

Request for Emeritus Status

July 25, 2011

Thomas S. W. Kriegl

Extension Employment:

Farm Financial Analyst	UW Center for Dairy Profitability (CDP)	1996 – June 2, 2011
Sauk County UWEX Agriculture Agent		1979 - 1996
Green Lake County UWEX Interim Agriculture Agent		1978 - 1979
Project Assistant & Graduate Student		
UW Dept. of Agricultural Economics		1977 - 1978
Washburn County UWEX 4-H Youth and Agriculture Agent		1973 - 1977

Major Efforts while at the Center for Dairy Profitability Include:

- Assembled 15 years of whole farm financial data from Wisconsin grazing dairy farms to verify economic viability.
- Assembled 11 years of whole farm financial data from Wisconsin organic dairy farms to verify economic viability.
- Provided comparisons of the economic competitiveness of dairy systems in Wisconsin and around the country which shows Wisconsin systems to be economically competitive.
- Served as the lead investigator for USDA IFAFS grant #00-52501-9708 involving ten states and the province of Ontario which resulted in six annual reports titled Dairy Grazing Farms Financial Summary.
- Helped author and develop the Ag-Venture Series that has been used to provide farm families with farm business management training.
- Helped develop the AgFA computer program. I entered “my” grazing data as pilot data into AgFA to test for glitches, etc. It was also entered into the existing Finan/program serving as a control scenario. Money from IFAFS grant 00-52501-9708 paid for enough of the development costs that the original intent to charge for the AgFA software was delayed.
- Collaborated with Rural Sociologists Sarah Lloyd and Mike Bell to evaluate life satisfaction of Wisconsin dairy systems.
- Provided the economic formatting for the publication *Economic Costs and Labor Efficiencies Associated with Raising Dairy Herd Replacements on Wisconsin Dairy Farms and Custom Heifer Raising Operations*. The formatting made it easy to modify the data to answer a variety of after-the-fact questions.
- Provided specialist backup to agents on a wide variety of specific farm management questions.
- Developed, resurrected and modified a variety of farm management materials to help agents and farmers cope with several crises, such as the low milk prices in 2009.
- Modeled five dairy farm expansion strategies which showed that going from 50-700 cows in small steps was far less risky than faster scenarios. The faster scenarios were more profitable after 15 years if they survived the first five years.

Over

Major Efforts as a County Agricultural Agent

- Developed and taught the Sauk County version of Ag-Venture long before the state version. Titled “Making Informed Business Decisions,” it reached 250 people in ten years.
- Was active in the Wisconsin Forage Council and instrumental along with several others in getting farmers to use NIR forage testing, hay auctions, and several other practices to enhance the effective use of forages on Wisconsin farms.
- Helped farmers cope with a new pest called alfalfa weevil and worked on the biological control of weevils which were very effective.
- Helped farmers cope with the farm crises of the 1980s.
- Worked on recycling and energy conservation programs after the “Arab Oil Embargo.”
- Collaborated in a study that illustrated that crop rotations having fewer consecutive years of the same crop could be more environmentally friendly and economically competitive with the rotations that had become more common since pesticides began playing a large role in farming.
- Helped county farmers understand how to produce crops with greatly reduced tillage as part of the movement in which Wisconsin farmers went from heavy reliance on moldboard plowing in 1980 to very little use of the moldboard plow in 1985.
- Co-authored “Guidelines for Analyzing Financial Performance of Wisconsin Swine Farms”. with Dan Short.
- Helped farmers understand the “new” Wisconsin Farmland Preservation program.
- Helped farmers cope with many crises including:
 - The drought of 1976
 - The winter of 1976-7 when an unofficial low temperature of -63 degrees F was recorded 30 miles south of where I worked.
 - The ice storms of March 1976 that deprived 100,000 people of electricity for days.
 - The heat and drought of 1988 and 1989.
 - 1992 and 1993 when early and continuous snow cover delayed the harvest of most corn until the spring.
 - The floods of 1993 and 2008.
 - Severe winter kill of alfalfa in the springs of 1992 and several other years.
 - Growing seasons shortened by early killing frosts.