

LANGLADE COUNTY

January 2008

Event Calendar

January

Jan. 8

UW Agronomy Update Meeting, Wausau Best Western Midway 12:00 noon, call 715-261-1230

Jan. 16

Dairy Road Show: Gaining the Competitive Edge Dairy Seminar, Antigo Knights of Columbus Hall 10 am-3 pm, call 627-6236.

Jan. 15-17

Wisconsin Fertilizer, Aglime & Pest Management Conference and Trade Show, Alliant Energy Center, Madison

Jan. 23

Pesticide Applicator Training, Antigo Langlade Resource Center 9 am-3 pm (FULL)

February

Feb. 5-7

WPVGA Grower Education Conference & Industry Show, Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, contact WPVGA (715) 623-7683

February 14-16 — Wisconsin Grazing Conference, Holiday Inn, Stevens Point

UW Extension Ag Letter

2007 Census of Agriculture To be Collected

The USDA is calling for all farmers to “stand up and be heard.” As a dispersed minority in the US population it might be not far from the truth that, we are not necessarily as valued as we ought to be, even when people eat.

So the USDA is counting on your voice to be heard, for the future of agricultural prosperity, and because you are ultimately responsible for the accuracy and integrity of the data collected.

A diverse audience uses the statistics generated from the Census, including equipment companies, feed mills, lending institutions, government and UW Extension.

All of the data collected is strictly confidential, data is summarized for statistical purposes and information cannot be used for purposes of taxation, investigation, or regulation.

You should be receiving

your Census of Agriculture report in early January 2008. If you do not receive a report form by January 10, the USDA asks you to please call 888-4AG-STAT or 888-424-7828.



Extension Publication Offerings

There are several new Extension publications that are available to help select crop cultivars and varieties, these are too large and costly to ship to each producer. Most can be made available at the Extension office free of cost.

Some recently released publications follow:

- Forage Variety Update for Wisconsin 2007
- Small Grain Varieties for Grain and Forage for WI
- Employing farm workers
- Weed Management in Organic Vegetable Production \$5

There are hundreds of other publications that are available in printed format or on-line pdf format. While most are far too large to be downloaded reasonably by dial up computer users, we can easily make these available from the office.

<http://learningstore.uwex.edu/>

Pesticide Trainings 2008

Please continue to register for the UW Extension Pesticide Applicator Training.

A morning session from 9 a.m.—12:00 noon covers the material. You may take the exam before or after lunch.

The cost of the program is still \$30 and includes a manual. You will need to know your SSN and have a photo ID. As always, this is an open book exam and you may bring a calculator.

January 23 is FULL

February 20, Wed.

March 21, Fri.

Please register early as later classes fill up. Stop by the office to pay and to pick up a manual. Call 627-6236 for further information.

Will we have ice on alfalfa again?

Source: Wisconsin Crop Manager, Volume 14 Number 31, Dec 15, 2007

While we may be concerned about the ice, nothing can be done to minimize any potential damage to stands.

The freezing rains and ice accumulation in parts of Wisconsin have raised many questions about potential ice damage to the alfalfa stands.

How does ice cause damage? The freezing temperatures of the ice do little damage directly to the alfalfa. Temperatures below 150 F in the crown region (1 to 4 inches into the soil) are required to damage alfalfa. Ice damages alfalfa because alfalfa roots need oxygen during the winter. The oxygen comes from air above ground diffusing into soil. A solid layer of ice restricts air diffusion and suffocates alfalfa. This is the common reason for loss of alfalfa in low spots in fields.

The conventional recommendation has been that alfalfa covered by ice for 3 to 4 weeks will likely suffer injury or death. However, sometimes alfalfa will survive much longer under ice depending on a number of factors.

Thus when determining whether or not ice sheets will cause damage to alfalfa stands we must consider whether the ice is in a solid sheet. If the ice is disuniform, cracked, or has holes, it will not completely restrict air movement into the soil and result in little to no damage. Additionally, alfalfa stems sticking up through the ice will help create air holes in the ice.

What is the status of the alfalfa stands now? First, alfalfa generally had good hardening last fall. Hardening has decreased the water content outside of plant cells, increased bound water within cells, increased cell solutes, and increased cell permeability. All of which increase the ability of alfalfa to withstand cold temperatures.

Secondly, most of the ice is on top of a layer of snow. The snow layer provides some oxygen to the soil and will allow the ice to break up natu-

rally and develop cracks for air diffusion.

What can be done? The short answer is nothing. Since the ice is on top of snow a large tractor and disc will break off the ice but will also damage the alfalfa, both from physical injury from the disc and from exposure of some crowns to the colder air temperatures. Some ask about broadcasting fertilizer on top of the ice but this is not a good idea. The thought is that salt in the fertilizer will melt through the ice and cause holes to let air into the soil. However, if the ice is too thick to break up naturally, fertilizer generally does little good because it does not melt all the way through the ice to create holes. Additionally, surface applied fertilizer could be a runoff problem if the fertilizers contain nitrogen or phosphorus, since a rapid melting or a rainfall event would be likely to cause substantial runoff of N and P. For this reason, the current nutrient management standard prohibits most N and P fertilizer applications on frozen or snow-covered soils, except for winter grains. Broadcast applications of potassium, while not prohibited, on an ice cover can also be problematic. A runoff event could cause the distribution of the nutrient to be quite variable and off-site losses would represent an economic loss to producers.

Thus while concerned about the ice, nothing can be done to minimize any potential damage to stands. The fact that it is on top of snow is likely to create less, if any, injury. All we can do is wait to see what happens. We should also remember that several years ago, we had ice sheeting across central Wisconsin for 8 or more weeks and suffered very little winterkill.

www.wisconsinpotatoes.com gets makeover

Consumers are savvy folks, and are more and more using the internet to find out about food choices.

The new WPVGA website is now up and has a fresh new look. Send someone an e-mail and tell them about it, or set it as your

homepage. It's grower money at work to promote the great industry we have in Wisconsin.

2008 UWEX and WPVGA Grower Education Conference

The Grower Education Conference and 59th Annual Industry Show is coming up fast. On February 5-7, the conference is located at the Holiday Inn, Stevens Point.

agroecology, technology, production and storage are main themes at this years conference.

If you can't make it, we will have a number of copies of the proceedings at the Extension office, just

stop at the office and pick up a copy or call and I'll bring one out.

To register see link below or call the Portage County Extension office at (715)346-1316.

Seed production,

www.wisconsinpotatoes.com/2008GrowerEd.html

Area Potato Meeting Calendar

January

Jan. 9

WSPIA Board Mtg., WPVGA Office, Antigo, 3:00 p.m.

Jan. 10-14

NPC Annual Mtg., Marco Island, FL, contact Hollee Alexander (202) 682-9456

Jan. 16

WPG Auxiliary Board Mtg., Green Mill, Mosinee, 11:00 a.m.

Jan. 17

United of Wisconsin Winter Mtg., Elizabeth Inn, Plover, 5:00 p.m.

Jan. 18

WPVGA Associate Division Board Mtg., M & I Bank, Plover, 10:00 a.m.

Jan. 18

WPVGA Grower Ed. Planning Cmte. Mtg., Rudy's Redeye Grill, Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, Noon

Jan. 30

WSPIA Seed Annual Mtg., Antigo, location & time TBD

February

Feb. 5-7

WPVGA Grower Education Conference & Industry Show, Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, contact WPVGA (715) 623-7683

Feb. 20-28

Potato Industry Leadership Institute, San Luis Valley, CO and Washington, DC, contact USPB (303) 369-7783



Potato Health Management 2nd Ed

NEW from APS PRESS

Complete update of the bestselling first edition!

Edited by Dennis A. Johnson

Recommended by Walt Stevenson, contributing author.

Available from www.shopapspress.org



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Dairy Road Show

Gaining the Competitive Edge Seminar



January 16th, 2008

Cost \$25

10 a.m.—3 p.m.

Antigo

Knights of Columbus Hall

10:00 am—Rolls

10:30 am – Program start

• Dairy Crossbreeding Updates

– *Dr. Randy Shaver, Extension Dairy Nutritionist*

• Evaluation of Milking Performance in Wisconsin

– *Dr. Doug Reinemann, Extension Milking Systems Specialist*

• Wisconsin Johne's Control Program

– *Dr. Elisabeth Patton, Johne's Disease Program Manager, WDATCP*

• Dairy Nutrition Using Bio-Energy Byproduct Feeds

– *Dr. Randy Shaver, UW-Extension Dairy Nutritionist*

Gaining the Competitive Edge Seminar Series Registration Form

Registration Fee: \$25.00/person (includes lunch, and materials)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____