

2007
August



UW — EXTENSION — LANGLADE COUNTY

Langlade Ag-Letter

Protecting Tubers at Harvest

Protecting tubers is a season long issue on the mind of every grower. From quality seed, to potato crop disease protection programs, field traffic, through harvest and storage.

When you think about the entire harvest process it's quite amazing the tuber ends up such nice shape as it enters the bin. But it has obviously taken some time and technology to get us to the point we are at now

But tuber injury is still a serious issue and given the grower risk to bacterial pathogens for which there is little control measures.

Pythium and fusarium dry rot pose a significant challenge upon damaged tubers entering storage, but any damaged or bruised tubers pose a challenge to producers in the marketplace.

I recently spoke with Dave McNally of Sensor Wireless Inc. about the use of SmartSpuds to improve the harvest *process*. Mr. McNally is involved in marketing the Smart Spud technology but also does consulting work with Canadian growers.

We talked about the SmartSpuds ability to detect problems in the harvest process that affect tuber condition. A process that sounds much like identifying "critical control points." A Critical Control Point (CCP) is a point, step or procedure at which controls can be applied and a hazard can be prevented, eliminated or reduced to acceptable (critical) levels.

From the perspective of

potato harvest we can identify several critical control points.

These are associated with the field environment, windrower, harvester, harvester-to-truck, bin-piler, and depending on the market storage to packing line.

My question to you growers: is there a need for a SmartSpud Extension program to enhance tuber quality going into storage?

Critical Control Points

Harvest Environment (Timing)

- Thorough vine kill for clean vine separation
- Thorough skin set
- Moisture conditions

Windrower

- Digging blade depth
- Ground speed
- Transition from primary to secondary
- Unloading crossover conveyor boom height
- Tractor RPM

Harvester

- Digging blade depth
- Ground speed
- Transition from primary to secondary
- Pitch of blower/blower speed
- Transitions from up and over onto grading table and out to the crossover boom.
- Unloading boom heights going into truck

Bin piler

- Transition height from truck to piler
- Adjusting piler speed to maximize product flow

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August 17

Holstein Breeders Twilight Meeting 7:30 p.m.

See article p. 2

August 22

Pasture Irrigation Demo and Walk 10 a.m.

See article p. 3

August 24

Soil Quality Field Day—Antigo Airport

Registration Begins 9:30 am See brochure.

National Dairy Quality Award—We're Seeking Nominees

The National Dairy Quality Awards, now in its 14th year, recognizes the very best in quality milk production. The goal of the NDQA program is to honor dairy producers from across the United States who successfully have placed high priority on producing milk of the highest quality. The NMC, along with quality partners Fort Dodge Animal Health, WestfaliaSurge, Hoard's Dairyman, DTN Dairy, EcoLab, IBA, Inc., Holstein

Association, Cover-All, and QMI, are sponsoring this year's awards. Producers are nominated using an abbreviated, one-page form. Top applicants, as selected by NDQA judges, will be asked to complete a more detailed application form which will be used for final judging. Applicants should work with their nominator to complete the detailed application.

The NDQA program will recognize top-quality milk producers within

several regions of the country. Platinum, Gold, and Silver winners will be designated from the group of finalists. This will allow more producers with outstanding quality records to be recognized each year. Please be a part of this effort, and nominate deserving producers from your area (contact Alex Crockford if you have a recommendation.) The deadline for submitting nominations is **September 10**.

School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers

Ten years ago, I was working on a plant breeding project in Kansas when my desire to work with livestock brought me to Wisconsin. I enrolled in the School for Beginning Dairy Farmers—Farm and Industry Short Course at the UW-Madison.

Since the program's inception in 1995 they've seen over 200 graduates. From these graduates, 75% are farming, and 1/3 are operating their own business.

We've come a long way since 1997 when I entered the program. The development of internet based teaching has made it possible to participate in elements of this program right here in northern Wisconsin.

Last year a pilot program was developed in Wausau which had good participation. This year we're going to repeat the sessions.

Tom Cadwallader, Lincoln County UW Extension Agent said that the majority of the students last year were mid-career.

The cornerstone of the School is the Grass-Based Dairy Seminar, which runs from mid-November through March and is separated into three terms. The class meets on

Thursday to allow students to participate in an internship, other courses, or even outside jobs during the rest of the week.

The course is designed to familiarize you with the development and management of a grass-based dairy farm business, and they do it by bringing in experienced graziers and outstanding UW faculty members who

discuss with you a wide variety of topics including: general dairy economics, the principles of managed grazing, milking center design, farm selection, winter housing strategies, herd health, and how to develop your own dairy business plan.

The program will be held again in



Wausau on Thursdays from 11 a.m.—1:30 p.m. beginning on November 15 and ending in March. The cost of the program is \$240 for the multi-week seminar with the *option* of obtaining 3 college credits at \$146/credit hour.

This program builds relationships and a support network. It gives you better perspective on your goals and abilities. The seminar is led by Wisconsin's top practicing professionals.

If you want to farm, this is currently the only successful educational program offered in the area for building a livestock business.

Contact Alex Crockford for more information, scholarships, and applications.(627-6313)

Langlade Holstein Breeders Twilight Meeting

The Langlade County Holstein Breeders will be gathering for a Twilight Meeting at Lee & JoAnne Parson family dairy farm on August 17th at 7:30 p.m.

The Parsons farm is on Hwy 64 just east of Antigo (W8844 Hwy 64).

The Parsons have about 80 registered and grade Holsteins and

Jerseys housed in a stallbarn and rotationally graze their cattle in the summer months.

The twilight meeting will focus on their breeding selections and also include information about their switch to grazing and the impact on cattle health and operating costs.

Updated Soil Fumigant Rule Takes Effect Aug. 1

Madison--Wisconsin potato growers should take note of rule changes related to the use of two soil fumigants, chloropicrin and metam sodium. The updated rule takes effect Aug. 1 for these products used to control worm-like nematodes in potato fields. Some tree nurseries also use these products to sterilize the soil prior to planting seedlings.

According to officials with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, the use of chloropicrin soil fumigants will be regulated in the same manner as metam sodium soil fumigants.

“The concern with metam sodium and chloropicrin is the fumigants can volatilize and drift from the application site,” explained Lori Bowman, agrichemical management bureau director. “The rule change addresses these issues to prevent human exposure to any volatilized product.”

Some existing metam sodium use requirements have been modified including post-application monitoring requirements and setback requirements for ‘tarped’ applications.

These modifications now apply to chloropicrin as well.

Rule highlights include:

Pesticide applicators using metam sodium or chloropicrin must be properly certified. Commercial pesticide applicators must have current certification in the soil fumigation category while private applicators must hold valid certification in the agricultural fumigation category.

Agricultural application sites must be covered by a tarp or other impermeable barrier, except when the soil fumigant is injected into the soil or applied through irrigation systems. Metam sodium cannot be applied by knife rig injection when soil temperatures are greater than 75 degrees at a depth of five to six inches.

For ‘tarped’ agricultural applications, the required minimum setback from hospitals, nursing homes, jails and prisons has been reduced from 1/4 mile to 1/8 mile.

This also applies to schools that are in session during the application or will be in session within 48 hours following the application.

For ‘untarped’ agricultural applications, the required minimum setback remains at 1/4 mile from hospitals, nursing homes, jails, prisons and schools.

The setback requirements applicable to schools now apply to licensed daycare facilities. An exception is made for an application to a plant nursery that was in existence prior to the first date the daycare facility was licensed, if the plant nursery operator provides at least 24 hours prior notice of the application to the daycare operator. The Department of Health and Family Services web site has a list of licensed daycares in each county.

Applicators must pre-notify county public health officials and neighbors within 1/4 mile prior to any chemigation application of metam sodium or chloropicrin. Chemigation applications must comply with specific rule standards.

Applicators must monitor sites after the application of either chloropicrin or metam sodium and must take appropriate steps if pesticide drift is suspected. This rule reduces previous follow-up monitoring requirements. A certified applicator must now conduct one follow-up inspection within one hour of sunset on the day of application.

Applicators must notify Wisconsin Emergency Management at 1-800-943-0003 if it appears that pesticide drift may contact residences or public buildings.

Applicators must keep specific records related to metam sodium and chloropicrin applications for two years following the application. Records must include the time of application, soil temperature at depths of five to six inches and follow all the recordkeeping requirements outlined in Wisconsin’s pesticide rule, ATCP 29.

For questions or copies of the rule, contact Matt Sunseri, DATCP pesticide specialist at (608) 224-4547.

Pasture Irrigation Demo and Pasture Walk

When the soil dries up and the grass growth slumps there is limit to what good management can achieve on a grazing dairy and livestock farm. That is, unless irrigation is a management tool you can afford to put to use on your managed pastures.

Our upcoming field day, August 22 will demonstrate 2 irrigation technologies that are currently being used in a multiyear experiment in Antigo.

Beginning in the latter half of this summer, the Arrowood family has been irrigating with a K-Line and a traveling gun to improve the moderate drought conditions in our area. These pastures are still supplying a good portion of the forage needs for 80 Holstein cows.

How much does this cost? How does it work? Will it work on my farm? Does it pay? We’ll be able to answer some of these questions at the field day, and demonstrate how the research is underway.

A low-cost parlor and facility tour will begin at 10:00 a.m. followed by the irrigation demonstration and pasture walk at 11:00 a.m. We will conclude at 12:30 p.m. Lunch on your own to follow.

Pasture Irrigation Demo & Walk

August 22—10:00 am-12:30 pm

10 am—Parlor/Facility Tour

11 am—Irrigation & Pasture Walk

Hwy 45 North into Antigo, Hwy 52 East past Hospital (1.2 mi). Turn right on Flight Rd. Go east 1 mile to Flight Farm

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Soil Quality Field Day August 24th

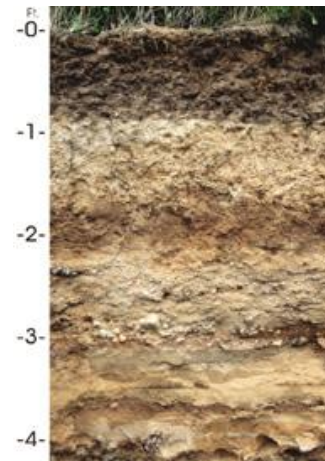
Soils are dynamic communities that are products of a variety of factors. Some of these are inherent to the way the soils formed, and some are a result of our management.

These field days are designed to help you understand some of the characteristics of your soils, such as water infiltration, bulk density/compaction, aggregate stability, and biological activity. We'll discuss the living organisms in your soils and how organic matter supplies, tillage, and cropping systems affect soil characteristics important to good crop yields and environmental quality.

Our field day will start at 10:00 a.m. with a short "classroom" session at the Airport Research Building followed by lunch. Participants will then visit some soil

sites in a potato rotation and a dairy rotation to learn how to actually measure soil quality and to see examples through soil pits of how differences in management affect soil quality characteristics.

The field day will cost \$6 to cover the meal. See the enclosed brochure for registration form or call 627-6236.



Antigo Silt Loam Profile

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