

February 4, 2026 General Meeting

Last meeting: Annual Review review by Sydney

Marc's Flashback:

- All materials/supplies for CCC camp provided through/by Fort McCoy

DATCP producer led conference

- 2/24 call for at least one active producer from watershed to attend

Strategic Planning: what to include on agenda?

- Tabled

Jason Fischbach, UW Extension emerging crops specialist, presenting on hazelnuts (more at Midwesthazelnuts.org)

- Hazelnuts do not self-pollinate, thus need for seedling rows on borders of main body of cultivars (crop)
- Two main types:
 - o European Hazelnuts (Oregon)
 - o American Hazelnuts (small and wild)
- Hybrid trials makes for a 75/25 crossover, though many of these varieties are unlikely to survive Wisconsin winters
- Northern Blais variety seems most probable to succeed
- Propagation is main challenge, thus the desire to create growing markets to diversify demand
- Nut production in year 3, actual crop harvest in year 4
- Question: what is the conservation benefit of growing hazelnuts here?
 - o Long taproots, long plant cycle (30-40yr age)
 - o 15' rows
 - o Big insect benefit
 - o Wildlife habitat
 - o Not a huge carbon sink
 - o Water retention
- Question: is there a viable demand for hazelnuts in this area, or is the intention to ship product to national/international markets?

Some local uses include

- o Value added tattoo cream
- o Nut mixes
- o Whole hazelnuts
- o Importing Oregon nuts to fill demand
- Question: what is the market for Oregon farmers, and are you trying to mimic it?

- o 40% of all hazelnuts go to Ferrero for Nutella
- o Filling the void from Turkey's failed hazelnut harvest in past couple years
- Question: what is the market value of hazelnuts per pound? \$1.75 in shell, husked, up to \$3
 - o Oregon 2000lbs, Midwest 1600-1800 lbs
- Question: What are the fertility needs?
 - o Not particularly responsive to Phosphorus
 - o Potassium 120 ppm
 - o Nitrogen 50lbs at establishment, Oregon replacing what they take
- Question: What is the ideal size?
 - o Somewhere between a grain and a fruit crop
- Dehusking, not the case in OR, but an issue for most farmers in Midwest
- Out of field at 15%, for sale or long time storage at 6%, also a danger of too dry because you cant press for oil
- Dispersion of limited plantstock:
 - o Go first farms
 - Test case, committed farms
 - Showcase farms, tours, etc.
 - 12 as of 1/2026
 - o Early adopt partners (commercial, ngo supporters, CCCWC)
 - Pooling growers and order volumes to lower costs and provide plants
 - \$15/plant currently
 - 450 plants per acre = \$6750/acre plant cost
 - Oregon standard is \$6, goal is to bring number down to OR standard
 - o Go first growers
 - o Individuals
- Other challenge mechanical harvest
 - o Oregon sweep up under trees, Self propelled harvest in row possibility
- Table Grapes (bonus slide)
 - o MN cold tolerant seedless grapes through University of MN
 - o Ember-Glo, Shadow-Glo (blueberry looking), and Lumi-Glo (tropical flavor)
 - o Plant availability
 - o Room excitement visible/vocal, whereas questions/concerns for hazelnuts (my opinion)
 - o Grower Partner Program
 - Northerngrapes.com
- Announcements
 - o 2/21 Brad Robson is hosting a climate resilient farms and landscapes workshop through Monroe county LWCD in Cashton 830-3pm ish