locations showcasing local businesses and community resources.



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From the thoughtful venue choices to the engaging speakers and local experiences, every detail reflected the care and professionalism of the planning team. Notably, **19% of registrants were from Wood County**, while **81% came from outside the county**, underscoring the broad appeal and statewide relevance of the conference.

The feedback from conference attendees reflects this, with participants stating:

- *"It was the best conference I have ever attended!"*
- *"It was incredibly well organized, welcoming, and full of great energy."*
- *"The city was a wonderful host, and the whole event had a warm, thoughtful vibe that made it easy to connect with others."*
- *"The choices of venue(s), the speakers, and the featured entrepreneurs were really great... the efforts on those fronts are well noted!"*
- *"Your including the city, county, and adjacent areas was great. The program was the best ever as well. Well done!"*
- *"The program was extremely well organized, designed with purpose and executed to perfection."*

Don't miss next year's Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference slated for **May 13-15, 2026 in Green Lake, Wisconsin**. For more information about the conference and local efforts to support entrepreneurs, contact Kayla Rombalski at 715-421-8440.

