



UW Bean Team Program Statement

The University of Wisconsin Bean Team conducts basic and applied research to develop best management practices, strategies, and guidance for the agricultural sector of Wisconsin and beyond. This may on the surface appear that we only focus on the agricultural community; however, we would attest that we are serving society as a whole. By developing recommendations that balance the three pillars of sustainability (economic, environmental, and social), we ensure farmers are continually improving their farming systems. Recent research projects that highlight our commitment to serving the broader public include assessing where we can reduce pesticide inputs, when we can reduce soil losses from tillage, and how we can incorporate conservation practices such as cover crops into existing farming systems. Since environmental systems do not necessarily follow the political boundaries of our state, the UW Bean Team works with researchers from across the U.S. and abroad to develop recommendations that will benefit Wisconsin farmers, other soybean and small grains producers, and those who share water and other resources with farms. This slow but continual march along the sustainability continuum ensures the agriculture sector continues to deliver a healthier, safer product to consumers.

We strive to publish in open access journals and not hide our research behind paywalls. Our research is then delivered to all our clientele (crop advisors, farmers, and consumers) in digestible chunks through Extension publications posted on www.coolbean.info. We also create free content to engage with the public outside of specific research projects, including field days, virtual panel discussions, crop staging guides, and more. The UW Bean Team views Extension not just as a way to present past and current research, but also as a way to better understand the needs of our community and direct future research initiatives.

The UW Bean Team values continued learning and community service. We use our time to serve on committees and attend events that uphold our values and create an equitable future in agriculture. As a program we strive to have open dialogue and communicate challenges and struggles. We are a community, and that is what makes us productive, congenial, and a true team!