

2009 Calendar

April 6
FFA Alumni Meeting
 Blackjack 7:30

April 9
Farmers Market Roundup
 Get your packet and receive training for WIC and Senior Vouchers
 Fairgrounds Clover Room
 7:00 pm—9:00 pm

April 13
Market Animal Quality Assurance Training
 9:00 am—12:00 pm
 Resource Center

April 15
Fruit Tree Management Pruning & Grafting
 6:00 pm (see page 2)

April 15
WSPIA Board Meeting
 3pm WPVGA Conf. Rm.

April 25
Antigo City Farm
 Intensive Gardening in the City—UW Extension and GSI. Hands on activities and presentations.
 Saturday. Call for brochure or find them at Natural Living

If you have an event you want listed, please just send me an e-mail.

UW Extension Ag Letter

CWT Announces Herd Retirement

Bids to Remove Cows Being Accepted Immediately Through May 1

In light of the perilous financial plight affecting America's dairy farmers, Cooperatives Working Together announced Wednesday that it will conduct its latest herd retirement round. Bids are being accepted starting today through Friday, May 1st.

"We all recognize that 2009 is shaping up to be among the toughest years on record for dairy farmers, but CWT will help shorten the price plunge farmers are facing, and speed the recovery," said Jerry Kozak, President and CEO of NMPF, which manages CWT.

This is the seventh herd retirement round since CWT began operations in the summer of 2003.

Kozak said that, given the dramatic downturn in dairy economics in the past six months, CWT is anticipating a large number of bids. However, since the value of cows and heifers has dropped dramatically, the price level of bids accepted will be much lower than in recent years. As has been the case in recent herd retirement rounds, Kozak said CWT has no set target for the volume of milk or the number of cows to be removed in this round.

"As always, CWT staff will continue to use the program's funds wisely. Dairy farmers hoping to have their bids accepted should fully recognize the competitive nature of the bidding process and be realistic in determining the value of their cows when preparing their bids," he said. "Whether CWT will remove a significant number of dairy animals will depend on the number of bids re-

ceived and the price level of those bids. CWT will not pay more for cows than what they are currently worth in the marketplace."

As was the case in 2008, in addition to submitting bids for their milk herds, participating farmers will have the option of offering all of their bred heifers, at a flat price of \$700 per animal. In addition, there are two program rule changes in this round:

1. Members of CWT whose bids were accepted in a previous round may bid again in this round. This is a one-time exception to the exclusion affecting prior participants in the program;

2. Producers whose bids are accepted in the next and future herd retirements will be paid in two installments: 90% of the amount bid times the producer's 12 months of milk production when it is verified that all cows have gone to slaughter, and the remaining 10% plus interest at the end of 12 months following the farm audit, IF both the producer and his dairy facility – whether owned or leased – do not become involved in the commercial production and marketing of milk during that period.

Detailed information can be found at www.cwt.coop including bid forms, an interactive bid calculator to help estimate a farmer's bid, and answers to frequently-asked questions. All bids must be postmarked by Friday, May 1st, in order to be considered. All dairy producers submitting bids to sell their herds must be members of CWT effective January 2009, either through their membership in a fully participating cooperative, or as an independent member of CWT.

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Consistent with the Americans With Disabilities Act, persons who need materials in an alternative format or other accommodations must write or call the UW-Extension contact person for the specific program or call the main telephone number of the Langlade County UW-Extension Office, (715) 627-6236, at least ten working days prior to the event.

Individuals who need TTY access may contact the Langlade County Extension Office by using the Wisconsin Telecommunications Relay System, 1-800-947-3529 or 711.

On behalf of Langlade County Extension and the University of Wisconsin-Extension, thank you for collaborating with our faculty and staff in their many educational endeavors. We appreciate your support and working relationships as we provide educational programs designed to empower the diverse citizens of Langlade County.

Sincerely,

UW-Extension Staff Members:

Kari Lazars, Department Head/Wisconsin Nutrition Education Coordinator

Dawn Doperalski, Department Head/4-H Youth Development Agent

Alex Crockford, Agricultural Agent

Clara Hartman, Wisconsin Nutrition Educator-Sally Hull, Office Coordinator

Marisa Kohler, 4-H Support Staff

Fruit Tree Management Workshop

A whole orchard of fruit from one tree!?! Well, probably not – but Langlade County citizens with home orchards can learn the basics of fruit tree management, including pruning and training and grafting techniques at a workshop offered in Antigo, on April 15th. The seminar will be held at the Clover Room, fairgrounds, beginning at 6 p.m..

Also discussed will be the grafting process which can be used to introduce unique plant characteristics onto rooted plants. Several different procedures for grafting will be reviewed during the workshop according to Robert Tomesh, UW-Extension Horticulture Specialist, who will be conducting the workshop.

Each participant will receive three hardy apple (also either pear or plum) rootstocks. Scionwood from different fruit varieties will be available for grafting or participants can bring their own scionwood (see below on collecting). Individuals who are interested in participating in the on-site grafting activities, please bring a pair of leather gloves and a sharp knife (utility or grafting knife).

The workshop is open to the general public. Master Gardeners are encouraged to attend. A \$10 participant fee is charged to cover handouts, materials and presentation costs. Enrollment for the workshop is limited and pre-registration is required. To register, contact the Extension office coordinator, Sally Hull at 627-6236. Last year this class filled up in 3 hours.

To collect your own scion wood (optional):

The best time to collect scion wood for grafting is early spring (early April) while trees are dormant. Scion wood is the twig or branch from last year's growth containing buds which developed during the last growing season. Buds from one year old water sprouts about 1/4 to 3/8 inch in diameter (pencil diameter in size) and found growing off the trunk and lower main branches. These have the best vigor. To keep the scions in a dormant condition after collecting and until needed, first wrap in moistened newspaper and then in a plastic bag and store in a refrigerator at 35 to 39 degrees. Remove any other fruit or vegetables from the refrigerator prior to scion storage as odors (gases) from these can impact the viability of the scion.

2007 USDA Census Provides Updated County Statistics

The USDA released Farm census data on February 4, 2009 from information collected about 2007. Over the next few months I will highlight some of this data in the newsletter.

Market Value of Production

Langlade County's Total Market Value of Production in 2006 was \$74,049,000. Of this amount \$41,389,000 (56 percent) was from crop sales, and \$32,660,000 (44 percent) was from livestock sales. The average sales per farm were \$152,051.

Government Payments

Government payments to producers in Langlade County totaled \$767,000 a significant decline of - 24% from the previous census. These payments averaged \$3,291. Government payments may have been lower due to better crop and milk prices.

Potatoes & Vegetables

Langlade County was reported to have 10,465 acres of potatoes, and is ranked number 2 in Wisconsin for potato production. Interesting that Langlade County is ranked 26th in the nation for potato acreage, amongst 2,124 counties known to have potato acreage. Our county is ranked 4th in Wisconsin counties for all vegetable production.

Oats

The county statistics for oats are also noteworthy, our 7039 acres, ranks us 4th in Wisconsin and 26th in the United States.

For more information see the factsheet:

<http://langlade.uwex.edu/ag/langlade-county.html>

Langlade Research Station 2009



We are making plans for our 2009 season at the Langlade Research Station, again seeking the interests of local growers. Results of the PVY experiment from 2007 are now posted on our website: <http://langlade.uwex.edu/ag>

PVY Management

We will be continuing our investigation into PVY management techniques, this year evaluating timing and further products with UW Entomologist, Russ Groves.

Variety Trials

We will again host the Wisconsin variety trial and have some Spud Pro lines planted in cooperation with Hancock ARS. With the August field day this year, we hope to dig up and see some of these varieties at the field day.

Product evaluations

Again we will participate in a vine desiccation trial organized by Jed Colquhoun and Dan Heider. I also anticipate evaluating products that may have some efficacy against common scab in the scab nursery. Lastly, we are planning to evaluate some at-plant in-furrow additives that may promote potato growth and production.

Research Station Needs

We will be needing some seed potatoes for some of these trials, we used B size seed. Also if anyone may have a 3-pt tool bar, any shanks, hilling coulters, we can make use of, we are set up on 2—36" rows.

We will be rebuilding/replacing items on our wash line this summer if anyone would have extra sponges, etc. we could use these as well. Call us if you might be able to help. 627-6236

MILC Payment Estimates (Mar 27)

Month	Forecast Target Mover	Forecasted Mover	Forecasted MILC Payment
	\$/Cwt.	\$/Cwt.	\$/Cwt.
Jan	14.73	15.74	0.00
Feb	14.08	10.72	1.51
Mar	13.98	9.43	2.05
Apr	13.86	10.36	1.57
May	13.83	11.72	0.95
Jun	13.77	12.74	0.46
Jul	13.81	13.77	0.02
Aug	13.85	14.85	0.00



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Farming in Uncertain Times: Think Conservation

Tips from UW Cooperative Extension

Conserve fuel in the fuel tank.

A typical 300 gallon fuel tank can lose up to 150 gallons of fuel a year from evaporation. To reduce the amount lost to evaporation to less than 15 gallons consider the following ideas. Keep fuel tanks in the shade, paint the tanks white or aluminum, use pressure relief caps instead of conventional gas caps, inspect for leaks and tighten connections. To reduce theft lock unattended tanks and mark tanks "Red Diesel for Off Road Use Only."

Maintenance for ventilation system.

Loose belts and dirty louvers can reduce air flow by 3-40 percent. Cleaning dirt from blades and louvers will reduce drag and increase efficiency of fan. Dust on motors will increase heat and dust on the thermostats will reduce accurate readings. Make sure to lube the louvers with dry graphite for best results as it does not

collect dust and dirt. Replacing belts and adding a self tightening device will reduce slipping and increase airflow as well as lengthen belt life.

Switch to energy efficient lighting.

Changing from T-12 fluorescent lights to T-8 will reduce electrical usage by 20 percent. Switch all incandescent light bulbs to new compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL) to save 75 percent. Incentives and rebates may be available for purchase and changeover of lighting. Make sure to check for temperature range and light quality when switching light bulbs and fixtures.

Irrigation. Test well and pump yearly. Pump tests cost little compared to the cost of under-watering a high value crop. Evaluate current nozzle package. Nozzles ten years or older may be eroded from the water and particles, resulting in uneven distribution of water. If nozzles need replacing, consider replacing them with lower pressure nozzles.