

September 2008

Calendar of Events:

September

- 11 Dairy Pasture Walk, Harvey & Ellen Martin Farm, Dorchester, 1 p.m.
- 13 Beef Cow-Calf Pasture Walk, Jerry & Marlys Lausted Farm, 11 a.m.
- 18 Corn Silage Harvesting Field Day, Malm's Rolling Acres, Loyal 10 a.m.

October

- 1 Pasture Walk, Mike & Kathy Anderson, Marathon, 1 p.m.
- 7 Annie's Project, Mid Wisconsin Bank, Medford 10 a.m.
- 7 Weatherizing Your Home, Courthouse Auditorium, 7 p.m.
- 13 Nutrient Mngt Update Sessions, NTC, Spencer 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Weatherizing Your Home, Thorp Fire Hall, 7 p.m.

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

Richard Halopka,
Crops & Soils Agent
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Learning for life

Clark County

Extension Views

New Clark County Crops & Soils Agent has arrived!

Hello to everyone in Clark County, Richard Halopka the new Clark County UWEX Crops & Soils agent. This is a line you will be hearing for probably the next few months as I travel the county to introduce myself. I just wanted to give a little background on myself and some thoughts on the 2008 growing season and looking to 2009.

I have a degree from UW-River Falls in Broad Area Agriculture. I have received certification from the American Society of Agronomy, as a Certified Crop Advisor. Which, means I have signed a code of ethics and must take continuing education as a Certified Crop Advisor. I have worked the past 15 years in retail agriculture business. Nine years at Marathon Feed and the past 5 seasons at Heartland Cooperative in Dorchester in agronomy. Prior to that I dairy farmed with my parents for 15 years. Presently my wife Kay & I run a small 120 acre farm that includes a small cow-calf operation with rotational grazing and some acres of grain crops.

The 2008 season has had some challenges, as does every growing season. After a number of dry early springs, 2008 was more traditional with cool temperatures and more moisture, which delayed planting. Hay yields have been good this season. The grain crop was looking good most of the summer. The challenge again was cooler weather, but with moisture and some heat in July grain crops were improving. August became very dry and in some northern areas of the county localized frost may limit yield or kill the crop in areas of the fields. I have seen both corn and soybean fields affected. The positive is we have received some rain the last week of August and if the killing frost will be delayed the crop should finish setting grain and have a respectable yield and test weight.

The 2009 season has already presented some challenges with the increase of fertilizer, herbicide and seed prices being the talk, before the 2008 crop is in the bins. Increase of input prices will tighten margins. Saving

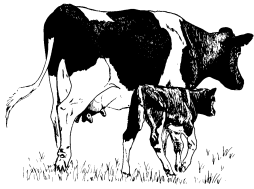


money to be profitable is on every producers mind, but remember \$5.00/acre saved on inputs may limit your output by greater dollars than you are saving. A wise old farmer once told me "you can never save your way to prosperity." Bottom line, inputs will need to be purchased to produce a crop or we will not have a crop to harvest.

As your Crops & Soils agent I want your feedback for educational meetings that interest you the producers. It may be as simple as soil testing, to interpreting a soil test or a complete nutrient management plan for a farm. If you feel there is a need, I am open to try to fill that need with the producers in the county.

Please call our office at 715-743-5121 with any questions you may have. I am looking forward to meeting the producers in Clark County.

UW-EXTENSION BEEF COW-CALF PASTURE WALK



A Beef Cow-Calf Pasture Walk has been scheduled for Saturday, September 13, 2008 at the

Jerry and Marlys Lausted farm beginning at 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A light lunch will be provided to those who pre-register.

The pasture walk will feature Dr. Dennis Cosgrove, UW-Extension Forage Specialist and Dr. Larry Baumann, UW-Extension Veterinarian as guest speakers.

Jerry Lausted and Cosgrove will take you on a pasture walk and show you how the Lausted beef cow herd is grazed. Dr. Cosgrove will discuss how to get the most out of your pastures. He will also discuss specie selection, pasture management and paddock layout and design. In

addition, he will discuss several non-typical pasture forages that Jerry has seeded which includes meadow brome, reeds canarygrass and Birdsfoot trefoil.

Dr. Baumann will address health issues for the beef cow-calf enterprise as winter approaches and discuss vaccination protocols and worming strategies for beef cows and calves on pasture.

Lastly, visitors will be given a walk-through demonstration of the Lausted cattle handling system. Jerry and the Extension staff will provide producers with a critique of the system and where improvements may be made.

Jim Faust, Dunn County Ag Agent noted, "This was another dry summer that really has tested our pastures. I think producers could see some distinct differences between pasture forages that Jerry

has seeded."

Directions to the Lausted Farm:

From Menomonie: Take Hwy 12/29 East and turn left (North) on to Cty Rd E. Take E through Rusk and turn left (North) onto 690th St 1.7 mi, then right (East) .4 mi on to 720th Ave to the barn with green roof.

From Colfax: Take Hwy 40 South and turn right (West) on to Cty Rd B. Go 4.4 mi and turn left (South) on to 770th Ave 210', then turn on to 690th St for 1.2 mi, then left (East) on to 720th Ave to the barn with the green roof.

For more information contact Jim Faust, Dunn Co. UWEX at 715-232-1636 or Jerry Lausted at 715-308-9954.

Safely Storing Pesticides

It is time to make sure that any pesticides you are keeping to use next year are stored properly. Freezing can cause liquids and emulsifiable concentrates to separate making them difficult to use or ineffective in later uses. Freezing is generally not a problem for powders, granules, pellets and dry flowable formulations. Check the label if you have questions.

Make sure that pesticides are stored securely so that children or pets can't access them. Most pesticide poisonings are from children under 10 years of age.

In general, pesticides should be kept in a cool, dry place out of reach of children, pets and wild animals. Wooden cabinets with a chemically

resistant surface coating or metal cabinets work well.

Don't store pesticides inside your house. Fumes can escape into your home air creating at least a foul odor if not a dangerous situation. Keep them in a garage or other outside storage area such

as a shed.

If you have pesticides that you no longer have use for contact your local county Extension office. They can help you get the pesticides to a proper clean sweep where they can be disposed of properly.

Store Pesticides Safely

- Store pesticides out of reach of children – in locked cabinets or in cabinets with childproof latches.
- Store pesticides only in their original containers with labels visible and intact.
- Mark the date on containers that are put into storage with a permanent marker and keep an up-to-date list of products and purchase dates near the storage area. Use oldest products first.
- Keep metal containers dry to prevent corrosion and possible leakage.
- Seal containers tightly after using.
- Store all pesticides away from food, feed, seed, fertilizer or water.



FEDERAL AND STATE GRANT PROGRAMS FOR FARMERS

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR WAYS TO DEVELOP OR EXPAND YOUR AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS?

Join us for a workshop designed to help you identify which grants might be right for you. This workshop will also discuss ways to plan your project and strengthen your application. Specific grant programs to be covered include:

- USDA's Value Added Producer Grant program, which provides planning and working capital funds to farmers and farmer-based enterprises to develop and implement value-added ventures.
- DATCP's Agricultural Development and Diversification grant program, which funds initiatives that develop new value-added products, new markets, or new technologies in agriculture.
- USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant program, which funds research, marketing and demonstration projects.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH - 9:30 AM TO 2:30 PM

WASHINGTON TOWN HALL IN EAU CLAIRE, WI

TO REGISTER, CONTACT: PAM HERDRICH AT PAM.HERDRICH@WI.USDA.GOV OR 715-834-9672
OR RIVER COUNTRY RC&D AT 715-834-9672 OR 800-226-9672

A REGISTRATION FEE OF \$10 WILL COVER THE COST OF LUNCH AND MATERIALS

SPONSORED BY

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Grazing Network News

Thursday, September 11, 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.
Harvey & Ellen Martin Farm, W1833 County Road A, Dorchester
Dairy Pasture Walk

Hosted by: The Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Council and the North Central and WI River Graziers Network

Since 1994 Harvey, along with his wife and daughter, operate a dairy farm using Management Intensive Rotational Grazing. They have 160 acres of managed pastures for their 70 Holstein dairy cows and 60 head of young-stock. They are top managers of their beautiful farm, which features top quality pastures with plenty of forage to graze through November. Harvey feeds nothing out of his silos typically from early May until the end of November. Besides pasture, his cows get about 3 lbs. of dry hay along with 14 lbs of a grain mix throughout the grazing season. The Martins ship over 1.4 million pounds of milk per year from their 70 cows putting their production average over 20,000 lbs per cow. They have out-wintered their bred heifers for many years by presetting round bales in areas where their pastures need fertility the most. Last winter was the first time that their yearlings also stayed outside. Harvey really believes in getting his calves and heifers off to a great start and he supplements his young-stock on pasture and throughout the year with "Accuration" fed out of a feeder wagon which is rented through their local co-op, and controls how much they consume. The idea is that animals only get a small amount of grain at a time, eliminating slug feeding. As fuel and other costs are rising, come see how the Martins do a great job of controlling these costs and get an amazing amount production from their farm in both milk and pasture. They are also able to sell extra replacements every year which they feel is a direct benefit of managed grazing. P.S. Your wives will appreciate the Martin's beautiful flower & vegetable garden.



Directions: From the intersection of State Highway 13 and Dorchester County Road A, head west through Dorchester, 4 1/4 miles to the farm on the left (South) side of the road. Watch for pasture walk signs.

Wednesday, October 1st, 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.
Mike and Kathy Anderson, 4321 Marathon Road, Marathon

Ken Barnett, UW-Extension, has been conducting a two year study on four grazing farms in Clark and Marathon Counties to test the application rates of phosphorous, potassium, and lime needed for optimal growth in grazing applications. The results of the study last year were surprising, and this year's results look to be very interesting as well. This presentation could save you money and time next year!

The Anderson farm is an example of a small farm that aims for self-sufficiency. The farm is solar and wind powered, and the beef herd size in winter is adjusted as a result of the excess forage produced during the summer. Their cattle breed is Murray Grey, introduced into the U.S. and 20 years ago from Australia. Their animals finish on grass only. No corn is needed for marbling, and they are very friendly with easy calving.

So come for the results of the study. Come to learn about alternative energy options for your farm. Come to meet a new "low cost, low overhead" beef breed.

Directions: From Marathon County, take County Road NN east 1.7 miles to Marathon Road. Turn south 300 yards to farm. From Wausau Interstate 39, take exit I90 to highway NN. Turn west, and go 7.6 miles to Marathon Road. Turn south 300 yards to farm. Look for the windmill!

Farm Women's Program Provides Financial Management Education

Beginning October 7th, the Clark and Taylor County UW-Extension offices are sponsoring a four-session workshop for farm women to be held at the Mid Wisconsin Bank and North Central Technical College in Medford. The program is called *Annie's Project*. The program focuses on providing risk management education and tools to farm women who farm on their own or who are partners in a farming business.

Recent research indicates female partners have influence on 63% of the investment choices on the farm. This research supports findings that the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension reported in the fall of 2003. Beginning in 2002, University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension sponsored *Heart of the Farm – Women in Agriculture* conferences. Evaluations from the 2002 - 2005 conferences indicate women are involved in major farm decisions. Not surprising, the majority of the women are responsible for almost all of the decisions related to the household (93%), and are least involved with decisions about crop management. The women surveyed are most likely to be a part of the decision making in areas that relate to long-term planning and farm investments. And to a slightly lesser degree, they influence the decisions that

relate to farm labor, livestock or dairy management.

Farm women were also asked how they would describe their involvement in the decisions that were made on the farm. More than half (57%) said that they were "very involved." Another one-third (30%) said that they were "involved to somewhat involved." Only 2% said they were "not involved at all" in the farm decision-making.

Similar to their involvement in the farm decision-making, farm women play a crucial role in the farm tasks that they perform. 'Women's work' includes farm work, household tasks, and for some, off-farm work as well. The majority of the women (85%) indicated that they "regularly" or "sometimes" do the farm bookkeeping and bill paying. Because of their close connection to and understanding of the farm business finances, women's involvement in the decision-making for their farm operation is critical.

Annie's Project brings risk management tools and education to farm women so they can be better farm managers, whether that is in a partnership or on their own. The program also provides networking opportunities to discuss similar issues with other farming women.

In the class, farm women receive training in the areas of financial records, production records, marketing plans and risk management, legal regulation and records and human resources. This program meets four times over a four week period. The dates for this *Annie's Project* are October 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th. The October 7th & 14th workshops will be held at Mid Wisconsin Bank, Medford and the October 21st & 28th workshops will be a hands-on computer session using Quick Books and will be at the NTC in Medford. All the dates are Tuesdays and the workshops run each day from 10 a.m. through 2:30 p.m. The program cost \$20 per person for the four-session workshop. This fee provides for meals, materials and speakers for each of the days. Class size is limited, registration deadline is Oct. 1st.

For more information or to receive a brochure contact Maria Bendixen at the Clark County UW-Extension Office at 715-743-5121 or Joy Kirkpatrick at the UW-Center for Dairy Profitability at 608-263-3485.

Annie's Project is sponsored by University of Wisconsin-Extension, Heart of the Farm, UW-Center for Dairy Profitability, Taylor County FSA, Clark, and Taylor County UW-Extension offices.

Annie's Project — Registration Form

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
Attending _____ Total Amount \$ _____

Please send registration to:
Maria Bendixen
Clark County UW-Extension
517 Court Street, Room 104
Neillsville WI 54456
715-743-5121

Corn Silage Harvesting Field Day



September 18, 2008 (rain date is Sept 19)

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Malm's Rolling Acres – Loyal, WI

- ✓ Live corn silage harvest equipment demonstrations
- ✓ Corn silage hybrid plot
- ✓ Corn silage sample analysis for moisture (bring your own)
- ✓ Inoculant technology information
- ✓ Free lunch provided on-site

Directions

From Loyal – take Cty Hwy K north 3 miles to Maple Center Road. Turn west on Maple Center Road 1.7 miles to farm. Follow arrows.

From Hwy 29 – take Cty Hwy P south 10 miles to Maple Center Road (Hwy P turns into Hwy K). Turn west on Maple Center Road 1.7 miles to farm. Follow arrows.

Equipment Sponsors

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 Cloverdale Equipment
 H&S Manufacturing
 Kohel Equipment – Jon Deere
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For more information contact: Tim Hasler, Vita Plus at 715-255-8273

Co-sponsored by the Central Wisconsin Forage Council
 (a Midwest Forage Association Affiliate)



Q&A: Qualified Nutrient Management Plans



What is the difference between nutrient management and a qualified Nutrient Management Plan?

At the basic level, nutrient management is an accounting of nutrient needs of a crop and balancing of various sources of nutrients (soil, manure, legumes, commercial fertilizer, etc) used to meet these needs. A qualified Nutrient Management Plan is the document in which the accounting and balancing is detailed and tracked for farm operations. Like balancing a checkbook, this accounting ensures that nutrients aren't over or under applied. This maximizes production and profits, and reduces the risk of nutrients negatively impacting the environment.

How is a qualified nutrient management plan different from existing fertilizer programs?

The biggest difference is that proven, standardized methods are required and used to do the accounting and balancing of various nutrients, and the

product that results meets an established and accepted standard for quality...a qualified Nutrient Management Plan. As a result, the fertilizer programs of different farm operations will be on a "level playing field". Because many variables in farm operations, such as weather, cropping systems, soil fertility levels and livestock numbers change over time, qualified Nutrient Management Plans require annual updating.

What is the importance of having and implementing a qualified Nutrient Management Plan?

Most importantly, it is a tool that can help a farm operation make sound management decisions that help maximize production and profit. But they also can help reduce the risk of nutrients negatively impacting the environment, and may provide some protection should a pollution event occur. The recommendations in a qualified nutrient management plan are considered accepted best-management practices. As such, if it can be documented that the plan is being followed, farm operations will be able to better justify their management decisions. Another important reason for implementing NMP is that Wisconsin law requires all farms applying nutrients have and implement a qualified Nutrient Management Plan. County ordinance also requires

qualified Nutrient Management Plans for construction and management of manure storage facilities; and many government farm programs require a qualified Nutrient Management plan to be eligible for participation.

Who can develop a qualified Nutrient Management Plan (qNMP)?

A qNMP may be developed by a certified professional; or, farm operations may develop their own qNMP if they complete a DATCP-approved training course and the qNMP they develop meets the standard for quality (NRCS Standard 590). Which is better, developing one's own qNMP or working with a certified professional? That's up to the farm operation, but the best plan is one that can be easily understood and can be implemented.



Nutrient Management Update Sessions October 13, 14

Update Sessions Also Serve As Class #1 For 5-County Nutrient Management Training Series

Educators and conservation officials in a 5-county area are working together to offer Nutrient Management Update Sessions in three locations, October 13 and 14.

The free sessions are:

Monday, October 13

1:00-3:00 PM at Conference Rm #5, 212 River Drive, Wausau

Monday, October 13

7:30-9:30 PM at Rm S-101/103 NTC, Spencer

Tuesday, October 14

7:30-9:30 PM at Rm M-110/112 NTC, Medford

Topics include current nutrient management regulations, related environmental issues, and producer compliance.

Conservation officials will be on hand to give an overview of the regulations and their perspective on compliance. There will also be an overview of the DATCP-approved Nutrient Management Training Series being offered to producers in Marathon, Clark, Taylor, Lincoln, and Price Counties. Producers may be interested in taking the Nutrient Management Training Series to develop their first qualified Nutrient Management Plan (qNMP) or as a refresher to maintain "qualified" plan status. Those producers must attend one of the three Nutrient Management Update Sessions and register for a class, but you do not have to be taking the class to attend the free Update Session.

DATCP-approved classes to develop qNMPs will be offered in Abbotsford, Loyal, Thorp, Medford, Prentice, and Wausau in January and February, 2009. The cost of the program is \$130

and includes plan development using either SNAP-Plus computer software or a manual option. The registration deadline is October 31. Participants receive...

- 1, a qualified plan that meets state requirements, and
2. information on cost-share opportunities that are available

For a registration brochure and other details, call:

Scott Mickelsen,
Northcentral Technical
College at 803-1387
or
Mike Wildeck, Marathon
County UW-Extension at
(715)261-1239.

The registration brochure is also on the web at <http://marathon.uwex.edu>.

Cost-Share Opportunities

The Land Conservation Department will have cost-share money available in 2009 for the implementation of conservation practices. The funding sources will be received from three different grants available through the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection.

The first source of funding is for farmers who are implementing nutrient management plans. This funding will be prioritized to farmers who have unpermitted manure storages or have manure storages that are permitted, but constructed before May 1999. Payments will be

made in a one-time up-front \$28/acre payment upon completion of their nutrient management plan. Approximately \$100,000 will be available to Clark County farmers in 2009. As January 1st, 2008, all cropland is required by state law to implement a nutrient management plan.

The second source of funding is for the implementation of the Clark County Land and Water Resource Management Plan. This funding will be prioritized to farmers who are willing to improve their farms by voluntarily implementing

conservation infrastructure practices, such as barnyards, grassed waterways, diversions, manure storage abandonment, unused well abandonment, and other pollution abatement practices. Payments will cover 70% of the cost of implementing the conservation practice. Maximum grant award is for \$25,000. Approximately \$75,000 will be available in 2009.

The last source of funding is available through two competitive grants. The first source is a Targeted Runoff Management

Cost-Share Opportunities (Continued)

(TRM) Grant. This cost-share funding is available to all farmers who have an identified resource concern on their farm, but need more funding than what is available through the other two grant programs. The maximum award is \$150,000 per grant or 70% of the cost of implementing the conservation practice. Grants are due by April 15th, 2009 and the cost-share money will be allocated in 2010. The second source of funding is available through a Notice of Discharge (NOD) Grant. This cost-share funding is for farmers who have an immediate need for financial assistance to remediate a pollution challenge. For example, if your picket-style manure

storage allows liquids from your manure to directly discharge onto the ground, this grant is for you. The NOD grant allows farmers to voluntarily implement a conservation practice that if not addressed in the near future could subject the farmer to enforcement action by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The money received from NOD grants is immediately available. Both the TRM and NOD grant processes were used in 2008 to obtain more than \$250,000 of cost-share money. Both sources of funding will be prioritized to farmers who are willing to improve their farms by voluntarily implementing conservation infrastructure practices, such as barnyards,

grassed waterways, diversions, manure storage abandonment, unused well abandonment, and others pollution abatement practices.

In total, more than \$400,000 of cost-share payments was paid to Clark County farmers in 2008. Each project has been a success: The farmers are enjoying their new conservation practices and the general public is enjoying cleaner water. The 2009 sign-up period begins in early October and ends when the funding has been completely allocated. Don't miss your chance! If you are interested in finding out more, please call the Land Conservation Department at 715-743-5102.

Price County Soil Quality Field Day Coming September 23rd

As the price of grain goes up, we're seeing more land in northern Wisconsin devoted to corn, soybeans, and other annual crops. While growing these crops makes sense in some situations, the amount of tillage that usually goes with these can be hard on the soil with respect to soil quality and conservation. To help farmers understand how cropping systems and management affect the quality of their soil and the environment, the UW-Extension Soil Quality team has been conducting soil quality field days on farms around the state for the past three years. This month, Rocky Hollow Dairy Farm, owned by Henry, Angie, and Charles Tegen of Catawba, will host a Wisconsin Soil Quality Field Day on Tuesday, September 23rd.

Soils are dynamic communities that are the products of a variety of factors. Some of these are inherent to the way the soils formed, and some are the result of our management. These field days

are designed to help people understand some of the characteristics of soils such as water infiltration and aeration, bulk density/compaction, soil structure and aggregate stability, and biological activity. We'll discuss about the living organisms in soils and how they interact with organic matter supplies, tillage, and cropping systems to affect crop yields and environmental quality.

The field day will start with a short classroom session to cover background information, followed by lunch. Afterwards, participants will visit some sites in the field to learn how to actually measure soil quality and to see some examples of how differences in management affect soil quality characteristics.

Soil Quality Field Days are scheduled at two locations in northern Wisconsin representing our unique soils and farming systems. Beside the Price County program, a field day will also be

held at the Ashland Agricultural Research Station on Monday, September 22nd. The schedule at both locations is the same, with registration at 9:30 a.m. and the field day running from 10 a.m. to around 3 p.m.

University of Wisconsin-Extension and the Wisconsin Soil Quality Team are sponsoring these Soil Quality Field Days in cooperation with Pri-Ru-Ta Resource Conservation and Development Area and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. Pre-registration is requested one week in advance of the field day you'd like to attend. The registration fee is \$10 per person and covers the program materials and lunch. Please contact the following field day coordinators to receive a brochure and registration form: Ashland Co: Jason Fischbach, Ashland and Bayfield Co UWEX at 715-672-5214 or Price Co: Mark Kopecky, Price Co UWEX at 715-339-2555.



CLARK COUNTY

517 Court Street, Room 104
Neillsville WI 54456

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



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Weatherizing Your Home



**October 7, 2008
Courthouse Auditorium**

**October 14, 2008
Thorp Fire Hall**

7:00—9:00 p.m.

- ◀ Get the best money savings out of limited expense
- ◀ Learn alternative ways to weatherize your home
- ◀ Low cost changes to decrease those high heating bills

Any questions contact:
Jody Connor,
Workforce Resources
715-743-4631