

July 2008

## Calendar of Events:

## July

- 19 North Central WI  
Cattlemen's Assn  
Supper, Brecke  
Rodeo Arena,  
Medford, 3-8 p.m.

## August

- 6 Dairy Steer Risk  
Management Web  
Conference, Clark  
County  
Courthouse, Room  
104, Neillsville,  
7 pm
- 6-10 Clark County Fair,  
Neillsville
- 20 Dairy Steer Risk  
Management Web  
Conference, Clark  
County  
Courthouse, Room  
104, Neillsville,  
7 pm
- 28 Pasture Walk, Tom  
Greschner Farm,  
W4286 Broek Rd,  
Owen, 12 noon

Maria Bendixen,  
Dairy & Livestock Agent  
maria.bendixen@ces.uwex.edu

**UW**  
**Extension**  
Learning for life  
Clark County

# Extension Views

## Sticker Shock! Ag Commodity Pricing

There is quite a bit of talk about the price of agricultural products. Everywhere we look there are articles and café discussions popping up on the subject. The talk generally focuses around the question "will prices ever return to the way they were in the past?" As I spend time with farmers working through financial plans I have noticed that profit margins have not changed all that much. So I asked myself why this is such a hot issue? What does it really change for the producer? What I found was that, higher prices

create more risk in agriculture. The real rub is that people have different tolerances for risk and they are all being forced into a higher tolerance range. That risk is greater, both for those who decide to purchase high priced inputs and those that do not. For example, the producer who plants corn and pays for higher fertilizer prices to get 20 bu to the acre more runs a higher risk because if the corn is flooded out in the spring he has more to lose. However, the producer who decides not to put the extra money in stands to lose potential income in

the end product when he goes to sell or feed his corn.

Try to think about the potential money you will be gaining and or losing from any input before deciding that you cannot stomach the price next time you get "sticker shock" on an ag commodity. You may also want to look into some risk management strategies to minimize the risk that is being created in agriculture today. Risk management is every thing from tax management and prepay to contracting for inputs or your products.

## Pasture Walk Greschner Farm August 28<sup>th</sup> 12-2 pm W4286 Broeke Rd, Owen

Fertilizer is becoming more expensive than ever, so for the past two years former crops and soils agent, Nick Schnieder, has been doing research on the affect of potassium fertilizer on pasture yield and quality.

The Tom and Sherri Greschner farm has been the site of a test plot. Last

year, dairy and livestock agent, Maria Bendixen became interested in the project from a dry matter intake standpoint and has since added another layer of research. The study is by no means completed, but the pasture walk will include information about what we have found so far.

The Greschner's have a 200 acre farm and a mixed breed herd of cows. They have a low cost parlor and out winter their cattle.

Please join us on the 28<sup>th</sup> for this pasture walk.





**Freestall Doctor (Continued)**

## 2008 WISCONSIN CROP "PEPS" PROGRAM

### "Profits through Efficient Production Systems"

The most expensive corn cropping season ever is occurring this year. For years, growers have sought ways to cut inputs to reduce costs. This year, due to strong prices, growers are adding inputs to produce extra bushels. Many of these inputs, such as fertilizer and seed, have nearly doubled in cost over the last few years.

PEPS was founded in 1987 on the vision that profitability is the ultimate goal in crop production. Now in its 22<sup>st</sup> year, PEPS goes beyond typical yield contests by encouraging profitability, efficiency and conservation rather than productivity alone.

Two options are available to growers in the PEPS program: contest and verification only. In the **contest option**, the top-three contestants of each district and division are recognized at the state level and in various publications. In the contest option, a plaque and cash award is given to the top contestant.

The **verification only option** allows farmers to compare the economics of their cropping system without entering the public contest. It is a way to confidentially compare your system to other farmers, and learn

ways to increase your competitiveness, especially during the tough seasons when 'mother nature' may not be so kind.

Yield and records verified in the PEPS program may also qualify for other contests such as the National Corn Yield Contest. Previous PEPS reports are found at the website: <http://corn.agronomy.wisc.edu/PEPS.htm>.

The PEPS program provides an outstanding opportunity to gain valuable knowledge, technical insight and demonstrate your farming skills. It also provides a unique method to compare the economics of your cropping systems to others.



### PEPS PROGRAM ENTRY FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

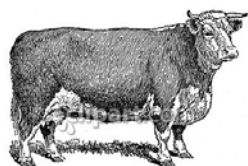
E-mail (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

PEPS website <http://corn.agronomy.wisc.edu/PEPS.htm>

Number of fields entered		
Division	Contest	Verification Only
Corn, Cash Crop		
Corn, Livestock		
Soybean		
Corn Silage		
Total fields x \$25 = \$ _____		
Enclose \$25 per field with this application to receive soil, crop record, and harvest forms. Make checks payable to: Wisconsin Crop PEPS Program.		

Mail to:  
Wisconsin Crop PEPS Program  
UW-Agronomy Department  
1575 Linden Drive  
Madison WI 53706

## Dairy Steer Risk Management Web Conferences



The Clark County UW-Extension is hosting a seminar series

for dairy beef producers, ag professionals, and educators on Wednesday, August 6, and again on Wednesday, August 20, 7:00 p.m. at the Clark County courthouse room 104.

### August 6th Topics:

- Tips for successfully starting Holstein steers on feed, Dr. Dee Griffin, University of Nebraska Extension Feedlot Veterinarian
- Calculating cost of production for Holstein steers and Holstein feeder cattle, Dr. John Lawrence, Director, Iowa Beef Center, Iowa State University

### August 20th Topics:

- Advanced Nutrition, Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, University of Kentucky
- Price Risk Management Strategies for Holstein steer and Holstein feeder cattle production, Dr. Brenda Boetel, University of Wisconsin Extension Livestock market

Pre-registration is required. Please pre-register by calling the Clark County UW-Extension at 715-743-5121 by Friday, August 1st.

## Land Conservation Summer Intern

Hi, my name is Derek Weyer and I am the Clark County Land Conservation Intern for this summer. I am a 2005 graduate from Loyal High School, and am currently attending UW Green Bay, where I will be a senior this fall majoring in Political Science, Environmental Policy, and Public Administration.

My parents are Terry and Shirley Weyer. I have two sisters. Lindsey, who is going to be a sophomore at Bemidji State, and Ally, who will be a senior at Loyal High School. My family has always been very

influential to me, and have taught me many important life lessons.

Since I can remember I've grown up around the water. Wisconsin is a very unique state in terms of water resources. Surrounded by the Great Lakes, every resident is affected by the Great Lakes Compromise, and every resident in Clark County is closely affected by waters located in Clark County. Knowing that water issues coexist with land conservation practices, I was intrigued by this summer position.

As the Land Conservation Intern, I am working with County Conservationist Matt Zoschke on many important projects. Examples of those include: TMDL of Mead Lake, Sportsman's Lake upkeep, stream monitoring, shoreline restoration, nutrient management plans and GIS summaries.

I am looking forward to gaining knowledge on the conservation programs and statutes set forth by the county. I expect to learn a lot and am truly grateful for the opportunity.

## Chocolate Dessert Contest

Saturday, August 9, 2008

Clark County Fairgrounds, Fine Arts Building  
9:00 a.m. Registration — 9:30 a.m. Judging begins



Clark County Dairy Promotion has partnered with Clark County Fair Board, WCCN, and UW-Extension to offer a dessert contest for all Clark County residents. There is no entry fee. The Chocolate Dessert contest youth division is for ages 8 through 18, adult division is 19 years and older. Pre-registration is required. Call the Clark County Extension office at 743-5121 to register. Register by Friday, August 1st.

# Clark County Fair

## August 6-10, 2008

ADMISSION Season Pass \$10.00  
At the Gate: Adult \$5.00  
Children 6-12 \$2.00 5 & Under  
FREE

PEOPLES CARNIVAL  
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Pre-Sale  
**Wrist  
Bands**



Coupons  
\$10.00 Advance  
Times for Wristbands  
Thursday: 6-10 pm  
Friday: 12-4 pm & 6-10 pm  
Saturday: 12-4 pm & 6-10 pm  
Sunday: 12-5 pm



Purchase your wrist bands at local banks throughout the county and also at the UW-Extension Office, Neillsville.

Any day of the fair, visit the Antique Tractor and Machinery Display Free Entertainment in the Listeman Bandshell on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

### Thursday, August 7

9:00 a.m. . . . . 4-H Beef Show  
Sheep Show to follow Beef  
9:00 a.m. . . . . 4-H Swine Show  
6:30 p.m. . . . . ATV Pull

### Friday, August 8

9:00 a.m. . . . . 4-H Purebred Dairy Show  
7:00 p.m. . . . Men's Club Truck Pull

### Saturday, August 9

Senior Citizen's Day  
Citizens over 60 \$3 all day at the gate  
8:00 a.m. . . . . 4-H Horse Show  
9:00 a.m. . . . . 4-H Grade Dairy Show  
10:00 a.m. ..FREE Draft Horse Hitch Show  
12:00 noon . . . . . Little Britches Dairy Show  
7:00 p.m. . . . . MOTOKAZIE Supercross Motor  
Cycle Race in Front of the Grad Stand  
7:30 p.m. . . . . Livestock Sale

### Sunday, August 10

8:30 a.m. . . . . Open Class Dairy Show  
10:00 a.m. . . . . Draft Horse Hitch Show  
12:00 p.m. ..Livestock Supreme Showmanship  
1:00 p.m. . . . . Men's Club Demo Derby  
2:00 p.m. . . . . Dairy Supreme Showmanship

Don't forget to check out the Open Class Building for exhibits and ice cream.

## JUNE DAIRY MONTH RECIPE CONTEST WINNING RECIPES

### Buttermilk – 1st Place Winner Chicken & Broccoli Fettuccine

8 oz uncooked fettuccine  
 ½ cup butter  
 1 can (10-¾) cream of Mushroom soup, undiluted  
 ¼ tsp garlic powder  
 8 oz cream cheese, cubed  
 ¾ cup grated parmesan cheese  
 1 can (4-½ oz) sliced mushrooms, drained  
 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese  
 2 cups buttermilk  
 3 cups cubed cooked chicken  
 5-6 cups chopped broccoli, lightly steamed

Topping: ½ cup seasoned bread crumbs, 2 Tbsp butter melted, 1-2 Tbsp grated parmesan cheese.

Cook fettuccine according to package directions. In a large kettle, combine soup, cream cheese, mushrooms, buttermilk, butter and garlic powder. Stir in cheeses, cook and stir until melted. Add chicken and broccoli, drain fettuccine, add to sauce.

Transfer to greased 13" x 9" baking pan. Combine toppings, sprinkle over mixture. Cover and bake at 350° for 25 minutes. Uncover, bake 5-10 minutes longer or until golden brown. (For a smaller portion cut in half and use an 8" x 8" baking pan - suggest using whole can of mushroom soup).

Serves 6-8

Recipe submitted by:  
 Rita Gelandar, Willard

### Frosted Baked Cakes – 1st Place Winner Blue Ribbon Banana Cake

¾ cup butter	1 tsp salt
1 ½ cups sugar	1 tsp baking powder
1 cup mashed bananas	1 tsp baking soda
½ cup buttermilk	2 cups cake flour
1 tsp vanilla	½ cup chopped pecans
2 eggs	1 cup flaked coconut



Cream together butter and sugar until fluffy. Add eggs, beat 2 minutes. Add mashed banana, beat 2 minutes. Sift together dry ingredients. Add to creamed mixture along with buttermilk and vanilla. Beat 2 minutes. Add pecans. Turn into 2 greased 9" layer pans. Sprinkle with ½ cup coconut on each layer. Bake at 350° degrees for 25-30 minutes. Remove from pans. Cool layers coconut side up.

#### Creamy nut filling

¾ cup sugar	¾ cup chopped pecans
3 Tbsp flour	½ tsp salt
¾ cup cream	1 tsp vanilla
3 Tbsp butter	

Combine sugar, flour, salt, cream and butter in saucepan. Cook until thick. Add pecans and vanilla. Cool and spread between layers. Coconut side up on top layer.

#### Frost with White Snow Frosting

1 egg white	2 cups powdered sugar
¼ cup Crisco	1 tsp vanilla
¼ cup butter	1 tsp almond extract

Cream together shortening, egg white, butter, almond extract and vanilla until well-blended. Gradually add powdered sugar, beating until light and fluffy.

Frost cake, leaving a circle of coconut in the middle. You may decorate with candy bananas.

Recipe submitted by:  
 Catherine Winter, Granton



For a copy of all eight winning recipes contact:

Clark County UW-Extension  
 715-743-5121



**CLARK COUNTY**

517 Court Street, Room 104  
Neillsville WI 54456

Phone: 715-743-5121  
Fax: 715-743-5129



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**Mooove Over Dairy.....July Is Beef Month!!!**

**Come Enjoy Sizzlin' Ribeye Sandwiches**

**With The**

**North Central Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association**

**Sat., July 19, 2008 3 - 8pm Free Admission**

**Brecke Rodeo Arena, Hwy 64, 5 1/2 miles west of Medford**

**Serving from 4-7pm:**

**Ribeye Sandwich Meal - \$7.50**

**Includes potato salad, beans, chips, and lemonade, milk or coffee**

**All Beef 'Dog' Kid's Plate - \$3.00**

**Includes beans, chips and lemonade or milk**

- **Beef breeds on display: Come see the cow/calf pairs**
- **Industry displays, educational seminars**
- **Family fun games**
- **Polka with "Danny-C", Ingram, WI from 4-8pm**

