



Mike Rankin

920-929-3171

michael.rankin@ces.uwex.edu
400 University Drive
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Mike Rankin has held the position of Crops and Soils Agent with the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Service in Fond du Lac County since 1988. He has a B.S. degree in Dairy Science and M.S. degree in Crop Production and Physiology from Iowa State University. Mike provides agronomic educational programs and support for area crop producers and agribusinesses. These programs encompass forage and grain crop production, pest management, nutrient management, farm safety, and crop enterprise analysis.

Mike has frequently contributed articles for local, state, and national print media, appears several times per week on local radio, and maintains an extensive agronomic web site. He is a Lay Speaker in the United Methodist Church and lives with his wife, Nancy, and three children in northeast Fond du Lac County.

Topics:

- Agriculture and the Environment: Reality vs. Myth
- Transgenic (GMO) Crops – Perceptions, Potential, and Risks



Irv Possin

920-929-3171

irvan.possin@ces.uwex.edu
400 University Drive
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Irv Possin is the Dairy and Livestock Agent at the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Service in Fond du Lac County. He has a B.S. degree in Animal/Dairy Science from UW-River Falls and a M.S. degree from University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Irv provides educational programs and university field research for area dairy/livestock producers and agribusiness professionals on nutrition, reproduction, milk quality, animal health, and livestock and manure facilities. His responsibilities also include farm financial analysis, strategic planning, human resource management, farm business arrangements, and risk management.

Irv appears several times weekly on local radio stations and contributes articles for local and state papers. He and his wife, Sarah, live in Fond du Lac.

Topics:

- Why are Dairy and Livestock Farms Getting Larger?
- Alternative Animal Enterprises.
- Present and Future Use of Biotechnology/Genetic Engineering in Animals.
- The Economic Impact of the Dairy Industry in Fond du Lac County.



FOND DU LAC AREA ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE

Building Community and Commerce

2004 Speakers' Bureau

“To communicate the importance of agriculture within our community.”

Fond du Lac Area Agri-Business Council Agriculture Awareness Committee

Mission Statement:

“To communicate the importance of agriculture within our community.”

Vision:

- *Promote the understanding and appreciation of agriculture*
- *Build positive relationships with urban and rural neighbors*
- *Positively affect public attitude and perception*
- *Establish relationships with other agricultural organizations and institutions.*



Linda Hodorff

secondlk@kmoraine.com
N3832 County Road W
Eden, WI 53019

920-477-2481

The Hodorff family has farmed in the Eden area since the 1870's. Today, the family along with a dozen employees milks nearly 700 cows and crops 1000 acres. The cows are housed in comfortable sand-bedded free stalls.

Heifers are raised in Nebraska and return to Eden farm before having their first calf.

Linda is a Maine native and has lived in Wisconsin for over 20 years. She was named 2003 World Dairy Expo Dairy Woman of the Year. Linda serves on Professional Dairy Producers of WI Public Policy Committee as well as being on the board of directors of the WI Livestock ID Consortium.

Topics:

- Why should this area fight to keep the dairy industry here?
- Things we've learned from our agricultural experiences in other states.
- Public policy issues dealing with dairy/agriculture
- Child rearing, nutrition, human medicine, environmental stewardship, the economy: What can cows and people learn from each other?



Dwight Sattler

W2841 County Road HHH
Malone, WI 53049

920-795-4067

Dwight and Mary Sattler, along with their son, Joe, operate Artesia Acres, a dairy farm in northern Fond du Lac County. We have 80 dairy cows and all the heifers to go with the cows. All three of us are graduates of UW-Madison. Two other children are employed off the farm, but continue to have an abiding interest in the business.

Topics:

- The Facts of Life about Dairy Farming
- Why do we need larger farms?



Al Martens, D.V.M.

N3282 Oak Grove Road
Waupun, WI 53963

920-346-8240

Graduated from Michigan State University, DVM, 1978.

First job with Dr. James DeYoung, Waupun, WI, June 1978. Became a partner with Dr. DeYoung in 1980. Practice expanded to 3 veterinarians in 1982 and has grown into a 7-veterinarian, mixed practice.

My time is divided between practice management and bovine medicine, primarily herd health with the use of ultrasound.

The practice also supports a bovine mastitis laboratory, providing service statewide to dairy farmers, veterinary clinics and milk plants.

My professional interests include dairy farm profitability and business issues.

Topics:

- Veterinary Medicine (any aspect)
- Dairy Farm Evolution
- General Business Involvement in Agricultural Support



Bryan Peth

beechwood@dotnet.com
W13826 Tri-County Road
Ripon, WI 54971

920-748-2516

Having grown up in the Pipe/Calumetville area, Bryan has thirty years farming experience. Since marriage, Bryan has lived and farmed in the Ripon area. Bryan

and his son are in business with Bryan's brother and they currently have a 300-cow milking herd.

Topics:

- Agriculture in the 2000's
- Beechwood-H LLC Dairy



Jeff Montsma

N3545 County Road EE
Waupun, WI 53963

920-346-2215

Jeff Montsma is the Member Service Specialist for Alto Dairy Cooperative. He started with Alto Dairy Cooperative in 1995 as a field representative. Jeff holds a BS degree in dairy science from UW-River Falls. Prior to joining Alto, Jeff worked as a nutrition consultant and feed salesman. Jeff was raised on a dairy farm near Waupun, Wisconsin.

Jeff works in milk procurement, in addition to developing and coordinating new programs for Alto's members. He is a leading resource on Forward Milk Contracting and recently directed the Cheese Yield Pilot Project, which was an effort to increase the protein in member milk, which would increase Alto's manufacturing efficiencies and the pay price to its members.

Jeff is on the board of directors for the FdL Agri Business Council, currently serving on the Executive Committee and is also Chairman of Breakfast on the Farm Committee, Chairman of Fond du Lac County Agriculture Awareness Committee and serving on a number of other committees. Jeff also is a board member for the Dairy Council of Wisconsin, Dairy 2020 Initiative. He is also involved with the DBA membership and PDPW educational committees.

Topics:

- Impact of Dairying in Wisconsin
- Dairy Farm Management Trends
- Risk Management and Awareness in Agriculture
- Issues Affecting Dairying in Wisconsin and United States



Joe Loehr

joeloehr75@yahoo.com
N6224 Banner Road
Mt. Calvary, WI 53057

920-581-0013 (H)

920-921-4035 (W)

From caring for a newborn calf to caring about his farm's employees, Joe's passion for agriculture is clear!

Joe is a partner in the family dairy and pork business, Loehr Dairy, LLC., serving as manager and handling many diverse responsibilities. Joe is active in church and local government activities as well as being an avid sports fan and hunter.

Topics:

- Loehr Farm History
- Of All things, Why Farming?

**Gary Boyke**

boyke@dotnet.com
 N5119 County Road K
 Fond du Lac, WI 54935

920-923-2189
FAX: 920-921-1448

Gary is the owner of Vi-Clar Farms. Vir-Clar is a 700-cow dairy southeast of Fond du Lac. He farms 1000 acres of land. Gary is married to Rose and they have four children. A Goodrich High School graduate, Gary also attended the UW Short Course. **Awards:** Fond du Lac Jaycees Outstanding Farmer in 1988, Wisconsin Holstein Association Distinguished Young Breeder Award in 1990, National Holstein Association Distinguished Young Breeder Award in 1990. Gary is also a member of the Fond du Lac County Board.

Topics:

- WI Agriculture, It's a New Century
- History of Vir-Clar Farms: From 28 Cows to 700

**Ray & Rae Nell Halbur**

burledge@dotnet.com
 W3704 Highway 23 East
 Fond du Lac, WI 54935

920-922-9672

RAY HALBUR

Ray and his family own and operate Burledge Holsteins, where they milk 125 registered Holsteins east of Fond du Lac. Along with milking, he works about 400 acres of land. Ray has been a 4-H Leader for over 25 years and is presently on the Executive Committee for the Fond du Lac Area Agri-Business Council.

RAE NELL HALBUR

Rae Nell and her family milk 125 registered Holsteins east of Fond du Lac. Rae Nell has served on the Fond du Lac Area Agri-Business Council, the Fond du Lac County 4-H Adult Leader Board and is presently the Farm Broadcaster at News-Talk Radio 1450 KFIZ in Fond du Lac. Along with that she is also a member of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters.

Topics:

- We both will speak on our farm
- Aspects of the Agriculture Industry.

**Chris Schwenck**

cschwenc@excel.net
 N10802 US Hwy 151
 Malone, WI 53049

920-795-4715

Chris grew up on a 100-acre dairy farm in Marytown. She farms with her husband, Ron in the Town of Calumet. They currently work 430 tillable acres and raise replacement heifers and Holstein steers. They began farming in 1971, operating the farm that has been in the Schwenck family since 1866.

Their son, Rick, joined the operation in 2000 after graduating from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Their 60-cow herd was moved to Lake Breeze Dairy in March of 2003, and Rick became a full time employee of the new 1500-cow operation. Ron and Chris are one of five agribusiness partners invested in the dairy.

Topics:

- Lake Breeze Dairy
- The role of agriculture in Fond du Lac County

**Laura Krause**

laurak@fdlac.com
 207 North Main Street
 Fond du Lac, WI 54935

920-921-9500

Laura Krause is Director of Agricultural Programs for the Fond du Lac Area Association of Commerce. Her responsibilities include serving as the liaison between the FdL Area Agri-Business Council and the Association of Commerce. Laura is one of two Agricultural Ambassadors, presenting agriculture programs to school aged children throughout Fond du Lac County.

Laura grew up on her family's 50-cow dairy farm in Germantown and continues to work there as much as possible today. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin - Madison in December 2001 with a degree in Dairy Science and Agricultural Journalism.

Topics:

- Agri-Business Council
- Ag Ambassador Program
- Why Young People Should Stay Involved in Agriculture
- Growing up on a Dairy Farm in an Urban Area