

Quarterly Issues and Programs Report

First Quarter 2024

The Ideas Network Radio Stations Licensed to the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents: KUWS-Superior, WUWS-Ashland, WRFW-River Falls, WHID-Green Bay, WHA-Madison

During the period, this station, as part of Wisconsin Public Radio's The Ideas Network, has served the public interest by producing and broadcasting diverse content that addresses national, statewide and regional issues. The following is a list of some of the content aired in response to areas of concern to listeners served by The Ideas Network.

Issues of community concern:

- Agriculture
- Economy
- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Politics
- Social Issues

Programs:

- The Morning Show: Weekdays 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.
- The Larry Miller Show: Weekdays 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Central Time: Weekdays 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

1. Agriculture

A proposal to site Wisconsin's largest swine farm near the town of Trade Lake in Burnett County divided the community, sparked lawsuits and challenged state regulators. Despite being nixed twice, the project is still under review, a Wisconsin Watch reporter explains.

- The Morning Show, January 5, 2024
- Duration: 20 minutes, 57 seconds

When there's snow or ice, Green County has cheese brine ready to hit the roads. The county highway commissioner explains how its partnership with a local cheese factory is environmentally friendly and cost effective.

- The Morning Show, January 18, 2024
- Duration: 9 minutes, 40 seconds

This fall, UW-River Falls took over UW-Madison's Farm and Industry Short Course. We learn why the agricultural program shifted to another university as well as what the program means for the future of dairy farming.

- The Morning Show, January 11, 2024
- Duration: 22 minutes, 2 seconds

Nearly \$14 million in federal funding will help replicate Wisconsin's watershed-based approach to conservation in Illinois and Iowa. A leader of the Sand County Foundation explains how more Midwest farmers are adopting strategies that benefit one another economically and environmentally.

- The Morning Show, January 24, 2024
- Duration: 17 minutes, 8 seconds

Wednesday starts Ag Day at the state Capitol where farmers representing a wide variety of agricultural groups meet with lawmakers and share priorities.

- The Morning Show, January 29, 2024
- Duration: 1 minute, 57 seconds

The USDA released its Census of Agriculture with updated data on the previous five years of farming across the country. We dig into the numbers of Wisconsin's farms with an agricultural economist.

- Central Time, February 19, 2024
- Duration: 21 minutes, 59 seconds

We talk with an attorney from Legal Action Wisconsin about additional requirements for working conditions at farms. We learn how the new regulations could affect farmworker safety and what led to its implementation.

- The Morning Show, February 19, 2024
- Duration: 22 minutes, 26 seconds

This year's warmer winter in Wisconsin started the maple syrup season early. We talk to a UW-Extension forestry specialist about how the weather has affected sap production and what he's seeing from the industry across the state.

- Central Time, March 12, 2024
- Duration: 21 minutes, 59 seconds
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Last year, hundreds of children in the United States ate cinnamon applesauce that was tainted with dangerous levels of lead. But how does contamination like this make its way past the safety checkpoints in the food system? A lawyer and leading food-borne illness expert joins us to check in on the U.S. food safety system.

- Central Time, March 18, 2024
- Duration: 22 minutes, 27 seconds

This week, the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board attended a demonstration in Georgia to review one of its research projects. We learn how the project seeks to use soybeans in firefighting. Plus, we discuss the planting season.

- The Morning Show, March 22, 2024
- Duration: 17 minutes, 10 seconds

2. Economy

We assess several bills working through the Wisconsin legislature that would seek to reform predatory — yet legal — payday loan operations, including one that could cap interest rates and another that would expand the definition of a “payday loan.”

- Central Time, January 5, 2024
- Duration: 21 minutes, 38 seconds

According to the finance site ValuePenguin, auto insurance rates are expected to increase by more than 12 percent this year. Meanwhile, homeowners insurance premiums have increased more than 20 percent year-over-year. We examine why insurance rates are climbing.

- The Morning Show, January 25, 2024
- Duration: 17 minutes, 8 seconds

A new report finds that households in the United States are now paying 25 percent more for groceries than they did before the pandemic. We talk to an economic policy researcher about what’s behind those high grocery bills, how corporate profits have continued to drive inflation and what policymakers can do about it.

- Central Time, February 6, 2024
- Duration: 22 minutes, 29 seconds

Some workers don’t feel like their employer is very loyal to them, and plenty of managers don’t think their employees are loyal to their job. We’ll talk to a writer who talked to both sides about how to mend loyalty in the workplace.

- Central Time, February 6, 2024
- Duration: 22 minutes

The U.S. Department of Labor says more than 1,300 people in Wisconsin are owed more than \$1.5 million in back wages. We learn about a new bilingual search engine to help workers across the United States discover and claim any missing wages.

- The Morning Show, February 6, 2024
- Duration: 20 minutes, 57 seconds

Wisconsin uses more robots in manufacturing than almost any other state, according to a report from the National Bureau of Economic Research. We talk with one of the report’s authors about how using robots in factories affects jobs and productivity.

- The Morning Show, February 20, 2024
- Duration: 8 minutes, 30 seconds

Like many states, Wisconsin has struggled to retain highly educated workers. We discuss what communities can do to become more attractive to young workers. Then, the head of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation outlines the state's recruitment efforts.

- The Morning Show, February 23, 2024
- Duration: 42 minutes, 49 seconds

We talk with a New Yorker reporter who has investigated alternative structures that can make the economy more fair and just.

- The Morning Show, March 4, 2024
- Duration: 43 minutes, 25 seconds

The connection between humans and dogs has long been studied by researchers in fields like anthropology and psychology—but not by many economists. We talk to the author of a new book that studies human-canine relationships through an economic lens.

- Central Time, March 7, 2024
- Duration: 22 minutes, 25 seconds

In January, Wisconsin hit a record high number of construction jobs. Plus, this month, the Governor's Task Force on Workforce and Artificial Intelligence heard public input on the effects AI is having on the state labor market.

- The Morning Show, March 13, 2024
- Duration: 20 minutes, 55 seconds

3. Education

As opioid-related deaths continue to increase, Wisconsin's only recovery high school struggles to meet demand. But with the latest state budget including \$500,000 to fund new and existing schools, we hear from the Association of Recovery Schools on helping students with substance-use disorder.

- The Morning Show, January 12, 2024
- Duration: 17 minutes, 22 seconds

The Madison Metropolitan School District is piloting a standards-based grading system instead of the traditional letter grades for some ninth-grade classes. We hear from an assistant principal and a teacher-leader about how the grading works and why it could be better for students.

- Central Time, January 12, 2024
- Duration: 21 minutes, 27 seconds

Wisconsin legislators recently introduced a bill that would institute civics requirements for high schoolers and call for the Department of Public Instruction to develop a K-12 civics curriculum that emphasizes patriotism. We hear from a DPI official and an education expert about the bill and the current state of civics education in the state.

- Central Time, January 24, 2024
- Duration: 22 minutes, 20 seconds

The presence of police in schools is a contentious political issue, with supporters wanting safer schools and opponents worried about students being drawn into the criminal justice system. But do cops in schools keep children safe? A UW-Madison professor explains what the evidence shows.

- The Morning Show, January 30, 2024
- Duration: 20 minutes, 58 seconds

Leaders of Democratic and Republican students at Wisconsin college campuses hope to get out the student vote in this presidential election year. They join us to talk about issues important to students, including free speech and abortion.

- The Morning Show, February 2, 2024
- Duration: 17 minutes, 25 seconds

Informatics is the study of how data can be used to solve complex problems. Like schools around the nation, UW-Oshkosh recently opened a school dedicated to the study. We speak with the school's dean about the university's approach to harnessing big data across multiple disciplines.

- The Morning Show, February 8, 2024
- Duration: 22 minutes, 26 seconds

A researcher shares results of her recent study that looked at challenges, shifts, and gendered differences in how sex education is being taught around Wisconsin.

- Central Time, February 15, 2024
- Duration: 21 minutes, 58 seconds

The Department of Education launched a new FAFSA form to simplify the process for applying for federal student aid, but problems with the rollout are creating significant delays in reporting student information to colleges in time for admissions deadlines. An educational policy expert joins us to discuss what went wrong and how it's impacting students.

- Central Time, February 20, 2024
- Duration: 21 minutes, 59 seconds

Last week, Gov. Tony Evers signed a law that guarantees Wisconsin high schoolers admission into UW–Madison if they are in the top 5 percent of their graduating class. We talk to Universities of Wisconsin President Jay Rothman about how the new law will affect UW schools. Then, we talk to a higher education reporter about how it compares to similar laws in other states. Finally, we talk to a counselor at a Wisconsin high school about how the legislation will affect the students he advises.

- Central Time, March 4, 2024
- Duration: 22 minutes

Last week, the president of Wisconsin's technical college system announced plans to retire. Morna Foy joins the show to discuss the decision and share an update on the state's 16 campuses. Plus, we review access to technical education.

- The Morning Show, March 13, 2024
- Duration: 17 minutes, 20 seconds

4. Environment

Completed in 2020, the removal of toxic PCBs from the Lower Fox River and bay of Green Bay cost the paper companies responsible for the pollution \$1.3 billion. Preceding the cleanup was a years-long fight between state officials and federal agencies. The co-authors of a new book about that battle join us.

- The Morning Show, January 9, 2024
- Duration: 43 minutes, 27 seconds

Solar energy is experiencing a boom, spurred by government subsidies, improved technology and fears of climate change. Conflicts over where to put solar farms are also growing. Two guests help us navigate land use conflicts and offer advice to homeowners.

- The Morning Show, January 31, 2024
- Duration: 44 minutes, 13 seconds

State forests, parks and wildlife refuges are all examples of Wisconsin's public lands. We talk with the Wisconsin DNR's real estate section chief about the latest atlas and how the land is managed.

- The Larry Miller Show, January 31, 2024
- Duration: 39 minutes, 29 seconds

Climate change is reshaping our state in many ways. We talk about a program that is helping Northern Wisconsin communities work on climate goals or projects.

- The Larry Meiller Show, February 15, 2024
- Duration: 31 minutes, 33 seconds

The 67,000-acre Pelican River Forest near Rhinelander will be established and preserved despite the objections of Republican lawmakers, who blocked using \$4 million from the state Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

- The Morning Show, February 1, 2024
- Duration: 17 minutes, 46 seconds

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin introduced a bill to create a new program to protect the Mississippi River. We talk to her about the legislation, and then we hear from an environmental reporter on the biggest issues facing the Mississippi River basin.

- Central Time, February 12, 2024
- Duration: 22 minutes, 7 seconds

With reports that 2023 was the hottest year on record, paired with the rare occurrence of a winter tornado in Wisconsin, evidence of the rapid progression of climate change has been on many people's minds. We talk to a climate scientist about what current and historic global temperatures reveal about the consequences of climate change and the possibility of mitigating them.

- Central Time, February 13, 2024
- Duration: 21 minutes, 58 seconds

Minneapolis was praised five years ago for eliminating single-family zoning in an attempt to create a sustainable community with more housing. Since then, a coalition of environmental groups have blocked the plan in court. We learn what the plan and the opposition mean for cities around America.

- The Morning Show, February 21, 2024
- Duration: 17 minutes, 57 seconds

The Barron County Waste to Energy facility can incinerate up to 100 tons per day to reduce waste in landfills. We take a look inside waste incineration technology and how Wisconsin regulates facilities.

- The Morning Show, March 8, 2024
- Duration: 43 minutes, 24 seconds

We check in with a reporter and a policy expert on the latest PFAS news, including a court ruling that limits the DNR's ability to regulate the chemicals and the struggle between Gov. Tony Evers and the legislature over funding to address PFAS pollution.

- Central Time, March 12, 2024
- Duration: 22 minutes, 9 seconds

5. Health

A growing movement in the medical community seeks to prioritize the role of nutrition in health, encouraging doctors to prescribe fruits and vegetables to treat diet-related diseases. A leading scholar in this emerging field tells us how nutrition's role in health should change.

- The Morning Show, January 4, 2024
- Duration: 22 minutes, 26 seconds

How do you enjoy Wisconsin's great outdoors throughout all seasons? We talk with a clinical psychologist who says we don't spend enough time in nature and it can affect our health. We'll also talk about ways to make getting outside a priority.

- The Larry Miller Show, January 9, 2024
- Duration: 36 minutes, 7 seconds

Fitness-oriented goals are the most popular New Year's resolutions this year. If you've made that goal, our physical therapists have tips on the kind of training you should be doing, staying consistent and avoiding injury.

- The Larry Miller Show, January 15, 2024
- Duration: 50 minutes, 3 seconds

The Hospital Sisters Health System in Chippewa Falls and in Eau Claire is expected to close in April. Meanwhile, Prevea Health is set to close its locations in western Wisconsin in June. We learn how closures could affect student health care workers in the region.

- The Morning Show, January 26, 2024
- Duration: 20 minutes, 58 seconds

The respiratory virus RSV has been making headlines again this winter. We talk to a public health expert and infectious disease specialist about how RSV differs from other respiratory illnesses, what to do if you think you have it, who is eligible for the new RSV vaccine and more.

- Central Time, February 1, 2024
- Duration: 22 minutes, 28 seconds

Midwives have been part of the birth process for centuries, and some are practicing in communities today. We talk with two midwives about their profession and how to find the right midwife for you.

- The Larry Meiller Show, February 13, 2024
- Duration: 38 minutes, 41 seconds

Several systems govern our body's sense of balance: the muscles, joints, inner ears and more. Our physical therapists are back. They'll share the exercises you can do to bolster your balance and decrease your risk of falling.

- The Larry Meiller Show, February 19, 2024
- Duration: 1 hour, 14 minutes, 21 seconds

Effective treatments for opioid addiction are out there—so why is the problem getting worse? We talk to an addiction and public health expert about treatment options for people with opioid use disorder and barriers to access.

- Central Time, February 19, 2024
- Duration: 17 minutes, 24 seconds

The state Assembly recently passed a bill that would establish a council to advise the Department of Health Services and clear up misconceptions about palliative care. The head of the Wisconsin Hospice and Palliative Care Association joins us.

- The Morning Show, March 4, 2024
- Duration: 20 minutes, 56 seconds

More Americans are dying by accident today than ever before. But according to a journalist who studies safety and injury prevention, many of these accident-related deaths are totally predictable and preventable. She joins us to explain why we're seeing so many deaths classified as "accidents," who is affected most, and how to work toward greater accountability.

- Central Time, March 12, 2024
- Duration: 22 minutes, 41 seconds

6. Politics

The Wisconsin Supreme Court will choose from several submissions for new state legislative maps to replace the current Republican-drawn ones. We talk with an expert who's scored all the maps using a computer program, about what results he found.

- Central Time, January 19, 2024
- Duration: 11 minutes, 25 seconds

New Hampshire voted Tuesday in the first primary of the presidential campaign. We get insights on the race from Lilly Goren, a political science and global studies professor at Carroll University in Waukesha.

- The Morning Show, January 25, 2024
- Duration: 20 minutes, 58 seconds

Polls show that approval ratings for many elected officials, particularly at the federal level, are below 50 percent. We talk to the director of the Marquette Law School Poll about this trend and what approval rating polls mean in our political system.

- Central Time, January 29, 2024
- Duration: 21 minutes, 32 seconds

The 2023-25 biennial state budget is projected to have a \$3.25 billion surplus at the end of the current budget cycle less than what was initially predicted and Wisconsin Democrats and Republicans disagree on how to spend that surplus. A public policy expert joins us to analyze recent Republican tax cut proposals and how they compare to Democratic priorities.

- Central Time, January 31, 2024
- Duration: 21 minutes, 50 seconds

As our politics have gotten more polarized, our political disagreements and discussions have gotten less civil. We talk to one of the organizers of a project that aims to help us disagree more effectively and have more productive politics.

- Central Time, February 7, 2024
- Duration: 17 minutes, 7 seconds

In Nevada's primary this week, more voters chose "None of these Candidates" over former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley. We get reaction from the Republican Accountability Project on the latest in national politics.

- The Morning Show, February 9, 2024
- Duration: 17 minutes, 6 seconds

The state Assembly and Senate this week passed new legislative maps proposed by Gov. Tony Evers. Two reporters explain.

- Central Time, February 16, 2024
- Duration: 21 minutes, 59 seconds

Either of the two presidential frontrunners in the upcoming election, Joe Biden and Donald Trump, would be the oldest serving U.S. president in history at the end of the four-year term. We talk to a political rhetoric professor about how age has become a campaign issue and what's at stake as more elected officials stay in office at older ages than ever before.

- Central Time, February 21, 2024
- Duration: 22 minutes, 29 seconds

A recent march in Madison was part of a nationwide effort at statehouses to mobilize low-income voters ahead of the November election. Two leaders of the Poor People’s Campaign join us.

- The Morning Show, March 11, 2024
- Duration: 20 minutes, 58 seconds

We talk to CNN’s Harry Enten about the latest election polls as November gets closer and what we can—and can’t—take from them.

- Central Time, March 13, 2024
- Duration: 17 minutes, 21 seconds

7. Social Issues

The Andrew Center for Restorative Justice at Marquette organized restorative justice circles for incarcerated men at Racine Correctional Institute. We learn more about how restorative justice works in this and other settings in Wisconsin.

- Central Time, January 2, 2024
- Duration: 21 minutes, 54 seconds

A longtime writer and editor, now a media critic, tells us news outlets covering former president Donald Trump’s 2024 campaign to regain that office should not treat him, or the race, like any other.

- Central Time, January 8, 2024
- Duration: 21 minutes, 57 seconds

A bipartisan group in the Wisconsin Assembly has proposed a slate of legislation to combat human trafficking. A member of a nonprofit devoted to ending child and sex trafficking reacts to this legislation and explains why the organization gave Wisconsin’s laws addressing trafficking an “F” rating.

- The Morning Show, January 16, 2024
- Duration: 22 minutes, 27 seconds

Roughly one-quarter of United Methodist Church communities are splitting from the country’s second-largest protestant faith, including dozens from Wisconsin. We get perspectives from church leadership and pastors from local communities that disaffiliated and remained after the December deadline.

- The Morning Show, January 29, 2024
- Duration: 43 minutes, 29 seconds

As Americans, we often think of ourselves as some of the most privileged citizens in the world. But parents in the United States are left relatively unsupported in caring for their kids compared to other wealthy nations. We talk to a journalist about why parents struggle so much in our current system and what we can do about it.

- Central Time, February 1, 2024
- Duration: 21 minutes, 34 seconds

The Wisconsin Supreme Court Marshal's Office reports more than 140 threats against judges and justices took place in 2023. Now, Republican lawmakers propose a package of bills aiming to increase safety. We speak with a Duke Law School professor about why the judiciary is increasingly a target of violence.

- The Morning Show, February 5, 2024
- Duration: 21 minutes

On Sunday, the U.S. Senate revealed the details of a \$118 billion bipartisan immigration package that would enact tougher asylum and immigration laws. We talk to an expert on immigration law about how the package would affect people seeking asylum in the United States.

- Central Times, February 7, 2024
- Duration: 22 minutes, 24 seconds

An expansion of high I-94 in Milwaukee triggered a civil rights review by the Federal Highway Administration. Opponents argue the surrounding Black and Brown communities are negatively affected. Can development of highways alter the success of a neighborhood? We speak with a UW-Milwaukee associate professor of urban planning who specializes in racial and economic equity.

- The Morning Show, February 15, 2024
- Duration: 43 minutes, 21 seconds

Elder abuse takes many forms. It can be financial exploitation, neglect or physical abuse. Since 2001, Wisconsin has seen an increase in reported cases of elder abuse. We learn more about the warning signs and the reporting process.

- The Larry Meiller Show, March 4, 2024
- Duration: 39 minutes, 22 seconds

Chantell Jewel, who was appointed the head of Milwaukee County's Community Reintegration Center in 2020, explains her efforts to increase family and social bonds as a way of helping incarcerated people return to civil life.

- The Morning Show, March 7, 2024
- Duration: 17 minutes, 37 seconds