

Dennis R. 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 University of Wisconsin – Madison in dairy science and animal science, minoring in agriculture economics. He did his masters in ruminant nutrition under the direction of Neil Jorgenson on the feeding of ultra filtration permeate as a replacement for corn in the diet.

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. After three years, he transferred to Green Bay and became the agriculture agent for Brown County. After two years, he was given the opportunity to become the agriculture agent in Trempealeau County. This area has a rich conservation history. Dennis became active in soil and water conservation education. When the nutrient management standard was being proposed, Dennis and a group of producers looked at the impacts of these rules and regulations on this part of the state. That study led to a new focus on environmental rules and regulations and the development of a statewide nutrient management-training program. Dennis became the co-director of the Discovery Farms program, a program designed to conduct environmental research on commercial operations.

The Discovery Farms Program is a producer lead research program that evaluates the impacts of varying farming systems on the environment. Once baseline information has identified practices that are negatively impacting the environment, the program invites agency personnel, farmers and researchers to identify alternative management practices. The farm is studied through the implementation phase to determine the effectiveness of these best management practices and to evaluate the affects on profitability. Dennis is involved in data collection, determining the economics of environmental regulations and maintaining the partnerships of this important program.

Dennis and his family live on a small farm in northern Trempealeau County. They maintain a herd of beef cattle and spend time fishing in western Wisconsin.