

Manure Processing for Discharge Water Quality – Technical Performance and County Perspectives for Advancing Water Quality

JUNE 20, 2025

2:30 PM ET, 1:30 PM CT,

12:30 PM MT, 11:30 AM PT

This webinar will **examine the potential of advanced manure processing systems to treat manure to water quality standards suitable for discharge**. It will feature insights from Dane County Land Conservation, including their objectives in supporting system installation, the ownership and operational structure, financial support mechanisms, observed outcomes, and future planning. The session will also present technical performance data from a system incorporating multiple processing steps—anaerobic digestion, screw press, centrifuge, ultrafiltration, and reverse osmosis. Topics will include separation efficiencies of key components, system performance, operational challenges, barriers to adoption, and results from life cycle assessments evaluating environmental impacts when integrated into dairy operations. Together, these perspectives will provide **practical guidance for producers, policymakers, and stakeholders interested in implementing manure treatment systems** to meet both environmental goals and operational needs.

An application for continuing education credit for Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs) and members of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) will be submitted.

Additional Information

- Treating Manure to Produce Clean Water <https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu/collections/farming/products/treatingmanure-to-produce-cleanwater>

Dr. Rebecca Larson is a Professor and Extension Specialist in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She completed her B.S, M.S., and Ph.D. in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering at Michigan State University. Her work focuses on **increasing sustainability of food waste and livestock manure systems** by reducing environmental impact and maintaining profitability. Email: rebecca.larson@wisc.edu



Rebecca Larson
University of Wisconsin

Erin Cortus is an Associate Professor and Extension Engineer in the Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering at the University of Minnesota. Her past and ongoing projects include measuring the air quality impacts of different manure management practices in dairy, poultry, swine and beef cattle barns, biosecurity, and sustainability metrics. The broad mission of Dr. Cortus' program is to work with producers and communities to understand and continually improve the quality and productivity of livestock environments. **Erin will serve as the moderator for this webinar.** Email: ecortus@umn.edu



Kyle Minks
Dane County

Kyle Minks is the Watershed Manager with the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department and has worked for the County since 2011. He leads the Watersheds and Ecosystem Services Division: **coordinating watershed projects and initiatives; conducting environmental sampling and monitoring;** and quantifying and tracking phosphorus and carbon reductions. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point with Bachelor's Degrees in both Biology and Water Resources Management in 2007. He also attended the University of Wisconsin Madison graduating with Master's Degrees in both Water Resources Management and Soil Science in 2010. Email: minks.kyle@danecounty.gov



Erin Cortus
University of Minnesota

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Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Community

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