

January 2009

Calendar of Events:

January

- 21 **Cattle Feeder Mtg,**
Belvedere, Marshfield
- 29 **Heart of the Farm, Heyde**
Center, Chippewa Falls

February

- 2 **Calf & Heifer Meeting,**
Country Aire Banquet Hall,
Stratford
- 4 **Ladies Meeting, Angie's**
Heated Garage, Stetsonville
- 5 **Crop Decision Webinar,**
Courthouse, Neillsville
- 9 **Grain Marketing, Marshfield**
Ag Research Station
- 16 **Grain Marketing, Marshfield**
Ag Research Station
- 18 **Farm Transfer & Succession**
Workshop, Abbotsford City
Hall Learning Center
- 23 **Grain Marketing, Marshfield**
Ag Research Station
- 24 **Farm Energy Cent\$,**
Chelsea's Supper Club,
Greenwood
- 25 **Building a Home for Today's**
Dairy Herd, Dunn County
Judicial Center, Menomonie

March

- 9 **"Dear or No Deal – Managing**
the Margin", Belvedere
Supper Club, Marshfield

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UW
Extension

Learning for life

Clark County

Extension Views

STRATEGIES TO CONSIDER WITH HIGH INPUT COST

by Richard Halopka, Crops & Soils Agent

The question is how do I produce a profitable crop with the increased cost? The increase of fertilizer and seed price has created many questions. As farmers prepare for the 2009 season we have heard of fertilizer prices being lower, so what can I allow for inputs and still be profitable? These are the questions and concerns; here are some strategies to consider having a positive margin.

1. Soil test

For around a \$1.50 per acre this may be one the least cost management tools available, yet it at times is the least considered. A soil test will give recommendations for the crops you have selected. The ph level is very important, because more nutrients are available as the ph nears the 6.5-7.0 range. The soil in the field is like a bank which can hold nutrients for your plants and as ph nears neutral more nutrients will be available. If ph is low, below 6.0-6.2 you may need to consider applying lime.

Soil test recommendations for phosphorous and potassium do include crop need and nutrient building of the soil in the recommendation. Now if our test for phosphorous

and potassium are high or very high we may only use a starter fertilizer to cover crop needs for these two nutrients. If test levels are at optimum or below for phosphorous and potassium the fertilizer needs may be very great and not economical when fertilizer prices are high. If that is the case then use the crop nutrient removal for required nutrients to produce a crop.

2. Apply to crop removal

Let's use an example. Corn grain following corn grain grown in Clark County with 120 bushel yield, using Nutrient Management Fast Facts corn grain crop removal is 45 pounds of P2O5, 35 pounds of K2O and depending on the N: Corn Price Ratio about 120 pounds of N. Using just these numbers and purchasing fertilizer for corn grain, lets assume we use 200# of 19-19-20 starter fertilizer. This applies 38# of N, 38# of P2O5 and 40# of K2O. We will need to apply an additional $(120-38=82)$ 82# of N and $(45-38=7)$ 7# P2O5. Using urea $(82/.46=178)$ we need about 180# of urea per acre and using DAP $(45-38=7)$ 10# of

DAP per acre in addition to the starter fertilizer to cover crop removal. This will cover the corn crop removal without building soil nutrients.

3. Account for your on farm nutrients

Now, if this is a dairy farm with manure available at 6000 gallons per acre, how does this change the amount of fertilizer we will need to purchase. Using Nutrient Management Fast Facts, the manure application will apply 60# N per acre, 30# P2O5 and 96# K2O per acre. (15 tons of solid manure would be similar) Because we have manure we can alter our starter to a 20-10-20-4 and we can reduce the starter to 150# per acre. Now to cover the N crop removal we need $(120-60-30=40)$ 40# N, no P2O5 and no K2O. We would need $(40/.46=87)$ 90# of urea to reach our needs. Additionally, we will have second year credits to build our soil bank of phosphorous and potassium.

What if we would have plowed down a low legume sod? We would have an additional credit of 90# of N per acre. Crediting our on farm sources of nutrients we

UW EXTENSION CATTLE FEEDERS WORKSHOPS TO BE HELD IN MARSHFIELD

The UW Extension Annual Cattle Feeders workshops will be held at the Belvedere, M329 State Hwy 97, Marshfield, January 21st from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The program this year builds on last years program of Producing Quality Holstein Steers, with topics this year being of value to Holstein and beef breed cattle feeders.



Current economic conditions have increased the need for producers to carefully manage risk and production. Topics this year focus on managing production and price risk.

Topics and speakers for this years program include;

- Managing Feeder Calf Health from 450 pounds Through Finish, Dr.

Charlie Stoltenow, North Dakota State Extension Beef Veterinarian. Dr. Stoltenow will address receiving programs for feeder cattle and managing common health problems from receiving through finish.

- Low Cost and Effective Cattle Handling Facilities and Housing, Dr. David Kammel, UW Extension Bio-Systems Engineer. "You can't manage what you can't catch!" Dr. Kammel will share information on using and remodeling existing facilities and putting in place low cost, safe and efficient cattle handling facilities. He will also present information on utilizing existing facilities for housing finishing steers.

- Risk Management Tools for Cattle Feeders, Dr. Brenda Boetel, UW Extension Livestock Economist. Dr. Boetel will present information on risk management tools available for cattle feeder to manage price risk on their cattle. She will also share information on input price risk tools as well.

This program is being underwritten by a grant from the USDA Risk Management Agency.

There will be a \$10.00 fee in advance \$20 at the door to cover meals and local expenses. Please contact Maria Bendixen, Clark Co. UW-Extension office at 743-5121 to pre-register.

STRATEGIES TO CONSIDER WITH HIGH INPUT COST (continued from 1st page)

would not need to purchase fertilizer beyond our 150# of starter. Accounting for on farm nutrients will help reduce your purchased fertilizer cost.

4. Before planting-plan-do a crop budget

The question is what if I don't have manures available? Then a crop budget with your cost of inputs and with a selling price for your crop will be needed. Use your current fertilizer cost, herbicide program, tillage cost, land rent and other input cost. Use crop yields from your farm. Now what is your crop worth? Talk to grain handlers get a price of grain delivered next fall or when you would sell the grain. I have a number of spreadsheet programs to allow you to develop different scenarios for crops you will plant. I would be glad to go through the spreadsheets with individuals or a group. If nothing else you will be aware

of your cost of production and can then make thoughtful choices for 2009.

5. Cover the basics first

Plants will have the best response to the macro nutrients of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium. Sulfur could be added to the macros, but is needed in a smaller amount. The micro nutrients are necessary for plant growth, but are needed in very small amounts and are probably in our soil bank. During times when margin is tight cover the macro needs first and then if micro's are needed cover them next. These can also be added to your budget scenarios.

6. Don't feed weeds

Research has been done on the loss of production from weed competition. Corn production required an increase

of 20# of N per acre once weeds were 4 inches tall and if the weeds approached 12 inches it required an increase of 40# of N versus a pre-emerge herbicide program. Bottom line, if you are going to spend on fertilizer, tillage, and planting don't cut corners on weed control.

These strategies are all important. Weather and your management decisions will affect yields. Take time to work on budget scenarios using numbers from your farm with your management skills. Margins will be tighter with the increase of inputs and the decline of market prices. So you as a farm manager must manage your operation don't let your operation manage you.

CROP DECISIONS 2009 – WEBINAR
FEBRUARY 4, 2009
COURTHOUSE ROOM 104, NEILLSVILLE
12:45 P.M.—3:00 P.M.

Soybean Crop and Disease Management

In this session we will discuss management strategies to increase yield and optimize profit for Wisconsin soybean growers. We will discuss the value of variety selection, seed input costs, the profitability of high input soybean systems, disease diagnostics, and foliar fungicides in soybean. Speakers: Shawn Conley, UW-Extension Soybean Specialist and Paul Esker, UW Extension Plant Pathologist



Contact the Clark County UW-Extension office at 715-743-5121 if interested in attending.

DAIRY REPRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCE SEMINAR

Has your herd's reproductive performance improved or declined over the years? If the answer is that it has declined, do you have a plan to deal with the issue? UW-Extension is offering a program to help you evaluate your management of reproduction on your farm. It will include discussions about nutrition, sexed semen, synchronization protocols, benchmarking for common reproductive measures, and economics of reproductive performance.

Topics and speakers for the seminar are as follows:

- Benchmarking Reproduction and what's new in Sych
Paul Fricke- UW-Madison Dairy Reproduction Specialist
- Sexed Semen how is it being used?
Ryan Sterry-Polk County UW-Extension Agriculture Agent
- Feeding Dairy Cattle for Reproductive Performance
Paul Fricke-UW-Madison Dairy Reproduction Specialist
- What Does Reproductive Performance Cost You?
Maria Bendixen- Clark County UW-Extension Dairy and Livestock Agent

The seminar will be held in Abbotsford at the City Hall Public Learning Center from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm on Friday, March 27th. The cost is \$15.00 in advance \$20.00 at the door. To register or for questions on the Abbotsford location contact Maria Bendixen at the Clark County UW-Extension office at 715-743-5121.

GRAIN MARKETING WORKSHOP

February 9, 16, 23

10:00 a.m.— 3:00 pm.

Marshfield Ag
Research Station

Do you struggle with marketing your grain? Would you like to develop a marketing plan? This three-day workshop will focus around marketing your crops.

Topics that will be covered include: determining cost of production, basis, cash forward contracts, hedging, options, price forecasting techniques, and developing a marketing plan.

This program will be held on three Mondays, Feb 9th, 16th, and 23rd from 10 am to 3 pm. The fee is \$45 to cover the cost of meal and materials. Pre-register by January 30th by contacting Clark County UW-Extension at 715-743-5121.



HEART OF THE FARM CONFERENCES PROVIDE NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WISCONSIN FARM WOMEN

Wisconsin farm women have the opportunity to network, learn about farm business topics and connect with agricultural resources by attending one of six University of Wisconsin-Extension *Heart of the Farm-Women in Agriculture* conferences being held in January, February and March across Wisconsin.

The day-long conferences will be held in Belmont, New Glarus, Baraboo, Sparta, Eau Claire and Oshkosh.

The first conference in this series will be on Jan. 20, 2009 in Belmont at the Belmont Convention Center just off Hwy. 151 (exit 26). Topics include:

- Farm tax update
- Financial record keeping and payroll record keeping
- Protecting yourself from identity theft
- Health and wellness for your family
- A short wine and cheese tasting will be conducted at the end of the day. Registration is \$20 per person and the registration deadline is Jan. 13, 2009.

Contact the Grant County UW-Extension Office for more details at 608-723-2125.

Sauk County UW-Extension will hold its *Heart of the Farm* conference on Feb. 6, 2009 in Baraboo. The topics include:

- Estate planning
- Organizing your financial and farm paperwork
- Low-maintenance landscaping for your farmstead
- Managing the margins – dealing with price volatility in the new economy

For more information contact Denise Brusveen at the Sauk County UW-Extension Office at 608-355-3250.

Monroe County UW-Extension is hosting its *Heart of the Farm* conference on Feb. 27, 2009 at Jake's Northwoods in Sparta. The topics include:

- Health care coverage options
- Ask the vet
- Business communications
- Debt management
- Taking care of yourself

For more information contact the Monroe County UW-Extension office at 608-269-8722.

The Eau Claire *Heart of the Farm* conference will be held on March 5, 2009 at the Florian Gardens in Eau Claire. The workshop sessions include:

- A financial records panel
- Value-added enterprises to consider for your farm
- Employee management/retention
- Business planning-things to consider as you consider expansion
- A wine and cheese tasting will be conducted at the end of the day.

Registration is \$25 per person and the registration deadline is Feb. 26. Contact Jenny Vanderlin at the UW Center for Dairy Profitability 608-263-7795 for more information.

Visit the Heart of the Farm website www.uwex.edu/ces/heartofthefarm to download a brochure for any of the conferences. *Heart of the Farm – Women in Agriculture* is sponsored by the UW Center for Dairy Profitability and UW-Extension's Farm and Risk Management Team. The *Heart of the Farm* conferences are partially funded by a USDA – Risk Management Agency grant and the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board.

HEART OF THE FARM – GREEN FIELDS

One Day Workshop on Financial Management

January 29, 2009

10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Heyde Center, Chippewa Falls

Heart of the Farm – Green Fields is part of the Heart of the Farm – Women in Agriculture Program and

is recommended to farm women wanting to be better business managers and/or partners. This grounded approach to Financial Risk Management will be very interactive and provide the background to enhance the sustainability, profitability and other aspects of economic performance of the farm business.

Registration deadline January 23. Registration \$20, at the door \$25. To register contact Center for Dairy Profitability, HOF Green Fields, 266 Animal Science Bldg., 1675 Observatory Dr, Madison WI 53706.

RETURNING TO THE FARM WORKSHOP HELPS FARM FAMILIES PLAN FOR FARM SUCCESSION

University of Wisconsin-Extension and UW Center for Dairy Profitability will host a workshop to help farm families plan for a son, daughter or partner to return to the farm and eventually take over the farm business. The four-day workshop will be Jan. 30 - 31 and Feb. 20 - 21, 2009, at the Byron Center in Brownsville, Wisconsin.

Families looking toward the future of their farming operations have many issues to consider. Two issues of extreme importance to the future life of the business are the development of a son, daughter, or partner to be the future manager of the business and the creation of a management succession plan. The *Returning to the Farm* workshop helps families make these plans.

Returning to the Farm is open to all farm families who want to learn more about planning for farm succession. Families are expected to participate in both sessions. At the end of the February session, families will have completed the

framework of a working succession plan.

Through this program, students and their families will:

- Determine if an existing operation is large enough to support an additional partner.
 - Uncover alternatives for the transfer of farm assets.
 - Recognize personalities and learn to work with each individual's strengths.
 - Write long- and short-term business and family goals.
 - Learn how to address major issues that can lead to failure in a multiple generation farm business.
 - Hear the current issues and information on the tax implications of farm transfer.
 - Understand the tools of estate planning and business succession planning.
 - Receive business succession and estate planning resources.
- The early bird registration fee for this four-day program is \$250 per farming

unit (up to four people per farm). This includes materials, meeting room costs, refreshment breaks and lunches. The early bird registration deadline is Jan. 12, 2009. The price of the four-day program after Jan. 12 is \$300 per farming unit. If you have more than four people in your farming unit attending the workshop, \$75 will be charged for each additional participant.

Overnight accommodations for the Friday evenings of each weekend are available at the Byron Center. For more information about the program, registration or overnight accommodations contact Joy Kirkpatrick, UW Center for Dairy Profitability Outreach Specialist at 608-263-3485 or by email joy.kirkpatrick@ces.uwex.edu.

Returning to the Farm is partially funded by a Dairy Industry Revitalization grant, UW-Extension and UW-Center for Dairy Profitability.

2009 SHEEP MANAGEMENT WISLINE PROGRAM

The long-running annual Sheep Management teleconference series will be held in 2009

from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. on the Thursday evenings of **February 5** and **March 5** at the Clark County Extension Office, 517 Court Street, Neillsville.



The topics and speakers are yet to be finalized, but each Sheep Management WisLine program will feature knowledgeable shepherds or sheep specialists discussing issues aimed at improving the efficiency of sheep production. Watch the state agricultural

papers, contact the Clark County Extension Office, or check-out the UW-Extension sheep web site <<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/animalscience/sheep/>> for the 2009 schedule.

Additional program information, including handouts, will be available on the web site starting in late December 2008.

Sheep Management WisLine programs are provided as a service of UW-Extension, Cooperative Extension and the UW-Madison, Department of Animal Sciences, and are hosted by Dave Thomas, Sheep Extension Specialist. The WisLine system

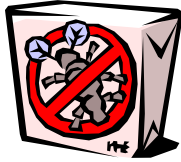
provides two-way voice communication between the speakers and listeners from participating County Extension Offices in Wisconsin and are free to the public.

Participants must call the Clark County Extension Office for availability prior to each session. This will guarantee that the WisLine site is open and that adequate copies of handout materials are available.

Further questions should be directed to the Clark County Extension Office 715-743-5121 or to Dave Thomas, Sheep Extension Specialist, UW-Extension and UW-Madison at dlthomas@wisc.edu or 608-263-4306.

PESTICIDE APPLICATORS RE-CERTIFICATION CLASSES

The Clark County UW-Extension will be holding the following pesticide re-certification meetings from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. on:



If you are interested in getting re-certified you can pick up material at the Clark County UW-Extension Office, 517 Court Street, Courthouse, Rm 104, Neillsville WI 54456 or send in your check for \$35.00 made payable to the Clark County UW-Extension.

Self-study is another option that you might want to consider. If interested in self-study you would need to make an appointment, at your convenience, and come to our office to take the test.

If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact me at 743-5121.

Lunch break will be available. Bring sack lunch.

General Farming Training & Testing

- Thursday, March 5
Colby VFW, Hwy 13
Colby
- Tuesday, March 10
Neillsville Courthouse
Auditorium, 517 Court St
Neillsville
- Thursday, March 12
Thorp Fire Hall
101 So Wilson St, Thorp

INTRODUCTION TO BEES AND BEEKEEPING

The Dunn County Beekeepers and the University of Wisconsin-Extension are sponsoring an "Introduction to Bees and Beekeeping" Workshop. The workshop is designed to provide the basic information necessary to start beekeeping in Wisconsin. Participants will be guided through their first year of beekeeping. The workshop is intended for those who have no experience with bees and beekeeping.



When: Saturday, February 7

Where: Disabled American Veterans Bldg (DAV), Menomonie

Cost: \$40 per person which includes meals, breaks, materials and course book. \$8.00 for each additional family member, or \$25.00 for 4-H, FFA or Scout youth members

February 26-28, 2009

La Crosse, WI

SAVE THE DATE!

20th Annual ORGANIC FARMING CONFERENCE

Celebrating 20 years of sharing knowledge, finding solutions, and moving the organic movement forward together.

Learn from a community of over 2,000 farmers, educators, and advocates. Share best practices, enjoy incredible food, and choose from over 60 informative and dynamic workshops.

Help make our 20th Anniversary the BEST YET!

Register online at www.mosesorganic.org or call 715-772-3153

The Organic Farming Conference is organized by the Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service.

Pre-registration is required. Late registration or registration at the door is \$50.

To attend the workshop, send check and registration to:

Jim Faust
UW-Extension
800 Wilson Ave, Room 330
Menomonie WI 54751

Or call the Extension office at 715-232-1636 for more information.

“DEAL OR NO DEAL-MANAGING THE MARGIN” WORKSHOPS WILL BE OFFERED IN MARCH

UW-Extension's Farm and Risk Management (FARM) Team – is offering five workshops in March for Wisconsin producers on managing their profit margin. This program is offered by the FARM Team whose mission it is to help Wisconsin farmers improve business profitability and lifestyles through informed decision-making.

The day long program will be held in Marshfield, Green Bay, Juneau, Rice Lake and Melrose beginning the 2nd week in March. The *Deal or No Deal- Managing the Margin* workshops will have a very interactive presentation on price volatility using a marketing game compiled by Kevin Bernhardt, Farm and Risk Management Specialist for UW-Extension/Center for Dairy Profitability. In this day and age, managing your profit margin is much more than simply paying attention to milk prices. Good milk prices no longer automatically translate into good

profits because of the volatility in inputs.

Presentations on determining your cost of production for different commodities will also be presented. Cost of Production (COP) is determined by the costs associated with production divided by the number of units. Learn how to calculate your cost of production through a hands-on exercise and use the information for your decision-making.

Local workshop will be held at the following location:

March 9th, 2009
Belvedere Supper Club, Marshfield,
Contact: Maria Bendixen, Clark
Co. Extension Office, 715-743-5121

Registration cost is \$15.00 per site (\$25.00 at the door). Visit the FARM Team website <http://www.uwex.edu/>

ces/farmteam/ to download a brochure or contact the Clark County UWEX 715-743-5121. These workshops are sponsored by the UW-Extension's Farm and Risk Management Team and local Extension Office.

“Deal or No Deal Managing the Margin” Workshop Registration

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Number Attending _____

Amt Enclosed \$ _____

Please send registration to Clark Co. UW-Extension, 517 Court St, Rm 104, Neillsville WI 54456 or call 715-743-5121. Registration deadline: **March 2nd.**

FARM ENERGY CENTS – PROGRAM OFFERED IN GREENWOOD

The UW-Extension office in Clark County is offering an informational program on farm energy on February 24th at Chelsea's Supper Club in Greenwood. Farms are big users of energy and although it is not the biggest expense that farmers deal with, it is often an easier expense to control than other big expenses. There are also new opportunities in controlling energy costs through the focus on energy program that Clark Electric has just joined. Along with energy; conservation is a big topic lately so this program will offer information about selling carbon credits. This program is designed to help producers understand the new opportunities and cash in on them as well as give

suggestions for improving energy efficiency on the farm. Topics include:

The Focus on Energy Program – Scott Sanford. Scott will explain the most popular incentives that focus on energy offers to farmers and how much they might save you in the long run. If you are looking at lowering your energy bill and want some incentives to do so this is a must see presentation.

Strategies for Farm Energy Conservation – Jeff Springer and Paul Gilis. Jeff and Paul will discuss ways that you can save on your energy bill on both the dairy side and the grain side, of your operation. These are things you can do even if you don't have focus on

energy available to you.

Carbon Credit Program – Patty Edelburg, Wisconsin Farmers Union. You may have read about carbon credit trading and wondered if you could get any money out of it. Patty will discuss what you have to do to sell carbon credits and what you can expect to get paid for different practices.

The program will be held from 11:00 am to 2:30 pm the cost to attend is \$10.00 to cover your meal at Chelsea's. For more information or to register call the Clark County UW-Extension office at 715-743-5121. You must register by February 17th.

BUILDING A HOME FOR TODAY'S DAIRY HERD

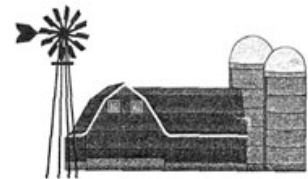
The University of Wisconsin Extension and Bremer Bank are sponsoring "Building a Home for Today's Dairy Herd." The overall goal of the program is for producers to improve overall herd performance through better building design and operation.

When: Wednesday, February 25, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Where: Dunn County Judicial Center in Menomonie

Cost: \$10.00 per person which includes meals, breaks, and material

Pre-registration is required. Late registration or registration at the door is \$25.



Program Topics:

- The Cost and Benefits of Rubber flooring in Dairy Facilities
- The Ideal Freestall and Barn Around it
- Economic Costs and Labor Efficiency of Raising Replacement Heifers
- Calf Barn Ventilation: A Breath of Fresh Air
- Replacement Heifer Building Design

Speakers:

- Brian Holmes, Biological Systems Engineer, University of Wisconsin Extension—Madison
- Dave Kammel, Biological Systems Engineer, University of Wisconsin Extension—Madison
- Jim Faust, Agricultural Agent, UW-Extension, Dunn County
- Ryan Sterry, Agriculture Agent, UW-Extension, Polk County

Make checks payable to: Dairy 20/20. Registration deadline is Monday, February 23, 2009. Snow Date: Thursday, February 26, 2009.

To attend the conference, send check and registration to: Jim Faust, UW-Extension, 800 Wilson Ave., Rm 330, Menomonie WI 54751 or call the UW-Extension Office at 715-232-1636.

Calf and Heifer Meetings

February 2, 2009

Country Aire Banquet Hall, Stratford

Corner of Hwy 97 and P

9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

RSVP Heartland Coop

800-521-2021 or 715-654-5134

- New born calf management, colostrum management, diseases, biosecurity
- Transition calves, air quality, water quality, pen space, nutrition
- Alternate feeding programs (labor vs. feed costs) think outside of the box
- Vaccinations, stress, respiratory disease, heifer health, facilities and building design for dairy replacements
- Calf and heifer barn ventilation options—improving air quality, practical systems for spring, summer, and fall
- Why feeding Bio-mos and Lacto-mos in calf and heifer diets makes sense, how Bio-mos can positively affect colostrum quality and absorption
- Live demonstration of the new automated calf feeding system

Ladies Meeting

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Angie's Heated Garage

W3195 Ellingson Rd, Stetsonville WI

Contact Angie Metcalf 715-897-2828

- Todd McDonough: Land O' Lakes – In depth study of diseases, prevention and treatment protocols, and dealing with biosecurity. He will explain how diseases affect different areas of a calf/heifer's body.
- Dr. Sandy Stuttgen DVM: Taylor Co. Agriculture Educator – Sandy will perform a post mortem on a calf for the group and explain as she goes about what to look for on each disease. We will have multiple calves there for small groups to be able to have a chance to open a calf themselves. I will provide disposable gloves and coveralls and plastic boots for all who wish to participate.

Lunch will be provided.

FARM TRANSFER AND SUCCESSION WORKSHOP



Clark and Marathon County UW-Extension will be holding a Farm Transfer Workshop on February 18th, 2009 from 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. at the Abbotsford City Hall, Public Learning Center. Participants will leave the workshop with a better idea of how to plan for farm succession and transfer. Farm succession takes planning and communication. In farm transfers we are very concerned about managing the tax situation well. There are some interesting tax advantages to transferring a farm in the next couple of years. This workshop will cover those and how they can work for farms in Wisconsin. It will also help you to understand the different farm business arrangements that can be used to help transfer farm ownership.

Retirement, succession and estate planning should be viewed as good risk management practices for all businesses, especially the family farm. However, many times these components, if not completely ignored, are given a cursory glance. Developing a working plan will make the actual transition smoother and will make communicating the transfer details with on-farm and off-farm family members easier. Even if your

transfer may happen a few years from now starting early will help the process go more smoothly. The workshop will feature the following topics and speakers.

The Nuts and Bolts of Farm Transfer – Jackie Carattini, Family Living Agent, Marathon County-UW Extension. This session will cover some of the reasons why farm succession is such a complicated issue. Participants will learn the components of a good succession plan and how to get started on their own. The session will also emphasize the importance of starting early and effective communication of personal and business goals surrounding the succession issue.

Financial Planning for Farm Transfer – Maria Bendixen, Clark County Dairy and Livestock Agent. Maria will cover farm financial planning from assessing profitability to determining ways to make the business more viable in the future. It will help you answer questions like: can my farm be a good income source for both families? What changes can we make to improve the chances of success? A model farm transfer plan will be gone over and evaluated for viability in different situations.

Farm Business Arrangements in the Farm Transfer Process – Phillip Harris, Professor and Extension Farm Law Specialist, UW Madison. Phil will go over some farm business arrangements that will work for farm transfer in different situations. Tax Management is a big issue when considering any type of real estate or business transfer. Phil will give you some ways to manage your tax burden in this situation. Phil is very knowledgeable on the subject of farm transfer so bring your questions with you.

Negotiating Sustainable Farm Agreements – Tom Cadwallader, Lincoln and Marathon County Ag Development Agent. Many times we hear of farm transfers going sour after a couple of years, people just aren't getting what they expected out of the deal. Tom will offer some strategies to prevent conflict and some to manage it well when it comes up.

Farm Business Arrangements – Dan Rugar, Ruder Ware, L.L.S.C. Entity Selection~sole proprietorship, partnership, LLC, C-Corp, S-Corp, it's alphabet soup and which do I choose? Dan will help guide you through what might work for you.

Farm Transfer and Succession Workshop
Abbotsford City Hall Public Learning Center
Registration

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone _____
 # Attending _____

Cost: \$25 per family up to 4 people. Pre-registration required.

You must register by February 11th

Registration can be sent to:

Clark County UW-Extension
 517 Court St., Room 104
 Neillsville, WI, 54456
 or call 715-743-5121.

RIVER COUNTRY RC&D UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, February 3rd

Winter Discussion Group
Chippewa Valley / North
Central Graziers Networks

For more information contact:
Kevin Mahalko, River Country
RC&D - (715) 225-9879 or Bob
Brandt, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D - (715)
748-2008

Time: 11:00 AM. to 2:00 PM,
Bring your own lunch

Location: Thorp Library Basement
Thorp, WI

Topic: Dairy Nutrition and Forages
for the Grazing Herd



Tuesday, February 10th

Winter Pasture Walk - Chippewa
Valley Graziers Networks

For more information contact:
Kevin Mahalko, River Country
RC&D - (715) 225-9879

Time: 12:00 to 2:00 PM

Location: Mark Eslinger Dairy
Farm- Boyd, WI

Topic: Winter dairy management.
Use of windbreaks to outwinter
cattle, pre-placement of bales and
managing bedding. Tour of parlor
milking system included.

Thursday, February 19th
through Saturday the 21st

Grassworks, Inc. - 2009
Wisconsin Grazing Conference

For more information contact:
Heather Flashinski, Conference
Planner - (715) 289-4896

Pre-registration Deadline: February
12, 2009

Location: Holiday Inn - Stevens
Point, WI

Saturday, February 21st,
12 Noon

Wisconsin Grass-fed Beef Co-op
1st Annual Meeting

For more information contact: Bob
Brandt, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D - (715)
965-3756

Location: Holiday Inn - Stevens
Point, WI

Tuesday, March 3rd

Winter Discussion Group -
Chippewa Valley / North
Central Graziers Networks

For more information contact:
Kevin Mahalko, River Country
RC&D - (715) 225-9879 / Bob
Brandt, Pri- Ru-Ta RC&D - (715)
748-2008

Time: 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Bring
your own lunch

Location: Thorp Library Basement,
Thorp, WI

Topic: Pasture swards, soils, and
fertility

**Farmers Tax Guides
Farm Account Books
Available!!!**



**Call
Clark County
UW-Extension
743-5121**

WELLS AND WELL ABANDONMENT

By Cody Overgard, Clark County Land Conservation

Wisconsin is a water-rich state that supplies safe drinking water to millions of people within our great state but sometimes people overlook the importance of preserving this valuable resource. Water quality has become a large issue within the past few years in the state and this has triggered a number of programs to assist Wisconsin residents with their water needs. The Wisconsin Well Compensation Program grant award provides financial assistance for individuals to replace, reconstruct, treat contaminated private water supplies and to fill and seal existing wells. The Department of Trade and Consumer Protection also has current funding to assist landowners with the proper closure of unused, contaminated, or abandoned wells within the state. These programs are set in place to assist landowners with the funds to properly abandon a well on their property.



So why close your old or unused well someone may ask? Open or improperly closed wells allow for a direct conduit into the groundwater that not only provides you with safe drinking water but your neighbors as well. Groundwater moves through the pore spaces in the soil or rock formation below the earth at different rates. Flow rates vary from only a few millimeters a day to several feet a day depending on the geologic structures or soil types below. Once groundwater is contaminated it is often very difficult for the well or wells to provide safe drinking water. Groundwater

contamination can come from a variety of sources; some of which you would not normally think about.

Wisconsin faces a long list of potential contamination compounds but there are a few that are more common than others. Nitrate is one of the biggest sources of groundwater contamination in the state. Nitrate levels above 10 mg/L are considered to be hazardous and have been linked to “Blue Baby Syndrome” in infants. Fecal coliform bacterium is another type of problem that commonly shows up in water supplies. This bacterium is responsible for the *E. coli* bacteria that cause digestive and intestinal complications in some cases. There are also many other types of contaminants that can make their way into your water supply; many of which you can not see, taste, or smell. The best way to see if your water is safe is to have a water test conducted to determine how safe your water actually is. These tests will help to ensure you are drinking clean water which will help to maintain a healthy lifestyle. If you suspect your water is contaminated contact the DNR, UW-Extension, or the Clark County Land Conservation staff to assist you with the testing supplies information and what you may want to test your water for.

It is also very important to be sure that your well meets the setbacks distances as listed in NR. 812 of the Wisconsin DNR groundwater standard to prevent against groundwater contamination. This is important whether or not you are drilling a new well or using an existing one. Current standards require various setback distances based on the type of structures on site. New wells have to be constructed at least 250 feet

away from any earthen waste storage pit or at least 100 feet away from a concrete lined pit. New wells must allow or have at least a 6 inch casing for drilled wells that extend a minimum of 1 foot above the finished grade. Wells that are located in a well pit may still be used but the construction of new well pits have not been allowed since 1953. A complete list of the current well standards can be found in Ch. 812 of the Well Construction and Pump Installation standard on the Wisconsin DNR website.

The Clark County Land Conservation Department, along with other agencies, are working to promote well head protection in the county as much as possible and would be willing to assist you with questions regarding well construction or well abandonment procedures. Funds are available to assist will the cost of closing a well on your property and some contaminated well owners may qualify for the Well Compensation Grant Program based on need. There is also a new law as to who may close a well in the state. Previously landowners were permitted to close their own wells on their property, but this is no longer the case. As of June 1st, 2008 only a certified pump installer or well driller may close a well. It is more important than ever that we continue to preserve the water resource that sustains many of our lives and businesses. Properly abandoning an old well is just another step in the right direction to ensure safe drinking water for many years to come.



CLARK COUNTY

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2009 Wisconsin Buy Local Food Regional Workshop

February 4, 2009

**Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire
900 West Clairemont Ave
8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.**

Agenda:

- Pricing for Profit for Farmers, Craig Chase, Farm Management Specialist, Iowa State University
- Pricing Strategies for Farmers, Teresa Cuperus from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)
- Local Food Systems: An Overview
- Buy Fresh, Buy Local Case Study, Rachel Armstrong

Cost: \$20/person

Mail check payable to: Chippewa County UWEX, Attn: Buy Local Food Regional Workshop, 711 North Bridge Street, Courthouse, Room 13, Chippewa Falls WI 54729

For more information contact Andrew Dane, Chippewa/Barron Counties UW Extension 715-726-7957/715-537-6381.