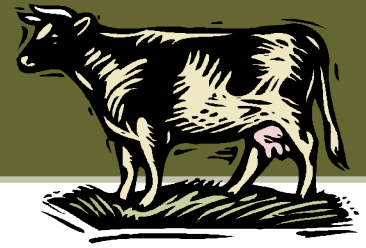


LANGLADE AG-LETTER



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State ag board unanimously approves livestock siting rule

MADISON -- In a historic move the state Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Board unanimously approved on Wednesday what is being called the most important right to farm legislation in a decade. Approval of ATCP 51, the Livestock Siting Rule, represents a 30-month public process to find common ground between farmers, environmentalists and local communities seeking to end battles over siting new or expanding livestock operations. "This is a win-win for both farmers and rural communities," said Governor Jim Doyle. "This is a huge step forward for the success of growing Wisconsin's dairy and livestock industry and helping local communities plan for economic growth. I want to thank everyone who has worked on this ground-breaking reform." The rule establishes statewide standards for siting new or expanding livestock facilities.

Please see *Siting Rule* on page 3

New Agriculture Agent

By Alex Crockford, Langlade Co. Ag Agent

I'm pleased to join the staff in Langlade County UW Extension as the agriculture agent. I most recently have worked for UW Extension out of the Marathon County office. Our family is not completely new to Langlade, since we moved to Deerbrook in June of last year. I served last year as back-fill for the Marathon County agent who is working in a district level internship. So I'm not entirely new to Extension work as a county agent either. In addition to the agent roles I filled, my work was focused on a dairy modernization initiative.

Please see *Agriculture Agent* on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

DATCP Approve ATCP 51	1
Crockford new agriculture agent	1
Calendar	1
CSP Sign Up Begins	2
Apple Grafting Workshop	3
Dairy Heifer Seminar	4

FEBRUARY

2/21... Nutrient Management Planning Session 1

Spill Response and Nitrogen Management will be covered in this first of two NMP training sessions. Grant money is still available to assist in the soil sampling aspects of farmer written plans. 10 am-3 pm

2/22... Dairy Grazing Financial Programs

The Central WI River Graziers and GrassWorks are co-sponsoring two educational programs at 212 River Drive, Wausau. Larry Tranel, Dairy Field Specialist with Iowa State University Extension will be the guest speaker at both of these programs. At 10 am-12 noon Larry will discuss using Dairy TRANS to increase Dairy Profits. Then at 1-3:00 pm the topic is "Who Wants to be a Millionaire? A Look at Millionaire Model Farms". You can come to either or both sessions and no registration is required.

2/24... Pesticide Applicator Training Session

Two sessions for 2006 at the Langlade Cty Resource Center in Antigo. There is a \$30 registration fee, which includes the training manual. Pre-registration is required. Stop in and get a manual and register or call 627-6236 to have a brochure mailed directly to you.

2/28... Nutrient Management Planning Session 2

The agronomics of Phosphorus and Potassium will be covered in this second session. In addition, soil conservation, and the animal nutrition considerations of forage potassium and phosphorus levels. 10 am-3pm

MARCH

3/22... Pesticide Applicator Training Session

See details above.

Agriculture agent...

I was pleased to work one-on-one with over 30 dairy farmers last year to discuss their modernization interests. The experiences were rewarding to both parties as it is both exciting to look forward and dream. The information I bring to the table is both research and experience based which has turned out to have been of great value to our customers. We also had several programs to educate producers on facilities options. Although some Langlade county producers came to these programs, I intend to continue some of this type of work in Langlade. On February 23, I'll be presenting "Dairy Facilities Modernization Options" at the FS Customer Appreciation Banquet.

If you are dairying and would like to have me out on a farm visit, just call and we'll schedule something.

By now the potato producers are wondering if we have anything to offer them, and indeed Extension will continue to support potato production in Langlade County. We are looking forward to another great year at the Experiment Station for research trials, field days and Extension programs. See our calendar for the up-coming Nutrient Management Planning sessions.

The Master Gardener program will also continued to be supported with assistance from the county agricultural agent.

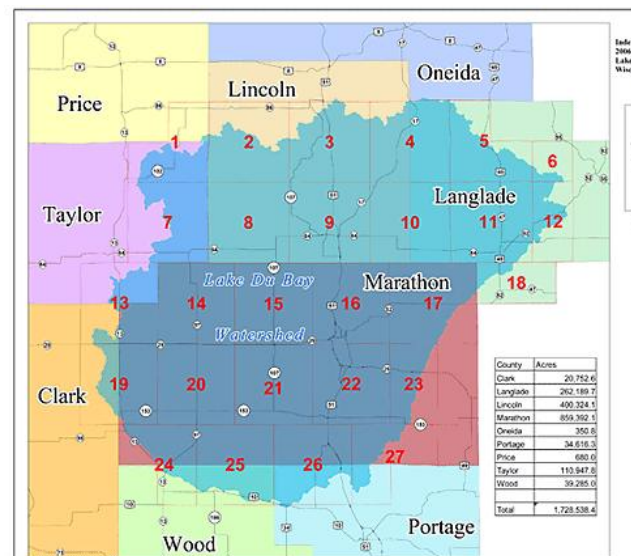
Conservation Security Program Sign-Up Begins

MADISON-- The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced the 2006 Conservation Security Program (CSP) sign-up will be held Feb. 13 to March 31, 2006, in the two watersheds that are eligible for the program in Wisconsin this year. CSP is a voluntary program that supports ongoing stewardship of working farmland. The selected watersheds are the Grant/Little Maquoketa Watershed in southwest Wisconsin/northeast Iowa, and the Lake Du Bay Watershed in central Wisconsin.

"NRCS is committed to providing a fair and equitable program that rewards Wisconsin's best farmer-conservationists," said Pat Leavenworth, NRCS State Conservationist. "This program rewards those with a strong history of good stewardship and provides powerful incentives for others to follow."

"We urge every good conservation farmer in these two watersheds to check into this great opportunity," said Leavenworth. "Farmers need to know that this is their one chance to reap the rewards for years of good conservation," she said. Different watersheds will be eligible next year, as funding allows.

CSP pays farmers based on Tiers, ranging from Tier 1 where soil and water resources are protected on part of the farm, to Tier 3, where all resources are protected on the whole operation. In addition, farmers may increase



payments through enhancements, such as energy conservation measures, wildlife habitat, or extra nutrient and pest management practices. Payments are made annually, for five to 10 years, depending on tier level of conservation.

"CSP provides a great opportunity to reward good conservation farmers and to encourage others to protect land and water quality in their farm operations," said Leavenworth. "It represents a whole new direction in conservation and agricultural policy and programs."

For more information on CSP, contact the NRCS Office in the local USDA Service Center.

Apple Grafting Workshop

Presenter Robert Tomesh

Monday, March 6 from 6-8:30 PM
212 River Drive, Room 2, Wausau

The grafting process can be used to introduce unique plant characteristics onto rooted plants. Several different procedures for successful grafting will be reviewed during the workshop. Robert Tomesh, UW-Extension Horticulture Specialist, Madison, will conduct the workshop.

Each participant will receive three hardy apple rootstocks. Participants are asked to bring a pair of leather gloves and a sharp utility knife or grafting knife. Apple scion wood from different varieties will be available for grafting or participants can bring their own scion wood.

This workshop is sponsored by the North Central Wisconsin Master Gardeners in cooperation with the Marathon County UW-Extension and is open to the public.

Livestock Siting Rule...

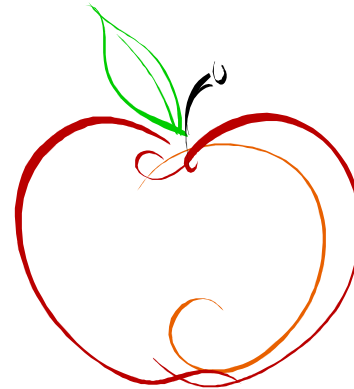
Bankers, farmers and representatives of local government testifying at Wednesday's board meeting spoke in support of the rule, saying it provides predictability for lenders and farmers and a mechanism to help communities plan for orderly growth. Kudos were also given to the bill's author, Representative David Ward (R-Fort Atkinson).

Livestock organizations, including the Wisconsin Farm Bureau, the Dairy Business Association and the Wisconsin Cattleman's Association, also endorsed the new rules, despite earlier opposition. "It's time to move the rule forward," said Laurie Fischer, executive director of the DBA.

"The rules will help communities reduce conflict and plan for growth," said Richard Stadelman, executive director of the Wisconsin Towns Association.

"I believe these rules will prevent others from going through the nightmare we have gone through," said Ed Larson, citing on-going legal and emotional costs in a yet unresolved effort to expand his dairy in Rock County.

If the farmer meets the requirements, he gets



The cost of the workshop is \$18, which covers handouts, materials and presentation costs. Enrollment is limited and pre-registration is required. Mail a check made payable to NCWMG to L. Schmidt, 827 North 27th Avenue, Wausau, WI 54401. Enrollments will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information, or methods to collect your own scion wood call Alex Crockford at the Langlade County Extension Office.

"I believe these rules will prevent others from going through the nightmare we have gone through"

- Ed Larson, Dairy farmer, Rock County

the permit. It protects his farm from encroachment by urban development virtually as long as he or his descendants or those who buy the land keep farming. "I think the most important part of this rule at this point is going to be that it greatly strengthens the right to farm in the state of Wisconsin and it does that because it establishes an opportunity to manage encroachment," said Mike Dummer, a farmer and chair of the DATCP Board.

The measure will now be sent back to the Legislature. A final hearing in the Assembly Agriculture Committee is expected February 16th and officials are hopeful the rule will become law by the end of the month.

"We're very optimistic and confident about this rule because it has had such a wide spectrum of stake holder input. Farmers have had their say as have conservation organizations and local government," said DATCP Secretary Rod Nilsestuen.

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Raising Quality Dairy Heifers

A SEMINAR FOR DAIRY PRODUCERS AND HEIFER GROWERS

February 21, 2006

Comfort Suites-Rock Garden

Green Bay, Wisconsin

10 am - 3 pm

\$25/person

10 am Strategies to Improve Feed Efficiency in Dairy Replacement Heifer Feeding Programs
Pat Hoffman, Professor - DAA, UW-Extension Dairy Department of Dairy Science
Pat will discuss new research and strategies that could help dairy producers and heifer growers improve feed efficiency in dairy replacement heifers.

11 am. *How We Control Cost in Feeding Heifers*
Adrian & Randy Schmidt, S & S Ag Enterprises,
Dwayne Splan, Dairy Nutritionist, Bay Lakes
Bob Gonring, Dairy Nutritionist and part owner Opitz Custom Heifers

1 pm. *Nutritional, Environmental, and Management Factors that Affect the Incidence of Claw (Hoof) Lesions in Dairy Heifers*
Dr. Mike Socha, Research Nutritionist for Zinpro Corp.

2 pm *Calf and Heifer Housing Management Options*
Dave Kammel, UW-Extension Ag Engineer, Center for Dairy Profitability Dir.
This segment will include a description of calf and heifer facilities being built, their cost, and discuss new research on air quality that can help both old and new building designs

Contact Tom Anderson, Shawano County Agent if you would like to register (715) 526-6136