

April 2008

Calendar of Events:

April

- 21 **All-purpose drill demonstration, Allen & Judy Lang Farm, Medford**

May

- 6 **Build Wealth Not Debt class, Neillsville Courthouse, 6-7:30 pm**
- 10 **Plant Swap & Sale, Clark County Fairgrounds, Neillsville, 8 am**
- 13 **Build Wealth Not Debt class, Neillsville Courthouse, 6-7:30 pm**
- 20 **Build Wealth Not Debt class, Neillsville Courthouse, 6-7:30 pm**
- 27 **Build Wealth Not Debt class, Neillsville Courthouse, 6-7:30 pm**

Maria Bendixen,
Dairy & Livestock Agent
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Learning for life
Clark County

Extension Views

Clark County Land Rental Rate Survey By Maria Bendixen, Clark County Dairy & Livestock Agent

With the vastly increased price of corn and soybeans should land be worth more than it has in the past?

Intuitively that would seem correct but what about other inputs placed on the production of crops? Landlords and tenants have vested an interest in determining what is a fair and equitable amount of money to pay for cash rent.

To help answer the frequently asked question: "What is the going rate for renting cropland?" the Clark County UW-Extension Office conducted a cash rent survey in January of 2008. Farmers and "non-operating" landowners were surveyed by mail. Respondents were asked to report what they paid for cash rent for the cropland they operated or the rent they received for the cropland they leased to others.

Responses were received from 62 respondents on 115 parcels of rented land in 27 of Clark County's towns. Respondents reported cash rents for cropland ranging from \$15 per acre of \$100 per acre for corn ground. That is quite a range so using these averages for negotiations is only a starting

point. However the county average is only one dollar higher than in 2006.

A better way to determine rental rates is to do a little math (I know I hear the groans already.) However renters who wish to make money on the crop land they are renting will want to be aware of their costs as rental rates increase. Potential yield and location surfaced as two important factors affecting rental rates.

The Wisconsin Center for Dairy Profitability has a budget calculator that can help producers understand their expenses and set a budget. If you don't want to go through the hand work you can look at following web site cdp.wisc.edu. However here is an example you can work off of.

As a starting point, I use Clark County average production for the last five years of 118 bu/A and multiply this by a price the producer can expect to get for the crop say \$4.00 per bu. This results in a starting income of \$472.00 per acre. If known, use the last five years average production of the land in question.

Now the subtracting begins. The prices I used came from discussions with producers, seed dealers, elevators, as well as the Wisconsin Custom Rate Guide. You will want your own numbers. The numbers are for conventional corn in a continuous corn rotation. The cost of seed is averaged at \$65 per acre planting conventional hybrids, but could reach almost \$90/A depending on seed. $\$472 - \$65 = \$407$ remaining. Fertilizer is the second input cost and included N @ 160 lbs/A plus P & K removal costs for an average of \$102/A. New nitrogen guidelines will result in some changes to N rates and may reduce this price slightly for future years $\$407 - \$102 = \$305$ remaining. Because this is continuous corn, \$15 per acre is expected in insecticide cost, $\$305 - \$15 = \$290$ remaining. One of the harder costs to average out was herbicides, but using a pre-emerge grass product plus atrazine and application cost, I have \$31/A, $\$290 - \$31 = \$259$ remaining. This corn is going to have to be dried down at harvest assuming drying cost of \$0.05/bu/point and average harvest moisture of 20% it would cost \$37 to dry corn

Improving Profitability Only 5 ways to do it!

By Maria Bendixen, Clark County Dairy & Livestock Agent

I have spent much of my time out on farms lately talking about farm financial management and how we can improve profitability. This usually erupts into questions of what other enterprise should I get into because dairy, beef or heifer raising is not working for me. The answer is not in what other enterprise you want to be in it is in how you manage the operation you want to or enjoy running. Most of the time when we think about improved profitability it seems like it comes out as some complicated concept that can only be achieved though having better prices in the market. In truth while better prices certainly doesn't hurt anything it also is not the answer to long term profitability.

So what is? There are actually only 5 ways to improve profitability on a farm and they will help to improve your profitability no matter what the prices are doing they are:

- Reduce debt
- Get a better price
- Reduce costs
- Increase production
- Get bigger

If you think about anything you want to change on your farm it fits into one of those categories. They sort of push and pull on each other to determine profitability. Focusing too much energy on any one of them will take away from at least one of the others.

The first one reducing debt is the most difficult to do in the short term. It also cannot be done unless the others are working well. Some of the others will even increase debt but still improve profitability as long as the rate of return is higher than the interest rate on the debt. Having a savings plan can really help to reduce future debt and protects assets.

Getting a better price is a great strategy and can be achieved by improved product quality in the case of dairy it is done with solids content and milk quality. However you have to be careful not to spend too much money to get it done and therefore diminish returns you get.

That is where reducing cost comes in. In my experience with producers of all sizes and enterprises this is by far the favorite strategy to increase profitability. The problem with having a favorite out of the strategies is that it steals from the others. In the case of a beef producer if your favorite strategy is to reduce costs animal quality will suffer and you will get lower prices for your product and produce less of it. However if no attention is paid to cost you might spend more producing it than what you can get out of it.

Increasing production is one that producers are programmed to concentrate on. A while back I was teaching about economic rates for applying nitrogen fertilizer on corn. I was asked "What will the corn look like from the road at the reduced rate we are talking about, because I

don't want people to think I don't know how to grow good corn?" I responded that if it was a concern for him we could apply extra N to the rows next to the road and he could have profitable corn in the rest of the field! In a lot of cases producing more is a very real possibility of improving profitability. Increased milk production from cow comfort is a good example.

Getting bigger just like everything else on the list so far can improve profitability but done at the expense of the other four is a detriment. No one will argue that you cannot make a living off of just one cow, but what that magic number is, can be a bit harder to define.

In the end it is a balance of all 5 of the strategies put together. We have a data base of Wisconsin farms financial performance and if we take out of the data base the farms that do the very best at any one of the strategies are not the most profitable farms. Take a moment to think about the strategy that is your favorite, have you done what you can do with that one? Should you move on to another? Knowing what strategy to move to and when to refocus is the hard part but done correctly you can improve profitably on your operation no matter what you produce.

2008 Cash Land Rent Averages for Clark County (continued)

to 15% moisture \$259 - \$37 = \$222. You now must include costs for tillage, planting and harvesting. Using the custom rate guide, average rates charged for primary and secondary tillage plus planting is \$70/A \$222 - \$70 = \$152 remaining. Finally, we have the custom rate guide listing an average cost to combine at \$25/A \$152 - \$25 = \$127. Since we don't recommend farming just to break even, I build in a \$50/A profit to the producer \$127 - \$50 = \$77. This remaining profit must go towards potential transportation and storage costs, interest expenses and land. Equipment expenses and insurance related to equipment are built into the custom rates. An opportunity also exists to add direct payments and counter cyclical payments to increase the remaining money available for land rent.

Thorp Avg. Cash Rent: \$50 Avg. Corn Yield: 132 N=6	Withee Avg. Cash Rent: \$45 Avg. Corn Yield: 120 N=1	Hixon Avg. Cash Rent: \$54 Avg. Corn Yield: 116 N=9	Hoard Avg. Cash Rent: \$35 Avg. Corn Yield: 122 N=5	Mayville Avg. Cash Rent: \$50 Avg. Corn Yield: 135 N=3
Worden Avg. Cash Rent: \$50 Avg. Corn Yield: N/A N=1	Reseburg Avg. Cash Rent: \$55 Avg. Corn Yield: 135 N=2	Longwood Avg. Cash Rent: \$34 Avg. Corn Yield: 127 N=7	Green Grove Avg. Cash Rent: \$33 Avg. Corn Yield: 120 N=6	Colby Avg. Cash Rent: \$43 Avg. Corn Yield: 115 N=7
Butler Avg. Cash Rent: \$35 Avg. Corn Yield: N/A N=4	Mead No response	Warner Avg. Cash Rent: \$50 Avg. Corn Yield: 118 N=4	Beaver Avg. Cash Rent: \$48 Avg. Corn Yield: 130 N=3	Unity Avg. Cash Rent: \$47 Avg. Corn Yield: 114 N=5
Foster North NO RESPONSE	Hendren Avg. Cash Rent: \$20 Avg. Corn Yield: 90 N=2	Eaton Avg. Cash Rent: \$39 Avg. Corn Yield: 129 N=8	Loyal Avg. Cash Rent: \$47 Avg. Corn Yield: 147 N=4	Sherman NO RESPONSE
Foster South NO RESPONSE	Seif Avg. Cash Rent: \$32 Avg. Corn Yield: 109 N=4	Weston Avg. Cash Rent: \$41 Avg. Corn Yield: 104 N=6	York Avg. Cash Rent: \$47 Avg. Corn Yield: 125 N=8	Fremont Avg. Cash Rent: \$55 Avg. Corn Yield: 118 N=1
Mentor Avg. Cash Rent: \$75 Avg. Corn Yield: 150 N=2	Hewett NO RESPONSE	Pine Valley Avg. Cash Rent: \$30 Avg. Corn Yield: 130 N=1	Grant Avg. Cash Rent: \$40 Avg. Corn Yield: 130 N=6	Lynn Avg. Cash Rent: \$30 Avg. Corn Yield: 110 N=4
	Dewhurst NO RESPONSE	Levis Avg. Cash Rent: \$20 Avg. Corn Yield: 100 N=1	Washburn Avg. Cash Rent: \$37 Avg. Corn Yield: 131 N=5	Sherwood NO RESPONSE

Even after government payments are included, producers on average yielding land with average crop values will use red ink on their bottom line when land prices exceed \$60 - \$80/A in Clark County. Several factors can help out the bottom line including increasing corn yield, crop price and rotating to reduce insecticide and fertilizer needs. However, do not plan your rental price budget based on 150 bu/A and \$5 corn unless you have been able to average those yields and prices over the last three and preferably five years. When someone asks me how a farmer can afford to pay \$70 or \$100 per acre for land, my response has been that they can't using the numbers I use.

Average for Clark County
Avg. Cash Rent: \$42
Avg. Corn Yield: 122
N=62

N=number of responses
Avg. yield by bushels/acre



Wisconsin Grazing Schools 2008

River Falls — June 10-11

Gleason — June 24–25

Fond du Lac — July 22 (one day)

Richland Center — TBA

Topics:

The Wisconsin Grazing Schools are designed to teach producers, educators, and agency staff the basics of management intensive grazing with a hands-on approach. This two-day, intensive workshop will provide opportunities for in-depth discussions, field exercises, and reference materials that cover both livestock and agronomic topics related to grazing. For more information contact Dennis Cosgrove, 715-425-3345

- Introduction to Management Intensive Grazing
- Economic Considerations in Grazing Systems
- Agronomics; Plant growth, forage quality, species selection, fertilization
- Soil fertility and management on pasture in pasture system
- Forage Quality Clipping, Exercise & Pasture Allocation
- Pasture monitoring, pasture stock, species identification
- Real World Aspects of Grazing
- Grazing Systems Layout & Design Water Requirements & Availability
- Livestock Nutrition on pasture
- Animal Health concerns on pasture
- Building & Using Fences for Management Intensive Grazing
- Pasture Establishment and improvement

ATTENTION GRAZIERS!

The Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Council along with Mahner's Welding & Repair will be hosting an all-purpose drill demonstration on:

Monday, April 21 at two local farms.

Mahner's Welding & Repair of Westboro, who is a local dealer for Land Pride, (a division of Great Plains Mfg., Inc. of Salina, Kansas), will be supplying the equipment for a planting demonstration at 2 area farms. They will demonstrate their all-purpose seeder on pastureland at the Rick & Jane Holm farm in Prentice and the Allen & Judy Lang farm in Medford. We hope to see you there!

Please contact Bob Brandt at (715)748-2008 with questions.

11:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. at the Rick & Jane Holm Farm

N3076 Pennington Road, Prentice

Directions: From the intersection of Hwys 13 & 8, go 4 miles West on Hwy 8, turn left on Pennington Road. Go south 4 1/2 miles to their farm on the left.

2:00 p.m.—3:30 p.m. at the Allen & Judy Lang Farm

Dassow Avenue, Medford

Directions from Medford: Take Hwy 13 North of Medford 3 1/2 miles to Dassow Avenue. Turn right (East) onto Dassow Ave. It's the 1st place on the right (South) side of the road. Watch for signs by both farms.

Things to know before you plant spring wheat

By Dan Undersander, UW-Extension Forage Agronomist

Oats have been the largest small grain acreage crop in



Wisconsin because it is robust and seldom needs any management between seeding and harvest. This year many farmers are considering planting spring wheat instead of oats due to high grain prices. They will plant spring wheat as a nurse crop for alfalfa. University of Wisconsin-Extension specialists advise farmers to be aware of a few differences when changing to wheat.

Spring wheat yields increase with seeding rate up to about 45 seeds per square foot (about 2.5 bushels per acre). This allows for 10 to 15 percent of the seed not germinating; resulting in a final stand of about 40 wheat plants per square foot.

The recommended seeding rate for spring wheat on top of alfalfa is 18 plants per square foot (1 bushel wheat per acre) – higher rates will stress the alfalfa more. This will result in poor stands in some cases and may cause reduced alfalfa yields from the field in future years.

One option for farmers to consider is planting the wheat at a full seeding rate this spring and then planting alfalfa in early August after the wheat has been harvested. Fall seedings of alfalfa work well if

adequate moisture is available for stand establishment. Volunteer wheat plants will need to be controlled with herbicide.

Farmers planting wheat on top of alfalfa should consider planting a potato leaf hopper resistant variety of alfalfa. This insect can come into fields under a cover crop and attack the alfalfa. Infestations of this insect in the seeding year can reduce alfalfa stand and yields in future years.

Nitrogen fertilization or credits for the wheat seeded with alfalfa should not exceed 40 pounds per acre as higher rates will produce more top growth to compete more severely with the alfalfa seedlings.

Farmers should make sure that wheat seed is treated with fungicide to reduce the risk of loose smut. If left untreated, this disease can severely reduce final yields. Further information regarding seed fungicides is available in the Pest Management of Wisconsin Field Crops-2008 (UW-Extension, A3646).

Additionally, farmers planting spring wheat should be prepared to watch for plant diseases and spray with fungicide if necessary. Spring wheat is much more susceptible than winter wheat to a number of

diseases that if not treated, can severely limit yield.

Expect spring wheat to yield two-thirds of what an average winter wheat crop may yield. In addition to yield return farmers will depend on protein content and market availability. Few local elevators in Wisconsin accept spring wheat therefore transportation costs must be factored into your decision. Also, due to our environment, protein content may prove limiting therefore select and grow only those varieties that have excellent protein scores.

If managed correctly spring wheat can provide excellent additional income this year provided farmers are aware of the differences in management between wheat and oats and respond with the additional inputs required for good yield. More information is available at http://soybean.uwex.edu/documents/Spring_wheat.pdf.



Using Manure to Offset Fertilizer Prices

By Matt Zoschke, Clark County Land Conservationist

Fertilizer prices have risen steeply in the past five years (urea from about \$260/ton to \$600+/ton). Many farmers are looking to maximize the nutrient value of their cropland applied manure. Please keep the following in mind when allocating manure to your cropland this spring.

1. If you have a nutrient management plan (NMP) written by a consultant, remember that the agronomist has already made manure application recommendations for each field.
 - If manure is going to be applied at rates different than what is shown in your NMP, do not exceed those field specific rates, as those recommended rates probably represent the maximum allowable rates for the crop.
 - On the other hand, if applying at rates less than what is recommended in the NMP, make sure that the agronomist knows that manure application rates were less than recommended and the appropriate fertilizer adjustments need to be made. This communication will insure that the crop does not lack nutrients during the growing season.
2. If you do not have a NMP, use common sense when applying the manure. In short, apply the manure on fields with

the greatest (most expensive) nutrient need. This will be the lowest fertility fields. Use crop nutrient needs and soil test results to help determine the neediest fields. Without any manure on corn, the fertilizer bill can easily exceed \$150/acre.

- For example, when manure is applied to corn on corn ground, it can be applied up to 12,000 gals/acre (incorporated) and at this rate only 100lbs/acre of starter is needed to maximize yield.
- Conversely, if manure is applied to corn on hay ground, only 5,000gals/acre is needed with 100lbs/acre of starter due to the fact that even a poor stand of hay will leave a minimum of 90lbs/acre of nitrogen in the soil.
- Corn on soybeans requires a rate of about 9000gals/acre because soybeans, a legume like alfalfa or clover, also leaves nitrogen in the ground.

Ideally, use manure to meet the nitrogen needs of the corn crop, if the soil test level is <50ppm phosphorus. Applying manure on low fertility fields not only saves money by reducing fertilizer purchases, but it also saves time. A farmer with a six row corn planter can plant about 15 more acres per day if starter can be reduced from 250lbs/acre to 100lbs/acre. How many times have we heard



the statement “If it wasn’t for the rain, I could have gotten that last field planted.”

3. Manure can have drawbacks too. There is a risk of soil compaction if manure is applied to fields that are too wet. And there is a risk that the neighbors will complain or that unincorporated manure will runoff during a rain event.

The best manure application program will take the following recommendations in to consideration:

1. Pay attention to the current and anticipated weather forecasts. Minimize the potential for a runoff event.
2. Pay attention to any surface water features on your farm and incorporate manure if it is applied upslope of these features. Also, if manure is applied upslope of non-metallic mines or wells, incorporate the manure within 72 hours.
3. Use manure ahead of high-N demanding crops (corn, wheat, etc.).
4. Minimize ammonia losses by injecting or incorporating manure within 48 hours. Up to

Using Manure to Offset Fertilizer Prices (continued)

30% of the manure nitrogen can be lost to the atmosphere if it is not incorporated. That is like pulling a dollar out of your pocket and letting 30¢ roll away each time.

5. Prioritize manure on fields where the soil tests indicate a need for phosphorus and potassium. This would be fields that test below 50ppm phosphorus.

6. Soil testing is cheap when compared to fertilizer. Soil tests save money by identifying fields that need or do not need nutrients.

7. Calibrate your nutrient application equipment. The Land Conservation Department has weigh pads that can assist in the calibration of your box spreader.

8. Use field trials to confirm the value of manure and the ability to reduce your starter rates to 100lbs/acre. Don't believe the research; do it yourself. On a field with adequate manure, reduce the starter rate on your last planting pass (just don't make that last pass on the headlands or any other areas in

the field that don't represent whole field conditions). You don't need a bunch of letters behind your name to do research; let your eyes and yield monitor convince you.

Bottomline: Manure is extremely valuable to farmers. Nothing is going to get cheaper- fertilizer and fuel will continue to rise. Now is the time to develop a nutrient management plan and spend time taking a closer look at your operation to see where you may be able to maximize what you already have.....manure!

Liquid Manure and Rotation Recommendations

By Matt Zoschke, Clark County Land Conservationist

The following is a short discussion on your farm as it relates to manure application.

Manure Recommendations:

(If applied at these rates only 100lbs/ac. of starter is needed for corn)

To obtain the most value from manure, apply manure in the following sequence:

1. 2nd year corn (corn following corn)- apply 10,000 to 12,000 gals/a (or up to 16,000 gals/a if incorporated w/in 72 hours and field is not located in an environmentally sensitive area).
2. 1st year corn following soybean- apply 5,000 to 9,000 gals/a (incorporated).

3. 1st year corn following alfalfa or clover- apply 3,500 to 5,000 gals/a (incorporated).
4. Grain oats or other small grains (stiff-straw varieties only) - apply 2,500 to 8,000 gals/a. Reduce the rate to <6,000 gals/a. if lodging has been a problem.
5. Pasture sod that is mostly grass- apply 3,500 to 10,000 gals/a. (Apply no more than 5,000gals/time)

If more manure is available apply manure in the following order:

6. Soybeans- apply 2,500 to 6,000 gals/a

7. Direct-seeding alfalfa/ clover- apply 5,000-10,000 gals/a* (or up to 16,000 gals/a if manure is incorporated w/in 72 hours).

*Apply only 2,500 to 8,000 gals/a if a nurse crop such as oats is sown with the alfalfa/ clover.

8. Alfalfa/Clover- topdress older stands in early spring/ late fall- apply 5,000gals/a (manure needs to contact the ground in order to prevent injury and not reduce forage quality).
9. Give or sell manure to neighboring farmers.

Solid Manure and Rotation Recommendations

By Matt Zoschke, Clark County Land Conservation

The following is a short discussion on your farm as it relates to manure application.

Manure Recommendations: (If applied at these rates only 100lbs/ac. of starter is needed for corn)

To obtain the most value from manure, apply manure in the following sequence:

10. 2nd year corn (corn following corn)- apply 25-30 tons/a (or up to 40 tons/a if incorporated w/in 72 hours and field is not located in an environmentally sensitive area).
11. 1st year corn following soybean- apply 15 to 25 tons/a.
12. 1st year corn following alfalfa or clover- apply 10 to 15 tons/a.
13. Grain oats or other small grains (stiff-straw varieties)- apply 5 to 20 tons/a. Reduce the rate to <10 tons/a if lodging has been a problem.
14. Pasture sod that is mostly grass- apply 5 to 20 tons/a. Apply no more than 10 tons/time.
15. Soybeans- apply 10 to 15 tons/a
16. Direct-seeding Alfalfa/ Clover- apply 15-25 tons/a* (or up to 40 tons/a. if manure is incorporated w/ in 72 hours and field is not located in an environmentally sensitive area).
17. Alfalfa/Clover- topdress older stands in summer after 1st or 2nd cutting- apply 5-10 tons/a (manure must contact ground in order to prevent smothering injury and reduced feed quality).
18. Give or sell manure to neighboring farmers.

If more manure is available apply manure in the following order:

Town Roads and Manure Hauling

By Matt Zoschke, Clark County Land Conservationist

This wet, cool, never-ending winter/spring weather has made manure application extremely difficult. The wet weather has certainly allowed manure storages to be at or near capacity and spring road bans will have a large influence on how manure can be transported. If a manure storage is overtopping, failing, or darn close and manure needs to be transferred from one storage to another or manure needs to be land applied to cropland, please take the time to notify the Land Conservation Department, Township Officials, and the

Regional DNR Agricultural Runoff Staff. These individuals can help assess the situation and jointly discuss possible solutions. These solutions may include on-site application, hauling with application equipment that doesn't exceed road weight restrictions, or finding alternative routes to and from the land application site. The most important factor to consider is that these situations should be addressed in a manner that is protective of not only the agricultural economics of the operation in question, but also the environment and the

public investment in local roads. Consider the following information: WPDES permit farms need to contact their local DNR Agricultural Runoff Staff before performing a manure transfer or application in this situation. Furthermore, regardless of farm size, if it is decided that the solution is to transfer or land apply the manure, the farmer and the custom hauler can be held responsible for any road damage.

Build Wealth Not Debt – Basic Money Management Tools

Need more money, less debt? Learn how to build wealth not debt by attending “Build Wealth Not Debt” classes sponsored by the Clark County UW Extension office in May.



- Explore money beliefs and different money management styles.

- Identify where your money is spent.
- Learn the power of using a Spending Plan
- Setting Financial Goals
- Expand your knowledge on effect debt repayment strategies and credit.

This class will meet four Tuesdays in May starting May 6, 13, 20 and 27th for 1.5 hours. You must come to the first class (May 6th) to attend the other three classes.

The best benefit of participating is gaining more control over your finances. You will know how to build wealth not debt.

These classes will be held at the Courthouse Auditorium in Neillsville 6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

For more information contact: Theresa at the Clark County UWEX 715-743-5121.

Plant Swap & Sale

Attention gardening enthusiasts! Mark your calendars! The Clark County Master Gardeners will be sponsoring a plant swap and sale on:



Saturday, May 10

Clark County Fairgrounds, Neillsville

8:00 a.m.

Bring plants to sell or trade, or just come to shop. This event is open to the public and admission is free. Master Gardeners will also be on hand to answer any gardening questions you may have.

Sponsored by Over the Garden Gate Club and Clark County Master Gardener Volunteers.

Equipment for Loan

The Clark County UW-Extension office has equipment available for loan. You must make a deposit of \$5.00 and a user fee of \$1.00. You will receive your deposit of \$5.00 back when equipment is returned clean and in working order. If interested in loaning any of the equipment listed, contact the Clark County UW-Extension Office at 715-743-5121.

The following equipment is available:

- Hay probe
- Soil probe
- Udder Singer
- Pasture plate
- Poultry Tester
- Shaker Box
- Emasculator
- Calf total Protein Test Kit





CLARK COUNTY

517 Court Street, Room 104
Neillsville WI 54456

Phone: 715-743-5121
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NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

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An EEO/Affirmative Action employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements. If you need an interpreter, materials in alternate formats or other accommodations to access this program, activity, or service, please contact the program coordinator at 715-743-5121 as soon as possible (10 days is reasonable)

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Clark County Tractor Safety & Machinery Safety

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Wisconsin laws require youth under the age of 16 to have a training certificate if they operate a tractor or self-propelled farm implement on a public road, even if working for a parent or guardian. In addition, federal law prohibits hiring or even allowing any youth under the age of 16 to participate in any hazardous work activities, including operating tractors over 20 PTO horsepower, unless the youth has a training certificate or is working on a farm owned and operated by his or her parent or guardian.



Tractor and Farm Machinery Safety Certification programs will be offered in five locations in Clark County in the month of June.

- Greenwood High School on June 4th-7th, 9 am to 3 pm. The fee is \$20 per student. Contact Lindsey Meissner, 267-6101.
- Thorp High School on June 16th-19th, 8 am to 3 pm. There is no cost to attend this course but you must pre-register. Contact Glen Schraufnagel, 669-5401.
- Loyal High School on June 16th-19th, 8 am—1 pm. The fee is \$20 per student. Contact Matt Reinders, 255-8511.
- Colby High School on June 16th-19th, 8 am to 2:30 pm. The fee is \$20 per student. Contact Gary Wirkus, 223-2338.
- Abbotsford High School on June 16-19, 8 am to 2:30 pm. The fee is \$20 per student. Contact John Slipek 223-2386.

Youth participating in these courses will receive classroom instruction and supervised tractor driving experience. Students must attend all training sessions and complete written and driving examinations in order to be certified.

Students should bring a lunch and dress for the weather each day. Parents: remember that students will need their Social Security numbers for the certification and most classes require a signed permission form from a parent before students take the training.

Pre-registration is required, classes may fill so register early!