



4-H Youth Development Update

Paula Huff, Agent

2008 Oconto County Fair Judging Schedule

The 2008 Oconto County Fair will be held August 21st-24th. Come watch our local 4-H, FFA, and Scout Group youth exhibit their animal and other projects at the Oconto County Fair!

Saturday, August 16

8:30 am Horse Show

Sunday, August 17

8:30 am Caged Bird & Small Pet Show

9:30 am Cat Show

12 noon Dog Obedience Trials

Thursday, August 12

1 – 8 pm Non-animal Jr and Open class exhibits accepted.
Fair non-animal exhibits judged upon entry.

Friday, August 22

9 am Swine Show
Dairy Cattle Calf & Heifer Show
Rabbit Show followed by Open Class

11 am Sheep Show

1:30 pm Beef Show followed by Open Class

4 pm Goat Show followed by Open Class

4 pm Rabbit Kiddie Showmanship

8 pm Open Class Dairy Cattle Show

Saturday, August 23

9 am Dairy Cattle Cow, Groups, and Showmanship Show
Poultry Show followed by Open Class

4 pm Poultry Kiddie Showmanship

Sunday, August 24

10 am Beef and Dairy Kiddie Showmanship



UW-Extension at the Oconto County Fair

The Oconto County UW-Extension Committee and Staff would like to invite you to visit our booth at the Oconto County Fair.

Browse through a variety of informational displays and learn about UW-Extension through fun activities, games, face painting, and more!

Canning and Food Preservation bulletins will be available for a nominal fee.

We are located in the new exhibition building. Enter through the east door (front of the building), you will find our office and booth along the south wall (left side).

Oconto County Extension Education Committee

Committee Elected Chairperson

Guy Gooding

Committee Elected Vice-Chairperson

Barbara Smith

Committee Members

Bill Grady; Buzz Kamke; Al Sleeter



Jump for Jams & Jellies Youth Workshop

Do you enjoy eating jam or jelly? Did you know you can preserve very tasty and safe jam and jelly right in your own home? Are you a member of an organized youth group? Would you like to have a fair entry ready for this year? If so, join the UW-Extension and the Oconto County Master Food Preservers for a jam-and jelly-making workshop for kids in organized youth groups.

The Jump for Jams & Jellies youth workshop will be offered on Saturday, July 26th, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Riverview Alliance Church (across from East Side Beach in Oconto Falls). The registration fee is \$5.00. You will go home with several types of jam and jellies. Space is limited to 20 youth, so register early! Adult helpers are also needed.

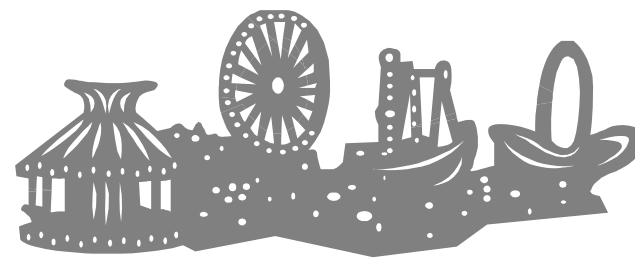
Registration will be on a first come, first served basis upon receipt of your registration fee, and must be turned in to the UW-Extension office no later than Tuesday, July 22. A confirmation postcard will be sent to you when your registration is received.

Registration forms may be found on-line at <http://www.uwex.edu/CES/cty/oconto/>.

Please bring an apron and several small, STRONG, boxes to transport the heavy finished products home. You will also need to bring a sack lunch, but we will be able to sample some of our finished products at the end of the day.

We will need half-pint jelly jars, screw-bands, and lids, as well as freezer jam containers, lemon juice, sugar, and pectin. If you have any to donate, please drop them off at Riverview Alliance Church, 628 N Main St, Oconto Falls, or call Durham Herzog - 920-855-1711; Cheryl Kuhn - 920-842-2944; Patti Schaal - 920-855-2619; or the UW-Extension Office - 920-834-6846. If you are dropping jars at the Riverview Alliance Church, use the main entrance at the upper parking lot. Please label your donation.

Please contact Becky Dolata at the UW-Extension office at 920-834-6846 or becky.dolata@co.oconto.wi.us if you have any questions.



UW-Extension Staff

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John Pinkart, Nutrition Education Coordinator/Dept. Head

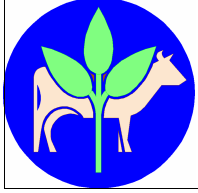
Dawn Schroeffer, Nutrition Educator

Lisa Devine-Barribeau, Nutrition Educator/Home Visitor

Support Staff

Karen Behnke, Program Assistant-4-H Youth Dev, Agriculture

Becky Dolata, Program Assistant-Family Living, CRD



Agriculture Update

Abby Huibregtse, Dairy & Livestock Agent



UW-Extension Can Answer Your Horticulture Questions



Spring and summer bring longer days, green grass and growing gardens. It also brings out some difficult weeds and insects. If you find yourself in need of information about plants, gardening, insects, or weeds, UW-Extension can assist. Every Wednesday, Connie Fletcher, a Master Gardener volunteer, will be on hand to answer horticulture-type questions. She will be housed at the Oconto County UW-Extension Office, located on the third floor of the courthouse in Oconto. Feel free to call the office at 920-834-6845 or to stop by with a sample. She will be available to answer questions and identify plants and insects every Wednesday now through late August.

How to Avoid Losing Feed Value This Year

A variety of conditions have increased the value of feed this year. Increased cost of production, including fertilizer, fuel, equipment, seed and land rent, have made raising crops more expensive. Demand for crops used in fuel production has caused a diversion of cropland to grains at the expense of forage production. Both drought and flooding conditions in some areas have reduced the supply of feed.

Dairy producers have been searching for ways to reduce their ration costs to help maintain profitability. One way to save on feed costs is to reduce the loss of feeds during harvest, storage and feeding processes.

Brian Holmes, UW-Extension Specialist in Biological Systems Engineering, referenced an analysis that was conducted assuming good and fair management practices for alfalfa and corn forage for a 100 cow herd to demonstrate the economic significance of reducing dry matter loss in forage production. Hay and corn silage were fed to lactating cows, dry cows and most heifers at different rates based on dietary needs. Alfalfa silage represented 45 percent and corn silage represented 55 percent of the whole herd forage diet. Hay silage was valued at \$150/T DM and corn silage was valued at \$125/T DM.

The loss of feed value with good management is \$24,160 per year. This

includes a 22.8 percent cumulative dry matter loss from alfalfa representing a \$13,445 loss and an 18.7 percent cumulative dry matter loss from corn silage representing a \$10,715 loss.

The loss of feed value with fair management is \$41,031 per year. This includes a 33 percent cumulative dry matter loss from alfalfa representing a \$22,378 loss and a 28.6 percent cumulative dry matter loss from corn silage representing an \$18,652 loss.

Holmes noted that moving from a fair management practice to a good management practice resulted in a savings of \$16,871 for the 100 cow herd used in this analysis.

So, what practices can reduce dry matter losses to move from fair to good forage management? To achieve the benefits discussed above, improvements need to be made in all aspects of handling forages from harvest to feeding the animals. These improvements include:

- Proper adjustment of equipment, minimizing hay handling operations and harvesting at the recommended moisture content of 60-65 percent for alfalfa and 65-70 percent for whole plant corn reduces losses during harvest.
- Filling storages as quickly as possible helps to reduce respiration and aerobic deterioration losses during silo filling.

Packing bunker, pile and bag silos densely during filling helps to exclude oxygen penetration during fermentation, storage and feedout. Exclusion of oxygen and precipitation from the forage during the fermentation and storage stages reduces storage losses. This requires tight silos and proper covering with plastic. Those who have observed any black silage on tops and sides of silos have some areas for improvement.

Feedout losses may not be so obvious. A rough feedout face where less than 6 inches per day are removed will have larger dry matter losses at feedout than when feedout rates are larger and the face is kept smooth and without fissures.

Taking care to remove only the amount of feed needed during a given feeding also helps to reduce aerobic deterioration of that feed as it waits for the next feeding.

Delivering the correct amount of feed to the mixer wagon and not spilling feed during mixer wagon filling makes for a more correct ration and reduces losses at feeding.

Close monitoring of feed bunks with adjustments to the quantity of feed delivered at the next feeding reduces the amount of feed refusal.



PROTECTING YOUR GARDEN FROM RABBITS

As summer continues, many critters and pests challenge local gardeners. One animal that provides to be a nuisance for people growing gardens or flowers is the rabbit. There are three kinds of wild rabbits in Wisconsin. The most abundant kind of rabbit is the cottontail, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources estimates that there are about 5 million cottontails in the state.

Rabbits do not live very long, but their ability to reproduce helps keep them as a prominent fixture in every Wisconsin county. They eat green plants of vegetables and fruit in the spring and summer, and damage and kill valuable woody plants in the fall and winter. Rabbits devour a wide variety of flowers, and one of their favorites are the tulip shoots that first appear in early spring. Carrots are not the only vegetables that appeal to rabbits. They also enjoy peas, beans, and beets. Only some crops, such as corn, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, and potatoes, do not seem to appeal to rabbits. Rabbits do damage in the winter time by gnawing bark or clipping off branches, stems and buds.

There are two natural, or indirect, ways to reduce your local rabbit population. The first is to encourage natural enemies. Hawks, owls, foxes, mink, weasels, and snakes all help control rabbits. These animals should never be needlessly destroyed. The second form is manipulation of the rabbits' habitat. Removing brush piles, weed patches, junk, stone piles and other debris where rabbits live can be a way to manage them.

There are a few active, or direct, ways to control rabbits. They can be removed by shooting or trapping. In Wisconsin, a land owner can hunt rabbits all year long, except for a short period of time around gun deer season. (Consult the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for guidelines.) Trapping is the best way to remove rabbits from cities, parks, and suburban areas. There are plenty of varieties of livetraps available for purchase, many costing only \$20. You can also make your own trap. Bait for rabbits is easy to find. Corn cobs, leafy alfalfa, or dried apples work well in the winter. Apples, carrots, or cabbage are good baits in warm weather. Once captured, you can release the rabbits in a rural area where they won't cause a problem for someone else.

One of the best ways to protect a backyard garden or berry patch is to put up a fence. The fence doesn't have to be tall or sturdy. A fence of chicken wire about two feet tall, tight to the ground or buried a few inches deep, is sufficient. Make sure the mesh is one inch or less so that young rabbits can't go through it. A fence can be costly, but should last for years if properly cared for.

There are some chemical repellents available to discourage rabbits. These repellents usually contain the fungicide thiram and can be purchased in a ready to use form. Repellents are not designed to be used directly on plants used for human consumption. Always follow the application and storage directions on the label. Naphthalene mothballs can be scattered among plants in small gardens or flower beds to discourage rabbits as well. There are no poisons registered for use against rabbits in Wisconsin. It is dangerous to other animals and people, and it is illegal.

There is no question that rabbits can be an annoyance to people trying to grow gardens, flowers, or trees. However, mass extermination is neither feasible or desirable. 'Live and let live' whenever possible. Consider using techniques to deter the rabbits from your backyard rather than eliminating them. Cottontails are much cuter when they are hopping through the woods than when they are eating your tulips. For more information or to view the entire fact sheet on rabbit control, please contact the UW-Extension office.

