



Registration & Information

Madison campus: Richard Cates, WSBDF Director, 608-265-6437 or 608-588-2836; rlcates@wisc.edu

Chilton: Jeremy Hanson, Fox Valley Technical College @ Chilton Regional Center, 920-849-4416; hanson@fvtc.edu

Frederic: Otto Wiegand, UW-Extension, Washburn, Sawyer & Burnett Counties, 715-635-3506; otto.wiegand@ces.uwex.edu

Independence: Mary Anderson, River Country RC&D, 715-538-4396 ext 33; mary.anderson@rcdnet.net

Platteville: Gretchen Kamps, UW-Platteville School of Agriculture, 608-342-1371; kampsg@uwplatt.edu

Reedsburg: Doug Marshall, MATC-Reedsburg, 608-524-7727; dmarshall@matcmadison.edu

Thorp: Maria Bendixen, UW-Extension, Clark County, 715-743-5121; maria.bendixen@ces.uwex.edu

Wausau: Tom Cadwallader, UW-Extension, Lincoln & Marathon Counties, 715-539-1072 or 715-261-1240; TCadwallader@co.lincoln.wi.us

About the WSBDF

This five month certificate course is offered within the UW Farm and Industry Short Course curriculum and includes additional opportunities for on-farm internships, conference attendance, mentoring and networking. Madison campus students must enroll for credit; distance education students have credit or non-credit options. Please contact the site facilitator for more information, including application materials and course fees.

To apply

To participate in the WSBDF on the Madison campus, download application materials from www.cias.wisc.edu/dairysch.html or request an application packet at 608-265-6437. You must also enroll in the UW-FISC (see below) to take the seminar in Madison. To be considered for a scholarship, submit your application by April 1; late applications may be accepted as space and funds are available.

For the distance education option, apply to the location you wish to attend. Please call one of the offices listed to request application materials and obtain specific course details. For fall enrollment, submit your application by November 1. If you would like to take the class for credit, the site facilitator can help you with the additional requirements for UW or WI Technical College credit. Internship opportunities and scholarships will be determined by your site facilitator.

To learn more about the UW-Madison Farm and Industry Short Course (FISC), call 608-263-3918 for information or log onto www.cals.wisc.edu/students/shortCourse

Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers

A training and mentoring program emphasizing business planning and pasture-based farm management



Giving you a head start in pasture-based dairy or livestock farming through flexible classes, internships and networking opportunities

www.cias.wisc.edu/dairysch.html

If you have a passion to start farming, we are here to help you...

What do we offer?

- 15-week Pasture-Based Dairy and Livestock Seminar, held weekly, led by experienced graziers, business leaders and UW faculty
- Local facilitators at your site to lead class and provide materials and discussion
- An introduction to area farmers, lenders and agriculture professionals to help with your farming career development
- Internships (2-6 months) on Wisconsin dairy or livestock farms
- Option to receive credits toward a UW-Madison Farm and Industry Short Course degree or WI Technical College program
- Events and resources to introduce you to successful farmers: conferences, pasture walks, farm tours and Internet contacts
- Scholarships for tuition and internships
- Assistance identifying opportunities to start your own farm business



Pasture-Based Dairy and Livestock Seminar

The Pasture-Based Dairy and Livestock Seminar will familiarize students with the development and management of pasture-based dairy and livestock farm businesses. The course is held on Thursdays from 11:00-1:15, mid-November through March on the **UW-Madison** campus. A distance education option allows students to enroll and participate via live webcast and interactive audio feed at one of seven other Wisconsin locations: **Chilton, Frederic, Independence, Platteville, Reedsburg, Thorp** and **Wausau**.

A local facilitator will lead the distance education seminar at each site, provide networking with area farmers and resource personnel, and conduct a discussion session each week. Topics of the seminar series include economic, environmental, and agronomic principles of managed grazing; milking center design; dairy, beef, goat and sheep production; organic marketing and herd health; farm selection, design and remodeling; winter feeding and housing strategies; and goal-setting and farm enterprise development.

During the course, students will develop a business plan for their own current or desired farm operation. The final class consists of the opportunity to present the plan to a panel of successful farmers and agricultural lenders.

A free informational CD about the WSBDF is available by calling 608-265-6437.

Internships

Students who choose internships usually live on the farm(s) of interest and work side by side with experienced mentor farmers. Through the WSBDF and PDPW, students have access to successful operations that include large, small, managed grazing, organic, conventional, cattle, sheep or goat dairy and livestock enterprises. Students can conduct two to six months of internship with scholarship support on one or more farms.

Training includes milking and animal housing systems, breeding, calving, herd health, pasture and water systems, paddock design, and financial and labor management. Students who demonstrate competency in these areas receive letters of recommendation from their farmer mentors and a WSBDF certificate of graduation.

Requirements

The Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy & Livestock Farmers (WSBDF) requires you to:

- Have a strong desire to become a dairy or livestock farmer
- Have a serious interest in managed grazing

Some previous experience in dairy or livestock agriculture is desirable.

Sponsored by the UW-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems and the Farm and Industry Short Course, both within the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and lead partner donors Culver's Restaurants, United FCS and Organic Valley; with additional support from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education, and individual and corporate contributions to the UW Foundation WSBDF Endowment fund.