LAB FARMS 4/29/20 M.MARSH

UW-River Falls owns two laboratory farms where agricultural students go for classes and for some, work. Amid the Covid-19 pandemic and classes switching to an online platform, some changes are taking place at both the Mann Valley and Campus Farms.

Monica Marsh has the story.

MP3 RUNS 0:44 O/C: STD.

MONICA MARSH: UW-RIVER FALLS MANN VALLEY AND CAMPUS FARMS TYPICALLY EMPLOY AROUND 14 STUDENT WORKERS, HOWEVER SOME MAJOR STAFFING CHANGES ARE BEING DEALT WITH AS STUDENTS MOVE HOME DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

LAURA WALSH FROM THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE SAYS THAT THE FARMS HAVE SBEEN MUCH QUIETER THAN USUAL WITH SOME STUDENTS BEING GONE, BUT THE WORK THAT IS NORMALLY DONE ON THE FARM CONTINUES EVERY DAY. WALSH SAYS THAT THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE IS NOT HAVING STUDENTS ATTENDING CLASSES ON THE FARMS.

PAIGE ISENSEE (Ice-n-see) IS A STUDENT EMPLOYEE AT MANN VALLEY FARM. ISENSEE SAYS THAT THE WORKFORCE AT THE FARM IS SIGNIFICANTLY SMALLER, SO WHILE THE TASKS ARE THE SAME, THERE ARE FEWER PEOPLE TO DO THEM. ISENSEE SAYS THE MAIN CHALLENGE IS FOR STUDENTS TO BALANCE THEIR SCHOOLING AND WORKING A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS ON THE FARMS. FOR FALCON NEWS SERVICE, THIS IS MONICA MARSH.

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