

Quarterly Issues and Programs Report

Fourth Quarter 2023

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

1. Agriculture

How farmers handle their cows can have a big impact on their health and safety. We talk to a Wisconsin researcher who developed a new tool to help farmer's practice better methods.

- Central Time, October 6, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.
- Duration: 11 min, 37 seconds

Community Supported Agriculture — or CSA farms — attempt to make producing food a community project, getting cooperation from the microbes and worms up to the neighbors and local businesses. We chat with a pioneer of the CSA movement who has written a memoir and cookbook about her farm in Iowa.

- The Morning Show, October 16, 2023 at 8 a.m.
- Duration: 43 minutes, 58 seconds

The 2018 U.S. Farm Bill included hemp production regulations. It expired in September and is due for renewal, but congressional legislation is at a standstill after Kevin McCarthy was voted out as the House speaker. We talk to a Wisconsin hemp farmer about the unclear future of the hemp industry.

- The Morning Show, October 24, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.
- Duration: 18 minutes, 28 seconds

A Wisconsin-based safety researcher explains the risks of children living and working on farms.

- The Morning Show, October 26, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 20 seconds

The recent deaths of immigrants working on small Wisconsin dairy farms has raised questions about worker protections. We talk to a reporter who dug into the challenges and serious risks facing these workers.

- Central Time, November 13, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.
- Duration: 17 minutes, 23 seconds

Dairy farming is vital to Wisconsin's economy, but new farmers face barriers to entering the profession. We talk with members of an apprenticeship program that's helping keep dairy farming alive.

- The Larry Meiller Show, November 15, 2023 at 11 a.m.
- Duration: 39 minutes, 22 seconds

When the University of Wisconsin-Madison posted five part-time cheese tasting positions for its Center for Dairy Research, more than two hundred people applied for the jobs. The center's sensory coordinator tells us what it takes to taste cheese for scientific research.

- The Morning Show, December 5, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 40 seconds

One of the country's longest running farmers markets has been going strong in Madison for over 50 years. In celebration, a new cookbook has been released featuring ingredients that can be found there. We take a look at the book and talk about growing for the market.

- The Larry Meiller Show, December 8, 2023 at 11 a.m.
- Duration: 1 hour, 13 minutes, 37 seconds

Misinformation on social media is sowing doubt about what foods are environmentally sustainable. A new report found almost 1 million posts in 2022-2023 on the platform X promoting meat and dairy consumption and denigrating plant-based diets. We talk to a sustainability advocate about the findings.

- The Morning Show, December 15, 2023 at 7 a.m.
- Duration: 11 minutes, 40 seconds

2. Economy

Last week, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics released data that shows that employment rose by 336,000 jobs in the last month—nearly doubling economists' expectations. We talk to an economics expert about what's driving this change in the job market, and what it could mean for inflation, interest rates and competition for jobs.

- Central Time, October 10, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 18 seconds

Young adults are facing financial challenges with higher interest rates and debt, while trying to save for retirement and homeownership. We talk to a consumer science professor and a financial planner about the economic factors involved and the best practices for long-term financial success.

- Central Time, October 11, 2023 at 4 p.m.
- Duration: 16 minutes, 44 seconds

Despite concerns about high interest rates and the looming possibility of a recession, Americans are spending down household savings built up during the pandemic. An economist explains what this means for the economy.

- Central Time, October 24, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 20 seconds

The price tags of concert tickets, amusement park admissions, and travel are all up this year. A Wall Street Journal reporter explains how "funflation" is affecting the way we recreate.

- Central Time, October 26, 2023 at 4 p.m.
- Duration: 17 minutes, 16 seconds

Inflation can affect many things in our lives. We talk with a financial expert about the causes of inflation and how to adjust your investments.

- The Larry Meiller Show, November 9, 2023 at 11 a.m.
- Duration: 1 hour, 13 minutes, 30 seconds

According to the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, more than 184,000 people have filed unemployment insurance claims this year. We discuss the barriers facing people who want a job but are without an address. Plus, we hear how employers can advocate for the homeless population.

- The Morning Show, November 17, 2023 at 7 a.m.
- Duration: 21 minutes, 29 seconds

High costs of borrowing and materials are limiting new construction of commercial real estate, and retail space in particular is low on vacancy as non-traditional tenants have filled available storefronts. We talk to a city development director and a business banker about how each side is navigating the current market.

- Central time, November 20, 2023 at 3 p.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 8 seconds

In 2021, northern Wisconsin produced roughly \$14 billion in economic output, according to the St. Louis Fed. We talk with a pair of regional economic development leaders for an update on the goals and challenges of northern Wisconsin's economy.

- The Morning Show, November 21, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 23 seconds

Multiple labor unions in Wisconsin filed a new lawsuit to try and overturn Act 10 and restore collective bargaining rights. A UW-Madison law professor joins us to look at the equal protection argument in this case and what makes it different from previous lawsuits over this issue.

- Central Time, December 5, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.
- Duration: 21 minutes, 47 seconds

By most measurements, the economy is doing great. But Americans feel anxious and worried about their economic prospects. We explore this disconnect with a Washington Post columnist. Then we hear about a report that calls for reimagining the economy to focus on people, not dollars.

- The Morning Show, December 7, 2023 at 8 a.m.
- Duration: 43 minutes, 38 seconds

3. Education

State lawmakers are moving forward with a bill that would allow school districts to hire unlicensed superintendents. We talk with the bill's author about its intentions.

- The Morning Show, October 2, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.
- Duration: 12 minutes, 17 seconds

A new book argues public education in America is in jeopardy and Wisconsin played an important role in that change. The author tells us what's led to the blurring of lines between public and private education.

- The Morning Show, October 12, 2023 at 8 a.m.
- Duration: 43 minutes, 20 seconds

The state Assembly Speaker's Task Force on Truancy held another meeting this week. We speak with a school social work consultant for the state Department of Public Instruction about the complex measurement of school attendance and ensuring students are able to attend school with ease.

- The Morning Show, October 18, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.
- Duration: 17 minutes, 20 seconds

Starting next year, there will be no more classes at UW Milwaukee-Washington County and UW Oshkosh-Fond du Lac. The news comes amid the layoffs of 20 percent of employees at UW Oshkosh's main campus and Republicans in the state house blocking pay raises across all UW campuses. A reporter explains.

- Central Time, October 19, 2023 at 5 p.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 28 seconds

A reporter breaks down what's happening at a local school district that recently changed start times due to bus driver shortages. Then, a leading researcher zooms out for a look at how school start times affect youth sleep health and educational outcomes.

- Central Time, November 14, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 38 seconds

On Tuesday, the Department of Public Instruction released new report cards showing that around 94 percent of the state's schools met expectations for the previous school year. Wisconsin Public Radio's education reporter tells us what challenges schools are facing.

- The Morning Show, November 17, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.
- Duration: 17 minutes, 17 seconds

Many Head Start programs and private pre-K classrooms are racially segregated, setting kids on unequal education tracks, according to the author of "False Starts: The Segregated Lives of Preschoolers." Casey Stockstill joins us to share what she found observing preschools in Madison for more than two years.

- The Morning Show, November 27, 2023 at 8 a.m.
- Duration: 44 minutes

A new report from the American Federation of Teachers shows millions of adjunct educators are underpaid, with more than 25 percent of respondents earning less than \$26,500 per year. The head of the union explains what issues these millions of educators are facing.

- The Morning Show, November 28, 2023 at 7 a.m.
- Duration: 20 minutes, 57 seconds

We visit with UW-Madison Chancellor Jennifer Mnookin to ask about some of the top issues in higher education, including DEI initiatives, student enrollment, the money brought in by research and more.

- The Larry Meiller Show, December 5, 2023 at 11 a.m.
- Duration: 38 minutes, 30 seconds

In 2028, Wisconsin high school students will be required to complete a half credit of financial literacy to graduate. We speak with a financial educator to learn how teachers and districts can build and launch a financial literacy program.

- The Morning Show, December 13, 2023 at 7 a.m.
- Duration: 12 minutes, 41 seconds

4. Environment

Climate scientist Michael Mann argues in a new book that humans have flourished on Earth because of climate change that happened over billions of years. Now, climate change threatens to destroy humans. We talk with Mann about the ways humans depend on a stable climate and how to prevent catastrophe.

- The Morning Show, October 2, 2023 at 8 a.m.
- Duration: 24 minutes, 31 seconds

Northwestern Wisconsin is home to a globally rare and unusual ecosystem that you've probably never seen before: the oak-pine barrens. But the habitat found in the Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area is not an untouched natural landscape—in fact, humans have played an integral role in shaping it for centuries. We talk to the author of a new book about the history and ecology of one of Wisconsin's most unique wildlife areas.

- Central Time, October 5, 2023 at 3 p.m.
- Duration: 13 minutes, 56 seconds

The spotted lanternfly, a fast-spreading invasive insect, is showing up in Illinois and Michigan. We discuss containment efforts with the head of Wisconsin's Bureau of Plant Industry.

- The Morning Show, October 10, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 27 seconds

We learn about how a Wisconsin project is working with female landowners to educate them about conservation practices, resources, and funding.

- Central Time, October 19, 2023 at 3 p.m.
- Duration: 21 minutes, 58 seconds

Road ecology is the study of how roads and cars change the lives of plants and animals. We get into the topic with author Ben Goldfarb, whose book "Crossings" reveals the deep scars roads leave on wildlife.

- The Larry Meiller Show, November 15, 2023 at 11:45 a.m.
- Duration: 33 minutes, 45 seconds

The state Geological and Natural History Survey researches and provides environmental data that helps inform institutional decisions that can affect our environment. We'll talk with Wisconsin's new state geologist about who they work with and how their data is used.

- The Morning Show, November 21, 2023 at 7 a.m.
- Duration: 20 minutes, 54 seconds

A soot particle is smaller than particles of dust and mold. It's about 1/30 the size of a human hair. And it is a pollutant dangerous for humans and the environment. We talk with a Marquette University professor who's studying soot and engaging the public about its impact.

- The Larry Meiller Show, November 21, 2023 at 11:45 a.m.
- Duration: 33 minutes, 8 seconds

El Niño might bring drier-than-average conditions this winter, says a season outlook by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Weather Guy Jon Martin is back to tell us more about what we can expect this winter, plus a look at the key findings of the National Climate Assessment.

- The Larry Meiller Show, November 27, 2023 at 11:45 a.m.
- Duration: 35 minutes, 54 seconds

The U.S. Government's Global Change Research Program recently released its latest climate change assessment. A UW-Eau Claire environmental studies professor joins us to discuss the present and future impacts of climate change in Wisconsin.

- Central Time, December 4, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 8 seconds

Wisconsinites looking for a Christmas tree this season had the opportunity to help restore a tree farm to its original oak savanna and prairie habitat—while also getting into the Christmas spirit. The Waukesha County Land Conservancy let community members buy and cut down Norway Spruces and other "Christmas" tree varieties on the property to help transform it into a nature preserve. We talk to someone working on the project about how tree farms affect the land and the uniquely seasonal opportunity to help their cause.

- Central Time, December 14, 2023 at 3 p.m.
- Duration: 12 minutes, 49 seconds

5. Health

We talk with an expert in labor relations about the massive multi-state Kaiser Permanente health worker walkout that began Wednesday. We'll also look at an ongoing nurse strike at Robert Wood Johnson University Medical Center, and how the grievances voiced compare with what we've seen in the ongoing discussions around wages, transparency, and retention issues between the UW nurses union and UW Health.

- Central Time, October 6, 2023 at 4 p.m.
- Duration: 13 minutes, 7 seconds

About 30 million adults living in the United States experience some degree of hearing loss. An audiologist visits to share how he treats hearing loss and the best practices for picking out an over-the-counter hearing aid.

- The Larry Meiller Show, October 10, 2023 at 11:45 a.m.
- Duration: 28 minutes, 13 seconds

Migraine treatments have advanced significantly in the last 30 years. But for many of the 40 million Americans who suffer from migraines, it might as well be the 1980s. We talk about the gap between migraine research and the experience of migraine sufferers.

- Central Time, October 13, 2023 at 3 p.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 39 seconds

Wisconsin has seen at least four major hospital mergers announced or finalized in the last year. Nationally, America has seen almost 1,900 hospital mergers nationally from 1998 to 2021. A professor of medicine tells us how hospital mergers impact cost and patient care.

- The Morning Show, October 17, 2023 at 7 a.m.
- Duration: 21 minutes, 28 seconds

Loneliness can be as big of a health threat as smoking or heavy daily drinking, according to the U.S. Surgeon General. We chat with a Froedtert Hospital psychologist and a member of the Wisconsin Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness about the consequences and cures for loneliness.

- The Morning Show, November 1, 2023 at 8 a.m.
- Duration: 43 minutes, 42 seconds

Pilates is one way to improve your posture, health and overall fitness. A Wisconsin instructor busts some myths about Pilates and shares the benefits of practicing.

- The Larry Meiller Show, November 7, 2023 at 11:45 a.m.
- Duration: 34 minutes, 22 seconds

The FDA last week issued a warning for over two dozen brands of eye drops, citing infection risks. We take a look at how the FDA regulates drugs, consumer safety, and how to make sure the over-the-counter medications you take are safe.

- Central Time, November 9, 2023 at 4 p.m.
- Duration: 21 minutes, 36 seconds

Internet, video games, food, sex, gambling—all of these things can make us feel good, but they also have the potential to become addictive. However, behavioral addictions are not all recognized as equally legitimate, especially compared to substance use disorders. We talk to a clinical psychologist about the similarities and differences between behavioral addictions and substance-related addictions, how to know if a behavior is becoming an addiction, and how to get help.

- Central Time, November 17, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 24 seconds

The usefulness of body mass index, or BMI, has long been called into question as a measure of health, particularly when used on its own. With the mainstreaming of obesity drugs, we take a look at the potential consequences of using BMI without the context of a person's overall health.

- Central Time, December 6, 2023 at 4 p.m.
- Duration: 17 minutes, 14 seconds

As the holidays approach flu cases are growing nationally while COVID and RSV cases are spiking in Wisconsin. We chat with Wisconsin's chief medical officer about what people can do to stay healthy during the upcoming holiday.

- The Morning Show, December 20, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 28 seconds

6. Politics

Congress reached a deal to avert a government shutdown at the last minute. A Wisconsin political scientist joins us to discuss how the deal was reached and what happens next.

- Central Time, October 2, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.
- Duration: 11 minutes, 56 seconds

Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Janet Protasiewicz has faced impeachment threats for declining to recuse herself from a lawsuit over redistricting in Wisconsin. A UW-Madison law professor joins us to look at the legal precedents at issue and where the case could go from here.

- Central Time, October 12, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 19 seconds

The House of Representatives still doesn't have a Speaker as Republicans struggle to unite behind a single candidate. A Wisconsin political scientist brings us up to speed on the latest candidates and how the issue is affecting the federal government.

- Central Time, October 23, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.
- Duration: 21 minutes, 57 seconds

A new series from ProPublica details the rise of a conservative activist who helped shape judicial politics in America. We talk to one of the reporters about how his strategy was implemented in Wisconsin.

- Central Time, October 26, 2023 at 3 p.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 24 seconds

Last week, the State Legislature debated a series of election-related amendments to the state Constitution. The Republican-led proposals would outlaw private funding for elections, prevent non-U.S. citizens from voting in local elections and have current voter photo ID requirements written into the state constitution. We talk to the Assembly Majority Leader about what he hopes the amendments will accomplish, if passed. Then, a law and politics expert breaks down the proposals for us.

- Central Time, November 1, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 26 seconds

How do Wisconsin voters feel about the Republican presidential candidates, a possible second Donald Trump versus Joe Biden contest, and a variety of national and state issues? Pollster Charles Franklin brings us the latest results of the Marquette University Law School Poll.

- The Morning Show, November 9, 2023 at 7 a.m.
- Duration: 43 minutes, 26 seconds

A peace activist and policy expert discusses Israel-Hamas war updates, including conditions in Gaza, the Biden administration's Middle East policy, and what it would take to negotiate a ceasefire.

- Central Time, November 9, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 6 seconds

A bipartisan group of former Congressmen from Wisconsin has come out in opposition to the No Labels organization running a third-party presidential candidate in the state. We'll talk to former Republican U.S. Representative Reid Ribble about why.

- Central Time, November 28, 2023 at 4:15 p.m.
- Duration: 11 minutes

Republican senators stopped a Democratic bill from moving forward that would have provided billions of dollars in military aid for Ukraine and Israel, as well as measures to help address issues at the U.S. border with Mexico. We talk with Wisconsin Republican Senator Ron Johnson and Democratic Representative Mark Pocan about the ongoing war in Gaza, how the American government should be responding to the humanitarian crisis there, and what a resolution to the conflict could look like.

- Central Time, December 8, 2023 at 4 p.m.
- Duration: 20 minutes, 42 seconds

The fake electors for Donald Trump in 2020 reached a settlement in the lawsuit against them, admitting Joe Biden won the election in Wisconsin. We talk to a UW-Whitewater political science professor about the significance of the case for elections in the state.

- Central Time, December 11, 2023 at 4 p.m.
- Duration: 44 minutes, 37 seconds

7. Social Issues

A historian who is a citizen of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe wrote a book correcting the inaccurate history of his tribe's land in northern Wisconsin and other parts of the Great Lakes region. He joins us to discuss his research that has been named a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize.

- Central Time, October 9, 2023 at 4:40 p.m.
- Duration: 21 minutes, 18 seconds

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development data shows more than 4,700 people in Wisconsin experienced homelessness on a given night in 2022. The Interagency Council on Homelessness discusses population trends and its statewide action plan.

- The Morning Show, October 11, 2023 at 8 a.m.
- Duration: 21 minutes, 28 seconds

The Wisconsin Department of Corrections operates 11 job centers within state prisons. The agency's reentry assistance efforts could get a boost from legislative proposals that would further lower barriers to employment for formerly incarcerated people. The new reentry director for the DOC joins us.

- The Morning Show, October 16, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 25 seconds

Feeding America says more than 427,000 are food insecure in Wisconsin. Two local organizations explain efforts to feed the hungry and support low-income families.

- The Morning Show, October 30, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 28 seconds

A new four-part series explores how racist policies in Wisconsin's history affect people's lived experiences today. We talk with a journalist who worked on the series about how the effects of racist policies evolve through generations.

- The Morning Show, November 3, 2023 at 7 a.m.
- Duration: 15 minutes, 40 seconds

Most gun deaths in Wisconsin involve residents of rural areas and suburbs taking their own lives. We talk to an investigative reporter for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel about his new reporting on gun deaths and conversations with scores of concerned gun owners.

- The Morning Show, November 3, 2023 at 8 a.m.
- Duration: 43 minutes, 23 seconds

According to one 2022 snapshot, about 341 homeless veterans live in Wisconsin. The deputy secretary of the state Department of Veterans Affairs shares policy efforts to support homeless veterans. We also discuss veterans housing programs.

- The Morning Show, November 10, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 26 seconds

Movies and television are more than just entertainment, says the author of a new book. Using data and real-world examples, he explains how what we watch has a palpable effect on our lives and society, from biology and personal beliefs to culture and geopolitics.

- Central Time, November 28, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 33 seconds

A new bill in the state legislature aims to require businesses in Wisconsin to accept cash for all transactions under \$2,000. We hear from a WPR reporter who covered a hearing for the proposal, and then we talk to a Wisconsin anthropologist who researches the role of cash in society.

- Central Time, December 1, 2023 at 4 p.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 13 seconds

Last month, the Wisconsin Assembly unanimously passed a bill that would protect student-led media from most censorship by school officials. We talk to a student journalist lobbying lawmakers and the executive director of the Student Press Law Center in Washington D.C.

- The Morning Show, December 4, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.
- Duration: 22 minutes, 27 seconds