

# BADGER MEMO



June 2022

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**Niles Franc and his wife Sarah**

## New Employee Bio

Niles Franc is an Antigo native who grew up on his family's dairy farm on the outskirts of town in Deerbrook, WI. From a young age while tending to the garden, doing farm chores and learning to hunt and fish, he grew a passion for horticulture, fell in love with cows, and became a steward of the land around him. Before and during college, he spent two summers in Alaska working on a small scale organic vegetable farm assisting the owner in all aspects from seed to sale. Niles graduated from the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse in 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Recreation Resource Management. Upon graduation he headed East to Vermont where he found his first true calling at a non-profit, agriculture and dairy education program - Farms for City Kids Foundation at Spring Brook Farm in Reading, Vermont.

For seven years, Niles educated thousands of inner city youth from New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, Atlanta, and Chicago about dairy farming, sustainable agriculture, and the natural world. As a teacher, he developed a curriculum that included hands-on workshops about garden pests, companion planting, the importance of crop rotation and nutrients, as well as bovine nutrition and their life cycles. Managing the education greenhouse, milking cows, haying, sugaring, and operating heavy equipment on a daily basis was also a part of his work at Farms for City Kids Foundation. Niles considers himself to be a life-long student, and is thrilled to join the team and bring his energy back to Antigo as the new Seed Potato Research/Outreach Specialist.

Niles is married to his wonderful wife Sarah and they are expecting their first baby this summer. Together they also have three dogs, and a one-eyed cat. In his spare time, Niles enjoys playing guitar and writing music, hunting, fishing, and working on their new timber frame cabin in Deerbrook.

## Inspector Contacts

Diana- 715-610-2640

Jim- 715-610-3641

Cole- 715-350-1691

Kevin Bula-715-610-3644

Niles Franc- 608-216-6810

Please contact your inspector before any application of matrix and/or 2,4-D

## 2022 Planting a Wrap

Alex Crockford

Planting began on May 11<sup>th</sup> and successfully finished on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 65 acres was cut by hand and planted this Spring, the balance planted are minitubers. This is a large effort of many people from the cutting room, warehouse to planting crew, we thank them for their hard work and commitment.

The entire crop is hilled and sprayed with pre-emergent herbicide. We are using a hiller that was put together by Jeff Suchon at Bushman's Riverside Ranch and it is working well. About half of the crop is emerged as of June 8<sup>th</sup>. Second hilling and side-dress will begin very soon. We have a good crew of staff going into summer. The irrigation is getting set-up and we are looking ahead to plant our winter wheat in two row skips.

Due to problems with production, greenhouse 4 was shut down at the beginning of picking during March. This will pose a challenge to production amounts, mentioned in part in an earlier letter from Brooke Babler. We have reached out to Sklarczyk Seed Farm again in Michigan to make up for lost production. On a very positive note, greenhouses 1, 2, and three are all growing well and thrips and TSWV are under control. We are beginning to prepare right now for planting the fall crop of greenhouse 4 and feel the greenhouse production issues that the farm faced in late winter are now behind us.

Due to the decline in box quality in 2018-2020, a higher amount of the large seed pallet boxes will need to be replaced. We switched vendors in 2021 and the new boxes from northern Michigan are working good.

## Upcoming Events

Spud Seed Classic	June 17th
Hancock Field Day	July 7th
Langlade County Field Day	July 8th
Rhineland Research Station Field Day	July 28th

2022 JUNE						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		