

Dennis Frame
Co-Director
Discovery Farms
University of Wisconsin – Extension

Dennis Frame was born and raised in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, milking cows, raising steers and growing crops in an area changing from agriculture to residential development. He attended the University of Wisconsin Farm and Industry Short Course in 1975 and switched to the degree program in 1976. Dennis received degrees from the UW-Madison in dairy science and animal science with a minor in agricultural economics. He did his master's in ruminant nutrition under the direction of Neil Jorgenson on the feeding of ultra filtration permeate as a replacement for corn in dairy cattle diets.

Dennis left college and farmed in partnership on a dairy operation in northwestern Wisconsin in 1980. He joined UW-Extension in 1982 as the dairy and livestock agent in Wood County, transferring to Brown County and finally became the agriculture agent in Trempealeau County. This area has a rich conservation history and soon he became active in soil and water conservation education. When the nutrient management standard was being proposed, Dennis and a group of Trempealeau County producers looked at the impacts of these rules and regulations on this part of the state. Since 1994 he has focused his educational programming on environmental rules and regulations, developed a nutrient management training program and designed and developed the Discovery Farms program.

Dennis became the co-director of Discovery Farms program in 2001. He is involved in the day-to-day management of the program (funding, personnel, data collection and maintaining the partnerships) as well as teaching and speaking at numerous field days/workshops throughout the state and region. Dennis and his family live on a small farm in northern Trempealeau County where they maintain a herd of beef cattle and spend time fishing in western Wisconsin.