

Sept/Oct 2006**Calendar:****September 26**

Nutrient Management
Meeting
Youth & Ag Center,
Lancaster
10:00-12:00 noon

September 27

Nutrient Management
Meeting
First Banking Center,
Darlington
10:00-12:00 noon

October 1-7

National 4-H Week

October 3

Grant County 4-H
Leaders Banquet

October 5

Parenting Conference
Lancaster Middle/High
School

October 5

4-H International
Festival
6:30-9:00 p.m.
Youth & Center,
Lancaster

November 8

Manure & Nutrient
Management
Regulation Update
Youth & Ag Center,
Lancaster

**September 26 CPAG Meeting**

The next CPAG meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 26, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Grant County Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster.

Agenda

- ▶ Crops & Farm Management Report
- ▶ Family Living Report
- ▶ Extension Budget
- ▶ Next Meeting Date and Agenda

Ag Updates

As of September, 2006, Ted Bay and Dave Wachter will be working in Lafayette County 20% of the time. As you may know, Lafayette County has been without an Agriculture Agent for several years. This project is a cooperative effort between Grant and Lafayette County, along with UW-Extension, to provide service to the producers in Lafayette County.

This is expected to be a short-term project (no more than 2 or 3 years) and will be reevaluated at the end of each year. The long range goal is for Lafayette County to hire a full time Agriculture Agent of their own. In the meantime, Lafayette County is purchasing 20% of both Ted and Dave's time to fill in.

Nutrient Management Training Program Begins for 2007

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture has declared that all farms must have a nutrient management plan by 2008. A series of meetings is being held in Grant and Lafayette County to continue Extension's effort in helping farmers meet this requirement. The meetings will be held this winter with an early session in September to review soil testing requirements.

Nutrient management plans help farmers better utilize fertilizer inputs and avoid conflicts with environmental regulations. Farmers in previous training programs have saved \$1,000-\$6,000 annually after learning where commercial fertilizer applications are not needed.

Soil testing is the first step in writing a plan and there are many misunderstandings about the procedure to follow. Farmers in previous training sessions have had soil testing done only to find that the procedures used greatly reduced the accuracy and value of the results and did not meet sampling requirements. Meetings to clarify soil sampling will be held on Tuesday, September 26, at the Youth & Ag Center in Lancaster (608-723-2125) and on Wednesday, September 27, at the First Banking Center Community Room in Darlington (608-776-4820). These meetings will run from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and will also look at the pros and cons of conventional soil sampling versus GPS grid sampling.

Doll and Schmitz Share Survey Results

Bev Doll, UW-Extension Family Living Agent and Tom Schmitz, UW-Extension Youth Development Educator, shared results of the Southwest Wisconsin Youth Survey (SWYS) with 450 parents and youth at the August 15 Platteville High School activity code meeting. The presentation focused on six parenting practices that can make a difference in teen behaviors including parental monitoring, family love and support, consistency in family rule enforcement, support of school codes, eating meals as a family and communicating values.

In Grant County family living and 4-H youth development programs have been working together on the survey since 1989. "The survey is conducted every four years and we make a strong effort to use the information to help schools, communities, parents and youth address issues identified in the survey," said Schmitz. Information on the survey, including findings, news releases and parent newsletters can be found on the Grant County web site at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/grant/>.

Grant County Partners 2nd Annual Parenting Conference

As a part of the Grant County Partners for Families, Grant County Family Living Agent, Bev Doll and WNEP Coordinator, Ione Meoska are collaboratively sponsoring a **2nd Annual Parenting Conference Thursday evening, October 5, 2006**. Being held at the Lancaster Middle/High School, the conference will begin with dinner at 5:00 p.m. with the keynote, “Cheryl Kirking” starting at 5:45 p.m.

Kirking’s presentation will focus on “The Parent Puzzle: Piecing Together the Personalities in Your Family.” Through humor and music Kirking loves to encourage others, especially those who teach and nurture children. She is the author of several books, including “Teacher, You’re A+” and “Crayons in the Dryer.” Kirking is a regular contributor to the Chicken Soup for the Soul series and a songwriter. A former teacher, she draws from her background in education, psychology, and parenting to enhance her writings and presentations.

Conference participants will have the opportunity to choose between four fabulous breakout sessions as well as peruse displays set up by local agencies. The breakout sessions, beginning at 7:00 p.m., consist of topics ranging from

“Raising Healthy Eaters” for parents of younger children to “Safely Surfing the Net” for parents with children of any age.

“Raising Healthy Eaters” mixes good parenting practices with helping children eat well today for a lifetime of healthy eating. “Strengthening Families” targets parents of youth ages 10-14. Participants will identify what it’s like to be this age and learn strategies to become strong and caring parents who show love and set limits. “Safely Surfing the Net” will present information regarding children and internet predators, and how to protect children from internet predators. Teachable Moments looks at turning day-to-day routines into teachable moments by helping children to increase their knowledge and learn new literacy skills almost anywhere or time.

The conference cost is \$5 per person or \$10 per family. Limited childcare is available to those who register. Door prizes will be given and registry labels for childcare providers will be available. To register or for questions, contact Grant County Family Living Agent, Bev Doll, at the Grant County UW Extension office (723-2125). Registrations are due by September 22.

4-H to Host International Festival

Grant County 4-H will host its first ever International Festival, Thursday, October 5, from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at the Youth and Ag Center in Lancaster. The event is free and open to the public. It features hands-on activities, music, fashion, games and food samples from a variety of nations.

“International Festival was designed by the Grant County 4-H International committee to increase interest in 4-H international travel and hosting opportunities and to promote a greater understanding of people from different cultures,” says Tom Schmitz, Youth Development Educator. “It is being held in conjunction with National 4-H Week which is October 1-7.”

Grant County Wins Clean Sweep Grant

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has announced funding for a joint grant proposal submitted by the Lafayette, Grant and Iowa County UW Extension offices. DATCP has awarded \$73,000 for Lafayette, Grant and Iowa counties to host Agriculture and Household Hazardous Waste Clean Sweeps next year.

In September 2007, Grant County will offer residents a chance to rid their garages, barns and homes of unwanted chemicals by taking advantage of the Clean Sweep program.

“People are often surprised to discover how many toxic products they have sitting half-used and unwanted under sinks or in

back corners of basements and sheds. If improperly stored or disposed of, they can cause health problems,” said Paul Thares, Grant County UW Extension Community Resource Educator.

“Our hope is that, as people get ready for winter and do their spring cleaning, they will set aside their old bottles and cans of chemicals to bring them to the Clean Sweep next fall. Be sure to put them up out of the reach of children and animals, but don’t forget about them.”



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