

Farm & Field

Chippewa Valley Agriculture Newsletter

Eau Claire County—(715) 839-4712
 Mahlon Peterson – Agriculture Agent
 Tom Kalb—Horticultural Educator

Chippewa County—(715) 726-7950
 Randy Knapp – Agriculture Agent
 Jerry Clark – Crops & Soils Educator

March 2008

Volume XII Issue III

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Area Beef Cow/Calf Seminar	2
Rural Living Day	2
Eau Claire County Dairy Facilities Tour	2
The Best Roses for Noses	3
Potential Health Problems for Cows	4
The Value of Manure	5

Good Day!!

I know that some of you are probably experiencing football withdrawal now that the NFL football season is over and some of you are following your children, grandchildren and nieces and nephews through the sports season at the junior high, high school or college level. I know that when our family was growing up there always seemed to be something going on most nights of the week and on weekends relating to school activities. Our youngest graduated from high school 10 years ago and I've probably only been back to the high school twice since they graduated for any type of event. When you are in the midst of endless activities, it's hard to believe that it will not always be that way. Enjoy those special family times! Our 14 month old granddaughter spent the week with us and it's been a real joy to spend time with her – it will not be long before we'll start attending her school events – I can hardly wait!!

If this is your year to renew your Private Pesticide Applicators license, we only have one opportunity left this winter. You can call the office in advance to schedule a test only session, if you are unable to attend one of our classes.

“Continue to Farm Smarter”

Mahlon Peterson

Mahlon Peterson
 UW-Extension Agricultural Agent

mahlon.peterson@ces.uwex.edu

Calendar

March

- 1 MAQA Training at Ag & Resource Center
- 4/5 Eau Claire Farm Show at Indoor Sports Center
- 5 DHI Annual Meeting at the Black Bear Supper Club
- 6 Heart of the Farm Conference at Florian Gardens
- 9 **Daylight Savings Day**
- 13 RC&D Grazing Conference at the Holiday Inn
- 17 **St. Patrick's Day**
- 19 Private Pesticide Applicator Training at Chippewa Falls
- 20 **Spring Begins**
- 20 CVFC Winter Seminar at Cadott
- 23 **Easter**
- 25 Beef Cow/Calf Meeting at Steve Strey Farm
- 26 Beef Cow/Calf Meeting in Marquette County
- 27 Eau Claire County Dairy Facilities Tour
- 31 Meat Animal Project Meeting at Fall Creek High School

April

- 5 Rural living Day at Beaver Creek Reserve
- 11/12 Swine & Sheep Weigh-in for 2008 County Fair
- 17 Beef Cow/Calf Meeting in Rusk/Washburn County
- 21 MAQA Training at the Ag & Resource Center

Please call our office for more details, registration fees, etc.

For more Extension Information go to our website:
www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/eaclaire/

Something To Chew On . . .



*Mahlon Peterson Ag Agent
Eau Claire County*

Area Beef Cow/Calf Seminar is March 25

The Steve Strey Family will host an area Beef Cow/Calf Seminar at their farm on Tuesday, March 25 beginning at 4:30 PM.

Registration will begin at 4:30 PM followed by a farm tour at 4:45 and a beef dinner at 5:15. The educational program will start at 6:00 PM and will feature presentations on: 2008 Cow/Calf Economics; 2008 and Beyond Outlook; Simple Cattle Handling Ideas and Wisconsin's New Preconditioned Feeder Calf Program.

There will be a \$10.00 fee for the program and meal. Pre-registration is required by contacting the Eau Claire County UW-Extension Office at 715.839.4712 before March 21.

The Strey farm is located at S13851 Finch Road near Foster – take CTY Hwy HH west from Foster to Finch Road, turn south and the farm is 2 miles on the east side of the road.

The event is sponsored by the UW-Extension Livestock Focus Team and the Eau Claire County Extension Office.

Rural Living Day is April 5 at Beaver Creek Reserve

Are you new to country living? Do you ever wonder where to get information and ideas for making your dream into a reality? Rural Living Day is designed to answer those and many other questions. The event will begin at 8:30 AM at Beaver Creek Reserve's Nature Center Auditorium.

Eight short presentations will follow on numerous topics including: "What Can I Do On My Land?"; "Living in the Country – Sights Sounds and Smells of Country Life"; "Trees and Invasive Plants"; "What About Buffers and Other Farm Programs?"; "Dealing With Nuisance Animals";

"Ponds and Wetlands – Where Do I Start?"; "Prairie Establishment and Managed Grazing" and "Composting, Rain Gardens and Regulations."

There is a \$5.00 registration fee to cover materials and facility use. The Friends of Beaver Creek Reserve will have a concession stand available on site.

An optional afternoon session will allow participants to visit an area farm with established wooded areas, ponds, prairies and buffers.

Please pre-register for the event by contacting the Eau Claire County Extension Office at 715.839.4712 before April 1.

Eau Claire County Dairy Facilities Tour is March 27th in Augusta-Fall Creek Area

The Eau Claire County UW-Extension Office and Chippewa Valley Technical College will be hosting their annual Dairy Facilities Tour on Thursday, March 27.

Tour stops are being finalized at this time. Please be sure to call our office at 715.839.4712 for details prior to the event. We will tour three farms and a sponsored lunch will be served.

Horticulture News . . .

Tom Kalb

Eau Claire County Horticulture Educator

The Best Roses for Noses

A sweet-smelling rose is a nice thought this time of year. Before spring arrives, spend a moment to look over nursery catalogs and design a flower garden that best suits your needs. The following roses are completely hardy, easy-to-grow, and famous for their fragrant blooms:

Rugosa roses are easy to grow and have extreme vigor and hardiness. They are often used for hedges, particularly in exposed sites. "Rugosa" roses are known for their "rugose" (rough) leaves. They bloom throughout summer and in autumn you will be pleased with their orange foliage color and bright red hips.

Blanc Double de Coubert is a very popular rugosa. The disease-resistant bushes bear clusters of pristine white, semi-double flowers throughout the summer. It can grow up to 7 feet tall.

Belle Poitevine has soft pink, semi-double, flat blooms. Famous for its fragrance and repeat blooms, this disease-resistant variety grows densely and up to 5 feet tall and wide.

Frau Dagmar Hartopp (sometimes called *Fru Dagmar Hastrup*) freely produces lovely pink, single, 3-inch blooms on disease-resistant, 4-foot-tall shrubs. It's famous for its brilliant scarlet hips.

Hansa has large, double, reddish-purple flowers with a strong, spicy scent. The foliage is highly susceptible to black spot.

Therese Bugnet bears clusters of ruffled, bright lilac-pink flowers with a sweet fragrance. It offers a nice display of red foliage in the fall and the canes remain a deep red throughout the

winter. It is susceptible to powdery mildew, rust, and leaf spots.

Damask roses grow 4 to 6 feet tall. Their flowers are large and very fragrant. *Hawkeye Belle* is a repeat bloomer with flowers of white with a pink blush. *Autumn Damask* is a pink-flowered, one-time bloomer.

Moss roses are noted for the heavy moss-like hair on the sepals of the flower buds. Many moss types have very fragrant flowers. Among them is *Henri Martin*, which has bright crimson red, semi-double blooms borne in large clusters. *William Lobb* has crimson-purple semi-double flowers. Both are one-time bloomers, blooming in July.

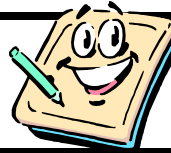
Of course, there are many hybrid tea varieties that have wonderful fragrance. Among the best are *Chrysler Imperial*, *Mister Lincoln* and *Oklahoma* (red), *Fragrant Cloud* (scarlet), *Double Delight* (red/yellow bicolor), *Radiant Perfume* (gold), *Sunsprite* (yellow), *Tahitian Sunset* (apricot), *Voodoo* (orange), *Tiffany* and *Perfume Delight* (pink), *Aroma-therapy* (deep pink), *Pope John Paul II* (white), *Sheer Bliss* (ivory) and *Neptune* (lavender). All hybrid teas require winter protection.

Sources: Universities of Minnesota and Missouri



Randy's Rumors . . .

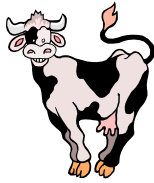
Randy Knapp, Chippewa County Agricultural Agent



Late Winter Brings Potential Health Problems for Wisconsin Dairy Cows

Keeping dairy cows healthy during late winter and early spring can be a big challenge for Wisconsin dairy farmers.

At this time of year, cattle are prone to a complex set of metabolic problems, pneumonia, and other difficulties that can lead to loss of milk production, expensive veterinary bills, and even the death of some animals.



The causes are also complex and may include changes in feeding practices as stored forage and inventories diminish and lose quality, the deep cold, and days of confinement in closed barns. Some animals may have put on too much weight at the time of freshening and have trouble metabolizing fat, which can lead to other health problems and lowered resistance to infections.

Dairy farmers need to consider a whole range of management practices to prevent this complex set of health problems. There is no one cause for these problems. Farmers need to check all the bases—from feeding strategies and feed quality to bedding and housing.

One of the most frequent and serious problems is a displaced abomasum, sometimes called “twisted stomach”. The abomasum, which is the fourth of a cow’s four stomachs and the only one that has a true digestive function, becomes bloated by gas and shifts inside the abdomen. It can become trapped against other organs. This condition blocks the digestive system and causes severe pain. A cow with this condition will stop eating. It can be fatal if untreated. The only cure is surgery.

The most likely cause is feed. At the end of the winter, especially around the time the weather is starting to warm up a bit, feed may get a little spoiled. Since it doesn’t taste so good, cows will refuse to eat it. Then, when they get hungry enough, they eat too much. This can cause changes in acidity of the rumen and that can cause gas.

Another metabolic problem that sometimes occurs in February or March is related to “over conditioning.” Cows that gain too much weight over the win-

ter may develop fatty livers that are less able to metabolize fats. This can cause the cow to stop eating, leading to ketosis and lowered resistance to infections such as mastitis and pneumonia.

Some cows may also develop subacute acidosis if forage supplies get short and the animals get too much concentrate relative to forage in their ration. Cows with subacute rumen acidosis may develop sore feet.

In addition to these metabolic problems, cows are more vulnerable to pneumonia at this time of year. Most cases of pneumonia result from housing problems.

Sometimes, farmers who have free-stall barns wait a little too long to open side curtains when the weather warms up in the spring. At this time of year, with a lack of ventilation, you get a build up of moisture and gases that contribute to pneumonia.

While the health problems and causes are complex, there are strategies for minimizing problems:

- Try to keep feed from getting warm and spoiling. When removing feed from silo, bag or bunker, take plenty of feed from the face, or surface. Feed more often so feed doesn’t get hot. You can use preservatives in the total mixed ration to keep feed fresh longer in the feed bunk.
- Open up barns before the weather gets warmer. Stale moist air and trapped gases in a tight barn contribute to pneumonia and other respiratory diseases that are more common in the spring. When cows are sick, they go off feed and that can contribute to the metabolic problems.

Anticipate. These health problems happen almost every year, so it’s wise to remember it will probably happen again and take any measures you can to keep feed quality up. Monitor temperatures and open up barns in late February and early March when daytime temperatures are above freezing, but nighttime temperatures are below freezing. Keep an eye on the inside walls and roof of naturally ventilated freestall barns. If visible moisture appears, particularly on roof perlines, it’s time to open the barn.

Jerry Jargon
 Jerry Clark
 Chippewa County Soil & Crops Educator



WHAT IS THE VALUE OF MANURE

With increasing fertilizer costs, many crop producers are looking toward manure to help reduce that cost. A question that is being raised is what is the value of manure in today's fertilizer market? By looking at current fertilizer costs, we can get a ballpark figure of the value of manure. The following steps can help you arrive at the value of manure.

Step 1.

Determine the value of major nutrients N-P-K.

Urea \$540/ton = N @ \$0.58/pound
 DAP \$560/ton = P₂O₅ @ \$0.38/pound
 Potash \$550/ton = K @ \$0.46/pound

Since we now know what each individual nutrient is worth, we can figure out the value of manure.

Step 2.

Using book values, unincorporated solid dairy manure on a per ton basis has an N-P-K content of 3-3-7. If the manure is incorporated within 3 days, the nutrient content is 4-3-7.

So the value of manure can be figured as follows:

Unincorporated Solid Dairy Manure

N = 3 pounds @ \$0.58/pound = \$ 1.74
 P = 3 pounds @ \$0.38/pound = \$ 1.14
 K = 7 pounds @ \$0.46/pound = \$ 3.22

Total value of manure = \$ **6.10/ton**

Incorporated Solid Dairy Manure

N = 4 pounds @ \$0.58/pound = \$ 2.32
 P = 3 pounds @ \$0.38/pound = \$ 1.14
 K = 7 pounds @ \$0.46/pound = \$ 3.22

Total value of manure = \$ **6.68/ton**

The same calculations can be used for liquid dairy manure. Book values for unincorporated liquid dairy manure are based on a per 1,000 gallon basis. N-P-K content of unincorporated dairy manure is 7-5-16. If the manure is incorporated within 3 days, the nutrient content is 10-5-16.

Unincorporated Liquid Dairy Manure

N = 7 pounds @ \$0.58/pound = \$ 4.06
 P = 5 pounds @ \$0.38/pound = \$ 1.90
 K = 16 pounds @ \$0.46/pound = \$ 7.36

Total value of manure = \$ **13.321/1,000 gals**

Incorporated Liquid Dairy Manure

N = 10 pounds @ \$0.58/pound = \$ 5.80
 P = 5 pounds @ \$0.38/pound = \$ 1.90
 K = 16 pounds @ \$0.46/pound = \$ 7.36

Total value of manure = \$ **15.06/1,000 gals**

To get a more accurate nutrient content of manure, it is best to have the manure sampled and tested. It is recommended that solid manure and stacked manure be tested as results can vary more than book values.

If you plan to sell or buy manure from another farmer, it is also recommended that an agreement be signed by both parties, and it should include who is responsible for the following actions:

- Agitation
- Application
- Incorporation
- Spill cleanup (including mud tracked onto the road)
- Conditions under which no spreading should be done (wet fields)
- Application rate

Other considerations to take into account when marketing manure are to:

- Make sure the nutrient management plan is being followed.
- Field location as it relates to sensitive areas like surface waters and residences, slopes and highly erodible land.
- Type of application that will be made, surface applied vs. injected.

Manure should always be treated as a fertilizer and, this year, its value is worth more than ever.

Farm & Field Newsletter

Chippewa Valley Agriculture Newsletter

*A newsletter designed to meet the needs of farmers and agribusiness professionals
in Eau Claire and Chippewa Counties.*

Published monthly by the Eau Claire County Extension Office, Altoona, Wisconsin

An EEO/Affirmative Action employer University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming including Title IX and ADA requirements.

Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Please do so as early as possible prior to the program or activity so that proper arrangements can be made. Requests will be kept confidential.



Eau Claire County UW-Extension Office
227 1st Street W
Altoona WI 54720

